



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL • 600 EAST BLVD • CHARLOTTE, NC 28203 • 704-334-4771

Η Πωνή
THE KOINOTHTOS

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SEP/OCT 2016

Our Vision: With the Grace of God, to provide a loving and caring Community where all belong to Christ, through worship, sacramental life, everyday spiritual discipline, sanctification, education, witness and fellowship.

YIASOU FESTIVAL 2016



Commander of the Guard with the Evzones. L-R Spero Koufaliotis, John N. Kontoulas, Paul Lowder, Chris Xyrafakis, Stephen Zangotsis, Evan Vlahos. Festival photos start on page 7.

Our Mission

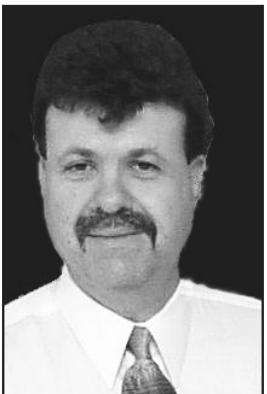
Our Mission is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

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A Message From The Editor



Hello again everybody,

Happy fall season to all in the community. The Voice Staff welcomes back the Sunday school, Greek School, and Preschool classes. We wish all students a happy and successful year.

I am happy to report that we had the most successful Yiasou Festival since festival No. 1. It was great to see all the community pull in together to help, especially Father Vasileios. He was everywhere helping everybody, that's my kind of priest. We were blessed with four days of beautiful weather.

The construction is coming along great. The majority of the courtyard is finished. The next phase will be the front of the cathedral and the two towers. As you face the doors, the right side will house the elevator and the left will house the chapel. We are right on schedule.

To the 2016 college graduates, best wishes for successful careers. It is a whole new job market out there. While it may take months instead of weeks to find the right job, you must not give up.

On the front cover of The Voice is the next generation of Evzones. The door is always open for new recruits. The Warriors of Greece is also open to new recruits.

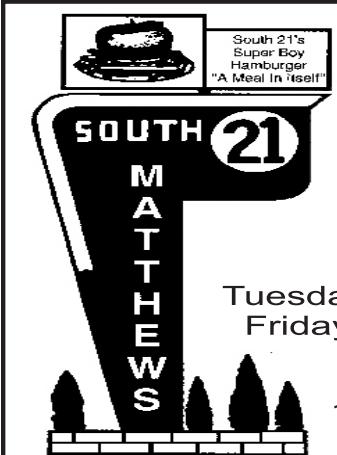
That's it for now.

Until next time, be safe

Angelo Pete Politis

THE VOICE EDITORIAL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Submitting Articles: The Editors welcome your submission of articles and photographs for consideration to be included in future issues. Articles should be submitted electronically in text or .docx formats. Photos should be submitted in .JPG format with a minimum 200DPI resolution. See the submissions schedule for future issues elsewhere on this page. Email to voice@htgo.org with ARTICLE in the subject line.



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The Voice Submissions Schedule for 2016

Below is the deadline schedule for submitting articles, photographs, and advertisements to The Voice for inclusion in the remaining issues for 2016.

Issue	Deadline	Highlights
NOV/DEC	Friday, December 16, 2016	Thanksgiving and Christmas

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Remarks From Father Vasileios



by Father Vasileios Tsourlis
Dean of the Cathedral

Preparations for the Christmas Fast

My beloved in Christ Parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

On November 15th we begin the forty day period where we proclaim the miracle of God becoming man. This is the time in the Orthodox Church where our attention is drawn to the great mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We await His coming in anticipation of the great joy of His birth on Christmas Day.

For our preparation the wisdom of our Church asks us to participate in a fast, with all the inconvenience and discomfort it may bring. If this is a season of such great joy, why is fasting the practice of Orthodox Christians around the world? Why are we asked to fast when we hear daily the hymn "Hark, the herald angels sing!" almost every place we go?

By our fasting, we are reminded that this is not simply the birth of a baby, but God being united with man. It is the moment when the unchangeable is joined with the changeable, eternal life with mortal life, He who holds the universe in His hand, and who created all comes in the flesh for our salvation. Thou who has adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be born as a babe; and Thou who holds all the ends of the earth in the hallow of Thy hand art laid in a manger of dumb beasts... (Sticheron of Third Hour, Eve of the

Nativity).

I would also like to invite all of you to attend our Family Weekly Bible Classes on Wednesday evenings at 6:00PM. Bible classes are offered in Greek and in English and also we offer a special Youth/Young Adult Bible Class for ages 16-22. Learning the WORD it will bring us closer to our LORD and to our FAITH.

A Prayer for the Nativity Fast

Lord Jesus, You have come so many times to us and found no resting place; forgive us for our overcrowded lives, our vain haste, and our preoccupation with self. Come again, O Lord, and though our hearts are a jumble of voices and our minds overlaid with many fears, find a place however humble, where You can begin to work Your wonder as You create peace and joy within us. If in some hidden corner, in some out-of-the-way spot, we can clear away the clutter and shut out the noise and darkness, come be born again in us, and we shall kneel in perfect peace with the wisest and humblest of men.

Help us to enter into this Christmas Fast with humility yet with You. And, finally, Lord, give us Christmas from within that we may share it from without, on all sides, all around us, wherever there is need. God help us, every one, to share the blessings of Jesus in Whose name we keep Christmas holy. Amen. (From Daily Meditations and Prayer for the Christmas Advent Fast and Epiphany by Presbytera Emily Harakas and Father Anthony Coniaris).

Wishing to all a very blessed Christmas Fasting and Preparation Period.

In Jesus Love and Service,
+Fr Vasileios

Αγαπητοί μου εν Κυρίω αδελφοί,

Αυτή την ευλογημένη περίοδο πορευόμαστε προς τα Χριστούγεννα με την άσκηση της νηστείας, η οποία αρχίζει την 15η Νοεμβρίου και τελειώνει την 24η Δεκεμβρίου. Πως θα πρέπει να την νηστεύουμε;

Καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του σαρανταημέρου δεν καταλόνυμε κρέας, γαλακτερά και αυγά. Αντίθετα, επιτρέπεται να καταλόνυμε ψάρι όλες τις ήμερες — πλην, φυσικά, της Τετάρτης και της Παρασκευής — από την αρχή μέχρι και την 17η Δεκεμβρίου. Ψάρι

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καταλόνυμε επίσης και κατά την εορτή των Εισοδίων της Θεοτόκου, οποιαδήποτε ημέρα κι αν πέσει.

Από την 18η μέχρι και την 24η Δεκεμβρίου, παραμονή της εορτής, επιτρέπεται η κατάλυμα οίνου και ελαίου μόνο — εκτός, βέβαια, των ημερών Τετάρτης και Παρασκευής που θα παρεμβληθούν και κατά τις οποίες τηρούμε άλαδη νηστεία. Επίσης με ξηροφαγία νηστεύουμε την πρώτη ημέρα της νηστείας, 15η Νοεμβρίου, καθώς και την παραμονή της εορτής, έκτος βέβαια κι αν πέσουν Σάββατο η Κυριακή.

Τι είναι όμως η νηστεία ; Η νηστεία δεν είναι κάποιο θρησκευτικό-τυπολατρικό δρώμενο ή κάποια

Continued on page 4

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Continued from page 3

δίαιτα για να πούμε ότι τηρήσαμε το θρησκευτικό μας καθήκον, ούτε φυσικά κάποιος εξαναγκασμός. Αν η νηστεία δεν συνοδεύεται από πνευματική ζωή, η οποία είναι ανάλογη με τις δυνατότητες κάθε ανθρώπου, σύμφωνα με τις θεραπευτικές συμβουλές του πνευματικού, τότε καταντά μια κοσμική δίαιτα.

Η έννοια της νηστείας έχει πνευματικές ρίζες. Είναι συνδεδεμένη με την βιοτική μέριμνα του ανθρώπου και όταν μπορέσει ο άνθρωπος να πειθαρχήσει κατά Θεόν στον αγώνα της νηστείας, τότε θα μπορέσει να εισέλθει και στα βάθη της καρδιάς του για να δώσει μεγαλύτερες μάχες. Η νηστεία είναι άσκηση ελευθερίας και αγώνας κατάπαυσης των παθών και κατάκτησης των αρετών. Για αυτό και δεν νηστεύουμε μόνοι μας αλλά με τις νουθεσίες του πνευματικού μας που θα μας δώσει τις κατάλληλες συμβουλές προς θεραπεία και επανατοποθέτηση στο δρόμο του Χριστού. Η νηστεία από μόνη της δεν σώζει, απλά είναι μέσο στην πνευματική ζωή και όχι αυτοσκοπός. Η νηστεία προβλέπεται στην Αγία Γραφή: Ο Χριστός νήστεψε σαράντα μέρες μετά τη βάπτισή Του στον Ιορδάνη (Ματθ. 4, 1), και, παρόλο που τόνισε πως ο άνθρωπος μολύνεται απ' αυτό που βγαίνει απ' το στόμα κι όχι απ' αυτό που μπαίνει (Ματθ. 15, 10-20), είτε για το διάβολο: «αυτό το γένος δε φεύγει, παρά μόνο με προσευχή και νηστεία» (Ματθ. 17, 21). Μας άφησε επίσης συμβουλές για το πως πρέπει να είναι θεραπευτική μια νηστεία: «Και όταν νηστεύετε, μη γίνεστε σαν τους υποκριτές, σκυθρωποί· επειδή, αφήνουν άπλυτα τα πρόσωπά τους, για να φανούν στους ανθρώπους ότι νηστεύουν», (Ματθ. 6,16)

Σύμφωνα και με τα λόγια του Κυρίου η νηστεία είναι ελεύθερη άσκηση αγάπης και αυτοπροσφοράς του ανθρώπου προς τον Θεό.

Νηστεύουμε για να μάθουμε να είμαστε ταπεινοί, να νιώθουμε τον βασανισμένο συνάνθρωπό μας. Να απομακρύνουμε τις αισθήσεις από τις επίγειες απολαύσεις και να ενωθούμε με τις ουράνιες. Νηστεύουμε για να ανοίξει ο δρόμος προς στην καρδιά μας ώστε ο

Κύριος να την θεραπεύσει και να την ελευθερώσει. Ο αγώνας της νηστείας καλό είναι να γίνεται ψυχοσωματικό. Οι αγωνιστές της αγάπης του Θεανθρώπου βαδίζουν όχι για να κερδίσουν κάτι αλλά για να ανοίξει η καρδιά τους και να αγαπήσει πραγματικά και θυσιαστικά

Αγαπητοί μου αδελφοί σας προσκαλώ να ερχόσαστε τακτικά στην Εκκλησία για την προσευχή σας. Έχουμε ακολουθίες καθημερινά, πρωί και απόγευμα. Επίσης σας προσκαλούμε να έρθετε μαζί με την Οικογένεια σας και στην Θεία Λειτουργία την ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών Thanksgiving Day Πέμπτη, 24 Νοεμβρίου στις 9:30 το πρωί. Επίσης σας παρακαλώ από τα βάθη της καρδιά μου να φέρετε και τα παιδιά και εγγονάκια σας στην ιδική Θεία Λειτουργία για παιδιά που θα γίνει την Κυριακή, 20 Νοεμβρίου στις 9:30 το πρωί στο Κοινοτικό μας Κέντρο Fr C Hall. Στην προηγούμενη παιδική Θεία Λειτουργία τον Οκτώβριο είχαμε την χαρά να έρθουν πάνω από 300 παιδιά και γονείς.

Ο σοι από εσάς επιθυμείτε να εξομολογηθείτε παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε μαζί μου στο τηλέφωνο 727-992-1345.

Επίσης θα ήθελα να σας προσκαλέσω κάθε Τετάρτη στις 6:00 το απόγευμα να ερχόσαστε στην Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφής όπου γίνεται στα Ελληνικά μαζί μου και στα Αγγλικά με τον Διάκονο Γεώργιο ενώ ο πατήρ Θεόδωρος διδάσκει την Αγία Γραφή στα παιδιά ηλικίας 16 έως 22.

Μέσα από τα βάθη της καρδιάς μου θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω όλους σας για όλα όσα κάνετε για την όμορφη Εκκλησία μας την Αγία Τριάδα. Χωρίς εσάς και την βοήθεια σας θα ήταν αδύνατο να κάνουμε τόσα πράγματα για τους συνανθρώπους μας, τους ενορίτες μας, την νεολαία και την Εκκλησία μας.

Πραγματικά είναι τιμή μου να σας διακονώ.

Σας εύχομαι από καρδίας να έχετε ένα καλό αγώνα και καλή μετάνοια. Ο πανάγαθος Θεός να ευλογεί πάντοτε εσάς και την Οικογένεια σας.

Πατερικός,

+π. Βασίλειος

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(1)

Ελεύθερα στα νυκτερινά

κέντρα ; Τά σημερινά μεγάλα παιδιά , ρωτούν με απορία και λένε : Μά είναι κακό νά περνούμε ορισμένες ώρες στά νυκτερινά κέντρα ; Διαβάζουμε , εργαζόμασθε , κουραζόμασθε, με τά μαθήματα μας και τίς υποχρεώσεις μας . Γιαυτό δέν έχουμε ανάγκη και εμείς νά ξεσκάσουμε λιγάκι ; Νά τό ρίξουμε και εμείς λιγάκι έξω , πού λέμε ; Δέν πρέπει και τά δικά μας νεύρα νά χαλαρώσουν λιγάκι ; Τά κέντρα τής νύχτας είναι ό, τι τό καλλίτερο πού υπάρχει γιά μάς . Εκεί αστειεύμασθε , κάνουμε παρέα , ακούμε μουσική , χορεύουμε , πειράζει ο ένας τόν όλον , έτσι απολαμβάνουμε και εμείς λιγάκι τή ζωή . Κι όμως οι γονείς μας δέν μάς επιτρέπουν αυτή τήν απόλαυση ! Δέν μάς τήν επιτρέπουν γιατί , γιαντούς αυτή η διασκέδαση είναι επικίνδυνη .

Πού όμως βρίσκονται οι κίνδυνοι ;
Και πού εμείς τά παιδιά θά βρούμε τήν ευκαιρία νά εκτονωθούμε και νά συνεχίσουμε τήν κοπιαστική εργασία μας , πού είναι εργασία και μελέτη ; Τά ερωτηματικά αυτά δέν είναι φανταστικά αλλά τά ίδια τά παιδιά τά θέτουν στούς γονείς τους και στούς μεγαλυτέρους των. Γιά τό λόγο αυτό πρέπει νά τά μελετήσουμε όσον είναι δυνατόν βαθύτερα .

Είναι αλήθεια ότι κανένας μας δέν μπορεί νά αρνηθεί τό ότι τά σημερινά παιδιά , αγόρια και κορίτσια , εργάζονται σέ διάφορες εργασίες , αλλά πηγαίνουν και στό σχολείο τους . Γιαυτό έχουν ανάγκη από μά ανανέωση και από μιά χαλάρωση , από τήν ένταση τής πολύωρης καθημερινής των εργασίας . Δέν είναι μόνο οι πολλές ώρες τής εργασίας των, αλλά είναι και γενικά , πολλές φορές, οι ανθυγεινές συνθήκες , κάτω από τίς οποίες εργάζονται τά παιδιά , κυρίως στίς μεγάλες πόλεις . Οπως : Οι αναθυμιάσεις τής κουζίνας , ο κλειστός χώρος , ο πολλός θόρυβος , τά πολλά αυτοκίνητα , τά καυσαέρια κλ.π .., είναι η δυσκολία τής ομαλής αναπτύξεως τών παιδιών μας . Γιά τό λόγο αυτό έχουν ανάγκη τά παιδιά μας από μιά ξεκούραση , από μιά διακοπή , από ένα διάλειμμα . Ολα αυτά πού αναφέραμε δέν μπορεί κανένας νά τά αρνηθεί . Άλλα όλοι μας όμως είμασθε υποχρεωμένοι νά ρωτήσουμε : **Τό νυκτερινό κέντρο δημιουργεί άραγε τίς κατάλληλες συνθήκες γιά μιά εκτόνωση , γιά μιά χαλάρωση ;**

Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Διον.
Βλάχος . (συνεχίζεται)

My Journey to Christianity

BY NIKLAS GRISCOM

I was born and have lived in Matthews my entire life. I am 18 years old and out of high school, but taking a year off before college to focus on spiritual development and baptism (I was baptized September 18, taking the name Chrysostomos).

I noticed an increasing number of extraordinary and unexplainable events happening around me and felt compelled to come to Christ. I like doing things as they were originally intended, and so coming to Greek Orthodoxy seemed like an easy decision for me. I had limited knowledge of Orthodoxy and Christianity, but, looking back, I see that most of my interests were in the classical world (I took 7 years of Latin) and sought a career in the field. In reading the later Latin authors, I read plenty about the Byzantine Empire and their practices. I have a long history of western music theory and my first exposure to the Divine Liturgy came through listening to the choral works of Chesnokov, Rachmaninoff, Bortniansky, and other Russian masters. I can't say I'm totally convinced that it was all my "decision" to come to Christ in Orthodoxy, looking back and seeing how my pursuits unfolded, but more of a destiny.

As part of my Latin and music theory pursuits, I decided one day to compare the structure of Roman and Byzantine Chant. In the process, I discovered that the Byzantine uses a completely different musical and notation system

than I have been exposed to. Thusly, I had to learn it. I never thought I would use it, as, at the time I was learning it, I still had no idea about the truth in Christ and never thought I'd be in any setting to make use of it. When I found myself attending a Greek Orthodox church (first time on 3/13/16... my first religious service of any kind), having beheld so many other incredible workings of the Lord in my life, I was able to figure out that my seemingly random encounter with Byzantine music had been all but random. It wasn't for several weeks (on Saturday of Lazarus), that, out of nowhere, I was asked to come and chant for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The rest is history; that's where I am most commonly found now, every service twice a day every day.



Niklas Griscom

Remarks From Father Theodore

Father Theodore Ehmer, Associate Priest



Did You Know?

Do you know all of the new things that are happening here at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral during the week? Of course, we are blessed to have many ongoing opportunities such as Greek School, FOS (Bible Study) in both languages and for the youth, Forever Young, dance practices, sports practices, and much more. And in our Cathedral, during the week, we have many opportunities to come and spend some time in prayer and receive the Holy Mysteries of our Orthodox Church. We may see an increase in the number of "services" in the bulletin (if we read it!), but what does it all mean?

Each and every weekday (barring emergencies or schedule conflicts), the Cathedral is open at 9 am and 6 pm for a service and for prayer. In the morning, we have the Orthros ('Opθορ) service. The Orthros service is the Orthodox Church's morning service which is held every day (not just Sundays!). During the Orthros service, we read psalms, chant hymns about the saint of the day, and read the daily epistle and gospel readings. Typically, Orthros lasts about one hour. In the evening, we often have the Vespers (Εσπερινός) service. The Vespers service is the traditional evening service where we read Psalm 103 which references creation and all of God's marvelous works, we chant Κύριε εκέκραξα, Lord I have cried, lamenting our place in a world which has lost that original beauty which God created, and we end the service with the words "Now let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen Your salvation..." with

the knowledge that God has sent His Son to save our world which has fallen away from Him. Typically, the Vespers service lasts around 30 to 45 minutes. Once a week in the evening, we hold the Paraklesis (Παράκλησης) service to the Theotokos where we ask for her intercessions on our behalf as the Mother of God. We should submit names to be read aloud during the service, especially for those who need our prayers and the intercessions of the Theotokos. This service is typically at 5pm on Wednesday evening before the FOS/Bible Study and lasts about one hour.

On the first day of each month, we have the Αγιασμό service, the Blessing of the Waters. We entreat God for His blessings through the Holy Water and look to begin a καλό μήνα, a good month, by beginning the month in the Church worshipping the One who created us. In addition, once a month in the evening, we have the Holy Unction (Ευχέλασι) service which is one of the Holy Sacraments of our Orthodox Church. We are anointed with the holy oil for forgiveness of sins and the healing of our souls and body. Once a month, we have a Divine Liturgy at 7pm to give an opportunity for those who might work on Sundays to come to the Church and receive Holy Communion. This Divine Liturgy typically lasts around one hour. There is also usually a Holy Vigil (Αγία Αγρυπνία) service once a month during the late evening hours. This is a celebration of a feast day and includes Great Vespers, Orthros, and the Divine Liturgy with Holy Communion.

Fr. Theodore Continued on page 12



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PC President's Message

by John Mahairas



Beloved Parishioners,

On behalf of the Holy Trinity clergy, staff, and Parish Council, we thank everyone for their outstanding support and assistance with this year's Greek festival. With your help it was a huge success and a great cultural experience for the Charlotte community. We all look forward to next year's festival in which we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the event. Let's make next year the best one of all!

As most of you have seen the renovations are moving along very nicely. The courtyard area was prepared before the festival and added a beautiful background to the event. The elevator and chapel portion of the renovation project is the next area of focus. We are on schedule for a first of the year completion date.

We still need everyone's help and financial

support to finance the project. As of this mailing about 24% of our families have made a donation or pledged to the project. We need everyone's help to meet our financial obligations. Please make your donation and pledge as soon as possible. Any amount, big or small, is appreciated. Contribute the amount you are comfortable with. All donations and pledges are needed and every one of them is important. Send your donation or pledge to the parish office or use one of the yellow renovation envelopes located in the Cathedral or Father C Hall lobby area. Our goal is to pay for this project by spring 2017. If you are interested in the commemorative paver program, we still have several open spots available. Contact the church office for more details.

In closing, I want to once again thank you all for your help and assistance in making Holy Trinity the great cathedral that it is.

In Christ,
John Mahairas

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Serafim G. Leris (1938 - 2016)

Serafim G. Leris, 78, passed away September 22, 2016. Mr. Leris was born in Greece on March 13, 1938 to the late George and Ekaterini Zambaras Leris.

Services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd, Charlotte NC, 28203. The Trisagion service began at 10:45 AM, Saturday, the 24th of September 2016. The Funeral service followed at 11:00 AM. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Mr. Leris is survived by his sister Vasiliki Skandalos, brother Athanasios Leris and wife Konstantina, sister in law Konstatoula Shiza Leris, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ellington Funeral Service is caring for the Leris family.

Diane Nickas Pappas (1933 - 2016)

Diane Nickas Pappas, 82, of Greenville, NC passed away August 24, 2016 at Novant Health in Charlotte, NC. Diane was born December 4, 1933 in Bronx, NY to the late Thomas and Georgia Moughis Nickas. Diane was a past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, Eastgate Lodge in Charlotte. She was a Sunday school teacher at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC. Diane was blessed with a loving family that she truly cherished.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew James Pappas in 1973 and her sister in law, Catherine Vlahos.

Diane is survived by her loving family; sons, James Pappas (Cordie) of Winston-Salem, NC, John Pappas (Susie) of Apex, NC, Alexander Pappas (Dee) of Greenville, NC, Richard Pappas (Eilish) of Huntersville, NC; sister, Alexandra Nickas of Huntersville, NC; 7 grandchildren; 4

great grandchildren; brother in law, George Vlahos; and nephew Nick.

A visitation was held on Sunday, August 28, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Raymer-Kepner Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 12:00 noon at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Charlotte. Interment followed at Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Sunday School Program, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Raymer-Kepner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Friends may offer condolences to the family at www.raymerfh.com.

Panagiotis "Nick" Peroulas (1949 - 2016)

Panagiotis Nick Peroulas 67, passed away at his home the 10th of October 2016 surrounded by his family.

He was born in Diti Fragista, Evrytania, Greece, the 4th of May 1949.

Pete lived in Dusseldorf, Germany prior to moving to the US. He initially went to Chicago, IL, but decided to settle for the warmer climate of Charlotte, NC in 1979. Pete worked at Lance, Inc. for 40 years, working hard to help raise his family, which he adored. He believed in family, hard work, faith and his parea of friends.

Panagiotis enjoyed his time with friends and family. He never missed a moment to reminisce about his beloved village, never missing a moment to tell stories of his childhood. This mostly occurred when visiting his friends at the "kafenio".

Panagiotis is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Diamando; son Nikolaos and his fiancé, Michelle; daughter Eleni, and her husband Peter; sisters Alexandra and Athina, grandchildren Yianni, Georgia and Diamando and many nieces and nephews. The Trisagion Service was held at six o'clock in the evening, Tuesday, the 11th of October 2016 at the Cathedral. The Funeral Service was at eleven o'clock in the morning, the 12th day of October 2016 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral,

600 East Blvd, Charlotte, NC. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Dr. Brooks and the nurses at Carolinas Neuro Muscular Center and the Jo Martin ALS Foundation, 100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3420, Charlotte, NC 28202.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Joe Martin ALS Association, 100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3420, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Notes of encouragement and condolences may be made by visiting www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com.

The Peroulas family is being served by Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead St. Chapel", 727 E. Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. Family owned since 1944.

Bill George Pistolis (1936 - 2016)

Bill George Pistolis, 80, passed away September 26, 2016. Mr. Pistolis was born in Fedakia, Greece on August 21, 1936, to the late George and Maria Politis Pistolis. An avid Tarheels fan he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of the Holy Trinity and served in the parish council with the late Father "C". He came to the U.S. in 1954 to Williamson, W.Va. then moved to Charlotte in 1958. He opened up the Americana Restaurant in downtown Charlotte in 1966.

Funeral services were held on September 29, 2016 in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church with the Trisagion and funeral service beginning at 11:00 AM. Burial followed at Sharon Memorial Park.

Mr. Pistolis is survived by his loving wife Vickie Nakos Pistolis, sons; George Pistolis (Vivi), Chris Pistolis, Nick Pistolis (Stacey), sister; Dena Kalantsis, grandchildren; Billy, Tommy, and Kiki, and his long-time friend and business partner George Retsios.

Ellington Funeral Service is caring for the Pistolis family.

Dimitra Karasmanis Tsoulos (1916 - 2016)

Dimitra Karasmanis Tsoulos, a

loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, 100, fell to sleep in the Lord surrounded by her family on Sunday, August 28, 2016 in Charlotte, NC. Born August 15th, 1916, in Ftelia, Evrytania, Greece, she was the daughter of the late Haralambos and Athena Karasmanis. Mrs. Tsoulos immigrated to the United States in 1973 to be with her children. She resided in Charlotte until her death and spent her life ever devoted to family. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Tsoulos was preceded in death by her husband, Giorgos Efthimios Tsoulos and her son, Steve George Tsoulos.

Mrs. Tsoulos is survived by her children: Mr. Sam Tsoulos and his wife, Theodora; Mr. Angelo Tsoulos and his wife, Anna; Mrs. Anthoula Masouras and her husband, Pete; Mr. John Tsoulos and his wife, Vicki, all of Charlotte, NC; Mr. Tim Tsoulos of Tampa, Florida and Mrs. Fay Pitsikoulis and her husband, Stacy, of Denver, NC. She was blessed with 10 grandchildren: Dimitra Kourakos and her husband, Jimmy; Dimitra Tsoulos, Roula Masouras-Sherring and her husband, Jeremy; George Tsoulos, Georgia Tsafos and her husband Nick; Pete Pitsikoulis, Michael Tsoulos, Christopher Tsoulos, Jamie Tsoulos and Jenna Tsoulos. and 4 great grandchildren: George Kourakos, Anthi Tsafos, Zoe Masouras-Sherring and Alexander Masouras-Sherring.

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Serving the Tsoulos family is Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead Street Chapel" 727 E. Morehead St.,

Continued on page 11



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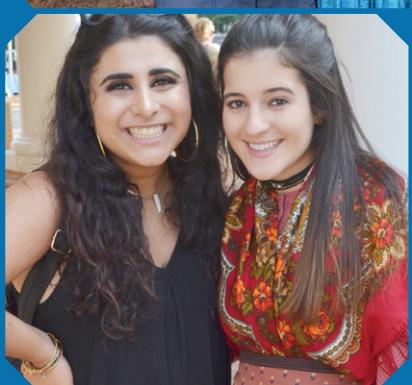
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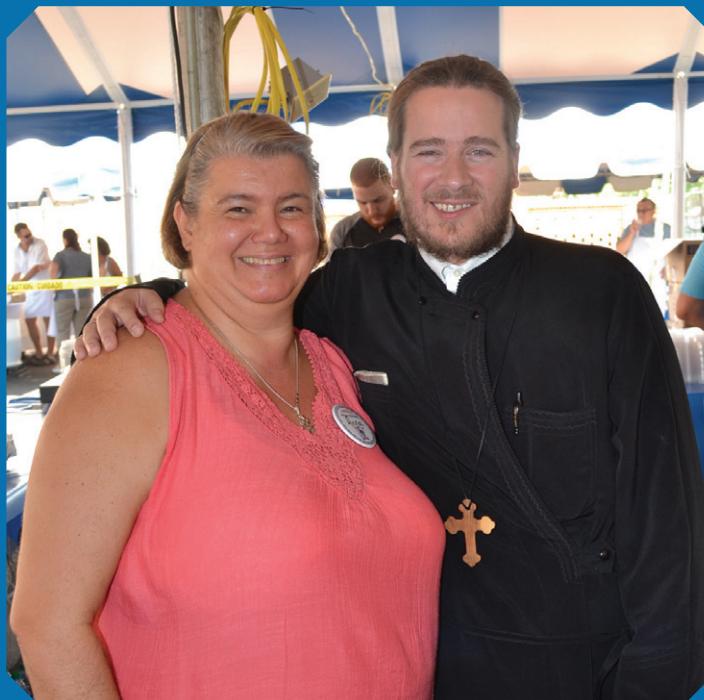
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YIASOU FESTIVAL 2016



Fall General Assembly

GEORGE ZOGZAS

Note: These are not the official minutes of the General Assembly meeting.

Holy Trinity held its fall General Assembly on Sunday, October 16, 2016 in Father C. Hall. Following lunch, Parish Council President John Mahairas called the meeting to order at 12:10P.M.

The first order of business was the election of a meeting chairman. George Andrews was elected by the assembly and he took over the meeting. He conducted the election of a vice-chairman and recording secretary. Assembly Chairman Andrews then appointed a parliamentarian and a timekeeper.

The minutes from the February 21, 2016 Parish Assembly were approved.

The chairman accepted nominations for the Board of Auditors. The assembly selected Spero Koufaliotis,

Spiro Galanis, Lucy Pappadakes, and Jimmy Prassas. They will conduct their audit during the month of January 2017 and present their report at the first General Assembly of 2017, usually held in February.

this election. The current Parish Council members whose terms are expiring this December are: Jimmy Christodoulis, Elias Elia, Despina Kaltsounis, Dino M. Pappas, and Angelo Spero.

The Committee announced the following 6 candidates for the 5 open seats: Elias Elia, Dr. Dimitrios "Takie" Hondros, Dr. Sam Kleitches, Dino M. Pappas, Anna Pitsikoulis, and Caleb Russell. No nominations were made from the floor.

The Foundation has two seats open for this election. Nick Kantsios and Christopher S. Karres are completing their 5 year terms and cannot be elected again until they have been off the board for one year. There were no candidates nominated at the meeting.

continued from page 6

Charlotte, NC 28202. Family owned since 1944. in downtown Charlotte in 1966.

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2016 Parish Election Roadmap	
Date	Description
Sunday October 16	General Assembly
Monday October 31	Deadline for the candidates to submit the application for the Parish Council and Cathedral Foundation
	Preparation of the election documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballot • Candidates Presentation Sheet • Letter to the Parishioners in English and Greek • Absentee Ballot return envelope with instructions • Tally Sheets for the vote collection
Week November 14-18	Stuffing the envelopes with absentee ballots
Saturday December 3	Obtain the mail with last absentee ballots from the Post Office
Sunday December 4	Election day 5 for Parish Council 2 for Cathedral Foundation

Remaining Parish Council members:

Term ends Dec 2017	Term ends Dec 2018
Mitch Christenbury	Jimmy Georgiou
George T. Karres	John Karagiannis
Margaret Nixon	Angelo Kefalas
Gus A. Pappas	John Mahairas
Pete J. Pappas	John Tsumas

grandchildren: Dimitra Kourakos and her husband, Jimmy; Dimitra Tsoulos, Roula Masouras-Sherring and her husband, Jeremy; George Tsoulos, Georgia Tsafos and her husband Nick; Pete Pitsikoulis, Michael Tsoulos, Christopher Tsoulos, Jamie Tsoulos and Jenna Tsoulos. and 4 great grandchildren: George Kourakos, Anthi Tsafos, Zoe Masouras-Sherring and Alexander Masouras-Sherring.

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From the Choir Loft By OLGA YAMALIS

Amidst the sights of the crowds, sounds of the music, and the delicious tastes taking place on a warm and sunny September afternoon at our Yiasou Festival 2016, our adult choir performed three choral performances at 2:30pm, 3:00pm and 3:30 pm on Saturday, September 10th. The Cathedral was nearly full of Festival guests each time. Each performance was short and incorporated narration between various hymns sung during the Orthodox Ecclesiastical year. Hymns chanted included Christos Anesti (chanted at Easter), Epi Si Heri (chanted at Lent), and Hsiaia Horeue (chanted at weddings). Thanks to Dr. Philip Thevaos for composing, conducting, and narrating the performance, to Irina Monzolevskaya for providing musical accompaniment on organ, and to all the choir members who took time from their regular duties at the Festival to participate in this event. Great job!

Sunday, October 2 was National Church

Music Sunday. Every year in October, we set aside one Sunday in October to honor the contributions of choir members, psaltai and music educators who serve the church through the Hymnology of our Orthodox Church. The adult choirs for both services and the psaltai were honored on the solea with prayers and recognition for their contributions as church musicians. We can't thank you all enough for all that you do.

We are looking forward to the end of the year as our choirs participate in the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians (SFGOCM) event in Atlanta in mid-November celebrating the 2016 Archangel Michael award winners. We will also be combining First Service, Second Service and youth choirs for Youth Liturgies to be held in the Father C. Hall four times this Sunday School year. More will follow in the next edition of The Voice.

FR. Theodore Continued from page 5
 The vigil is a special opportunity to pray in the cathedral by not much more than candlelight. The ambiance invites prayer! The vigil usually lasts three or four hours. Also, Fr. Vasileios is often available for Holy Confession during the week which is an essential in our Christian life. It is best to schedule a time with him for Confession which can be done by calling the office.

Ultimately, a life in Christ needs to be a life of transformation, of transfiguration, where we are constantly moving towards the likeness of God whose image we are created in. Center to this is a life of prayer, worship, and thanksgiving to God. The daily services of the Church give us a wonderful opportunity to take

some time out from our busy schedules and spend some time with God in His holy temple where we find peace, quiet, a departure from the anxiety of our modern lives. Don't feel like if you come for a service during the week that you have to stay for the entire time. If your schedule allows you only ten minutes, come, spend time in Christ's Holy Church, light a candle, and spend some time in prayer within the 2,000 year tradition of the services of our Holy Orthodox Church.

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STEWARSHIP CORNER BY CARMEN KALLELIS

THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP

Today I had the privilege of talking with Elizabeth (Ellie) Harakas. Though I've known Ellie in passing for six years, I had never taken the time to talk to this woman who is so much a part of Holy Trinity. Present weekly at liturgies, Ellie is and has been a fine example of stewardship within our community. Quietly and without recognition, she has devoted her time and talents to support the missions and visions of our church.

Ellie recalls the years of war while a child in Greece. I asked her what her memories were. She responded, "Fear. Always fear, and darkness."

Ellie's father, George Kastanas, came to the United States from Greece in 1938. His wife and children joined him in Charlotte in 1950. Ellie remembers the small Greek community of that era, approximately eighty-nine families in all. A small community tightly bonded by their history, language, traditions, and their religion. It was this group of early settlers in Charlotte that brought Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral into reality. Devoted and determined, these families of men, women and children became the core of our current Orthodox community.

Sixty-six years of membership has allowed Ellie to support most facets of our church's needs. Ellie sang in the choir for twelve years. She is a member of Philoptochos, and bakes pastries for special events as well as our Yiasou Festival. She spent eight years on the Stewardship Committee and was a member of the Welcoming and Planning Committees. Ellie bakes Prosfora and cleans the church regularly.

Asked what reward Ellie gets from being a dedicated steward, her response was "I feel contented, satisfied, good to serve our Lord. Sometimes I clean and cry. My life is lovely here at Holy Trinity."

In closing our dialogue, I asked Ellie if she had any advice. "More of our community should see what goes on behind the scenes. The hard work it takes to make us what we are. Enjoy the beauty of our tradition. Listen to the children, they are our future."

When we speak of stewardship we are talking about belonging. Caring. Being an active member of our community. Volunteering your time. Sharing your talents. Being there for Holy Trinity.

We are Called to Bear Fruit

At the last Supper, Jesus instructed His disciples, "I Am the Vine: you are the branches." He was telling us that the purpose of our abiding in Him is that we may bear fruit for God in the world. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..." (John 15:8). Just as the vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us. We are the members of His body-the branches through which the Vine must bear fruit. We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church.

Stewardship is not a matter of words but of works. All we are and all we have are gifts from the Lord. It is the offering of our time, talents and treasures to God, the Owner, who has freely given them to us to manage as Stewards, with the understanding that they are on loan. Christ expects us to return a fair portion of these gifts for His ministry through the Church. Our hearts experience the true joy of giving when we give freely, unselfishly and generously, as He has given to us.



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Cathedral Foundation By GEORGE ZOGZAS

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation has developed a website. The site, www.htgof.org, will be launched before the end of this year. Visitors to the site will find information on how to donate to the Foundation, can download the most current list of names of persons memorialized since the Foundation's beginning in 1973 and see the guiding document that outlines what the Foundation Trustees can and cannot do. It is titled the "Indenture providing for the Creation and Management of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, North Carolina".

The Foundation filed its annual income tax return before the extension deadline of August 15, 2016. IRS Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt from Income

Tax, is an information only return. The Foundation does not pay income taxes. The tax return can be accessed at multiple websites.

By December 31 of this year, two trustees will be completing their five year terms. Current chairman Nick Kantsios and vice chairman Christopher S. Karres were voted onto the Foundation Board at the December 2011 elections. The Indenture states that a trustee who has served a complete 5 year term cannot be reelected but must stay off the Board for one year. On December 4, 2016, two new trustees will be elected to take their place.

The Foundation has scheduled a final meeting before the end of the year and after the December 4 elections. The newly elected Trustees will be invited to attend.

Sunday School By Teresa Meletiou**Third Grade Bible Presentations**

We are introduced to the teachings of God and of our Orthodox faith as young children and continue throughout every phase of our lives. These influences of love and faith permeate everything we do. The Holy Trinity Sunday School Program serves as a weekly teaching ground where these lessons are learned and reinforced for many years.

When children enter our program as preschoolers, their Sunday school teachers read bible stories to them. Once they reach third grade, each child is gifted with a personal bible that they will keep for a lifetime. From that point forward, they can read the lessons together with us from their own bible – and literally make the message theirs. The Word takes on a profoundly different meaning when a child reads from pages of their personal bible – it,

too, becomes personal.

On Sunday, October 16th, the Sunday school department, along with our Reverend Fathers, hosted an annual ceremony in which all students in this year's Third Grade class were presented their own Bible. Thirty seven students were each presented with a personalized bible so that they can use them in class every Sunday until they graduate and for every phase of life thereafter. This gift is so that our children both carry the word of God in their hearts, as well as seek out His message throughout their lives.

As Christ dedicated his life to us, each one of us dedicates our lives to the teaching of our children through personal Bible study. Congratulations to all 37 of this year's young spiritual recipients – may the Lord's love and lessons be abundant!



Third Graders pose with their newly received Bibles. On hand on the back row are (l-r) Amber Tsumas, Fr. Vasileios, Margarita Margiotis, Georgia Harakas, Elena Nixon, and Fr. Theodore.

Upcoming Notable Church Feast Days and Events

CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS	ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS	KATHERINE THE GREAT
Tuesday November 15	Monday November 21	Friday November 25

FEASTDAY OF NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER	FEASTDAY OF SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER	CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
Tuesday December 6	Monday December 12	Sunday December 25

Other Important Events and Dates

YIAYIA'S KOUZINA, PRESCHOOL LUNCHEON	PARISH ELECTIONS	SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday November 6	Sunday December 4	Sunday December 18

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PRESCHOOL By MARIA KLETO AND CINDY BALATSIAS



Whooo's in the News at HTGO Preschool?

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me" then He took them in His arms and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16

Welcome to all of our 2016-2017 Preschool Families!

It was with great anticipation that we awaited the return of all our precious preschool children for the 2016 - 2017 school year at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool. We are so happy to have our classrooms filled with our preschooler's smiling faces and some teary eyed faces as well. Overall, the transition into the school year is off to a smooth start. The tears in the younger classes are getting better each day. We are looking forward to many exciting times at HTGOP this year. Please know our door is always open and we encourage an open line of communication with our preschool families.

We began our school year with the Parent Orientation meetings on Thursday,

August 25th. We then turned our attentions to preparing for the Yiasou Greek Festival Play Land Beverage Booth that benefits the preschool. Despite the very hot and humid weather, the festival was a huge success. Thanks to our parents, family members, parishioners and GOYANS that volunteered their time this year.

The preschool opened on Monday, September 19th with the Agiasmos and Open House. The parents visited with the teachers and other parents, while the children explored their new classrooms and played with their friends. Classes started the following day.

We are blessed to have a group of dedicated and caring staff members. Our teachers put a lot of time and effort into creating a warm and inviting classroom environment where our preschool children can thrive. This year our staff members are:

M W Toddler Class: Stasy Skarlatos & Andrea Mahe Politis

T TH 2 Year Old Class: Lisa Giotis & Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

M W F 3 Year Old Class: Lisa Giotis, Anna Koufaliotis & Pres. Stacey Ehmer

T TH F 3 Year Old Class: Athina Politis & Anna Koufaliotis

M-F 4 Year Old Class: Angelina Korinis, Athina Politis, Dimitra Forniotis & Andrea Mahe Politis

Co-Directors: Cindy Balatsias and Maria Kletos

The preschool is off to a great start and we look forward to watching the children develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically throughout the year. It is very rewarding to see how much the children progress each year as they grow and gain confidence and independence in preparation for the next grade level. We strive to have each child more than prepared to move on to Kindergarten when they graduate from our preschool program.

In September, our classes focused on settling into the new routine, learning about the classroom centers and the class rules. We talked about being kind to our friends, sharing and taking turns, using our good manners and the appropriate way to express our feelings. We also work on teaching them to be responsible and independent. The children are so proud of themselves every time they accomplish a task or master a new skill.

In October, we talked about the beauty

of the fall season, the leaves changing colors, the cooler temperatures, farms and farm animals, fall harvest, and how animals prepare for the coming winter. October is fire safety month, so we discussed how to stay safe in the event of a fire and learned how to "stop, drop and roll". The three and four year old classes are looking forward to their field trip to Fire Station #10 coming up on November 4th. Mrs. Cindy's son is a fireman and a member of the dive team at that station. The children have also been practicing the songs they will be performing at our annual Yiayia's Kouzina Fundraising Luncheon taking place on Sunday, November 6th. A big thank you to Mrs. Joanna Kakouras for practicing the songs with the children. At the end of the month the classes enjoyed their fall parties and trick or treating to all the different church offices. We will also be starting our monthly religious lessons, "Our Faith Father", with Fr. Vasileios and Fr. Theodore and monthly music class with Mrs. Joanna in November.

There are still a few openings in some of our classes if you are interested in registering your child. Please call us if you need any information or to schedule a tour of the preschool. We pray for God's blessings for our children, preschool families, staff and preschool board members as we start the new school year. We also want to thank our parents for sharing their children with us.



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ΣΤΙΣ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ 2016**



Ο Διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος και υπεύθυνος του Εξεταστικού Κέντρου Ελληνομάθειας Αγίας Τριάδος, Ελευθ. Περούλας, εκφράζει, εκ μέρους όλων των εκπαιδευτικών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος και της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη, εγκάρδια συγχαρητήρια στους μαθητές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας, της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη καθώς και στα παιδιά απ' άλλες πολιτείες που έλαβαν μέρος στις επίσημες εξετάσεις ελληνομάθειας του Κέντρου Ελληνικής Γλώσσας του Ελληνικού Υπουργείου Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων.

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES OF THE MAY 2016 EXAMS**

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ - ANNOUNCEMENT

**ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ & ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ - HELLENIC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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Εξετάσεις Πιστοποίησης Ελληνομάθειας - Exams for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek**

**ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΑ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ ΜΑΪΟΥ 2016
EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF ATTAINMENT IN GREEK MAY 2016**

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BEALL MICHAEL, TRAE * BURNS ANNALISA, TIM
BUTLER BROOKE, ERIC * CHRISTENBURY ALEXIS, MITCH
FAUSER REAGAN, ROBERT * JONES ISABELLA, NATHAN
KALTSONIS MARIA, ANGELO * KASTANAS NICHOLAS, PETER
KEFALAS MARIA, ANGELO * KOSTOPOULOS DOROTHY, JOHN
LAHANAS RIGOPOULA, VASILIOS * MANOUSOS MARIA, LOUIS
MARGIOTIS EVANGELOS, DEMETRIOS * OPELA KIERAN, KEVIN
PALAMARIS IOANNA, MIKE * PILIPOSYAN SUSANNA, HAKOP
PINTO CYNTHIA, MARCIO * SYKES CHARLES, JASON

ΕΠΙΠΕΔΟ B1 LEVEL

GEORGULIAS NONTAS, KOSTAS * FOTINOS NICHOLAS, MICHAEL
HONDROS EVYENIA, DIMITRIOS * KESSLER PETER, ALEXANDER
MINAKAKIS ANNA MARIA, LARRY * PITTMAN SOPHIA, GEORGE
PROTOPAPADAKIS KATERINA, YIANNI

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