

# HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF LONDON & VICINITY

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## LIFE-ZΩH

### NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2002

#### Message from Fr. Elias:

#### **"CHRIST IS BORN, LET US GLORIFY HIM!"**

Beloved in the Lord. As we approach the glorious birth of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ may we sit back and reflect on the reason for the season. Through His incarnation we become partners and partakers in the salvation of all creation. This event transcends all time and earthly boundaries. This is why chant, "**Christ is born, let us glorify him.**"

Our Community is in the midst of exciting times and growth. We are truly blessed to be alive to see and be a part of these changes. The Community of London had humble beginnings which evolved to the great achievements we have today. We are the inheritors of this treasure. The challenge which lies before us is to continue the hard work and build upon the foundations of our predecessors in order to ensure the future of our Church, and our Community for ourselves and to the glory of our Heavenly Father.

May the light of our Newborn Christ, which guided the Magi to the cave, shine deep within your hearts, and guide you throughout your endeavours both now and in the coming New Year of 2003.

#### YAL- Community New Year's Dance

The annual YAL New Year's Eve Dance is fast upon us. Tickets are going fast so please let your families know to purchase their tickets (\$45.00/ticket) and reserve their tables. The YAL executive will be selling tickets after church every Sunday.

Also, the YAL executive is inviting all YAL members and all YAL age group (ages 19-30) who have not become members yet, to participate in the New Years Eve Dance preparations and 2003 YAL elections. On December 30, 2002 at 9:00am all YAL members and the executive will meet at our Community Centre on Southdale Rd to prepare for the dance. During preparations we will also be holding elections for YAL executive for the year 2003. It is customary, once the preparations are complete, for YAL to go out for dinner as a group one last time for the year 2002.

#### GEN-X:

We have successfully had our second Potluck for GEN-X. As our newly formed committee prepares for the third Potluck, a few GEN-Xers have requested a meeting to decide direction/purpose for GEN-X. Therefore, in January 2003 at a soon to be determined date we are inviting all GEN-Xers to participate in a meeting to help set the direction and future for this group. Unfortunately, since this is a meeting forum, we are not inviting children so that we may have the freedom to discuss GEN-X issues freely without distraction. We hope this does not inconvenience anyone. The GEN-X committee will be in touch in the New Year.

Also, our next GEN-X potluck is for Saturday January 25, 2003 5:30pm at the Southdale Community Centre once again. Children are always invited to the potlucks and we will have another movie for their entertainment. Our committee will once again be reminding/inviting all by email and phone. Please share this invitation with relatives and friends that are of this age group and would like to attend. **The bigger our family the better.**

#### GOYA:

If you are between the ages of 13-18 you are invited to participate in GOYA. We have purchased a new ping-pong table and every second Wednesday gather at our community centre on Southdale Rd. and play ping-pong, order pizza and have a religious discussion with Father Elias. You are invited to our next meeting on December 11, 2002 at 6:30 pm. You are also invited to participate in our GOYA/Greek School Kalanta event on the dates of December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 -5:00 pm. This will be a fundraiser for our new church. We will have our first practice with Fr Elias on December 7 right after church. All GOYA members are encouraged to attend this event. Any questions on the youth groups may be directed to Mr. Peter J Chelonis and father Elias Drossos.

#### New Church Update

Since our last update of September 2002, we have now finished the parking lot around the new church and the storm sewers of this new parking and fire routes areas. The paving of the parking lot will be done at a later time. It was necessary to move the soccer field to the south to make room available for the fire routes and parking. The soccer field was pushed back and we made up the area from

available land that we had at the south of our property. At the same time we put new top soil on the soccer field in order to improve the playing surface. We also moved the fences and reinstalled them and thank our volunteers, Mr. Taso Karanastasis, Mr. Stratos Karanastasis, Mr. Bill Konidas, Mr. Angelo Makris, Mr. Jim Giannoulis, Mr. John Dreliozis, Mr. Tom Kouzounas, Mr. John Kouzounas and Mr. Martin Painter for their help on the fences.

We held our planning meetings with all the professionals involved for the inside finishing of our church. They have been given the mandate to co-ordinate with our construction manager and start scheduling the trades. It is anticipated that construction will begin at the end of January 2003, as many of the trades and their employees are taking time off for the Christmas season.

### **Four Seasons Restaurant Fundraising for our New Church**

On Sunday February 9, 2003, a fundraising dinner will be held at the Four Seasons Restaurant, with all costs donated by the owners of the establishment: Mr Sophocles Petrou, Mr. Jim Petrou, Mrs. Cathy Petrou and Mr. Spiro Agapiou. We thank them in advance and may God bless them for their generosity. We ask all of you to participate by purchasing your tickets for this event, as the total proceeds will be going to the Church Building Fund. Tickets may be purchased from the Church office or from the Four Seasons Restaurant for \$100 each and include dinner and all drinks. At this event, a presentation will be made on the style of a Byzantine Church, and we will also feature "Hellenic Poetry & Literature throughout the ages - A celebration"

### **2002 Dues and donations for our New Church**

This is a friendly reminder for those of our members who have not yet paid their dues for 2002. The dues are \$75 for every person over the age of 18. As the year is almost over think about the services our church provides and the costs that must be met. The dues help with the operating costs of our church. Also do not forget to give your Christmas donation for our Church Building Fund. A separate form for donations is enclosed together with a return envelope for your convenience. Feel free to photocopy this form and pass it on to a family friend or acquaintance, since our data base does not have every one's address.

### **Greek School**

The Greek School will hold its Christmas assembly on Saturday December 21, 2002 at St. Martin's School at 10:00 am. Come and enjoy the celebration with the singing of hymns, kalanda, and the gifts from Santa Claus. They will sing the kalanta (Christmas Carols) door to door on December 15, 2002.

### **Philoptochos**

The Philoptochos Ladies Society would like to thank all the ladies and their families who supported their Annual Bake and Garage sale on November 2, 2002. Your contributions, attendance and inviting your friends and neighbours helped to make this the most successful bazaar ever. We thank you.

### **Choir**

Our Choir is welcoming new members, and we ask that you contact Mrs. Mary Singeris. We were pleased to host the Choir from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church from Toronto last month. It truly added to our Church Service.

### **Ahepa gets stamp of approval**

They say, you know you have hit it big, when you have a postage stamp issued with your name on it. Congratulations to Ahepa Canada, for being recognized by the Canada Post for their services to the Canadian Hellenic Communities and to Canadian Society at large. A domestic Stamp will be issued on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003. The official launching of the stamp will be March 25<sup>th</sup> 2003 (Greek Independence Day) at a banquet to be held in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Pankoakos Society Christmas Party at the Hellenic Centre-South Room, on Sunday December 8, 2002.
- Sterea Ellada Society Christmas Get together at the Hellenic Centre- East Room, on Sunday December 8, 2002.
- Ahepa Family Christmas Party at the Hellenic Centre, On Sunday December 15, 2002.
- Greek School Christmas Assembly at St Martin's School, Saturday December 21, 2002 at 10:00 am
- Philoptochos New Executive affirmation of oath ceremony on Sunday December 22, 2002 after church.
- Ahepa Annual Boxing Day Dance, at the Hellenic Centre, on Thursday December 26, 2002.
- New Year's Eve Gala, at the Hellenic Community Centre, on Tuesday December 31, 2002.
- Hope Club Vasilopita cake cutting (pot luck) January 10, 2003 at 5:00pm
- Philoptochos Vasilopita Dance, at the Hellenic Community Centre, on Saturday January 11, 2003.
- Gen X Pot luck and get together on January 25, 2003 at the Hellenic Community Centre.
- Greek School Letter's Day Dance, at the Hellenic Community Centre, on February 1, 2003.
- Church Fundraising Dinner, at the Four Seasons Restaurant, on Sunday February 9, 2003.
- Daughters of Penelope Fashion Show, at the Hellenic Centre, on March 2, 2003.