The Voice of Holy Trinity

Dynamis

December 2010 ***"... Since the kingdom of God is not just words, it is power."*** 1 CORINTHIANS 4:20

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL + PORTLAND + OREGON

A SHEPHERD: BISHOP, WONDERWORKER, AND SAINT

Our spirit is filled with joy and warmth every time we study the life of the great athletes of God. We experience the presence of the grace of God in our own lives as we read the lives of the Saints.

We are all invited to meditate on the life of Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker and reap spiritual blessings from the Lord who honored him.

Spyridon was born in Cyprus into a Christian family toward the end of the third century. His parents were shepherds, and he also chose to be a shepherd. He justified his decision by referring to other people in the Bible who were shepherds and served God. For example, David the King was a shepherd. God's Angels brought the joyous news of Jesus' birth first to shepherds.

But Spyridon never stopped sharing God's message. He gathered the other shepherds around him and when the sheep were safe and resting, he explained to them the meaning of the Sunday epistle and Gospel lessons. At other times, he shared with them God's great love for us by pointing out God's marvelous works in nature and in the Bible. Most importantly, Spyridon practiced what he preached. He was indeed loving and generous to the people around him. For the Christian faith is expressed not so much in abstract words as in benevolent actions and charitable deeds. Spyridon's life was filled with Christian deeds, and the people held him in high esteem.

When the priest of their town died, all the faithful came to the Bishop of Trimythous and requested that he ordain Spyridon as their priest. Spyridon loved his spiritual flock and spent all his time preaching, teaching and sanctifying them. God had given him the gift of healing, and he healed many people by placing his hands on them, and he performed many miracles to meet the needs of his people. When Constantius the Emperor became gravely ill in Antioch, they invited Spyridon to come and pray over him. God heard his prayer, and when Spyridon placed his hands over the King he immediately was healed. The King showered Spyridon with gifts. But Spyridon declined to receive them. Upon the King's insistence, Spyridon distributed them to the poor of the city of Antioch.

Spyridon's fame spread like good news to the surrounding cities and towns. When the Bishop of Trimythous died, the entire diocese asked the other bishops to ordain Spyridon their new bishop. Although he considered himself unworthy of this great honor, when the people coerced him to become their bishop, Spyridon immediately went to work to feed his now large flock as a good shepherd. He kept the simplicity of his former life, but spent all his time visiting, admonishing, and sanctifying his spiritual children.

In the First Ecumenical council of 325, Spyridon was one of the 318 Fathers. In his simple way, he held in his hand a piece of ceramic tile. When he said "in the Name of the Father," fire went up from his hand. When he said "and of the Son," water dripped down from his hand, and when he said, "and of the Holy Spirit," the dry soil remained in his palm. In a simple way he glorified the Holy Trinity.

Saint Spyridon's holy relics lie in Corfu (Kerkyra,) where they are venerated and perform many miracles for the glory of God.

Fr. John Angelis

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An Open Heart

The persons who are involved in the story of Christ's birth were all quite different. Mary and Joseph were humble travelers seeking a place of shelter. The shepherds were simple men of the land tending their flocks. The wise men were wealthy and aristocratic foreigners wandering in a strange land. Yet, each of them shares a common characteristic. They opened their hearts to the actions of the Lord who mysteriously led them to the village of Bethlehem. Each of them permitted God to act in their lives. Mary and Joseph were willing to change their whole life to nurture and protect the child Jesus. The shepherds were willing to hear the words of the angels. The wise men were willing to follow the star. We remember them to this day because they opened their hearts and trusted in the Lord. Through His birth in Bethlehem, Jesus reveals that we too must open our hearts to his presence and actions. God wants us to share in His work of reconciliation. Like the participants in the first Christmas, we too are called to be persons whose hearts are open to the divine presence and actions.

Centering the Season on Christ

The story of the birth of Christ in its true significance is often clouded by the commercialism of the season. There is a very frenzied pace to these days which can so easily depersonalize us and dampen the true joy of the season. The stores tempt us for weeks on end to buy this thing or buy that thing. Some of us prefer to speak of the 'Holiday Season' rather than of Christmas. Many schools have forbidden the remembrance of Christ's birth in the classroom. Yes, throughout our society, many fail to remember that the coming of Christ is truly at the heart of the Christmas celebrations.

What can we do? Let us remember that the season celebrates the love of God revealed in the coming of Christ. For those with faith, the colored lights, the green trees, the wreaths and the flowers are symbols of the joy of Christmas. Let us celebrate the joy of Christ's coming! Let us share the love of God with others. Christ has come to bear witness to the Father's love for us. We too can share this love with others, especially with the poor and less fortunate among us. We can be sensitive to those who cannot easily celebrate because of a loss in their lives. Let us be ambassadors of God who share His care and philanthropy. Let us seek the Lord with an open heart as the shepherds and wise men did. This means that we find opportunities for prayer and meditation, for reading the Scriptures related to Christ's coming. This means that we can make Christmas a special day by participating in the Divine Liturgy and by receiving Holy Communion with reverence for God, with faith and with love. To Christ Our Lord be glory, now and forever and unto the ages of ages, Amen.

Father Thomas Fitzgerald

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Orthodox Spirituality

Saturday evenings in the Church, 5:00 pm
with Father Jordan
Topics for December: Incarnation, Baptism & Theophany
When: December 5, December 11 & December 18

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Youth Corner

December 5, GOYA Christmas Caroling, 11:00 am
December 11, Altar Boys Snow Tubing at Mt. Hood
December 22, GOYA Service Project
The GOYAns will prepare and serve lunch for our Seniors. We are planning to go ice skating in the afternoon.

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Our People

BAPTISM: November 15, 2010: Evan Petcoff was Baptized. Isidoros Garifalakis is his Godfather.

WEDDING: November 13, 2010: Harry Speropulos and Jodie Bandt. The Sponsor was Ioannis Souris.

FUNERAL: November 12, 2010: Theodoros Nicholaos "Ted" Papaioannou, who passed away on November 8, 2010 at the age of 55. Ted was born in Prosimni, Argolidos, Greece on April 28, 1954. He is survived by his mother, Penelope Papaioannou, daughters, Estia and Andonia, son Nick and sisters, Antigone Koukoumanos, Panagoula Papaioannou and Eleni Papaioannou, brother John Papaioannou and two grandchildren.

May his memory be eternal.

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Help a Foster Child for Christmas

There are more than 8,700 children in the Oregon foster care system. Resources are very limited for foster homes and relative caregivers, especially during these difficult economic times. The simple donation of a toy brings incredible joy to the hearts of children whose childhoods have been cut short and dramatically affected. The last day to donate will be Friday, December 17th in
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order to get them to the children for Christmas. There will be a Christmas Tree in the small hall to drop off unwrapped gifts. Ages for gifts should range from toddlers to teens. If you have any questions call Demetria Hunt at 503-887-2418. Thank you.

PLAN AHEAD

Your Stewardship Gifts This Year:

There are only a few short weeks left to complete your giving for 2010. Here are important reminders to consider, as ***the timing of your gift matters*** if you would like the tax benefits this year:

- Contributions mailed must be post-marked on or before 12/31
- Gifts may be delivered to the parish office on or before 12/30 - ***the office will be closed on Friday, December 31***
- **Out of time?** Call the parish office **before** December 31 and authorize your gift through your VISA credit card.

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HACCM needs you –

As we are now getting ready for a major exhibit in the Hellenic-American Cultural Center & Museum, "A Year in Byzantium", the call for volunteers has never been greater. There are many spaces to fill during this time – being a docent is one of them. You don't have to be a board member of HACCM or even a member of one of our committees to be a docent. Docents have the opportunity to be "guides" during our many school tours during the year as well as staffing the museum on Sundays for an hour after church.

High School Students: here's an opportunity for you to get some community service credits through your school.. Check it out.

Being a docent is just one of many ways you can help, especially during this coming year, when our Museum will be open to many more visitors for this special exhibit. If you're interested contact Katherine Karafotias at 503-858-8567.

Remember: For the exhibit, "The Year in Byzantium", please submit any icons or religious articles you would be willing to loan us.

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CAPPELLA ROMANA

Alexander Lingas, Music Director

Russian & Ukrainian Christmas Concert Fri., January 7

Yale University's Mark Bailey, Orthodox music expert, returns to Portland with a program of Slavic Orthodox chants and rich choral works for mixed choir (an ensemble of eight men and eight women).

The Oregonian has called Bailey's direction of Cappella Romana "pure, sumptuous pleasure."

On Friday, January 7, Cappella Romana presents **"Baroque Christmas in Russia and Ukraine."** The program will feature music in 12 parts from **Moscow** (by its most important Baroque composer Vasily Titov) and from **St. Petersburg** (for the Imperial Court Chapel by its most celebrated director, Dmitri Bortniansky). Bortniansky's Cherubic Hymn No. 7 (with Greek text) has been sung at Holy Trinity, commonly known as "The Russian One."

Cappella Romana presents**:**
Baroque Christmas
in Russia and Ukraine
8 p.m. Friday, January 7
Saint Mary's Cathedral, NW 18th & Couch. Free pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Information 503-236-8202. **Tickets (reserved) 503-205-0715** and **cappellaromana.org**.

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Philoptochos

We make a Difference

As we enter the Holy month of our Savior's birth, Philoptochos is grateful for the health and generosity of our community. We count the Holy Trinity community as one of our many blessings and give thanks to everyone for supporting our work.

Christmas Bread. Back by popular demand. Fresh and for sale after church Dec. 19 thanks to the amazing Martha Circle bakers. Makes the perfect hostess gift or a taste treat for your own holiday table.!

Flavor It Greek! products for sale after church Dec. 19 or by calling a cookbook committee member. Proceeds fund community assistance and philanthropy projects.

PHILO BOARD MEETING
Tues. Dec.7 Small Hall 7:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. With faith & love in Christ,

Paula Diamond,
Philoptochos President
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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHDOX CATHEDRAL
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Portland, OR 97232

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Change Service Requested

Pennies and Prayers

A Penny if a gift,
A prayer of thanks;
A reminder that we meet
To further the work
Of Christ our Lord."

Pennies and Prayers is all about growing and sharing our faith. By saving extra change in a jar we can help support our mission parishes. Pennies and Prayers annual collection usually begins during Lent. For those of you who are interested we will be assigning jars in December (as well as during Lent) to anyone who would like to begin collecting earlier. Pennies and Prayers has expanded to include all parishioners who would like to keep a jar in their home. This is a wonderful way to encourage children and family members to help grow our faith with this ministry.

Containers will be available in the church office for check-out beginning December 4th. For more information please call or email Kathy Melcher at 503-638-7236 or melchgka@hotmail.com.

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This letter was received from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission after our annual Greek Festival:

Dear Mr. Saki and John Tzantarmas:

I am elated to witness and to acknowledge that over the past three years, your leadership in conducting the Greek Festival of Portland Oregon, has distinguished itself as being an exemplary paragon in hosting one of the oldest and respected Temporary Sales License fundraisers in our State.

Your professional expertise has allowed you to host well over 15,000 individuals-during a three day period-to enjoy a cultural event serving authentic Greek cuisine and alcoholic beverages in support of the Greek community.

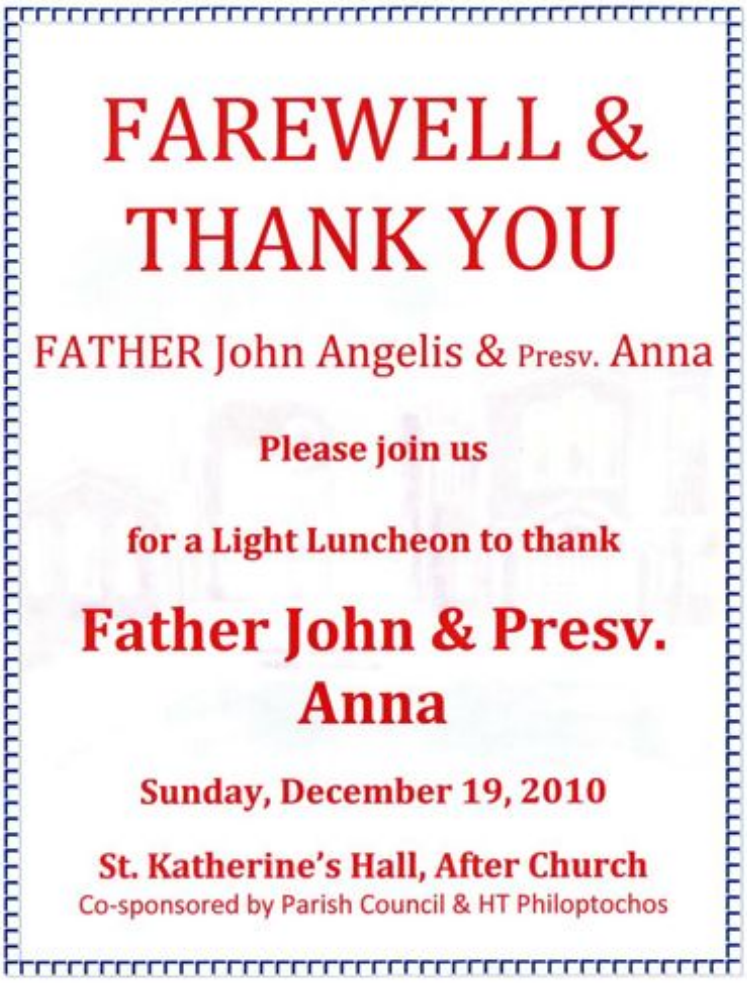
We value public safety with respect to the sale and service of alcoholic beverages. We want individuals to enjoy alcoholic beverages responsibly, while maintaining the best attributes of a community festival. It is important to recognize that your personal involvement not only contributes to the success of this event, but sets the standard for how large venue events can run without incident. Well done!

I spoke with Inspectors Stan Grubbs, David Taylor, Jesse Enright and Steve Bainbridge, who each made it a point to share with me directly how well managed, organized, and enjoyable the event showcased itself. In addition to this, Inspectors indicated that the event was managed in a way that ensured alcoholic beverages were served according to the control plan. This attention to detail has resulted in many successful events over the years resulting in OLCC recognition and confidence for an expected safe and well-run event.

On a personal note, my deep appreciation of the Greek culture comes from my Greek son-in-law who has indoctrinated me on many of the values and festive events stemming from his ancestors in Michigan. I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to- work with and know- both of you professionally, as well as fortunate enough to share in your heritage and great tradition.

Sincerely,

Rudy Williams, Deputy Director
Oregon Liquor Control Commission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