



February 2009 "... Since the kingdom of God is not just words, it is power." 1 CORINTHIANS 4:20
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL + PORTLAND + OREGON

Write it Down!

Throughout my life, I have tended to be a bit forgetful and absentminded. When I was growing up, one of the things my mother was always saying to me was "Write it down!" Later in life, when I worked at the Metropolis of San Francisco, His Grace Bishop Anthimos was fond of citing a quotation in Latin to me: *verba volent, scripta manent* ("spoken words fly away, written words endure"). It is not only that when you write something down you can refer to it later; there is a discipline about writing something down that seems to make it easier to remember things. Perhaps this is why writing one's thoughts in a journal can be such a powerful personal and spiritual practice. The things we write down stay with us. Each year, our parish sets aside the month of February as "Stewardship month," a time to honor our stewards and to focus on stewardship in our community, culminating in the blessing of the Stewardship Pledge Cards at the end of the month. Over the past several years, however, the Stewardship Committee has noted a disturbing trend: an ongoing drop in the number of people who are filling out and returning their pledge cards. People are continuing to give. But less and less people are actually "writing it down."

Someone may say, "Father, why does it matter if I write down my pledge? I know in my heart what I'm committed to, and God knows." Of course this is true. But there is something powerful about writing down one's commitment, of actually signing your name and saying, "With God's help, this is what I intend to do to support our church this year." A stewardship pledge is, of course, a statement of intention, not a binding contract, and nothing prevents us from changing our pledge if our financial situation changes over the course of the year; you can give less if need be, or you can even give more. But a written pledge may help to sharpen our resolve and keep us on track for the year, rather than waiting until the end and then giving whatever we can, if there is anything left at all. Simply put, "writing it down" makes us better givers.

In his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7). We all know that we are living in uncertain financial times, and no one can say what this year will bring in terms of the economy, the job market, or the stock market. But this makes it even more important for each person to "make up his or her mind," as St. Paul says, to make a commitment and write it down, entrusting ourselves to God who has always been there for us, who is with us now, and who will always be with us no matter what the future brings.

By way of conclusion, I want to thank all of our stewards, all those who gave in support of the church in 2008. By the grace of God and with your support, our stewardship remained strong even in difficult economic times. 2009 promises to be a great year for our community, with many wonderful opportunities as we seek to focus on developing new ministry opportunities such as our new Home Bible Study Fellowship Network, creating awareness around missions, and connecting to our young couples and families. If you pledged in 2008, we hope you will do so again in 2009. If you did not pledge in 2008, please consider doing so in 2009. As the spiritual fathers and mothers are always reminding us, it's never too late to make a new beginning.

With Deep Love in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Fr. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Paul Schroeder

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 Tom and Lori Avgerakis635-1087
 Greek Dance, Katherine Ossey..... 282-6219
 Greek Festival, George Apostolou360-546-1224
 Greeters Ministry, Ann Mallos255-0609
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 Ann Davis,292-0191
 Joanna Mason526-2043
 Vacation Church School, Dina Khoury224-5524
 Young Adult League, Jacob Gorny449-7720

DYNAMIS

Dynamis is the monthly newsletter of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Articles for the next month's issue of *Dynamis* are due in the church office on the 11th of the current month. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.

Dynamis Editorial Guidelines

How to contribute: Email to: Gail@goholytrinity.org or on a CD with a hard copy to the church office. If you do not use a computer, please fax submissions to 503-236-8379 or bring a typed copy to the church office.

Content and length: Church-related organizations maximum 500 words; non-church related and articles by private persons maximum 300 words. We reserve the right to edit or decline a submission. All inserts must be approved by the church office and the postal service.

Announcements policy: Unpaid announcements for church-related events are limited to a half page. Non-church-related community event announcements are limited to a quarter page.

The back cover is reserved for paid advertisements, at these rates:

Full advertising section – half of back page\$400
 Half advertising section – ¼ of back cover\$225
 Quarter advertising section – 1/8 of last page\$125

Remember when . . .



← Left: Rev. Fr. Christopher Tsarouhas, Parish Priest at SE 17th and Taggart church for nearly 30 years.

Middle: Unknown. Does anyone recognize him? Or the address?

Right: Gregory Demou, chanter for 26 years, he was the uncle of Christ Vokos.

One day each year, Fr. Tsarouhas would be hosted by Gregory Demou in the fishing town of North Shore – across from Astoria. Fr. Would bless the boats of the Greek fishermen and the value of the catch of the day would be donated by them to the church.

Our People

Baptisms:

January 11, 2009: Anastasios Feola, son of Fabrizio Feola and Vicky Couris. The Godparent is Dena George.

January 18, 2009: Kyra Zaharoula Fassilis, daughter of Konstantinos and Amy Hillstead Fassilis. The Godparent is Dimitrios Fassilis.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE TROY CHAPTER #32 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Pastitsio (meat or vegetarian)
Salad – Bread – Baklava

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2009**

Holy Trinity Church hall
Following church services
Holy Trinity Dance Group
performance
Adults \$10.00
Children \$5.00 (under 12)

RAFFLE: Donation \$3.00 each ticket
or 2/\$5.00 - Drawing at the luncheon

Some of the raffle prizes are:

Chinook Winds Casino
Resort, an enterprise of the
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Indians in Lincoln City will
donate:

- Dinner for 2 in the Siletz Bay Buffet (\$29.90 gift certificate)
- Two "Comedy on the Coast" tickets (\$30.00 gift certificate)

Also:

- Large hand-woven Greek afghan
- Blue and White porcelain urn table lamps
- Three-piece hand-painted canister set
- PLUS more...

FREE RAFFLE of stuffed animals for
children 7 years and under



HELLENIC- AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

The Hellenic-American Cultural Center & Museum launched its 2009 Supporters' Program Campaign with a coffee hour Sunday, February 1, 2009. The Supporters' Program, chaired by Mary Vertopoulos is the annual fund-raising event for HACCM. Throughout the year HACCM offers exhibits, concerts, lectures and films, but this is the only community-wide campaign to raise funds. It takes financial resources to sustain these many activities, and HACCM asks you for your tax-deductible donation this month and throughout the year. You will receive a letter and donation envelope by mid-February. Please consider donating to the 2nd annual HACCM Supporters' Program – any gift, large or small is gladly accepted.

HACCM is embarking on another exciting venture this year. In partnership with Holy Trinity, HACCM is working to create a library that is a viable, useful resource for the community. Under the able leadership of Ellie Bass and the Holy Trinity Library Committee, books currently in the library are being sorted and catalogued. HACCM recently purchased the Past Perfect software to catalogue its inventory, and this software is also available to the library committee to inventory the Holy Trinity library collection. Together we will add books, share the computer, software program, space, and storage areas. The goal is to open the library Wednesdays and Sunday concurrently with the museum hours in order to give visitors access to both the library and cultural center. This is a fine

example of two organizations working together for a common goal. Excitement is mounting as plans for the Rebetiko event are being formulated. This is a unique opportunity for all of us to experience and enjoy Rebetiko music. Several activities are being planned with a film showing at Alexis Restaurant on Thursday, April 23rd and a concert in St. Catherine's Hall on Saturday, April 25th. Tickets for the April 25th concert event will be available beginning Sunday, March 1st for the pre-sale price of \$13.00. Tickets purchased the evening of the concert will be \$15.00. Plan to attend this unique program. Be sure to check the enclosed flyer for detailed information.

By the time you receive this Dynamis, the entrepreneur exhibit will be in place. This exhibit is designed to honor and recognize the entrepreneurs of our community past and present. These businesses had a great impact on the growth of Oregon and Southwest Washington. They were instrumental in making the Greek community a respected, contributing part of the Pacific Northwest. Thank you to Helen Stratikos, Cathy Eagle, Alex Andronikos and Katherine Pappas in planning and coordinating this exhibit.

As you can see, HACCM continues to be an active, innovative, integral part of our community life. We have reached out to the greater Portland-Vancouver area and taken our place with other cultural centers and museums in the area. This has happened because of your generosity and enthusiasm and the hard work of the HACCM board and committees. Remember to continue this support with your attendance at events and your contribution to the Supporters' Program.

Joan Liapes, HACCM Chair

RENEW YOUR FAITH COMMITMENT!!!!

2009 Lenten Adult Christian Education at Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Cathedral

COME, JOURNEY TOWARDS CHRIST!

THE FAITH, DOCTRINE, AND WORSHIP OF THE HOLY
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Purpose: This course is a perfect chance for a quick review of our Orthodox Faith and practice during this year's Lenten Journey of Spiritual Renewal. It is designed for all adults, from Sunday school teacher to adult leader to inquirer...anyone who would like a review of the Holy Orthodox Faith.

Time: Mondays, 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Instructor: Fr. Deacon David B. Cole

(Email: fndavid@goholytrinity.org)

Text: The Orthodox Church (Bishop Kallistos Ware)

Supplemental Texts: *The Orthodox Church A to Z* (Fr. George Grubbe),
Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity (Dimitri Brady, et al.), and *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers* (Fr. Stanley Harakas)

Course of Study:

Date	Topic	Reading in Ware
9 Feb	War against God: 20 th Cent. Militant Atheism	Ch. 8
16 Feb	Source of Faith: Tradition and Scripture	Ch.. 10 (11)
23 Feb	God, His Church, and Deification	Ch. 12 (11)
2 Mar	Earthly Heaven: Liturgy and Sacraments I	Chs. 13, 1
9 Mar.	Earthly Heaven: Liturgy and Sacraments II	Chs. 13, 14
16 Mar.	Tour of Church: Architecture of God's House	-----
23 Mar.	Feasts, Fasts, and Private Prayer	Ch. 15
30 Mar.	Orthodoxy and the Reunion of Christians	Ch. 16
6 Apr.	Final Question and Answer in Church	-----

Note to Catechumens: The two traditional times on the Church's liturgical calendar for the baptism and/or Chrismation of converts are either Holy Theophany on Jan. 6 or Holy Saturday, at the end of Great and Holy Week and just before Holy Pascha. These classes are designed with this tradition in mind, so that catechumens may be received into the Church either time, once they have completed both the fall and spring sections and met with the priest. Holy Week begins this year Sunday evening 12 April and ends Holy Saturday evening 18 April.
Holy Pascha is Sunday 19 April.

CHILD WELFARE TOY DRIVE

Now through FEBRUARY
15

Philothea is collecting toys for children placed in State custody and those in continuing foster care.

Toys will be used to comfort children as they are pulled out of their homes, for custody visits, and special occasions such birthdays or holidays.

There is a great need for such gifts!

Please contribute by bringing new or unused toys to Church.

- Ages 0-17 years
- Male or Female
- Unwrapped
- Unused toys should look brand new
- Bring one or many

We will have collection places set up in the Narthex as well as near the office in the Hall.

All toys will be collected on the afternoon of Feb. 15th to be delivered to DHS-Child Welfare. Thank you in advance for helping in this much needed ministry!

If you have any questions, call the church office, or e-mail Demetria Hunt at demehunt@yahoo.com

Teaching the Faith

By Edward Hillhouse, 2/3rd grade teacher

From this teacher's perspective, one of the greatest challenges as an Orthodox teacher is how to impart to young students the essence of our Orthodox faith. With most static academic subjects, it is up to the person learning to see it come alive, as it were. Math for instance, has a natural function that gets very practical in an everyday sense as one grows into adulthood but is not always obvious to the third grader memorizing their multiplication tables. Unlike math, our Orthodox faith is a "live" experience and cannot be taught simply in the realm of the intellect. Making it "come alive" requires active participation from parents and teachers as well as students.

Catechism, better known as Faith class at ASA, has a very



natural integration to real life because our faith *is* life in the Kingdom of God, the Church. Faith instruction has at least two levels. One is the factual: naming the twelve disciples, memorizing the books of the Bible and retelling the stories from both testaments. If that was all there was to it, faith instruction would be a snap. The other aspect, however, is not made up of facts and history, but understanding, love and the cooperation of our free will. This is where the rub comes in. Are you as a parent ever confused as to how to

get a message clearly across to Junior so he understands it and changes his behavior? WHAT???

Yes, I said "changes his behavior." Is that not what learning is—changed behavior, whether an attitude or an action? What kind of behavior will change if Junior learns the names of the twelve apostles? Will we see him treat his sister better or automatically do his chores on Saturday morning? Oh, how I wish I could guarantee that—but this is the difficult part of how to teach our faith to the young. The goal in faith class is to see the students become enlightened by God to some degree. We hope for them to understand the inner life of Orthodoxy, the life of repentance and loving one's neighbor, all that is just, profitable and of good report, how to flesh out faith, hope and love.

Instruction, therefore, is bi-level. Teachers have to give the facts *and* impart a vision for life. The former comes rather easily. The latter comes through a very slow process of dealing with particular circumstances in the classroom every day. This process never stops. It goes on without consciousness on the part of the student. Teachers realize they are helping students learn how to live and love; students may think they are just getting another lecture or are being distracted from what they'd prefer to be doing. In reality they are getting at the very heart of how to pursue God; Jesus teaches us to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind and our neighbor as our self. When Jake causes turmoil during a game or Clara roughly passes the papers along instead of carefully, an opportunity arises for instruction. Through these little incidents that occur many times during a week of school, teachers are enabled to directly teach children how to love one's neighbor and therefore the God that made and loves the neighbor. This is the best kind of faith integration. It is not dependent on a lesson plan or any schedule; these teachable moments are

everywhere. It is why parents choose a school that will partner with them in teaching values and faith as well as academics to their children.

The annual Father-Daughter Dance

Is Saturday, February
7th @ 7:00 PM (Call
church office to RSVP)

Saturday night

February 7th Tigard Bowl 11660 SW Pacific Hwy. 6:00-8:00 PM

Younger kids to bowl
7:30-8:30 PM
Pizza!
8:30-10:30 PM
Older kids to bowl
Call the church
office to RSVP

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
3131 N.E. GLISAN STREET
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Home Bible Study Fellowship Network at Holy Trinity Cathedral



As was mentioned in last month's Dynamis, we are pleased to announce the launch of our Home Bible Study Network at Holy Trinity! Each Home Bible Study Fellowship will be meeting once or twice a month during the months of February-June. During this time, the Home Bible Study Fellowships will be focusing on the Gospel readings for the periods of the Triodion (i.e., Great Lent) and the Pentecostarion (the forty days following Easter). Each Fellowship will be led by a lay facilitator, and the clergy will be circulating among the Home Bible Study Fellowships to answer questions and offer support. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for members of our community to come together to read the Bible and understand its meaning in a deeper way, as well as strengthening bonds of friendship and support.

We encourage you to attend the first meeting of the Home Bible Study Fellowship in your neighborhood. Please call the facilitator of the Home Bible Study Fellowship you wish to attend to RSVP, so that he or she will know how many to expect.

Vancouver

Facilitator/Host: Stefanos and Mary Vertopoulos
First Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 6:45 PM
Location: 18616 SE 14th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683
Phone: 360-883-6438

N.E. Portland

Facilitator/Host: Don and Katherine Ossey
First Meeting: To be announced – call church office for date & time
Location: 4431 NE Alameda Drive
Portland, OR 97213
Phone: 503-282-6219

Facilitator/Host: Leigh Ann Hieronymus
First Meeting: Monday, February 9, 6:45 PM
Location: 1506 NE Siskiyou Street
Portland, OR 97212
Phone: 503-282-9265

S.E. Portland

Facilitator/Host: Alice Blakeman & Jim Murdoch
First Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 PM
Location: 5735 SE 23rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97202
Phone: 503-239-6862

N.W. Portland

Facilitator/Host: John Lampros and Ted Papas
First Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 PM
Location: Lampros home
13542 NW Countryview Way
Portland, OR 97229
Phone: 503-645-3136

S.W. Portland

Facilitator/Host: John Lingas
First Meeting: Monday, February 9, 7:00 PM
Location: 5260 SW Humphrey Blvd.
Portland, OR 97221
Phone: 503-292-0451

Facilitator/Host: Nick Triantafillou
First Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 PM
Location: 4133 SW 41st Place
Portland, OR 97221
Phone: 503-234-8948

Facilitator/Host: Jacob Gorny
First Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 PM
Location: home of Vanda Makris
9230 SW 69th Ave.
Portland, OR 97223
Phone: (Jacob Gorny) 503-449-7720

Lake Oswego

Facilitator/Host: Christine Rulli/Sophia Kondoleon
First Meeting: Saturday, February 7, 7:00 PM
Location: Paula & George Diamond home
18380 River Edge Lane
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Phone: (Paula Diamond) 503-697-1066 or.gpdiamond@comcast.net

Clackamas:

Facilitator/Host: John and Cheri Carandanis
First Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM
Location: 15996 SE Venice Ridge Way
Clackamas, OR 97015
Phone: 503-658-6164