

## THE ULTIMATE TEST OF FAITH

**H**ow far would you be willing to go in order to prove your faith in God? We are taught that we should gladly give up our very lives for Him, and through the centuries, scores of saintly men and women have done so. What if an even **GREATER SACRIFICE** would be asked of us? Could we take the life of one of our own children to show that nothing is more important to us than our Heavenly Father?

In the book of Genesis, we find the story of a righteous man named Abraham, whose faith was put to this ultimate test. After years of praying for children, Abraham and his wife Sarah, both advanced in age, were finally blessed by God with a son, whom they named Isaac. Some time later, however, God spoke to Abraham issuing this ominous command: **"Take your only son Isaac whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains."** (Genesis 22:2) One can only imagine the agony that Abraham must have felt after hearing these words!

With heavy heart, Abraham embarked upon this dreaded journey with Isaac. Despite his love for his son, Abraham was obedient to God's instructions. Just as he was about to make the supreme sacrifice of his son, an angel of the Lord intervened. Abraham had passed this test of faith and for his unwavering loyalty to Him, God promised that he would be the **"father of many nations,"** with his descendants being as numerous as the **"stars in the sky and the sand on the shore."**

Dear friends, could we pass such an awesome test? Do we truly love the Lord completely? Remember: loving God means that we do **ANYTHING** for Him, no matter what the apparent cost or consequences might be.

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### THE HOLY PATRIARCH ABRAHAM

was born ten generations following Noah, when faith in God began to wain once more. His mission was the universal salvation of mankind. Through his seed, all nations on earth shall be blessed.

**KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Fr. Stelyios S. Muksuris, Ph.D., Protopresbyter**

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**>>>> NEW WEBSITE: [www.theotokou.org](http://www.theotokou.org) [www.facebook.com/dormitionaliquippa](http://www.facebook.com/dormitionaliquippa) <<<<**

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**October 9, 2016**

**3rd Sunday of Luke**

**St. James the son of Alpheus; Sts. Andronikos & Athanasia of Egypt**

**MEMORIALS – Helen Columbis (40 days); Betty Tomich (1 year)**

**COFFEE HOUR – Hosted by Spero & Irene Maginas in memory of Helen Columbis**

**SPECIAL SERVICE**

**WED. OCT. 12 – Bible Study 4:15 (2nd Wednesday of Month) Paraklesis 5:30 PM**

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

**WED. OCT. 12 – Greek School 5:30 PM**

**Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM**

**SAT. OCT. 15 – Slavic Food Festival at Holy Ghost Church, Ambridge 11:00 AM-6:00 PM**

**FLU SHOTS** will be administered next Sunday, October 16, in the Community Center following Divine Liturgy during Coffee Hour. If you haven't received your flu shot yet, that will be the perfect opportunity to have the shot administered!

**GREEK SCHOOL COMMITTEE** is looking for a teacher qualified to teach Greek to the students that are registered. The committee is still accepting students that want to register and learn Greek.

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES** – Next Sunday, **October 16**, Manuel & Irene Kaffenes and Stanley & Rena Simantiras; Sunday, **October 23**, Aleka Costianis and Petroula Vlahos; Sunday, **October 30**, Marie Poulis and Koula Digby. All the remaining Sundays in 2016 have been filled with Coffee Hour volunteers.

**VASILOPITES** – Senior Citizens will be taking orders, beginning today, in the Community Center following Divine Liturgy; price is \$7.00/each and deadline for orders is November 9. To place your orders, please see Marsha Georgakis or call her at 724-375-7984. Baking will take place on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, November 14, 15 & 16. Everyone's help, women and men, will be needed to help form and bake them.

**H.O.P.A. FOUNDATION** presents **OXI DAY CELEBRATION** on Saturday, October 22, with "Family Night at the Movies" beginning at 6:00 P.M. in our Community Center. Light refreshments will be served. All interested in attending, please see George Kazas or call him at 724-775-3255. Please see enclosed flyer for more information.

**G.A.P.A. NEWS** – The National Convention will take place in South Hills, Pittsburgh, on October 21 & 22. Delegates attending from our group will be Violet Rubino and Renie Wadding on October 21; Violet Rubino and Helen Valsamidis on October 22. Mark your calendars for the Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 10, at Trenney's Grill, Route 151, Hopewell. More information will follow about the Christmas Party.

**STRIP DISTRICT** – Senior Citizens will be taking their annual bus trip to the Strip District on Saturday, November 5. Everyone is welcome to join them on this fun shopping day; charge is \$2.00/members and \$5.00/non-members. For lunch, they will be stopping at the Olive Garden in Robinson Township. If interested in going, please see Marsha Georgakis or call her at 724-375-7984.

**St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10**

*BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

**GOSPEL according to Luke 7:11-16**

*At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." and the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"*

OCTOBER 2, 2016



## MIDNIGHT HELPERS

**MIDNIGHT HELPERS** was hatched by ROY after seeing, firsthand, the migrant crisis in Chios, Greece.

MIDNIGHT HELPERS is a team of volunteers that is organizing donations for humanitarian aid to the migrants on the Greek island of Chios through a palletized shipped company, a food rescue group in Pittsburgh, and in cooperation with a relief team in Chios.

Our goal is to create a "template" to assist migrants and Greeks in Chios and eventually other Greek islands. We hope to become a nonprofit so that our mission can grow.

Being a grassroots group and staying connected with global contacts is part of how Midnight Helpers can work.

**PROJECT: TO SHIP DONATIONS FOR THE  
MIGRANT LANDINGS IN CHIOS**

**OCT. 21: FIRST SHIPMENT PICK UP TO CHIOS.**

**DONATIONS TO HELP PAY FOR SHIPPING  
CAN BE MADE TO:**

**MIDNIGHT HELPERS  
23 OLD INDIAN TRAIL COURT  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238**

**FOR INFORMATION ROY: (412) 606-5927  
AND ZELFA KHALIL: (412) 417-4706**  
Shipment will be picked up at address above.

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*ROY is an internationally known metals artist and her paternal grandfather was a survivor of the Smyrna genocide in 1922. Currently her piece, "Remembrance" which memorializes Smyrna, is traveling nationally to various museums and galleries through the exhibition *Imagine Peace Now*.*

### **DONATIONS ACCEPTED:**

Please pack in a **SUITCASE** with wheels.  
Preferably size: **28" x 19" x 11"**  
in heavy-duty plastic bags

### **Need all sizes:**

- sweatpants
- clothes for pregnant women
- diapers
- clothes for adult, teens, children
- underwear and socks
- pajamas
- winter coats
- detergent powder for clothing
- cards of hope

### **DRIED FOOD:**

**energy bars, breakfast cereal bars, dried fruit and biscuits. food to prepare easily.**

**NOT ACCEPTED: no baby clothes**