




THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

Η  ωνη
ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 82 NO. 01	HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte/	600 EAST BLVD CHARLOTTE, NC 28203	704-334-4771 www.htgo.org	JAN/FEB 2022
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The 2022 Parish Council



The members of the Parish Council after taking the oath of office. Front, l-r Lucy Pappadakes, Nick Nixon, Peter Thomopoulos, Dimitri Dounis, Stacey Vastis, and Christina Skiouris. Back, l-r Vaki Karampourniotis, Drew Dudley, Andre Harakas, Father Vasileios, George Karres, Dean Peroulas, and John Mahairas. (Not pictured: Elias Elia, Roula Skenteris, John Tsumas).

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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Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by George Zogzas

Dear Readers:

Welcome back.

We have entered the most sacred and self-reflective period on the Church calendar, the 40 days of Great Lent, which will lead us up to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Great Pascha on April 24, 2022. We are fortunate to have another opportunity to immerse ourselves in this journey of sacrifice, reflection, and reward of the resurrection and promise of eternal life.

Father Jonathan reflects on the meaning of being the Church and what a community in transition can do to manage the stress and anxiety that may be caused by changes. He directs us to turn to something that should unify us. Read about it on page 3.

Newly elected Parish Council President John Mahairas shares his thoughts about the state of the community with a quick look back at the recent past and the opportunities that lie ahead. See page 5.

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation has entered its 50th year of existence and will have a commemoration of that event on February 5, 2023. Between now and then, The Voice will include articles from the Foundation that recount some of the history and to explain more about its operations. Chairman Nick Kantsios kicks off the series on page 6.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

GZ

voice@htgo.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Mar 18	2ND SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS 6:30PM
Friday Mar 25	Church Office Closed ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15AM GREAT VESPERS AND PART 3 OF THE AKATHIST HYMN 6:30PM
Sunday Mar 27	GREEK SCHOOL MARCH 25TH PROGRAM AFTER THE 2ND DIVINE LITURGY
Friday Apr 1	4TH SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS 6:30PM
Friday Apr 8	AKATHIST HYMN 6:30PM
Sunday Apr 17	PALM SUNDAY
Sunday Apr 24	GREAT PASCHA

REMINDER:

Check the bulletin and website calendars for updates or call the Office at 704-334-4771

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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www.htgo.org

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

THE VOICE STAFF:

George Zogzas, Editor

George Andrews, Business Manager

Frances Zogzas, Copy Editor

CLERGY:

Fr. Dr. Jonathan Resmini,

Interim Dean of the Cathedral

Fr. Christian Siskos,

Associate Priest and Youth Director

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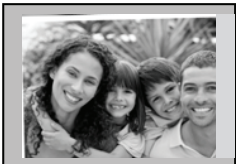
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini,
Interim Dean of the Cathedral

Communication, Community, and Communion: What does it mean to be the Church?

We are in a transitional time in our community. The reality is that this community has had its fair share of transitions over the years. I thought that it would be worthwhile to pause and refocus on who we are. Truthfully, we can choose to think about our community in several ways. We are a group of people, many of whom share the same cultural background. We are native Charlotteans and transplants. We are young and old. We have an abundance of professions, socioeconomic statuses, and political perspectives.

We are diverse in so many ways, and yet we are one community made of many people sharing a common faith. As we move forward as a community, I hope that we can allow this simple fact, our unity of faith, to be the foundation upon which we build. St. Paul writes, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28) While many of us are in fact Greek, I think we can understand the meaning of Paul's words. Despite our differences, our faith in Christ unifies us. Elsewhere, St. Paul writes, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:12-13) We are one body, the Church, by virtue of our

baptisms. We are part of one another.

St. Paul goes on to warn that we cannot allow our differences to be the source of division. He especially discourages believers from exclusivity—separating themselves from one another over their differences. Returning to the metaphor of the body St. Paul writes,

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1 Cor 12:14-26)

In the first paragraph above, we read that we are not to exclude ourselves based on our own uniqueness. We must not feel as though we do not belong to the body of the Church because we are not like the other members of the community. These differences can be anything—talent, background, gender, etc.—and need not cause division. St. Paul reminds us that if we were all only capable of one and the same thing, we would not be able to meet all the needs that we had—"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing?" We need diversity to be a

functional body of believers.

In the second paragraph, St. Paul offers his misgivings about exclusivity, arguing that we must not tell others that they do not belong to the body because of their differences. He specifically speaks to the diversity in the significance of the role that someone plays in the community. However, I think that we can extend this to other facets of our experiences as individual members of the community. We all have unique talents, yes, but also stories. We are not all the same, this can lead to unique perspectives. While our faith unifies us, our distinctiveness means that we will not always agree on all aspect of community life. This is both a blessing and a challenge.

In the past two years, I have witnessed much behavior that runs contrary to the admonitions of St. Paul. We have allowed differences to be the cause of division. We have excluded ourselves or others because they are not like us in some way. We have acted as if we do not belong to one another—that we are not one body. This has been a source of great sorrow for me. We have allowed communication to break down. This has been disruptive to our community and thereby challenging our experience of real communion with one another. As such, we are not being the Church.

I suggest here that because of our disunity, we are falling short of our call to be the Church. The Church is not just a building, nor is it a club. It is the Body of Christ, unified by the Holy Spirit through baptism and our common faith. The sign of our unity is the coming together at the common cup, the Eucharist. Communion, that is our union with God and each other, is what constitutes us as the Church. Many of us seem to think that we can have communion without community—that is in isolation.

Perhaps we want a community, but all these other people are ruining our experience of it—with all their uniqueness and differences they do not belong somehow. Perchance things would be a lot better if there was a little less diversity, maybe then the community would be better. If everyone else was just like me, everything would be improved. Maybe we need to get rid of some of those "eyes," or "hands" to be the perfect community. The truth is this mentality runs contrary to our faith. While we strive for oneness of mind on matters of faith and practice, there is always a degree of diversity in the Church. We are unique and unrepeatable people. Each of us has a story based on our background, experiences, and talents. These differences make us a body and not just a single member.

What do we do to return to a way more consistent with the Gospel? I would suggest that we start with love. Paul reminds us that love allows us to navigate the diversity that we see in the Body of Christ. Once we have laid this foundation, we can begin to open the broken lines of communications that have been closed, or worse, destroyed by our own explosive rhetoric. As we begin to communicate, we will begin to see less strife within the community. This will allow us to fully commit to one another. Over time we will begin to experience real communion in the coming together as the Body in the celebration of the Eucharist. For it is only in the act of communion that we are the Church.



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*The Holy Trinity Centennial 1923 * 2023*

One in a series of reflections on Charlotte's Orthodox community and its proud history

The 2000's

We hope you have enjoyed the series of historical reflections presented by Holy Trinity's Ministry of Archives. We began our series of reflections in January 2021 with the decade of the 1920s and we will end with the decades of the 2000s.

Our goal was to capture the Christian spirit in which the pioneers of our church so gracefully displayed during the early years of the Greek Community. These hard-working, dedicated, and determined immigrants came to a new country, with no knowledge of the American language, very little money in their pockets, and a lifetime of dreams and hopes in their hearts.

As Charlotte's beautiful and charming city grew, so did the Greek people. They were humble individuals who gained the respect of their local peers and proved their self-worth. They were sharp, talented,

organized caring individuals who gave back to their community. These people were truly touched by the Holy Spirit.....their dreams were not about riches or property investments, and social media did not influence their decisions or aspirations. God was their influencer, and the church was their investment. The investment of a lifetime where they found the guidance of the Lord and raised their families in peace and with love.

Do we measure up to the legacy left behind by these amazing people, who managed to create and develop an entire community, ministry programs, successful businesses, and the first Cathedral in the Southeast United States? Furthermore, all this was accomplished after the great depression, and during WWII.

Since this time, there have been many changes at Holy Trinity, and we pray that every new endeavor is a journey of spiritual success. The decades of the 2000s have been both challenging and exciting! Education, building improvements, the transition of Clergy, and the unpredictable nature of Covid, are all topics that bring about awareness and passion, that begin and end with our blessed Holy Trinity (η Αγία Τριάδα)

Credits: Historical facts were provided by the Xenophon Nixon Holy Trinity Archive Collection.

Contributing publications: *The Voice*

Article written and compiled by Archive Committee members Bill Georgiou and Gloria Kontoulas.

Highlight Events of the 2000s

2000

[JAN/FEB] Purchase of second parcel at Hellenic Park (actually, December 30, 1999)

[JAN/FEB] Holy Trinity announces the establishment of a preschool program

[SEP/OCT] Holy Trinity preschool opening celebration, October 15, 2000

2001

[NOV/DEC] Holy Trinity completes Fr. 'C' Hall renovations

2002

[JUL/AUG] 25th Anniversary of the Yiasou Greek Festival 2002

2004

[MAY/JUN] Socrates Academy becomes a reality. "North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board grants a charter for the 2005 2006 school year."

[JUL/AUG] Olympic Games return to Athens. . . Greece wins the Euro 2004 championship... good year to be Greek.

2005

[MAR/APR] Archbishop Iakovos dies April 10, 2005. He was leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America from 1959 -1996. He was 93 years old.

[MAY/JUN] John Plumides dies, May 15, 2005. A lifelong member of the Cathedral and an attorney, he also served as Supreme President of AHEPA.

[NOV/DEC] St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in Mooresville is announced, August 20, 2005.

2008

[SEP/OCT] Documentary, "The Greek Americans of Charlotte " is produced and broadcast on local PBS Station WTVI.

[NOV/DEC] Friends of Greek Art sponsors a permanent exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC. Mary P. Easley, N.C. First Lady and the granddaughter of Greek immigrants, is one of the founding members.

2010

[MAY/JUN] Great Benefactor Nick Goudes donates \$500,000 to Holy Trinity's Greek School program

2013

[JAN/FE] Discussion of courtyard renovations began with first draft renderings

2015

[JUL/AUG] The Xenophon Nixon Archival Library is dedicated following a complete renovation

2016

[JAN/APR] Presbyteria Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides passes away on February 13, 2016.

[JAN/APR] Groundbreaking for the major renovations that will expand the Cathedral and enhance the courtyard is held on March 20, 2016.

[JUL/AUG] Cathedral and courtyard renovations construction begins with the demolition of the existing courtyard and a temporary entrance to the Cathedral.

2017

[MAR/APR] Cathedral and courtyard renovations completed! They include the enlargement of the narthex, construction of a chapel, installation of an elevator, and a covered walk from the Cathedral to the Community Center and Father C Hall.

2020

[JAN/FEB] Fr. Tommy Vlahos, 80, passes away on Friday, January 3, 2020

[JAN/FEB] January 28, 2020 – The

newly installed Archbishop of America Elpidophoros comes to Charlotte to welcome His Beatitude Chrysostomos II of Cyprus to Charlotte with a service in the Cathedral. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and local clergy are also in attendance. [added by me]

[MAR/APR] COVID-19 impacts Holy Trinity. The worst international pandemic since the 1918 Spanish Flu closes down and severely restricts services and activities at 600 East Blvd.

[SEP/OCT] The 2020 Yiasou Greek Festival is canceled for the first time since inception in 1978

PREVIOUSLY IN THIS SERIES

Issue	Topic
JUL/AUG 2020	Introduction
JAN/FEB 2021	1920's
MAR/APR 2021	1930's
MAY/JUN 2021	1950's
JUL/AUG 2021	1940's
SEP/OCT 2021	1960's 1970's
NOV/DEC 2021	1980's 1990's
JAN.FEB 2022	2000's

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STEWARDSHIP 2022

AS OF 2/28/22

YTD FINANCIALS	2022	2021
Stewardship	\$131,571	\$151,312
Candles, Rentals, Other, PPP Loans	\$22,354	\$24,118
Building/Renov. Donations	\$57,774	\$25,697
Minus : Operating Expenses	-\$203,845	-\$163,740
Minus : Building Fund Expenses	-\$41,237	-\$3,018
NET DEFICIT	-\$33,383	\$34,369

A big THANK YOU to all who supported Holy Trinity in 2021! You should have received your **2022 Stewardship form**. Please make any corrections, sign, and return to the Church. These forms are very important and are needed at the beginning of every year from ALL parishioners in order to keep our records and anticipated pledges accurate. You do not need to mail any payments with this form.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- **CHURCH SERVICES** - bring your offerings to the many services we offer.
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- **MAIL** your check or bring to office during the week between 9am-5pm.
- **CHURCH WEBSITE** - go to **htgo.org** and select the "Give Now" button to set up payments whether one-time or monthly. The Church pays credit card fees.
- **CREDIT CARD** - call the office with your credit card information and we can do a one-time charge. The Church pays credit card fees.

★ We will soon be introducing you, our parishioners, to a new on-line system called **Tithely**. It replaces the program we used for many years called **ACS**. With **Tithely**, each parishioner will be able to go online to change their address, phones, emails; make donations online and thru mobile phones, etc. It should also help with our emailing system, calendar and volunteer scheduling, and much more. We ask that you please be patient with the office staff as we learn and implement this new system.

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by John Mahairas



Greetings to all in the Holy Trinity Cathedral Community,

As I reflect on all that has transpired since being selected president of our Parish Council, I am truly excited and thankful for this opportunity

to serve the church in this capacity again. My love for Holy Trinity continues to expand and I am thrilled to lead our council in 2022.

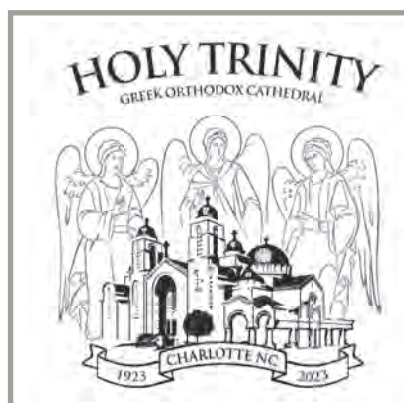
My sincere thanks to Fr. Vasileios and his family for their many years of service to our Cathedral. With his visionary leadership, we accomplished many goals and completed many projects for the good of our church. Join me in wishing him well in his new community.

As with any transition, the focus must be on the now and the future. We have two incredibly talented and humble priests who have been tasked with leading our community. Fr. Jonathan

and Fr. Christian need our prayers and our full support as we enter the Lenten season and a new chapter in the life of our Cathedral. I am excited for what the future holds for our Cathedral. As we prepare to celebrate our centennial anniversary, there is not a better time for us to give our all for Holy Trinity.

The last two years have presented many challenges and opportunities for the church. Many communities have suffered financially due to the consequences of the pandemic. The people of Holy Trinity proved that a spiritual family committed to the Lord's ministry can pull through any adversity. Even without a festival, our Cathedral had a record year for stewardship and special projects. This is strong proof that when people come together with a common goal, a goal rooted in the gospel, anything is possible. My sincere appreciation goes to all who made gifts in 2020 and 2021 to support Holy Trinity.

My door is always open to all in our community and I welcome your calls, questions, comments, and concerns, and suggestions. I am here to serve you. Have a blessed lent! Καλή Σαρακοστή!



We are announcing the **Centennial Celebration** marked by monthly events that highlight our parish's history. The year-long celebration **kicks-off on September 8, 2022** with the historical marker dedication and ends with the **Grand Banquet on September 23, 2023**.

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX FOUNDATION OF CHARLOTTE, NC THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1973 - 2023

Editor's Note: The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, NC, also commonly referred to as the Foundation or HTGOF, is celebrating its 50th anniversary beginning in 2022. This is the first in a series of articles about the Foundation's history, goals, and impact on the community.

By Nick Kantsios, Chairman

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC was founded by our ancestors in the early 1920s. As Orthodox Christians, one of our responsibilities is to ensure that our church provides the resources that support the spiritual growth of the community and a link to our heritage.

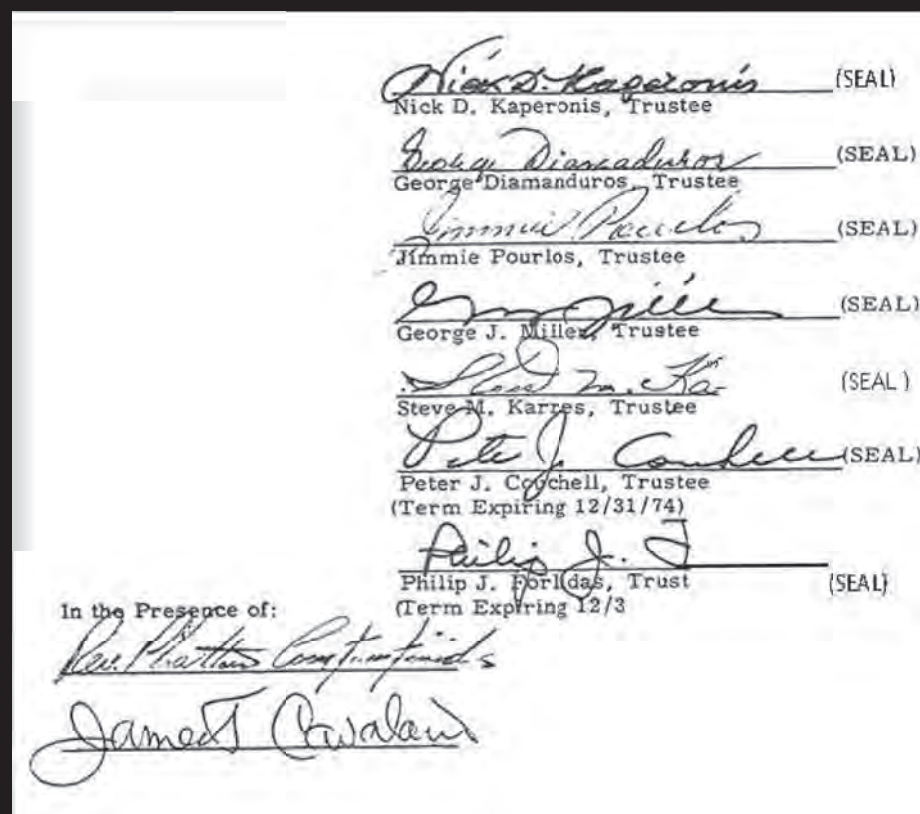
Ten years prior to the establishment of the Foundation - in 1963 - the late Constantine Manjouranis' Estate was bequeathed to the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Estate consisted of \$87,000.00 in stocks and bonds, which were placed in the Trust Department of North Carolina National Bank after his death in 1961. In the Will, it was emphatically stated that *only the interest income of the bequest and not the principal may be expended*.

To aid in this effort, the Foundation was founded in 1973 to create income from invested assets that come from donations and bequests to the endowment fund. The Foundation accepted an initial contribution totaling \$90,106.43 of the Manjouranis estate from Holy Trinity.

The Foundation works to promote generosity by supporting religious, humanitarian, and educational programs that benefit Orthodox Christian, Hellenic, and local communities. That includes the care of the impoverished, sick, and elderly, as well as educational growth. Its IRS 501(c)3 Not for Profit status encourages charitable, tax deductible, giving to HTGOF. Knowing that your gift becomes part of the permanent, non-spendable, invested assets of HTGOF may be the most compelling personal motivation for supporting the Foundation.

You may see a copy of the indenture, the legal document that established the Foundation, at <https://htgof.org/about/>.

Below is an image of the original signers page from the Indenture. Of the seven trustees and two witnesses, Trustee Peter J. Couchell and witness, James T. Cavalaris are still with us to celebrate the Golden Anniversary.



SUNDAY SCHOOL by Liz Raby

Our Sunday school instructors are teaching our children such amazing and poignant lessons. This month we are showcasing our fourth and eleventh grade classes.

Mrs. Georgia Zavalis teaches our fourth grade students. The theme she is focused on this year examines a period of deeper moral and spiritual growth in the lives of children. By concentrating on the prayers and Sacramental acts related to human growth (Pre-baptismal services, Baptism, Chrismation, Liturgy and Confession), the children begin to gain a Sacramental vision of life. They come to understand the world and their spiritual growth in the light of their faith, prayer and Sacramental life. To reinforce this, they have been practicing the Jesus Prayer, discussing the Divine Liturgy, the Old Testament and New Testament. Beginning this week, they will discuss Lent and Holy Week in detail and will create Holy Week books, which the students can then reference throughout Holy Week.

In eleventh grade, Mr. Drew Dudley has set-up his classroom for round table discussions on an array of spiritual topics. Every Sunday the Gospel is read and the students try to relate it to their everyday lives. There are also discussions about the Bible itself and how it is laid out. One new reading has been introduced to this year's curriculum. The Didache, which means "teaching", is the short name of a Christian manual compiled before 300 AD. This writing contains instructions for Christian groups, and its statement of belief may be the first written catechism. It has four parts: the first is the "Two ways, the Way of Life and the Way of Death"; the second explains how to perform Sacraments such as baptism, fasting, and Communion; the third covers ministry and traveling teachers; and the fourth part is a reminder that Jesus is coming again.

We appreciate our entire Sunday School teaching staff and thank them for their dedication. They volunteer their time every Sunday, as well as days during the week to prepare meaningful lessons for our children. Please take the time to thank your child's teacher(s). Also, please consider volunteering your time and talent. Your support will help keep this wonderful ministry going. Please contact us with any questions, or if you would like to volunteer, at htgocsundayschool@gmail.com.

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

The preschool was back in session on Tuesday, January 4th after the Christmas holiday break. Everyone quickly settled back into the daily routine ready to learn and be with their friends. In January, we started with our annual World's Finest Chocolate Candy bar fundraiser to kick off the 2022 – 2023 Preschool registration.

January is always time to learn about the cold weather, snow and ice, polar bears, penguins, and bears hibernating. This year we actually got to see the real snow and sleet three weekends in a row. It is always hard to teach the children about snow when we rarely get any. Another theme was our bodies, taking good care of ourselves, staying healthy, and going to the doctor. Some of the classes also learned about veterinarians and taking care of our pets as well. We also talked about the baptism of Jesus, Theophany and John the Baptist.

Teachers and staff began the student evaluation process in January in preparation for the upcoming parent teacher conferences. The teachers evaluate the children in our two, three and four years old classes. Through the student evaluations, our parents and teachers discuss the areas where their children are excelling and in what areas they can continue to improve. Working together, maintaining an open line of communication, the parent-teacher partnership will provide the support and guidance enabling our children to successfully reach their fullest potential.

With the arrival of February and Valentine's Day, our main topic this month was love...to love our family and friends, and to love each other as God loves us. We discussed being kind, caring and compassionate to everyone and following the example that Christ taught us. All of the classes enjoyed their individual Valentine's Day parties eating sweets and exchanging cards with their friends. We also talked about Groundhog Day and good dental health. Our 4 years old class had a special visit from a dentist, Dr. Annie Carberry. Dr. Carberry talked to the children about good dental hygiene and what each of them can do to help maintain strong, healthy teeth and gums.

On January 15th registration opened for the 2022 - 2023 school year for our current students and siblings. On February 1st it opened up to the Orthodox community and on February 15th to the Charlotte community. Fall registration is off to a great start. If you are interested in registering your child, need information regarding our program or class availability, or if you want to schedule a tour, please contact the preschool office or one of the directors.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool Contact Information:

Co-Directors: Maria Kleto 704-564-5842 Cindy Balatsias 704-502-3859

Preschool Office: preschool@htgo.org or 704-333-4961



January/February days at Preschool.

Clockwise, starting from upper right:

The 3's class outside on the playground on a warm February day.

Dr. Annie Carberry talking to the 4's about good dental hygiene.

The 2's class in the gym on a cold February day.

Toddler's enjoying treats during a Valentine's Day party.



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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE by Nick and Carmen Kallelis

The Stewardship Committee wants to acknowledge and thank all our parishioners who volunteered and stepped up financially during the pandemic. Your generosity was amazing.

This year's first meeting of your stewardship committee was held in January 2022. During this meeting we discussed how we could better communicate with our fellow parishioners.

In the past we have failed to get our messages across. Therefore, we are asking for your help to improve our relationship with the church community. We are requesting your suggestions on how to better involve parishioners in the operation of our church.

One of our major concerns is THE BUDGET. When the budget committee prepares the proposed budget for the operation of the church, they have no financial commitment from our parishioners since the membership forms are not submitted in January as requested. We have limited knowledge of expected annual income but establish a proposed budget based upon being a self-supporting entity.

Another concern is when the proposed budget is prepared, which will dictate the money needed to properly service the church community, the parishioners do not show any interest. There may be one or two parishioners in attendance along with the Parish Council and Stewardship Committee at the Open Budget Meeting. Where is the interest in ensuring we have the best financial plan to address the needs of our church community?

The proposed budget is presented at the General Assembly meeting for approval. We have over 1000 families which is probably a little over 3000 adults over 18. We always hope we can have 75 attendees so we can have a quorum. Really! Is this the commitment we'd expect from a devoted church community? With a budget over \$1,000,000 one would expect some interest in church operations.

Here are some of the facts about our stewardship.

1. We have to depend upon non church contributions to pay the expenses. In the past, it was the Charlotte community supporting us by attending the Yiasou Festival. Since we did not have a physical festival for two years, we had to find a way to pay for expenses. In 2020 the church was closed because of the pandemic and we reduced staff. Thankfully, parishioners stepped up to cover expenses. In 2021 we resumed normal operations but could not have a full blown festival. Since we could not depend upon the Charlotte community to bail us out we received relief from the PPP loan program authorized by the federal government. We need to address this issue by recognizing we have to be self-supporting. If Charlotte and the government are needed to help pay our expenses, are we truly committed to fully supporting Holy Trinity's needs? In January 2021, the stewardship contribution was \$66,723. Expenses were \$132,915, only 49% covered by stewardship. At this rate, it is imperative we step up financially and prove we can be a self-supporting entity.
2. We have a number of ministries helping our church youth, parishioners, church and Charlotte communities. Fortunately, we have dedicated parishioners on these committees and ministries. Unfortunately, these same volunteers are called upon to serve on several of these valuable assets. We need more volunteerism! How can we stand by and not have enough Sunday school teachers to administer to our youth? Where is our commitment?

We welcome suggestions on how to address and remedy these two major issues so we can greatly improve our stewardship and fulfill the vision of Holy Trinity.

Please give your stewardship committee feedback on how we can better communicate and how we can come together as a church community to improve volunteerism and become self-supporting. Comments can be forwarded to Nick Kallelis at nickvmi57@gmail.com or Carmen Kallelis at cbnkr1@yahoo.com. We look forward to your comments.

A reminder: The summer season is nearing. Attendance is sparser. Please be aware of our financial needs during this period. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

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PHILOPTOCHOS by Pamela Bostian

Our annual Vasilopita fundraiser was held on February 6th. Thank you for your generous donations! Offerings collected were donated to St. Basil Academy. These funds provide much needed support for their teachers, staff, and students.

The Philoptochos Board met on February 6th and approved the 2022 Budget.

Our General Meeting was held on February 22nd. Backpacks for "Families Forward" were prepared during the meeting.

Our annual Philoptochos Membership Drive was held on March 1st at Meres Wine and Cheese Shop.

Important Reminders

Membership dues for 2022 can be paid:

By check: payable to Agia Elpis Philoptochos. Mail c/o Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203

Online: visit the Philoptochos website and select the [Donate to Philoptochos] button (<https://htgo.org/ministries/Philoptochos/>)

To join Philoptochos or for more information, please contact Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos at dkourakos1@gmail.com

High School Senior women: the application period for the Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship is **March 15 - 31, 2022**. Direct your questions about the scholarship process, and to submit your application, via email to Mrs. Georgia Andrews (gandrews2021@gmail.com), chair of the scholarship committee.



February 6, 2022: Philoptochos President Diane Ramsey with Deacon George and Father Jonathan preparing to cut and distribute the vasilopita.

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NEWS ROUNDUP by *The Voice Staff***Parish Council Sworn In**

On Sunday, January 9, 2022 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the four newly elected members, and one reelected member, joined seven returning council members on the Solea in front of the Sanctuary entrance. Father Vasileios had placed the Holy Gospel on a stand. Each member reached out with their right hand touching either the gospel book itself, or the shoulder of the member whose hand was placed on the gold book. They swore their oath of office.

Holy Trinity's Parish Council is comprised of fifteen members. Five are elected each year and serve a three year term. This tiered system means that there is continuity with ten members returning. The five newly elected members can offer fresh perspectives on the issues that the church will face.

In a follow-up meeting, the Parish Council members elected their Executive Board for 2022. They are:

President: John Mahairas

Vice President: George Karres

Secretary: Lucy Pappadakes

Assistant Secretary: Stacey Vastis

Treasurer: Vaki Karampourniotis

Assistant Treasurer: Dean Peroulas

The other members are Dimitri Dounis, Drew Dudley, Elias Elia, Andre Harakas, Nick X. Nixon, Christina Skiouris, Roula Skenteris, Peter Thomopoulos, and John Tsumas.

The Elevation of Father Jonathan

His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, at the conclusion of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on January 23, 2022, gathered the three clergy members at the central entrance to the Sanctuary. He was on hand to confer the title of confessor on Father Jonathan. This will allow Father Jonathan to hear the confessions of the faithful.

"Confessor is not an honor, confessor is a burden. We must make the time to hear the problems of the people and their struggles. We must find the strength to help them" the Metropolitan told Father Jonathan and the parishioners in attendance.

... and Father Vasileios to New York

Father Vasileios has accepted a new assignment in Astoria, NY. He will be the Dean of two churches, Saint Demetrios and Saint Katherine. They operate a parochial Day School together.

According to Metropolitan Alexios, His Eminence Archbishop of America Elpidophoros, telephoned the Metropolitan and began the conversation "Do you



January 23, 2022: Father Jonathan received the title and elevation to confessor. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios (center, right) bestowed the honor on Father Jonathan. Looking on, at left, Father Vasileios and, at right, Father Christian.



January 9, 2022: The members of the Parish Council take the oath of office, administered by Father Vasileios. The ceremony took place immediately following the Divine Liturgy

love me?" As the Metropolitan explained it, his first thought was "what kind of question is that?" He said "Of course, I love you." Metropolitan Alexios knew why the Archbishop was calling, he wanted a priest from the Atlanta Metropolis. This time, that priest was Father Vasileios.

Father Vasileios began his assignment at Holy Trinity on July 1, 2016. Presbytera Maria, Kosta and Eleni joined him in Charlotte shortly thereafter. Father V. had previously served at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey, FL.

Metropolitan Alexios announced that Father Jonathan would be elevated to interim Dean of the Cathedral.

Update to Mask/Face Covering Policy

In late February, Mecklenburg County lifted the mask mandate related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the Parish Council issued the following update to Holy Trinity's policy:

Beginning Saturday, February 26, 2022, mask will continue to be recommended, but optional during all services and ministry activities at Holy Trinity Cathedral. People are free to wear or refrain from wearing masks as they so choose. We must insist that whatever someone chooses, we must remain steadfast in our pursuit of the virtues, with particular emphasis on love, the chief of the virtues, in our interactions with one another.

Let's respect each other's choices. See Father Jonathan's Reflections from the Pulpit on page 3.

Search for Greek School Director

Parish Council President John Mahairas announced that Holy Trinity has formally begun the search for a new Director of the Greek afternoon school. In the communication to the community, Mahairas said "We were blessed to have the leadership of Mr. Larry Peroulas for many years and are now excited to see where the future will take us."

The Greek School has returned to in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year after being forced into remote learning from the end of the 2019-2020 and all of the 2020-2021 school years by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Interested candidates for this position who would like further information and a job description should email Parish Council President, John Mahairas at president@htgo.org.

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

Demetrios A. Bazionis

(1939 – 2022)

It is with profound sadness that the family of Demetrios A. Bazionis announces his peaceful passing on January 30th 2022 at the age of 82 years.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 54 years, Margie Bazionis; children: Jackie Gardner and Tommy Bazionis; grandchildren Crystal Meli, Thomas Bazionis, and Mila Bazionis; sisters Dena Ivros, Despina Zagana and Eleni Gourgiotis; brother Bobby Bazionis; as well as numerous relatives and friends.

Demetrios was born in Mouzilo Greece, on June 20th 1939 and migrated to the United States in 1955 when he was just 16 years old.

Visitation was held on Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Carolina Funeral Service & Cremation Center (5505

Monroe Rd, Charlotte, NC 28212-5503). A graveside service was held on Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 1:20 PM at the Evergreen City Cemetery (4426 Central Ave, Charlotte, NC 28215).

Irene Evangelatos

(1925 – 2022)

Irene Evangelatos, 96, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, February 16, 2022. She was born December 21, 1925 in Klavision, Evrytania, Greece, to the late George and Hresanthe Hamberis Kiritsis.

Irene is survived by her daughter, Georgia Andrews and her husband, George of Charlotte; granddaughters, Renee Tsefrikas and her husband, John of Waxhaw and Julie Andrews of Charlotte; great-grandchildren, Leah Tsefrikas, Lexie Tsefrikas Drew Tsefrikas all of Waxhaw. Also surviving are her sisters, Bessie Nickolopoulos of Hendersonville, NC and Helen Poulos of Florence, SC; cousin, Nicky Bakis of Charlotte; sister-in-law, Stella Kiritsis of Holiday, FL, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Angelo; sister, Dena Zogzas and brother, Dennis Kiritsis.

Funeral services for Irene were held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Fr. Jonathan Resmini officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

Loukas Kalevas

(1930 – 2022)

Loukas Kalevas, 91, of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away on the 28th of February, 2022 at the Citadel at Myers Park.

He was born the 7th of June, 1930 in Stenoma, Greece to the late Spero Kalevas and Evagelia Bania Kalevas. He emigrated to the United States in 1971 to Fayetteville, NC and relocated his family to Charlotte in 1976.

The Kalevas family will greet friends from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM on Wednesday, the 2nd of March, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. The Funeral service was held at 11:00 AM. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Loukas is survived by his daughter, Athanasia Karanikas and a son, Spero Kalevas and his wife, Lamprini; a brother, George Kalevas and a sister, Helen Makris; five grandchildren: Loukas Kalevas, John Kalevas, Chrisanthi Karanikas, Christos Karanikas and Loukas Karanikas; three great grandchildren: Ioannis, Athanasia and Fotis Karanikas. He was preceded in death by his wife, Xanthi Kalevas and a son-in-law, The Reverend Ioannis Karanikas.

Konstantinos "Gus" Demetrios Katsoudas

(1929 – 2022)

ROCK HILL – Konstantinos (Gus) Demetrios Katsoudas, 93, passed away at his home on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Mr. Katsoudas was born on January 6, 1929, in Klapsion, Evrytania, Greece. He was the youngest of four siblings to Demetrios and Fotini (Bakoula) Katsoudas.

Mr. Katsoudas is survived by his wife, Stavroula Fani, of 58 years; his daughters, Frances Katsoudas of Rock Hill, SC, Lele Skenteris and her husband, Tommy of Rock Hill, SC and Demetra Boardman and her husband, Frank of Charlotte, NC; five grandchildren, George Skenteris of Wingate, NC, Ephrosyne

(Frances) Skenteris of Rock Hill, SC, Floriana Boardman of Charleston, SC, Constantinos Boardman-Katsoudas and Stavros Boardman of Charlotte, NC. Mr. Katsoudas is also survived by many nieces and nephews and all of those that remember his big smile that welcomed them into his kitchen either at his restaurants, his home, or Holy Trinity. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings; George Katsoudas, Maria Hatzopoulos, and Olga Frangakis Yiataganas; his niece, Paula Katsoudas Koutroulakis, and nephews Demetrios Hatzopoulos and Andy Frangakis.

Visitation was from 5:00-6:00 PM on Sunday, January 23, 2022 followed by a Trisagion service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte. Funeral services for Mr. Katsoudas were at 11:00 AM on Monday, January 24, 2022 with Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

John Demosthenes Malatras

(1933 – 2022)

John Demosthenes Malatras passed away on Friday, January 28th, 2022. He is now rejoined with his lovely daughter, Toni Elizabeth who predeceased him.

John was born and raised in Washington D.C.

John is survived by his lovely and gracious wife of sixty-five years, Lucille Helen; his son, Mark Demosthenes Malatras and his wife, Christine; grandchildren, John Demosthenes Malatras and Katherine Elizabeth Malatras. He is also survived by his sister, Lula Strachan and many nephews and nieces. John was predeceased by his parents, Demosthenes A. and Malamo Malatras; sisters, Alexandra

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Thornberg, Louise Kokenes, Amalia Collier; brother, Ted Malatras and brother-in-law, Steve Kokenes.

Funeral Services for John were at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte with Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Sharon Memorial Park.

Cornelia "Neily" Pappas

(1930 – 2022)

Rock Hill, SC - Mrs. Cornelia "Neily" Rogers Pappas, 91, passed away Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at Wayne T. Patrick Hospice House.

The family received friends Friday, January 14, 2022, from 6-7:30 pm at Greene Funeral Home Northwest Chapel, 2133 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732. A private family service was held on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Neily was born and grew up in Rock Hill, SC. She was the daughter of the late Ernest and Carrie Rogers. She was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church before attending St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, both in Charlotte, NC.

Neily was the widow of Bill Peter Pappas. She is survived by her sons, Peter Pappas (Kim) of Charleston, SC; and Perry Pappas of Rock Hill; daughters, Anna Pappas-Dozier (Patricia) of St. Petersburg, FL and Michelle Cole (Bruce) of Atlanta, GA; six grandchildren, Sarah Pappas (Juan Matiz), Mary Pappas (Mackie Boles), Bill Peter Pappas, Bill Perry Pappas, Laney Pappas, and Christian Waggoner; four great-grandchildren, Luca Matiz, Chloe Matiz, Reese Boles and Rudy Boles. She was predeceased by her siblings, her

granddaughter, Nichole Waggoner, great-granddaughter, Scotland Vickers, and great-great granddaughter, Skylar Vickers.

George Sohoritis

(1953 – 2022)

George N. Sohoritis, 68, passed away on Friday, February 4, 2022. He was born in Amirgiani Evrytania in Greece on July 25, 1953 to the late Nikolaos and Elizabeth Sohoritis.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Evangelia and his two loving sons, Nick and Bobby Sohoritis. He was predeceased by his sister, Georgia Moutopoulos.

Funeral services for George were held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Fr. Jonathan Resmini officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Galanis for the passing of Spiro's mother, **Mrs. Betty "Vasiliki" Galanis**. The funeral was held on January 21, 2022 in Lincolnshire, IL at the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church. May her Memory be Eternal.

Our sincere sympathies to Dino and Sharon Kanelos and Melina and Ariana for the passing of their son and brother, **Lucas Peter Kanelos**. The funeral was held on January 8, 2022 at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. May his Memory be Eternal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new season, a new challenge.

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

--- Daniel 2:21 ESV

For many, if not most of us, a change in leadership within the church, specifically clergy, is not a new concept. Holy Trinity has had its fair share of priest coming and going; from newly ordained to reassignments of proïstamenoï. It's the business. When news spread about the reassignment of Fr. Vasileios, an initial reaction was most certainly shock. However, change is not new. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3. At the end of the day, the priest is a representative of the Metropolitan. He serves the community he is assigned to on behalf of the local hierarchy.

Some stay for years, some decades, some just a few months. Some have relatives in their parish, some are complete strangers when they arrive on the first day. However long their tenure might be, they are worthy of our prayers. Since they offer themselves to pray for our sake, the least we can do is reciprocate. No question whatsoever.

Alas, here we are at a crossroad. Our beloved Fr. "V" departing us for a new challenge and new adventure. There is still work left to be done. A priest once told me, "if you have a pulse, you have a purpose." Our goal doesn't change, the mission of our church doesn't redefine itself. Our Mission is "to become faithful followers of Christ by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God."

Might the way we accomplish our mission as a Cathedral look different now? Sure. Will we do ministry differently? Yes. Will the Liturgy sound a bit different? Absolutely. Guess what. It's OKAY. Some might say there are "shoes left to fill", a "tall task at hand" and an "irreplaceable hole to fill." Perhaps. Fr. Vasileios brought great ideas and energy to our community. Here is my challenge. The same love you showed to Fr. V for the last five and a half years, double it as we show our love to Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian. When it came to the support you showed Fr. V for his plans and projects? Double that support for Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian as they work for the good of our community.

The love you have for Holy Trinity, perhaps in part because of the love Fr. Vasileios showed for our Cathedral, double it so we that with your love and the leadership of our clergy, our staff, our parish council, and our ministry leaders, we all are inspired to be intentional Orthodox Christians striving to accept and submit to the will of our Lord each and every day of our lives.

Will you accept the challenge?

--- John Shelton

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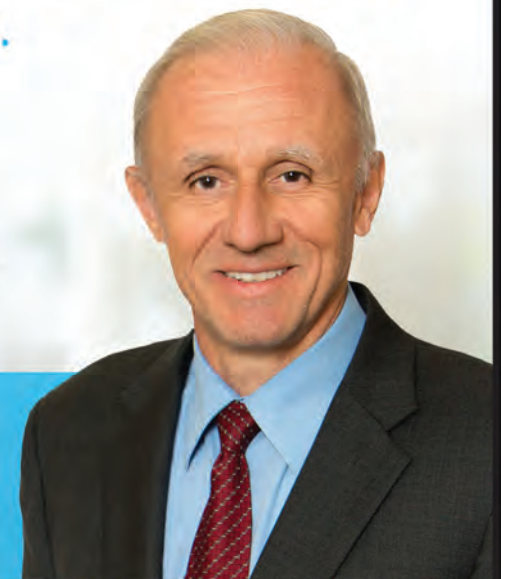
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