

# LIFE & DEATH

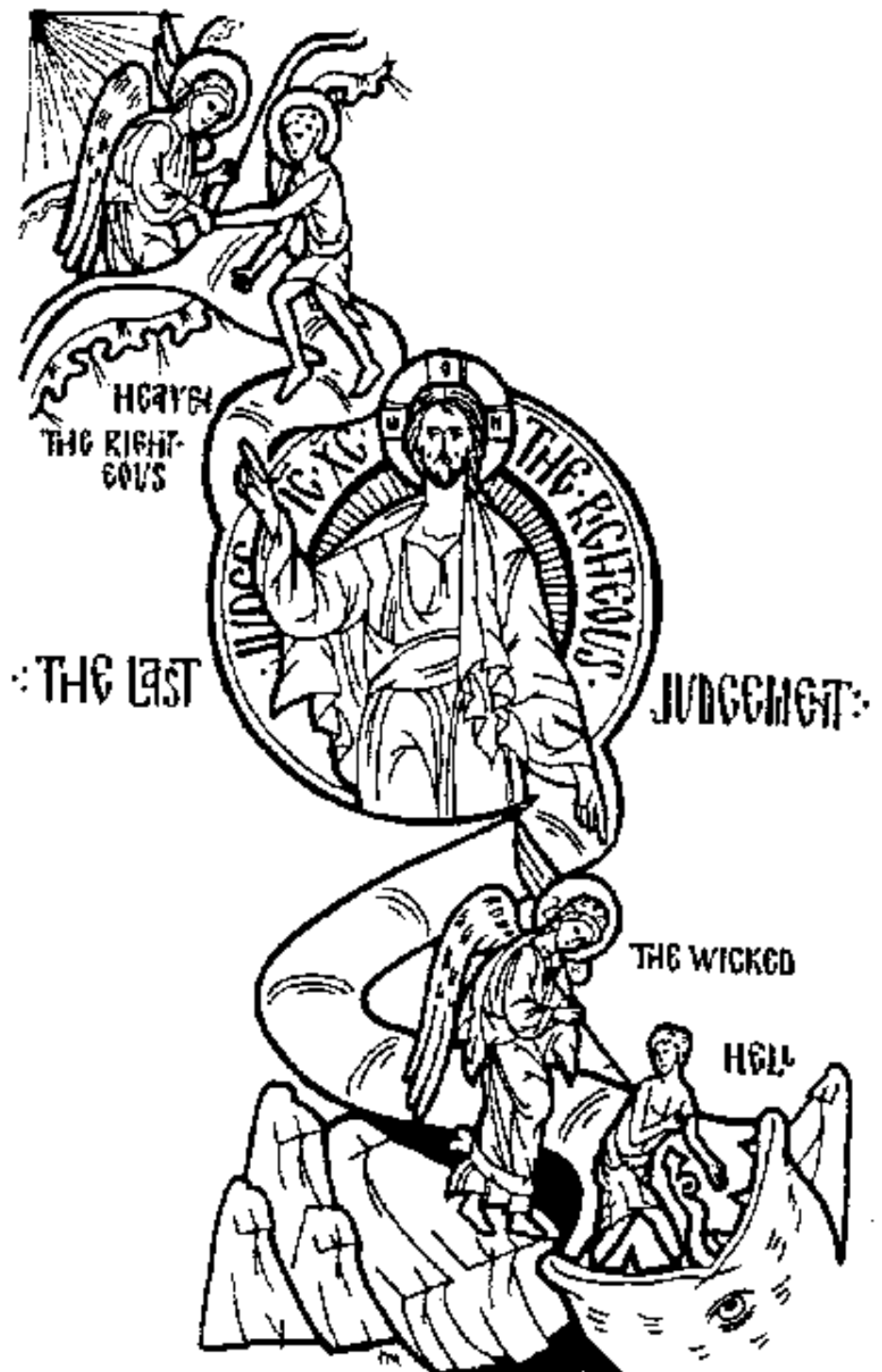
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## STEWARDSHIP 2012

HOLY TRINITY  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
SAN FRANCISCO

Over the years, we've heard lots of sermons about **LIFE AND DEATH.**

When we hear the words "**LIFE AND DEATH**" we tend to think only about what happens when we pass from this life to the next. We should do things **now** that will find us reposing eternally **later** in the bosom of our Heavenly Father, and not facing never-ending torment in Gehenna.



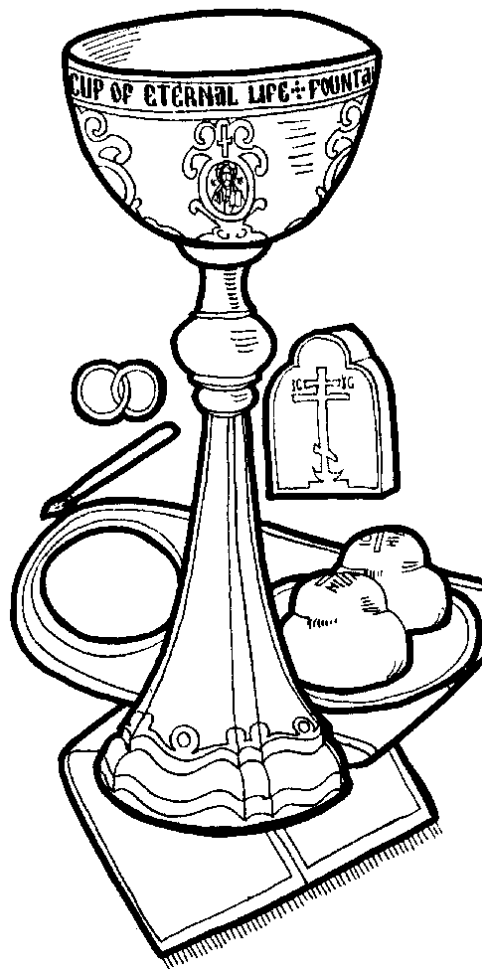
But for the Christian,  
“**LIFE AND DEATH**” refers  
to much more than  
what happens when  
we fall asleep.



When we join  
ourselves to the Lord,  
we become “**dead** to  
sin but **alive** to God in  
Christ Jesus.” (Romans  
6:11) By God’s grace,  
believers have the  
power to resist

temptation and think, speak, and live in a way that  
is Godly and morally excellent.

In other words, we don’t follow Christ simply so  
that “we can go to heaven when we die”—we  
follow Him so that we can be truly alive right now.



There's even more to this matter of "**LIFE AND DEATH.**"

We don't live as Christians in isolation—no one can follow Christ on the Internet. Our membership in His Body, the Church, defines and nurtures our faith.

Our Lord Himself tells us "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no **life** in you." (John 6:53) Holy Communion leads us from **death** to **life**. Our attendance at Liturgy and participation in the Eucharist is truly a matter of "**LIFE AND DEATH.**"



For those of us at Holy Trinity, "**LIFE AND DEATH**" has an extra meaning.

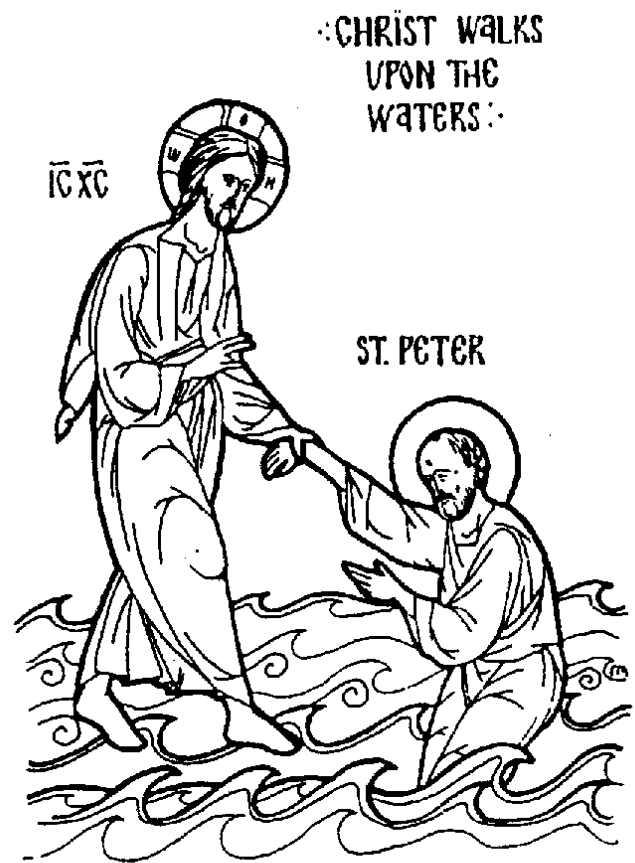
Just a few years ago, only about 120 persons came to Sunday Liturgy, ministries had ebbed, and we were headed rapidly for financial ruin.

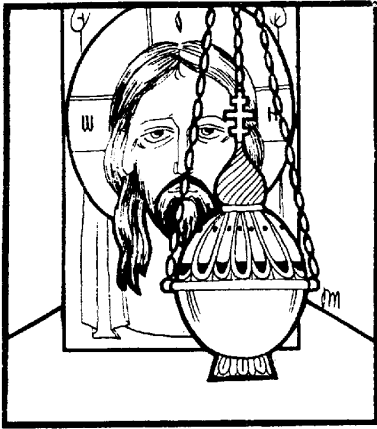
Today, we are coming back to **life**. Sunday attendance has more than doubled, our congregation and its ministries are vibrant and growing, and our slide into bankruptcy is less steep.

Please reread that last line:

Our slide into bankruptcy is less steep.

At Holy Trinity we are still in a "**life and death**" struggle.





Less than half of our mailing list of over 900 households contributes to Holy Trinity.

Those who support the church average about \$850 annually.

Stewardship provides about \$300,000 to the church each year.

Our annual budget shortfall is between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

We make up the difference by dipping into the cash left over after taking a loan against the parish house.

At our present rate, we will burn through those reserves in the next two or three years.

And we still owe one-half million dollars on the dome! The parish leadership is working to decrease this debt, but it still hangs around Holy Trinity's neck like a millstone.

Here's some **good** news.

Compared to all of the Bay Area Orthodox churches, we have:

- The most dynamic program of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- The only Small Groups Ministry
- An extremely high number of participants in Confession
- The only Parish Council that makes two monastery pilgrimages per year
- An extraordinarily talented and pious pool of lay leaders
- A dedicated and selfless paid staff
- Perhaps the highest rate of growth through conversion.





At Holy Trinity, we are building a 21<sup>st</sup> century Orthodox parish. All that's left for us, is to stop giving like it's the mid-20th century!

Let's play with some numbers using only 400 households.

400 pledges of \$36 per week balance our budget.

400 pledges of \$50 per week meet our budget and eliminate our dome debt in two years.

400 pledges at 10% (tithe) of San Francisco's median income of \$42,484 result in annual parish income of \$1.7 million. At that rate of giving, Holy Trinity would be able to do the work of Christ in ways that are currently unimaginable.

Please take a long look at the numbers on the previous page. Prayerfully consider how you will support Holy Trinity in 2012, and then complete a pledge card between now and February 12, 2012.





In the end, Stewardship at Holy Trinity is a matter of **LIFE AND DEATH.**

If nothing changes about our giving, we are headed for financial disaster.

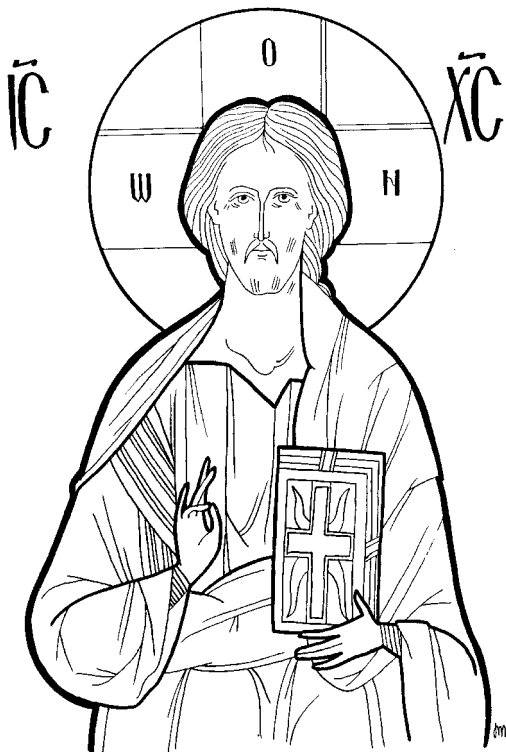
No joke.

No exaggeration.



But with a small change in our giving habits, we can position our parish to continue to grow and expand.

To share in the eternal **life** of the chalice.



To make it possible for more and more people to be **dead** to sin and **alive** to God in Christ Jesus.