




# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

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Above: Sunday School Christmas Pageant in the Cathedral (photo: Linda Kakouras); Left: Choir performs at the Holy Trinity and Dilworth Community Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting (photo: Angelo Pete Politis); Below: YAM party of colorful Christmas sweaters.



## 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.

## 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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**THE EDITOR'S NOTE** by George Zogzas

Welcome back. Happy New Year. It's over. 2019 is done and it is January 2020 by the time you are seeing this. It marks the end of the year as well as the "twenty-teens". Decades are passing faster, aren't they? I think there is definite truth in the country song phrase "days go slow and years go fast."

Holy Trinity held its annual Parish elections in December. The big news was the introduction of electronic voting (E-voting). Under the supervision of Elections Committee Chair Leonidas Kyriazis, this jump into the future of voting got off to a great start. Disappointingly, we had only 5 candidates run for the 5 open seats on the Parish Council. The Foundation race was a bit more competitive as 3 candidates ran for two open seats (disclosure: I was one of the two elected to serve on the Foundation). Please see our full coverage of the process and the results on page 6.

Also in this issue, Father Jonathan offers suggestions on how to start or improve a daily reading of the scriptures practice (page 4). Dino Pappas offers his observations and thoughts as he ends his third term on council and completes this year as President (page 5). We have a new entry in the Community Profiles column that has appeared in The Voice before. This time we highlight Kal and Marie-Claire Kardous (page 7).

We have several new advertisers in this issue. We thank them for their confidence in us and support of this publication. I hope that you will read all the ads in The Voice and consider how their products and services might help your family.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

George Zogzas, Editor  
voice@htgo.org

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*The Voice is the bimonthly publication about Holy Trinity, its parishioners, their faith, and the community*

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## REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER VASILEIOS



by Father Vasileios Tsourlis  
Dean of the Cathedral

Αγαπητοί μου εν Κυρίω αδελφοί,

Χρόνια πολλά για όλες τις Άγιες ημέρες του δωδεκαμήνου.

Ο Απόστολος των εθνών Παύλος γράφει προς τους Κολοσσαείς για το πως θα πρέπει να είναι η Χριστιανική Οικογενειακή ζωή τα εξής: «καὶ πᾶν ὃ,τι ἐὰν ποιῆτε, ἐκ ψυχῆς ἐργάζεσθε, ὡς τῷ Κυρίῳ καὶ οὐκ ἀνθρώποις, εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπὸ Κυρίου ἀπολήψεσθε τὴν ἀνταπόδοσιν τῆς κληρονομίας· τῷ γὰρ Κυρίῳ Χριστῷ δουλεύετε· ὁ δὲ ἀδικῶν κοιμῆται ὃ ἡδίκησε, καὶ οὐκ ἔστι προσωποληψία.»

Για να υπαρχή Χριστιανική Οικογενειακή ζωή θα πρέπει να υπάρχει Ενορία η οποία θα πρέπει να την αισθανόμαστε όχι μόνο δική μας αλλά προέκταση του σπιτιού μας. Η ενορία κατέχει σήμερα στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία μια σημασία πολύ μεγαλύτερη από όση έτυχε σε οποιαδήποτε άλλη εποχή. Ποτέ άλλοτε, από την εποχή της μεταστροφής στο Χριστιανισμό του Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου, δεν είχε το τοπικό ευχαριστιακό κέντρο τόσο μεγάλη σπουδαιότητα στη ζωή της ορθοδοξίας, όση έχει σήμερα.

Ποιό είναι το νόημα της υπάρξεως της Εκκλησίας; Ποιός είναι ο μοναδικός και χαρακτηριστικός της ρόλος τον οποίο κανείς άλλος και τίποτε άλλο δεν μπορεί να εκπληρώσει; Τί είναι εκείνο που πετυχαίνει η Εκκλησία και που δεν μπορούν να το πετύχουν ούτε οι εθνικές

συναθροίσεις ούτε οι πολιτιστικοί σύλλογοι ούτε τα φιλανθρωπικά ιδρύματα;

Η απάντηση δεν είναι παρά μόνο μία: η Εκκλησία υπάρχει για να μας φέρει σωτηρία ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ· να μας φέρει σωτηρία όχι με κάποιο αφηρημένο θεωρητικό τρόπο, αφού η Εκκλησία δεν αποτελεί ένα οποιοδήποτε φιλοσοφικό σύστημα ή ιδεολογία, αλλά με συγκεκριμένη και ορατή μορφή, διά της τελείσεως της θείας λειτουργίας. Αυτός είναι ο μοναδικός και χαρακτηριστικός ρόλος της Εκκλησίας, αυτό που μόνο εκείνη μπορεί να επιτελέσει: να προσφέρει τη θεία ευχαριστία. Η θεία ευχαριστία είναι που δημιουργεί την Εκκλησία. Η ενότητα της Εκκλησίας δεν επιβάλλεται ἐξωθεν με την ισχύ ή τη βία, αλλά πραγματοποιείται ἐσωθεν με την τέλεση της κοινωνίας με το σώμα και αίμα του Χριστού. Η Εκκλησία δεν είναι κάποιο κοινωνιολογικό κατασκεύασμα, αλλά ένας ευχαριστιακός οργανισμός, ο οποίος αποκτά οντότητα την ώρα που επικαλείται το Άγιο Πνεύμα να ενεργήσει πάνω στα τίμια δώρα. Αυτή η ευχαριστιακή φύση της Εκκλησίας έχει προσδιοριστεί με ιδιαίτερη σαφήνεια από τον άγιο Ιγνάτιο Αντιοχείας, λίγα χρόνια μετά τον θάνατο των Αποστόλων.

Η ενορία είναι το βασικό ευχαριστιακό κύτταρο χωρίς το οποίο δεν υπάρχει Εκκλησία. Επιπλέον, σε κάθε τέλεση της ευχαριστίας παρών είναι ο όλος Χριστός, και όχι απλώς ένα μικρό τμήμα Του, έτσι ώστε η τοπική ενορία, όταν τελεί τα θεία μυστήρια, δεν αποτελεί μια μικρή μονάδα μέσα σε ένα μεγαλύτερο σύνολο, αλλά εκφράζει κατά τρόπο ορατό την μία Εκκλησία στην ολότητα της.

Πέρα από την τοπική ενορία που συναθροίζεται στη θεία λειτουργία, κάθε τι που εμείς οι ορθόδοξοι λέμε για το σώμα του Χριστού, την τριαδική βασιλεία του Πατρός, του Υιού, και του Αγίου Πνεύματος, για την προσφορά της Εκκλησίας στην κοινωνική δικαιοσύνη, την αξιοπρέπεια του ανθρώπου και τη μεταμόρφωση της κοινωνίας από μια απρόσωπη αιχμαλωσία σε ελεύθερη κοινωνία προσώπων, ό,τι και αν λέμε,

δεν αποτελεί στην καλύτερη περίπτωση, παρά μόνο μια αφηρημένη έννοια, το πολύ ένα αφελή ιδεαλισμό και συναισθηματικό ουτοπισμό. Μόνο μέσα στην ενορία υπάρχει δυναμική απόδειξη, ιστορική πραγμάτωση, αληθινή ελπίδα. Όπως ορθά έχει λεχθεί, μόνο η ζωή της ενορίας μπορεί να δώσει ιερατική διάσταση στην πολιτική, προφητικό πνεύμα στην επιστήμη, ανθρώπινο πρόσωπο στις οικονομικές σχέσεις και μυστηριακό χαρακτήρα στον έρωτα. Σήμερα, όπως κατά τους πρώτους τρεις αιώνες της χριστιανικής ιστορίας, η ζωή μας πρέπει να είναι άρρηκτα δεμένη με την τέλεση της θείας λειτουργίας, στον τοπικό ενοριακό μας ναό. Η ζωτικότητα της Εκκλησίας εξαρτάτε από την ζωντάνια των ενοριών μας.

Στην περιγραφή που κάνει για τη ζωή της πρώτης χριστιανικής ενορίας της κοινότητας της Ιερουσαλήμ των ημερών που ακολούθησαν την Πεντηκοστή ο Ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς μας λέει: «ἦσαν δὲ προσκαρτεροῦντες τῇ διδαχῇ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ τῇ κοινωνίᾳ καὶ τῇ κλάσει τοῦ ἄρτου καὶ ταῖς προσευχαῖς. Ἐγένετο δὲ πάση ψυχῇ φόβος, πολλὰ τε τέρατα καὶ σημεῖα διὰ τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγίνετο. Πάντες δὲ οἱ πιστεύοντες ἦσαν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ καὶ εἶχον ἅπαντα κοινά». (Πραξ. 2 42, 44)

Αυτός ακριβώς είναι και ο σκοπός κάθε ενορίας σήμερα: τα μέλη της εκφράζουν την ενότητά τους εν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ της ἀπό κοινού κλάσεως (τεμαχισμός) του ἄρτου στη θεία ευχαριστία. Όλες οι άλλες δραστηριότητες της ενορίας, κοινωνικές πολιτιστικές ή φιλανθρωπικές, πηγάζουν από την τέλεση της θείας λειτουργίας και είναι υπάλληλες σε αυτή. «Η ευχαριστία είναι ένα συνεχές θαύμα», μας λέγει ο Άγιος Ιωάννης της Κροστάνδης. Η ενορία αποτελεί ακριβώς το σχήμα από το οποίο και σε κάθε συγκεκριμένο τόπο, τούτο το «συνεχές θαύμα» μαρτυρείται με ζωντανή παρουσία.

Η Εκκλησία δεν είναι ανθρώπινος οργανισμός, που μπορεί να τρέχει αγκομαχώντας για να φτάσει τις ραγδαίες μεταβολές του κόσμου τούτου, ο οποίος «παράγει», ούτε να αλλάζει

συνεχώς στόχους και προγράμματα, όπως κάνει ο κόσμος και οι οργανωμένες κοινωνικές ομάδες. Αυτή η τοποθέτησή μας είναι λανθασμένη. Η Εκκλησία είναι ο ανά τους αιώνες «παρατεινόμενος Χριστός», ο οποίος είναι «χθες και σήμερα ο αυτός και εις τους αιώνες» (Εβρ. 13,8) και έχει δική της λειτουργική ζωή και παράδοση, που διαμορφώνουν το ήθος των μελών της. Η Εκκλησία παρέλαβε και συνεχώς μας παραδίδει τη λατρευτική της ζωή και παράδοση, η οποία συνεχώς εν Αγίῳ Πνεύματι ανανεώνεται και ζωογονεί τα μέλη της, οδηγώντας τα εις σωτηρίαν «εν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ». Πρέπει, λοιπόν, να φτάσουμε διὰ της λατρείας όχι απλώς στην κατανόηση αλλά και στην πραγματικότητα του ὕμνου που λέει: «εν τῷ ναῷ ἐστῶτες τῆς δόξης σου, ἐν οὐρανῷ ἐστάναι νομίζομεν». Όταν αυτό γίνει, τότε γεμάτοι ἀπὸ χαρὰ καὶ αγαλλίαση θα μπορέσουμε να λέμε: «ὡς ἀγαπητὰ τα σκηνώματα σου, Κύριε τῶν δυνάμεων. Επιποθεὶ καὶ ἐκλείπει ἡ ψυχὴ μου εἰς τὰς αὐλὰς τοῦ Κυρίου».

Βλέπετε αγαπητοί μου εν Κυρίῳ αδελφοί τα πνευματικά και ζωτικά οφέλη όπου παίρνουμε ἀπὸ τὴν Ενορία για να έχουμε μια Χριστιανική Οικογένεια; Για αυτό θα πρέπει να είμαστε όλοι ενεργά μέλη της ενορίας μας, της Αγίας Τριάδος, και να μην χάνουμε ποτέ την ευκαιρία να είμαστε παρόντες τουλάχιστον σε μία Θεία Λειτουργία την εβδομάδα έτσι ώστε να ζούμε το θαύμα, «Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν σοὶ προσφέροντες κατὰ πάντα καὶ διὰ πάντα».

Κλείνοντας θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν καρδιά μου για όλα ὅσα ἔχετε κάνει καὶ συνεχίζεται να κάνετε για τὴν Αγία Τριάδα μας διότι χωρίς τὴν δική σας ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν υποστήριξη δεν θα μπορούσαμε να κάνουμε τίποτε.

Σας εὐχομαι να ἔχετε μια ευλογημένη καινούργια χρόνια 2020 γεμάτη χαρά, υγεία, ευτυχία καὶ ἀγάπη!

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**OPENING A BIBLE: A PRACTICE FOR EVERYDAY***by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mettasophia, Associate and Youth Priest*

When did you last pick up the Bible, open it up, and start reading? Has it been a while or is it a regular occurrence? Is your only real engagement with the Bible the Epistle and

Gospel readings on Sunday morning? I find in reflecting on these questions a deep pining, a desire, but also a challenge. Do I want to have a different relationship with the Scriptures, more engagement with the Bible? The hope of course would be an affirmation, that I do indeed want to know the Bible better. I do want to know the foundational texts of our faith with greater intimacy. I do not want my only engagement with the Bible to be a passive hearing of the few verses that are read during the services. I want the Bible to be written on my heart through engagement with it, not collecting dust by merely adorning my shelf.

The challenge is that the Bible is not a book. Yes, it is objectively a book, pages filled with words and bound in a cover. However, what I mean is that it is more than just a paperback novel we pick up in an airport gift shop. It is not just something that we grab when we want to read more. It is a collection, a library, of sacred texts that are ancient, complex, and at times difficult to understand.

Another difficulty we have is that not all Bibles are the same. Some translations are wooden, because it tries to express the nuances of the Greek—including its idiom, turn-of-phrases—in English, a much different language. While some of us might be able to read the Bible in its original Greek, we might not always get all of its richness because Biblical Greek is not the same as Modern Greek. Sometimes our English Bibles are written in the language of another era. I recall my first attempt to open up the Bible as I began my journey from atheism to Orthodox Christianity. I picked up the King James Version Master Study Bible and got lost in the first chapter of Genesis. I will return later to how I remedied this. I must first

speak to one more challenge that we have as Orthodox Christians, namely, the content of our Biblical library—also called our canon of Scripture.

While as Orthodox Christians our New Testament is the same as our Catholic and Protestant brothers and sisters, if you were to open up an Orthodox Study Bible for instance, you would notice that the Old Testament is slightly larger (the Protestant Bible has 39 books, the Catholic Bible has 46, and the Orthodox Bible has 49 books). Why the difference? In brief, the Protestants base their translation on a later Hebrew Bible text, which only has 39 books—perhaps in another article I can talk more about this. The Jewish Scriptures were set at the Jewish Council of Jamnia (ca. 91 A.D.). The Church, already understanding itself to be a continuation—perhaps better the fulfillment of the Hebrew faith—did not recognize the authority of this council and therefore its findings. The Catholic Bible, like the Orthodox Bible, is based on the Greek Septuagint translation of the Jewish Scriptures—a translation the dates back to the 2nd century before Christ! The additional books of this Bible—which I will highlight below—were not accepted by the Jamnia council because they only existed in the Greek language.

St. Jerome translated this Bible in Latin. Modern English versions of the Catholic Bibles contain the seven additional books (Tobit, Judith, Baruch, Wisdom of Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, with some additions to Esther). The Orthodox Bible contains three books in addition to these (3-4 Maccabees and 1 Esdras, Psalm 151, and the Prayer of Manasseh in Chronicles—the latter we read during Great Lent in the Great Compline). The Orthodox Church is much more fluid about what is inspired and what is canonical. A basic criterion for the canon is its suitability for public reading—though the Revelation is not read publicly in the Orthodox Church and it is part of our canon. We see the value that these texts have for moral instruction and spiritual life.

While no translation is perfect, some are better than others. The Orthodox Study Bible contains the Orthodox Canon of Scripture—including the ten books you will not find in a Protestant Bible—and is presented in traditional Orthodox ordering—which is also different than the Protestant Bible. The Old Testament is a decent edition, but it is just an update based on the New King James Version (NKJV)—a good translation in itself—corrected against the Septuagint. The New Testament is just a standard NKJV. The text offer Orthodox articles on important topics related to our faith and provides notes at the bottom of each page to help us

better understand how the Orthodox Church interprets certain passages. The Revised Standard Version (RSV) has also been approved by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese—this is the version we use when reading the Epistles and Gospels in English. You are able to find editions of this version with the additional ten books found in the Orthodox Bible—but they are not in the same order, and the other 39 books will be translated from the Hebrew not the Greek Septuagint.

**Developing a Daily Scripture Practice: Some Suggestions**

Now that we have addressed a few of the challenges we might face when getting into a habit, I wanted to return to that initial experience I had when first starting my journey. As I wrote above, I was lost reading an archaic translation without any guidance. Where did I turn? To the Church. I made my way to the Orthodox Church—as I was baptized as an infant into the Orthodox Church. The best place to begin our practice of opening the Bible is in the Church. First, the Church has a lectionary—prescribed reading biblical readings for every day. I suggest starting there. To make it easier, the archdiocese has both a smart phone app (Daily Readings) and an email list serve through which we can access these readings in English (RSV) or the original Greek. These also provide us with a little reading about the Saint or feast of the day, and the hymns of the day—even prayers and fasting schedules!

Additionally, here at Holy Trinity, as members of the pastoral team, the fathers all offer unique resources and classes on the Bible. Fr. Vasileios will often record a Greek message about the upcoming feasts or scripture readings as does Fr. Christian in English and at a level accessible for the youth. I offer a weekly video on our YouTube channel on the Gospel and/or Epistle reading for the upcoming Sunday. On Saturday evenings, after Great Vespers, I offer a reflection on Orthodox Christianity through the lens of the Sunday Gospel and Epistle readings. Beginning Monday, January 13, 2020, I will begin a weekly Bible study, “Sunday Scripture with Father Jonathan,” offering a meatier engagement with the Gospel and Epistle readings for the following Sunday. This will give you the opportunity to read and reflect on these passages throughout the week.

These are just some ways that you can start a daily practice of engaging with the Scripture. Perhaps as the new year approaches, and you think about a resolution, reading the Bible regularly can be something you consider.

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Fr. Jonathan

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## STEWARDSHIP 2019

AS OF 12/30/19

### YTD STEWARDSHIP GIVING LEVELS

Giving Range	# of Families	% of Total
\$0 to \$249	442	44.3%
\$250 to \$499	165	16.5%
\$500 to \$999	190	19.0%
\$1,000 to \$2,499	168	16.8%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	24	2.4%
Greater than \$5,000	9	0.9%
<b>Total families on mailing list</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b># of Financial Givers YTD</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>76%</b>

### YTD FINANCIALS

	Amount
Stewardship 2019	\$601,750
Other Giving(candles, memorials, etc.)	\$195,427
Minus : Operating Expenses	-\$1,081,442
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-\$284,265</b>

### WAYS TO GIVE:

- **On-line Bill Pay** - your bank can set up free one-time, weekly, or monthly recurring payments. This has no fees for the Church either.
- **Church Website** - select the "Give Now" button on [htgo.org](http://htgo.org) and follow the prompts to set up payments whether one-time or monthly.
- **Credit Card** - come by or call the Church office with your credit card information and they can do a one-time charge
- **In Church** - use the **WHITE** envelopes provided in Narthex. **Please** write your full name if leaving cash. If giving check, please make out to Holy Trinity but write "stewardship" or "memorial" or "candles", etc. on the bottom left line on check so we'll know what it is for.

*You will truly be surprised at how much you can give when you give on a regular basis.*

PLEASE return the "pre-filled" pledge forms that were sent to you in December. This allows us to keep our records updated. If you need another copy, please call the office or visit the Stewardship table at the Sunday coffee hours in January. We need 100% participation!

## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

by Dino M. Pappas



I hope and pray this letter finds all well and in good spirits. It has been several months since I wrote my last article. Other commitments in my life have, and continue to, require more of my attention and time. For this reason, after three terms and 9 years, I chose not to seek re-election. This will be my final article as Parish Council President.

During my time on the Parish Council, I have seen our community from a new perspective. While serving this community, I have grown personally and spiritually. Even though I was born and lived most of my life in Charlotte, there were many parishioners that I had never interacted with. The greatest blessing I have received while serving was really getting to know the people of Holy Trinity. Through working with and getting to really know you all, I realized some consistent traits: The love for Holy Trinity; the sense of one

family, and the sense of ownership in our Church. We all love Holy Trinity and we give much of our free time to her. As we give more of ourselves to Holy Trinity, it builds on all three of these traits. This realization changed my perspective and my approach. I listened more and I was able to become a conduit for those things I heard. In a way I led the parishioners of Holy Trinity by allowing them to guide me.

Going forward, as the Charlotte metro area grows, so will Holy Trinity. It is our responsibility to make our Church an inviting home for all the new locals of Charlotte. I am excited for the future of our community and will follow our new Parish Council leadership. Fr. Vasileios along with Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian, will continue to inspire and motivate our ministries. I ask you to help them, follow them and, trust them.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Parish Council President and serve Holy Trinity.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dino

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## 2019 PARISH ELECTIONS

By The Voice Staff

On Sunday, December 8, 2019, Holy Trinity held its Parish Elections. Voters were electing candidates to fill five Parish Council and two Foundation seats. The five Parish Council members whose terms ended in 2019 were Drew Dudley, Elias Elia, Dino M. Pappas, Anna Pitsikoulis, and Roula Skenteris. Three of the five chose to run for another three year term (Dudley, Elias, Skenteris). The ballot included two additional candidates: Vaki Karampourniotis and Lucy Pappadakes. With five candidates for five open seats, all were assured to be elected (see below for results).

Spiro Galanis and Lucy Pappadakes completed their five year terms on the Foundation this year. Three candidates were nominated to fill the two open seats. Those candidates were Dr. George Andrinopoulos, Nick Kantsios, and George Zogzas (editor of The Voice).

The real news of this year's election was the introduction of electronic voting (E-voting). For the first time, Holy Trinity's voters could vote by computer. Elections Committee chair Leonidas Kyriazis provides a deeper explanation of this new process in the article nearby.

Results from the elections are in the tables below. Winners name in **bold**.

PARISH COUNCIL	
<b>Roula Skenteris</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Vaki Karampourniotis</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Lucy Pappadakes</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Elias Elia</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Drew Dudley</b>	<b>134</b>

CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION	
<b>George Zogzas</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>George Andrinopoulos</b>	<b>103</b>
Nick Katsios	78

### Meet the New Members

The Parish Council race includes two first time servers. The Voice asked them to answer a few questions. Their edited responses follow:

#### Vaki Karampourniotis



Vaki was born and raised in Charlotte. He grew up attending Holy Trinity and where he met his wife Dia. They have two boys, Kyriakos (14) & Stavros (11).

**The Voice:** What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

### E-Voting at Holy Trinity by Leonidas Kyriazis, Chairman of the Election Committee

This year the Holy Trinity Parish Council decided to employ electronic voting (E-voting). As an idea, E-voting can be done through a computer, tablet or smart-phone. It simplifies the process and may increase voting participation. The integrity and voting privacy are guaranteed by the technology and the privacy policy of the service provider (Election Runner in our case). According to the service provider, E-voting is used by University Student Associations, professional Unions, Home Owners Associations, and Religious Organizations.

First, I would like to describe the process:

#### First Year of Application: E- Voting in Church & paper absentee ballots



*December 8, 2019: Elections Committee chair Leo Kyriazis monitors the E-voting during this year's annual Parish elections.*

Parish Council wisely decided to start with partial voting so the parishioners can get acquainted with the method and understand the principles of E-voting. In 2019 the voters showed up in the voting room as usual. They were checked in by the Elections Committee members and their eligibility to vote was verified. The

eligible were given a card containing the web site address where they can vote, using the Voter ID and Voter Key. They voted on computers that had been set up in the voting room.

The absentee votes were collected and evaluated for their eligibility as usual and they were added in the computer after the voting had finished. The computer summed all the votes and calculated the results.

This year (2019) the data for our community at the time of the voting included:

Registered Voters:	1651	
Eligible to Vote:	1250	
Voted:	175	
The 175 ballots were voted:		
electronically:	151	
by paper ballot:	18	
absentee:	6	

#### Full E-voting deployment

In the full deployment, voters would cast their ballot electronically using the Voter ID and Voter Key. All eligible voters with a valid email address on file with the Cathedral office will receive an email that contains a button labeled Click Here To Vote. When they click on the button, they will be connected to the voting site and the ballot will show up. They will vote the same way as they did in the Voting Room but this will be happening on their computer, tablet or phone. Therefore, there will be no absentee ballots as each one will be able to vote in his own place.

Anyone who feels uncomfortable using this procedure is welcomed to come to the Voting Room and the Election Committee will help them vote as she/he feels more comfortable.

A SWOT analysis reveals several advantages and disadvantages of E-voting.

#### STRENGTHS

- Easier for the parishioners to express their preference due to the simplicity to cast the vote.
- Can do it from everywhere. No absentee ballots are needed.
- Fast and easy to vote. No waiting in the lines.
- Fast and easy to count.
- Legitimacy and integrity of the voting process is maintained by the software. No doubtful votes, no double voting, full eligibility check.
- Extended voting time without extra effort and cost through extended election committee members.
- New generation feels more comfortable with this procedure and more engaged.

#### WEAKNESSES

- Changes in the voting procedure need to be absorbed by the voters.
- Older generations find difficult to use new technology.
- Needs good preparation to avoid errors.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Only 15% of the eligible voters or 12% of the register voters cast their ballot today. There is an opportunity to involve the people due to participation increase.

#### THREATS

- Older generation feels alienated and stops participating. Multiple options must be available the first years of application so nobody feels excluded.

#### Lucy Pappadakes



**TV:** What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

**LP:** Over the years, I've participated in numerous organizations and ministries of the Church

but never seriously considered serving on the Parish Council. Lately, I've felt this has caused me to be somewhat oblivious (clueless, actually) to the challenges our community faces on a daily basis. I decided it was time for me to learn more about the functioning of our parish and, hopefully, assist in any way I can as we continue to move forward and grow in the years to come.

**TV:** What areas do you want to focus on during your term?

**LP:** It will take me a little while to figure out what areas are suitable for me but I believe Stewardship might be a good place to start. Also, I'd like to have some involvement in the initial planning for our 100th anniversary!

**TV:** What challenges and opportunities do you see?

**LP:** The challenges are, unfortunately, the same as those faced by other parishes across the country - keeping people engaged in the life of the Church and supportive of Her ministries established for the good of the community. The opportunities lie in overcoming these challenges, in cultivating a welcoming, spiritually-uplifting atmosphere, one that "feeds" people and keeps them coming back for more (bringing their friends with them!).

**TV:** What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?

**LP:** I would like them to be gentle with me. I'm new at this!!



## COMMUNITY PROFILES: Kahlil Kardous and Marie-Claire Marroum Kardous

by Paul Kardous, special to The Voice

Kahlil (Kal) was born to Elie & Chahira Kardous in 1942 in Damascus, Syria the eldest of four children. Growing up, Kal had longed to come to the U.S. to study, and when it was time, his father gave his consent for Kal to enroll at the University of Wisconsin, UW-Platteville.

During his time there he worked as a busboy for special events on campus.

After school, and quite by accident, he got a job selling OCE photocopiers in Chicago. He went door-to-door carrying one of those early model portable machines. He was good at selling, and soon made a good living, but he dreamt of owning his own company.

After researching several cities that had the right economic climate to start a business, Kal moved to Charlotte in 1971. A few years after moving to Charlotte, he met Marie-Claire Marroum.

Marie-Claire was born in 1940 to European parents Fritz and Pauline Marroum in Jerusalem, and grew up in Beirut, Lebanon where she attended St Joseph University, and American University of Beirut. She moved to Charlotte to do her Pathology Residency at what is now Carolinas Medical Center in 1973. Prior to her moving to New York to do a fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Marie-Claire and Kal were engaged, and later married at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte in 1975.

Kal formed a partnership to run White Business Machines, an independent dealership for office equipment, for 15 years. In 1986, Kal and his partner sold WBM and Kal stayed on to run the business. The new owners began taking the business in a different direction.

Kal eventually left and in 1988, he founded Charlotte Copy Data. In the early years of Charlotte Copy Data, Kardous was encouraged by a radio sales rep to voice his own radio commercials and play off his accent. He teamed with a local producer who wove storytelling and humor into the spots, some of which produced advertising awards and fan mail.

Throughout its 20-year history, Charlotte Copy

Data sustained a remarkable rate of growth that was recognized repeatedly by the industry and local press. It was the largest independent dealer of office equipment in the region. He is instantly recognized for his trademark accent, which he leveraged for 20 years as a spokesperson for his successful office equipment company. His slogan made famous on Charlotte radio was, "Our Accent is on Quality." Kal enjoyed an amazing run as a visible, successful business owner before selling the operation to Sharp Business Systems in 2008.

Marie-Claire was a Surgical Pathologist with Carolinas Pathology Group for 35 years and was a regionally renowned specialist in Gynecologic Oncology and Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors. She served as the president of her group for many years, one of the first women in the Carolinas to serve in that role. She was involved in research and teaching and served as an Assistant Professor at the UNC School of Medicine helping to train the many residents who did their rotation at Carolinas Medical Center, as well as on the team that helped perform one of the first heart transplants in the Carolinas. She retired in 2008 and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.

Kal's contribution to the Greater Charlotte Community is well-known. He was an advocate for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, sponsoring membership drives and other programs. He was a long-term underwriter of National Public Radio and Television. Kal provided tremendous support to the International House in Charlotte. He held regular blood drives for the Community Blood Bank of the Carolinas at Charlotte Copy Data.

Each year the staff adopted a Make-A-Wish Child and Kal matched the employee contributions. Carolinas HealthCare System named its 5K Race "Kal's Cupids" in honor of his contribution.

Both Kal & Marie-Claire are long time Patrons of Opera Carolina, Discovery Place, and The Mint Museum of Art.

Today Kal is an investor and an advocate for the entrepreneurial spirit, and serves on the Board of

Directors of the Central Piedmont Community College Foundation Charlotte, North Carolina.

He has always been active in the Orthodox Church where ever he lived. When there was not an Antiochian Church to attend, he attended the closest Greek Orthodox Church. Since moving to Charlotte he has been active at Holy Trinity including being a member of the choir since his arrival.

He serves as President of Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter No 2.

Kal & Marie-Claire have a son Paul born in 1979, who is an architect in Charlotte.

True to his Syrian and Orthodox heritage he supports in time & treasure the Antiochian Patriarchate & Archdiocese and serves on the Board of Trustees of The Antiochian Orthodox Church in North America.



Pictured, l-r: Paul, Marie-Claire, and Kal



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL by Elizabeth Raby

What a wonderful and busy year we have had so far in the Sunday School program! Our children and teachers are settling in now and are discussing many important topics. Here are a few examples of the lessons being taught in our classrooms.

... Dimitrios Nickols and Stephanie Whitley are teaching our fifth graders. This year they are discussing the many important figures in the Old Testament of the Bible. The students have already learned about Abraham, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, and are now starting to learn about Moses in Egypt. The students have completed some projects on the Ark of the Covenant and are learning about iconography in the Orthodox Church. The children are also working together to learn and memorize the Nicene Creed before the Sunday School year ends. The spring will contain several additional projects, as the students are learning about the Great Lent.

... Rena Koufaliotis and Georgette Boukidis are teaching an in-depth, ongoing lesson on the Ten Commandments and how those apply in the students' teenage lives, especially as they prepare to enter high school next year. The students are now working on creating their own icons, while learning about the symbolism of Byzantine iconography. They have selected icons they would like to replicate and have begun tracing their selections onto canvas boards. After the New Year, they will discuss what each color represents in an icon and will begin painting.

... Under the instruction of Deacon George Politis, our tenth graders are learning about an array of topics. One focus is on contemporary moral issues facing teenagers today, which are examined from an Orthodox Christian perspective. Topics include ways to help teenagers deal with issues such as peer pressure, temptations, and other real world teenage problems. The students are also discussing weekly Gospel readings and how to apply the scripture into their daily lives. Each Sunday, they memorize a verse from the scripture and discuss its meaning. Deacon George and the class also spend time talking about the Bible, who wrote the Bible, when it was written, how to read the Bible and how to apply the Bible into their lives. Additionally, they are examining the many facets of our rich faith; its symbols, the main teachings of the Orthodox Church (contrasted with those of other denominations), The Divine Liturgy, The Nicene Creed, the lives of the Saints, major feast days, fasting, and prayers.

On Sunday, December 15 we held our annual Christmas Pageant and it was a great success. Thank you so much to Yannoula Kakouras for her dedication and for all of her hard work with our children. The Sunday School hosted a festive luncheon just after, complete with a wonderful Nutcracker ballet performance by many of our students. A big thank you also to all who volunteered and donated to this event. A gingerbread house contest was held there, with several amazing entries. Our first place winner was a submission by Nikki and Ellie Mitrou and Zoe Rodriguez – congratulations! We also offer our congratulations to our second place winner, Katherine Watson, and our third place entry by Evangelia Kakouras and Sophia Christodoulis.

As 2019 comes to a close, we want to thank all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers, volunteers and parents for their collective dedication to our children's spiritual growth. None of this would be possible without your love and support. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to what's to come in 2020.

*The mission of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Sunday School is to provide our youth with a Christ-centered education in our Orthodox Faith and to cultivate a community through Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witness. We are continually looking for volunteers and teachers to help support this mission. If you are interested please contact us at [htgosundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:htgosundayschool@gmail.com).*







*Christmas Pageant*  
*December 15, 2019*



Pageant photos courtesy of Linda Kakouras





**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Pam Bostian

Our Chapter has been active in philanthropic work over the holiday season. Members donated uniforms to in need Marie G. Davis Middle School students, visited the elderly shut-in parishioners and served refreshments at the Holy Trinity and Dilworth Area Community Tree Lighting. The Chapter made donations totaling \$8,000.00 to 16 local civic charities in December!

Members volunteered preparing and baking pastries for the annual Holiday Bake sale. A special thank you to all volunteers for a successful 2019 Holiday Bake sale!

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held at Jimmie's Restaurant (Mint Hill) on the evening of December 4th. Gift cards were collected for donation to those in need. Fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all! (Nearby pictures are from the Christmas Dinner)

Our annual Vasilopita fundraiser will be held on January 5th and 6th. Donation trays will be passed around during the Divine Liturgies; offerings collected will be donated to St. Basil's Academy. The Vasilopita cutting will be held on January 6th after the Divine Liturgy.



*December 4, 2019: Chapter President Diane Ramsey and Father Vasileios at the annual Christmas Dinner*



Save the Date! Our New Membership Drive will be held at the Nordstrom Cafe (SouthPark Mall) on Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:00pm. If you're not a member, we hope you'll consider joining. You can make a difference!

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!



*November 10, 2019: Our community's Veterans are recognized after the Divine Liturgy. Photo courtesy of Georgia Andrews.*

**FROM THE CHOIR LOFT** by Olga Yamalis

Our HTC Choir has certainly had a busy November and December schedule. The busy festive season began in early November when choir director, Lucy Pappadakes and organist, Irina Monzolevskaya were Guest Director and Guest Organist at the Metropolis of Boston Federation (MBFGOCM) Conference held at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in

Ramsay. Musicians included Irina Monzolevskaya on organ, Dr. Philip Thevaos on bongo hand drum and sleigh bells, Dina Clonaris on violin, and Olga Yamalis on flute. Congregational singing included "The First Noel", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come All Ye Faithfull". It was an elegant and festive concert which celebrated each of our denominations



*November 1-3, 2019: Lucy Pappadakes, at left, conducting the choir at rehearsal, accompanied by organist Irina Monzolevskaya, right, at the MBFGOCM.*

Somerville, MA November 1 through 3. The English/Greek Liturgy of Nicholas Roubanis was beautifully chanted by a group of about 40 choir members. On the evening of the Grand Banquet, Lucy and Irina surprised the attendees by performing a few pieces including "Hartino to Feggarak" and "Gorgona". The crowd was certainly entertained by their talents and joined in the sing-along. Congratulations to both Lucy and Irina for being selected to lead this event in the Boston Metropolis and for making our parish proud!

On Sunday, December 8 at 5pm, our choir's vision finally became a reality. We hosted our first annual "A Dilworth Christmas". This Christmas concert featured three choirs from the Dilworth community: The Cathedral of St. Patrick, First Christian Church and Holy Trinity. The concert included readers, musicians, congregational singing, tree lighting and a beautiful reception. Soprano soloist Joanna Dendrolivanos was featured at the start of the concert with "O Come Emmanuel" and "I Wonder as I Wander". The Kontakion of Christmas was beautifully chanted by our Byzantine Chanters lead by Dimitri Petropoulos. Holy Trinity readers included Father Vasileios, Father Jonathan, Lucy Pappadakes, and Philoptochos President Diane

uniqueness and brought unity to us all. A big thank you to Concert Conductor Dr. Philip Thevaos and Concert Organist Irina Monzolevskaya. This joyful event filled our hearts with sounds of the season. We hope and pray this concert will be an on-going event in our community for years to come.

On Thursday, December 19 at 6pm, the choir sang at the Forever Young group's annual holiday party. The 10 choir members that participated were Dot Delano, Patricia Economides, Olga Kleto, Cecelia Kotsipias, Nick Mermigas, Irina Monzolevskaya, Lucy Pappadakes, Niki Vastis, Pauline Velonis, and Olga Yamalis. Several Greek holiday carols were sung such as the Icarion, Kerkyra, and Traditional Kalanda. Classic Christmas songs such as "Dreaming of a White Christmas", "Joy to the World", "Away In a Manger", and "Silent Night" were also performed. The evening included two beautifully done solos: "O Holy Night" by Cecelia Kotsipias and "Ave Maria (Greek version)" by Lucy Pappadakes. Thank you to Forever Young for welcoming the choir on this cheerful holiday event.

The Holy Trinity Church Musicians wish the entire community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



*December 19, 2019: Members of the choir performing at the Forever Young dinner.*



**AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN** by Kathy Xyrafakis**Judd - Drosinis**

Donna Jean Judd and Demetrios Pavlos Drosinis were married on October 16, 2019. The bride is the daughter of John LeRoy Judd and Marcia Dawn Byrd. The groom is the son of Pavlos and Aliki Drosinis. The ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and was followed by a reception at South Main Kitchen and Tavern in Mt. Holly, NC. The couple took a mini-weekend honeymoon to Asheville with plans for a honeymoon to Australia in the near future. The couple resides in Charlotte.

**Liapis-Karadimas**

Katie Liapis and Tommy Karadimas were married on Saturday December 7, 2019. Katie is the daughter of Mary and George Liapis. Tommy is the son of Terri and Spiro Karadimas. The wedding took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and was followed by a reception in Father "C" Hall. The couple have planned a honeymoon trip to Hawaii after the holiday season and will reside in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**Archangel Michael Award**

November 9, 2019: In Atlanta, GA, Holy Trinity Parishioners Stacie Peroulas and Chrysoula Xyrafakis were recognized as recipients of this year's Archangel Michael Awards. Pictured above (l-r) His Grace Bishop Sevastianos, Chrysoula, and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. Not pictured: Stacie Peroulas.

The Awards are presented annually to deserving individuals who are *"faithful co-workers in our Lord's Holy Vineyard, who selflessly and generously offer their time, talent, energy, skills and resources to the Glory of God, and in His Holy Name, to transform our hopes and dreams for the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta into glorious reality."*

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**STEWARDSHIP CORNER** by Nick and Carmen Kallelis**MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**

When we are MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING we are doing all we can to fulfill the vision of Holy Trinity.

The By-Laws of this Cathedral specify a member must be 18 years old and in good standing. Our By-Laws read: *"Parishioners are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his or her life and activities, to seek personal spiritual growth, to attend the Divine, the religious, moral, and social duties of Liturgy and other services of worship faithfully on Sundays and holy days, to keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox traditions, to receive frequently the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, to train and teach the youth according to the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, to respect the clergy, ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the church, to be obedient in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order, and to cooperate in every way towards the welfare and the prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission."* This includes the annual submission of a Stewardship form.

To be a member of a ministry you must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING. Ministry Chairs should make certain ALL those involved in their ministry are also MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.

Parents of children involved in a church sponsored activity must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

You must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING to vote.

Every organization needs to have accurate administrative records in order to properly communicate with their members and operate in an efficient manner. Our administrative records are not maintained properly. Even though our stewardship forms are preprinted and sent out for verification only about 25% are returned. Examples of this deficiency is the fact that our mailings have returns due to insufficient information on addresses and the improper telephone numbers cause our Clergy and staff to waste time trying to locate families.

We have 1,000 families on our mailing list. Since stewardship forms are not filled out we have no record of the number of parishioners who belong to Holy Trinity. Furthermore when our Budget Committee prepares our budget there is little information on our projected income. It is recognized that many families cannot commit to a financial obligation at the beginning of the year. In these cases it is recommended that the financial section list TBD (to be determined) be written. If everyone cooperated in this manner the administrative records would be updated. Furthermore the financial data received would greatly assist the Parish Council in their planning.

We all need to recognize that our church community continues to grow. Even with normal attrition Holy Trinity has increased by 60 families since 2014. Let's set a goal of every family submitting a stewardship form in 2020. We ask you to fully cooperate in filling out and returning our stewardship information in order to operate effectively and efficiently.

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## In Memoriam



*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25*

### Koula Polites Kanos (1920 - 2019)

Mrs. Kanos, 98, of Charlotte, peacefully passed away in her home on Thursday morning, December 5, 2019. She was surrounded in her final days by all of her loving family. She was born December 24, 1920 in the village of Agia Vlaherna, Greece, the daughter of Alexander and Maria (Siafaka) Polites. She is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Loula and Paul Katopodis, and Mary and Andy Koutsokalis. Also surviving her is her brother, John Polites of Charlotte. She was blessed and loved by five grandchildren: Jimmy Katopodis and wife Sandy, Kiki Ballas and husband Nickolas, Tammy Katopodis, Dean Koutsokalis and Tommy Koutsokalis. She also was blessed with eight Great-Grandchildren, Paul Katopodis, Angelika Ballas, Jaimee Ballas, Sydney Ballas, Andi Koutsokalis, Conner Koutsokalis, Jordan Meggs (husband, Daniel) and Kristi Miller along with many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her loving and faithful husband of 62 years, Tom S. Kanos

and her sister, Lillian Hamberis and three brothers, Christos, Evvangelos and Dionysios.

Koula came to the United States in August of 1956 with her husband, Tom and two daughters. They owned and operated the Greystone Restaurant from 1960 until 2001. She was also employed by Lance, Inc in their packaging department. Koula was a devoted Greek Orthodox Christian and a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral for over 60 years. She assisted in all areas from the Philoptochos, to community events to the annual Greek Festival and Panagia Prousiotissa. She was always giving a helping hand to her church and a second mother to her community friends and to her organization of roots, Agia Vlaherna Association.

Pallbearers serving in honor of Koula P. Kanos are Jimmy Katopodis, Paul Katopodis, Dean Koutsokalis, Tommy Koutsokalis, Nickolas Ballas, Alec Polites, John Kleto and Greg Ward. The Family would like to especially thank Koula's caregiver, Takoya Fung for her dedication and never-ending devotion. They also thank the Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region for their assistance and constant support.

Visitation was at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 600 East Blvd, Charlotte, NC. Following at Noon (12 PM) was the Trisagion and Funeral Service. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery. Officiating were Rev. Father Vasileios Tsourlis, Dean and Deacon Fr. George Politis.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel or to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte; 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203.

*Published in The Charlotte Observer on December 8, 2019.*

### Xanthi Kalevas (1932 – 2019)

Xanthi Kalevas, 87, of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away Friday, the 6th of December 2019 at Carrington Place.

She was born on the 13th of June 1932 in Stenoma, Greece to Konstantinos Skenteris and Fotini Skenteris. After leaving Greece, she moved to Fayetteville, NC in 1971 with her family and relocated to Charlotte in 1976.

The Kalevas family greeted friends from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM, Wednesday, the 11th of December 2019 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The Funeral Service was held at 12:30 PM in the Cathedral. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Xanthi is survived by her beloved husband of 62 years, Loukas Kalevas; her two children: Athanasia and her husband, The Reverend Ioannis; her son, Spero Kalevas and wife, Lamprini; her four sisters: Angela, Georgia, Yiannoula and Kleo and two brothers: George and Peter; her grandchildren: Chrisathy Karanikas, Christos Karanikas, Loukas Karanikas, three great-grandchildren: Ioannis Karanikas, Athanasia and Fotis Karanikas.

*This notice appeared online on December 6, 2019 at tributes.com/obituary courtesy of Ellington Funeral services.com*

### Arthur M. Lage (1929 – 2019)

Arthur M Lage passed away on the 12th of December, 2019, at the age of 90. He grew up in Brooklyn, NY and spent all but his last several years living and working in New York and Connecticut. Late in his life, he relocated to Charlotte, NC.

Arthur was accepted into med school after college but decided to pursue

another vocational path. That was the food service industry.

He was preceded in death by his parents Milton and Martha Lagakos, brothers George and Dean and sisters Tina, Patricia, and Dorothea. He is survived by ten nieces and nephews

The Funeral Service was held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, the 17th of December 2019 at Saint Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newburgh, NY; or St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church (Missions Ministry), Charlotte, NC; or Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Philoptochos Society, Charlotte, NC.

*This notice appeared online at ellingtonfuneralservices.com/arthur-lage/*

## Condolences

Our condolences to Georgia and Pete Kastanas on the passing of Georgia's father **Mr. Konstantinos Vasilios Demopoulos** of Winston Salem. He was 77. His funeral was held on November 14, 2019.

Our condolences to Demetra and John Tassios on the passing of Demetra's father **Mr. Sotirios Konstantinos Mantekas** of Charlotte on November 27, 2019. His funeral was on December 2, 2019.

Our condolences to Angelina and John Korinis on the passing of Angelina's mother **Mrs. Irini Gaitanidi** on December 12, 2019. Her funeral was December 16, 2019 on the island of Kefalonia, Greece.

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**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE** by Sharon Koutroumpis**Daughters of Penelope Queen of Hearts High Tea, Fashion Show To Benefit The Dove's Nest at Charlotte Rescue Mission**

The Venus Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope will hold its 24th annual Queen of Hearts High Tea and celebration of fashion on Saturday, February 15, 2020, to benefit The Dove's Nest. The event will take place from 2 – 5 p.m. at Carmel Country Club, 4735 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC.

As guests are sipping tea and enjoying a menu of sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, and pastries, LUIS MACHICAO, AN AWARD WINNING DESIGNER, will present his fashions. These fashions will include casual and dressy wear for adult women. In addition, there will be many door prizes given out, as well as raffle prizes including paintings, accessories for the home, and a fur piece.

During this event we will have a guest speaker from The Dove's Nest and a special prize for the most stylish hat worn to the event.

Tickets are \$50. Tables of ten (10) are also available at \$500. In addition, \$40-contributions may be made to the chapter's Outreach Champion program, which will count its donors among supporters in the fight to assist women and children transform their lives. Each Champion's name or business will be included in the program given to all attendees along with Corporate Champions whose contributions range from \$100-\$499 (Silver) to \$500-\$999 (Gold) to \$1,000 and up (Platinum). To purchase tickets, become a Corporate or Outreach Champion, or for more information, call Dianne Leventis at 704-366-8284 or dalchar1965@gmail.com.

**BLESSING OF ANIMALS AND THEIR OWNERS**

December 22, 2019: In a first of its kind for Holy Trinity, pets and their owners were encouraged to join other parishioners and Father Jonathan for a special service on Sunday afternoon at Hellenic Park. Father led the attendees in a blessing of the animals and their owners. It is a visible reminder that God created not just man, but all creatures on the Earth. Photos courtesy of Angelo Pete Politis.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY** by Melissa Alatsis

The Young Adult Ministry of HTGOC has enjoyed a fun Fall, including a weekly book study on *The Names of Jesus*, by Fr. Thomas Hopko, some friendly competition at Top Golf, trivia night at Caswell Station, Thanksgiving Glendi, and a Christmas party complete with a "white elephant" gift exchange and an "ugly Christmas sweater" competition (see photos). YAM is also thrilled to share that on behalf of our members, charitable donations were made to the Charlotte Boys and Girls Club and the Humane Society of Charlotte. Please share with Fr. Jonathan any new and fun ideas.

In the New Year, YAM is looking forward to some more fun and fellowship - mark your calendars today!

YAM on Thursdays @ 7pm:

- January 16 –Queen Park Social
- February 20 –Bowling at Park Lanes
- (Sunday) March 1 –Greek day with the Charlotte Hornets @ 1pm
- March 19 –Game night, Pour Taproom
- April 11 –Saturday of Lazarus luncheon
- April 23 – Amelie's at Park Rd.
- May 21 – Summer Kick-Off Cookout!

Additional Fellowship Opportunities:

- Saturday Evening Vespers with

a discussion on Orthodox Theology, Spirituality, History, and Practice (In the Chapel, 6-7:30 pm)

- "Orthodox 101: The Basics and Beyond" – An opportunity for inquirers and Orthodox faithful to learn more about the Orthodox Faith. (In the Library on Sunday morning, following the weekly English Divine Liturgy, 9:45-10:30 am)

- Bible Study, "Sunday Scripture with Father Jonathan" – An opportunity to connect with God through the readings that we hear each week. Father Jonathan will lead the participants in a discussion on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel & Epistle reading. (Monday evenings, 6-7 pm)

- Couples Ministry Meeting – Monthly we will invite couples from our community to gather for an evening of fellowship and discussion. First meeting: Sunday, January 5th, 2020, 5-7 pm at the home of Billy and Sarah Vastis.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates!

FB: Young Adult Ministry (YAM) - Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte

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## WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT HTGO PRESCHOOL? by Maria Kleto and Cindy Balatsias

On Sunday, November 3rd, the preschool held its annual Yiayia's Kouzina Fundraising Luncheon which was a huge success. We appreciate all the help from our preschool families, friends, board members and staff that volunteered their time to help with the luncheon. Many, many thanks,

"Our Faith with Father", a monthly religious lesson with Fr. Christian. We also had the class Thanksgiving parties on November 25th and 26th and the Christmas Party and Pajama Day on December 18th and 19th. What fun!

We also focused on all that we are

when someone does something nice for us. We also talked about being kind to our friends, and taking turns and sharing with our friends at preschool.

In December, we turned our focus to the true meaning of the Christmas season...the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. One of the things we enjoyed this month was seeing the preschool Christmas tree that was decorated with the ornaments the children made. We ended the month with a day full of fun and celebrations...Pajama Day and the class Christmas parties. It was nice to celebrate the birth of Jesus all together before getting out for the holiday break.

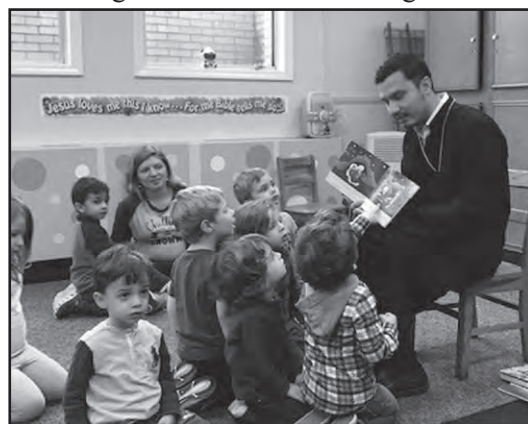


November 3, 2019: The Preschoolers perform at Yiayia's Kouzina, the preschool's annual fundraising luncheon. Photo courtesy of Angelo Pete Politis.

to our head cooks, John and Jimmy Christodoulis, and all the other people who helped to prepare the delicious meal that was enjoyed by everyone. We also thank our sponsors and donors for their very generous support, and the parishioners who attended our fundraising luncheon. We could not have done it without the support of everyone. Last but not least, we want to recognize our preschool children for the excellent job they did singing at our luncheon. They entertained us with a medley of songs in both Greek and English and they sounded beautiful. We are blessed to have such an amazing group of children and we are very proud of all of them!!!

In November, we started back with

thankful for and acknowledging God as the reason for all blessings in our lives. It was a good time to reinforce good



at left:  
Father Christian talks to the children in the latest "Our Faith with Father" session.

behavior, using the words "please and thank you" and showing appreciation

This year we have two special afterschool activities, Bold Music Junior Jammers and Soccer Shots, available for any of our students interested in participating in them. Junior Jammers is held on Tuesday afternoons throughout the school year. The children that are participating in the music program had a short musical performance on December 17 for all our students and

Office:	704-333-4961
Email:	preschool@htgo.org
Directors:	Cindy Balatsias
	704-502-3859
	Maria Kleto
	704-564-5842

families. They did a great job! Soccer Shots was an 8 week session that was held on Monday afternoons in October and November. On the last day Coach Liz gave the children a certificate and medal. We are looking to possibly having a second soccer session in the spring. The participants in both Junior Jammers and Soccer Shots have really enjoyed these programs.

As we welcome in the New Year, our attention turns to the 2020-2021 school year. Registration opens in January and continues into February on the dates listed below. We will be selling the World's Finest Chocolate candy bars after the Divine Liturgies. For information about the preschool and class availability, you can contact one of the Directors or the Preschool Office (see contact information above).

### 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

JAN 15th – Currently Enrolled Students and Siblings

FEB 1st – Orthodox Members

FEB 15th – Open Registration

On behalf of our entire preschool staff, we thank our families, preschool board, priests, Parish Council, and the Holy Trinity community for its constant, loving support of our program. We pray that you have many blessings in 2020. Happy New Year.

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*Καλές Γιορτές και Καλή Χρονιά με Υγεία, Ειρήνη, Δημιουργία και Αισιοδοξία* Photos courtesy of Linda Kakouras



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