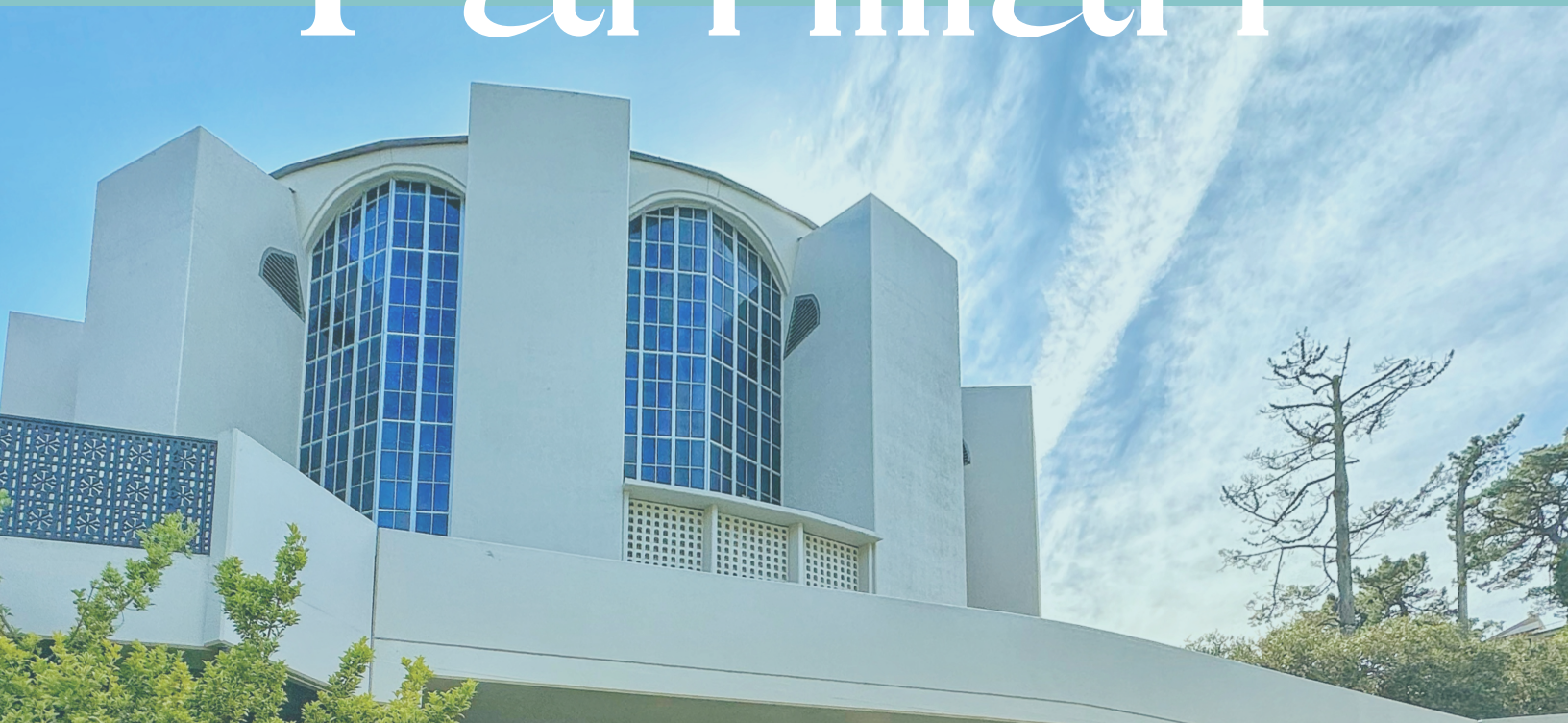


Holy Trinity Familian



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The Truth Will Set Us Free

2024 STEWARDSHIP

You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. These words of our Lord remind us how important “truth” is for the Christian. It is no wonder that the Bible is filled with straightforward, declarative sentences about this important subject.

In Psalm 118 we read that the “Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth.”

In John 4 the Lord instructs the Samaritan Woman to worship “in spirit and truth.”

In his third epistle John the Beloved proclaims, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

It seems like the only person in the Bible who has trouble understanding truth is Pontius Pilate who asks cynically and bitterly “What is truth.”

As we consider how we will support Holy Trinity in 2024, here are some truths for us to bear in mind.

*It costs \$2300
per day to
operate the
Parish.*

The majority of those costs are fixed, and inflation continues to impact what we pay for energy, supplies, and services.

The Center's net rental income is \$100,000. The School building nets \$63,000 per year, and our rental house brings in \$48,000 annually. This means that one quarter of our budget is covered by people who are not members of the Church. We might not have a Greek Festival, but we are as dependent on OPM as any festival church might be.

We depend a lot on Other People's Money to keep Holy Trinity afloat.

The biblical minimum level of support prescribed for the faithful is a tithe (10% of one's income).

We can live in denial of this fact, but we are only kidding ourselves. On some occasions our Lord tells people to give more than this!

Our recent renovation projects have been possible principally because of extremely generous bequests.

We have benefited greatly by windfall income, not planned fundraising.

The truth will set us free.

The most important truth of all is that if more of us tithed, or at least gave at a level that reflects the economics of 2023, we would be free:

Free to implement ministries and programs that help “the least of our brethren.”

Free from the hard decisions that must be made when proposing a budget, and the hand-wringing that accompanies our perusal of the Income and Expense statements of the Parish near the end of the year.

Free to better serve our constituency and promote spiritual and numerical growth by expanding our staff.

Nothing that you have read to this point is “spun.” It is just the truth: plain, straightforward, and easy to understand.

Please submit a 2024 pledge on or before Sunday, December 3, 2023. In considering how you will support the Parish next year, please consider the truths described here.

We know the truth. Let that truth set us free.



PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

»» WE ARE WHAT WE EAT

A Reflection From Nick Johnson, Parish Council President

The French lawyer and gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin said, “Tell me what you eat, and I’ll tell you what you are.” In other words, “we are what we eat.” According to Brillat-Savarin, what we eat not only determines our physical condition but possibly reflects the character we represent. Does this mean when we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, the Eucharist, we represent Him? Absolutely! This is why it is so important that we cleanse our mind of all malice, forgive all as we ask for forgiveness, and approach the Holy Chalice with humility, love, and a clear conscience to receive Him, to truly receive Him.

Are we properly prepared to allow Christ into our hearts? In my line of work, I see all types of homes, and I get to meet people from all walks of life. Sometimes, God connects me with Orthodox Christians: pious, warm, and peaceful, God-loving people. And when this happens, it brings great joy to my heart because my two worlds come together. I’ve seen thousands of homes. I’ve been inside homes that carried such an unpleasant odor I had to breathe out of my mouth just to make it through the tour and all I could think about was leaving. I’ve seen homes that were beautiful on the outside but, on the inside, they were filled with rubbish and so much clutter I could not find a place to sit comfortably to speak to the owner. I’ve seen homes that were beautiful on the outside and appeared beautiful on the inside but when I sat down to speak with the owners they cursed and this made me uncomfortable. In some cases, homes were filled with hatred, and everything that appeared beautiful instantly became ugly. It saddened me to be around them. I just wanted to leave.

This is how Christ feels when we draw near to receive Him and are not properly prepared. If we do not remove the garbage that’s inside of us, why would He want to come in? I wouldn’t. Would you?

Saint Augustine of Hippo affirmed the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, emphasizing the mystical and sacramental nature of the bread and the wine. He notably said, “I am the food of the mature; grow, then, and you shall eat Me. You will not change Me into yourself like bodily fat, but you will be changed into Me.” For this to happen, for us to become “little Christs,” we must purify our hearts. We must keep the eyes of our body away from the filth of this world and the eyes of our mind focused on Christ. We need to train our ears to work with our mind in rejecting the perverted and malicious, and remain focused on the Living Word of God to avoid the harboring of evil that will damage our soul. Christ said, “blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” By consuming the Holy Eucharist, hearing the Divine Gospel, and worshipping “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24), God’s grace is slowly poured upon us, filling our lives with a love and joy that transforms our actions to constantly praise Him and to love all His people so that those who do not know Him - through our efforts - may experience the love and healing that only the Greatest Physician and Lover of mankind, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, can give us. This is what it means to be an Orthodox Christian.

This Thanksgiving, as we gather with our families to praise God for health, family, sufferings, knowledge, and all the secular things He gives us, let us properly thank Him by remembering to approach the Holy Chalice with sincere faith and love and truly receive Him by opening the arms of our heart and giving back to Him the love He continually gives us every moment of every day and night. May we always remember, together, one body in Christ, “we are what we eat.” Happy Thanksgiving!

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

FALL PARISH ASSEMBLY: NOVEMBER 19

The Fall Parish Assembly will take place after the Divine Liturgy, Sunday, November 19, 2023. The Assembly agenda is on the next page.

Nominations for the Parish Council will also take place, with elections to follow in December. The 2024 budget will also be presented.

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend a Parish Assembly for some time, plan to join us for an efficient and informative meeting!

Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we were able to collect enough funds over the summer to proceed with the construction of our new ADA bathroom and laundry room. The project is proceeding on schedule and within budget. We've been blessed with few below ground or above ceiling surprises and expect to complete the work and enjoy this new space by early December.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

PARISH ASSEMBLY AGENDA

**Parish Assembly
November 19, 2023
Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity
San Francisco, California**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer/Covenant
3. Election of Chairperson
4. Appointment of Secretary
5. Review and Approval of Minutes
6. Financial Report
7. Stewardship Report
8. Infrastructure Report
9. Nominations for Parish Council
10. Election of Audit Committee
11. Election of Board of Electors
12. Old Business
13. New Business
 - a. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - b. Other
14. Motion to Adjourn
15. Closing Prayer

Events, Activities, and Ministries

Angel Tree Maui Mission: Fire Relief Effort

This year at Holy Trinity we will devote our Christmas almsgiving project (Angel Tree) to raise funds for the people of Maui affected by the recent fires.

If you would like to donate, please take an envelope with the bow around it from the Angel Tree set-up during Coffee Hour. You can write a check to *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church* and in the memo line write *Philoptochos Maui*.

Please return your donation to the church by December 17.

We would like to thank you all in advance for your donation and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas. We thank you for your continued prayers for the people of Maui.

For questions please contact Diakonissa Hope Callas (650-218-0508).

For updates from the mission community on Maui visit their website (<https://www.mauimission.org/>).



Messages of hope and cards received by the mission community on Maui.



The next Philoptochos meeting will be held November 12th after church. We will be assembling packages to distribute to the homeless. Join us.

The annual "Light the Path" luncheon will be held at the Olympic Club on November 19th. Proceeds go to help finance seminarians from our Metropolis. More information follows.

The Christmas Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, December 17th after church.

Events, Activities, and Ministries

Parish Retreat - October 2023

Something for Everyone at Holy Trinity's First Parish Retreat

Members of Holy Trinity joined members from St. Basil's in Stockton at the St. Nicholas Ranch October 20-22. The youth participated in fun and educational activities and adults were offered a seminar on prayer, the theme of the weekend. Everyone joined for morning and evening worship and participated in the Divine Liturgy at the Life-Giving Spring Monastery. For many this was their first visit to the Metropolis's first class retreat center and its colocated thriving women's monastery.



Holy Trinity's Seniors

Holy Trinity's Seniors meet every Thursday at 10:30am in Kosturos Hall. Father Aris meets with the group the 3rd Thursday of every month for a question-and-answer get-together. Light luncheons or potlucks follow the gatherings.

If you'd like to join on any Thursday, contact Connie Bille (csbille@webtv.net) to be added to the mailing list.



Announcements

Special Guest from Scotland on Sunday, November 12

Holy Trinity is excited to welcome Fr. Seraphim Aldea from the Monastery of All Celtic Saints, which is the first Orthodox Monastery in the Isles of Scotland in over a thousand years. Fr. Seraphim will serve Divine Liturgy and speak to us about the resurgence of Orthodox Christianity in the British Isles.

Fr. Seraphim was tonsured as a monk in 2005 at Rasca Monastery in Bucovine, North Moldavia. He has a PhD in Modern Theology from the University of Durham (UK) for a thesis on Archimandrite Sophrony Sakharov's Ecclesiology. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Theology, Oxford University, while working to found the first Orthodox monastery in the Hebrides in over a millennium.



Searching for Church Musicians

Singers? Want to be singers? With the choir singing in the nave near the chant stand, you are certainly encouraged to sing along! Sing from your usual pew location or join us in the front. Divine Liturgy starts at 10am. Questions? Talk to a choir member or Voula Brown.



Church to You

Church to You (Parea) is alive and well. If you know a member of our church community who is a shut-in or who is taking care of a shut-in making it difficult or impossible to get to church regularly, let one of us know. We'd love to be able to help maintain contact with our church community members.

Contact Voula Brown, Georgia Bajjalieh, Brenda Johnson, or Eleni St. John





HOLY TRINITY GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

A large, detailed illustration of a fall-themed wreath. It features various elements including pumpkins (one white, one orange), acorns, pine needles, maple leaves, and clusters of red berries. The wreath is set against a background of a gradient from light orange at the top to a darker orange at the bottom. The text 'FALL FEST' is centered within the wreath in a large, dark red, serif font.

FALL FEST

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5
CRAFTS | GAMES | ACTIVITIES | FOOD

Come and relax the day after our Dinner Dance. Families with young children are invited to join us for a Fall Fest on Sunday November 5 following Liturgy. We'll have treats, activities, games, a bouncy house, and more to entertain the whole family! See you there!



Light the Path



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS
AND THE METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
PHILOPTOCHOS JOYFULLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

Light the Path A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 19, 2023
2:00 p.m.

The Olympic Club

599 Skyline Boulevard • San Francisco, California

Please join us for an inspiring afternoon to benefit the

**Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student
Aid Endowment Fund
For Seminarians and Students at
Hellenic College/Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Brookline, Massachusetts**

\$125 per person, limited capacity - secure your reservation early.
Register at www.sfphiloptochos.org or by calling 415-431-2600 by November 14.

Donate today online: www.sfphiloptochos.org



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

FAMILY

WINTER CAMP

Snow Play | Campfires | Family Prayer
Monastery Visits | Arts & Crafts | Hikes & more!

December 27-30, 2023

ST. NICHOLAS RANCH & RETREAT CENTER

DUNLAP, CALIFORNIA



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Registration Coming Soon

www.gosfyouth.org

YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	6 Greek Dance 6pm Divine Liturgy Book Study 8pm	7 Faith and Fellowship 7pm	8 Matins & Liturgy: Holy Archangels 9am Women's Book Study 7pm	9 Matins & Liturgy: St. Nektarios 9am San Francisco Byzantine Choir 7pm	10 Matins & Liturgy: St. Arsenios the Cappadocian 9am	11 Θεία Λειτουργία (Ελληνική) - Divine Liturgy (Greek) 10am Food Pantry 10am Vespers 4pm
12 Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	13 Matins & Liturgy: St. John Chrysostom 9am Greek Dance 6pm Divine Liturgy Book Study 8pm	14 Faith and Fellowship 7pm	15 Matins & Liturgy: St. Luke 9am Women's Book Study 7pm	16 San Francisco Byzantine Choir 7pm	17	18 Food Pantry 10am Vespers 4pm
			1 Matins & Liturgy: Holy Unmercenarys 9am Women's Book Study 7pm	2 San Francisco Byzantine Choir 7pm	3	4 Food Pantry 10am Vespers 4pm Dinner Dance 6pm

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	20 Greek Dance 6pm Divine Liturgy Book Study 8pm	21 Matins & Liturgy: Presentation of the Entrance in the Temple 9am Faith and Fellowship 7pm	22 Women's Book Study 7pm	23 Office closed - Thanksgiving	24 Office closed - Thanksgiving	25 Matins & Liturgy: St. Katherine 9am Food Pantry 10am Vespers 4pm
26 Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	27 Greek Dance 6pm Divine Liturgy Book Study 8pm	28	29 Women's Book Study 7pm	30 Matins & Liturgy: St. Andrew 9am San Francisco Byzantine Choir 7pm		

Save the Date!
Our 5th Annual
Women's Retreat will
be held Saturday,
January 27, 2024.
More information in
the next Familian.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

999 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, CA 94132

Call
(415) 584-4747

www.holytrinitysf.org