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

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!

Καλή Χρονιά!

This is a special year at Holy Trinity as we commemorate 100 years of ministry here in Charlotte. We are in the fifth month of our Centennial Celebration and the events thus far have done a remarkable job in honoring the past, celebrating the present, and preparing for the future. Be sure to check out the Centennial feature in this edition.

Holy Trinity began with 30 families of immigrants and has flourished to become the dynamic, welcoming, and diverse Cathedral we are today. What a blessing we have at 600 East Boulevard! Let us all strive to share that blessing with our neighbors here in Charlotte.

Here is to a year full of celebration!

John               Roxanna,          Chrys
Voice@ htgo.org

We Want To Share Your News!

John           Roxanna,           Chrys

The Voice of the Greek Community

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Chrys Nikopoulos, Editor
John Shelton, Editor
George Andrews, Business Manager

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Chanter
Angelo Tatsis,
Building Assistant (PT)
Maria Kleto,
Preschool Director
Olympia Koutsokalis,
Greek School Dir.

2022 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):
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George T. Karres (24) Vice President
Lucy Pappadakes (23) Secretary
Stacey Vastis (24) Asst Secretary
Vaki Karampourniotis (23) Treasurer
Dean Peroulas (24) Asst Treasurer

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Elias Elia (23); Andre Harakas (22)  
Nick X. Nixon (22)  
Christina Skiouris (24) 
Roula Skenteris (23)  
Peter Thomopoulos (22) 
John Tsamas (22)

Next Issue: Jan/Feb 2023
DEADLINES:
for articles or photographs is: 
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Photos should be in large format JPEG attachment (300 dpi min.)
for advertisements is: 
Monday, February 6, 2023

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Rates are for ads in six issues.
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7 1/2” X 5”    $750.00   $825.00
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It’s the Experience people are talking about Google us at KakourasFamilyDentistry.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb 1</td>
<td>HOLY VIGIL FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb 2</td>
<td>FEASTDAY OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb 10</td>
<td>FEASTDAY OF ST. HARALAMBOS 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 11</td>
<td>BAPTISM OF EMILIA ROSE SIKOS Beginning at 10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 18</td>
<td>SATURDAY OF THE SOULS 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 18</td>
<td>AGIA ELPIS PHILOPTOCHOS invites all to celebrate the Centennial of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral at Carmel Country Club, 11:30 AM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT

Where do you see Holy Trinity heading into its centennial year?

Fr. Jonathan — I hope that the time we are spending reflecting this year on our history and legacy will instill in all of us a deep desire to cultivate communal vision for the future. Discerning together what our legacy will be going forward. I would love for us, to commit to ministries that will impact not only members of our community, but the greater Charlotte area as well. I would love for all the members of the community to feel a deep sense of ownership over the success of our community. Above all I would love to see a desire for us to communicate our faith, spiritual life, and love for God to all the people we come into contact with.

Fr. Christian — Holy Trinity is a beautiful community that is built on the backs of our forefathers who came here from Greece. The initial growth of the community is due to the families coming together, praying, keeping up the traditions of both the Church and the culture, and communicating that love to their children. As we head into the future, it is time to spread this love that our forefathers had with the greater community of Charlotte. If twelve disciples changed the world, imagine what 1,100 dedicated families can do in our small city. Our next leap and growth will come not from Greek immigrants, but from the local community. Having a vision that includes them, our local brothers and sisters, sets our families up for greater success.

How does serving as a clergyman shaped your understanding of faith?

Fr. Jonathan — Having had so much education I had a sense that I had a firm grasp on all the concepts, facts, and figures of faith but ordained ministry has made me realize that real faith can be informed by these understandings but do not require them. Faith is trust in God that we cultivate through our relationship with Him. And this faith is simple. We don’t need to understand every detail for it to be authentic and transformative in your life. Ultimately it humbles me to see in practice, it’s not what you know about God, but rather coming to know God through your life of faith that matters. I have seen this real authentic faith in the people of this community and others who I have had the privilege of serving as an ordained clergyman.

Fr. Christian — After ordination, I was brought to a deeper understanding of faith. The first is of God’s loving mercy. I am baffled, and continue to be baffled, that God has allowed me in my unworthiness to be ordained. And more baffling, to allow me to serve the Divine Liturgy. And God’s love and mercy is such that he allows such an inadequate person to serve Him, because ultimately, in our unworthiness, we are serving His flock, his children. And though I am unworthy, I can express my love for Christ by serving and feeding His flock. As Christ said to St. Peter, “Do you love me? Then feed my sheep.” And the second insight is that of human sin and frailty. Hearing confessions, offering spiritual counsel, and coming close to the suffering of our families, serves as a deep reminder of my own sinfulness, wickedness, bitterness, moments of weakness, indulgence in anger and the like. I can empathize with others because I have been there myself.
The HTGOP staff wishes Holiday Greetings to our preschool families and parishioners…

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
The month of November is always a time to reflect on all the blessings in our lives and on the many things we are thankful for. With that said, one of our greatest blessings is our preschool children. We would like to thank our parents for sharing their children with us and for their love and support of our staff and school. We are also very blessed to have a very dedicated group of teachers who truly care about every child and their success in preschool and beyond. The preschool staff would like to acknowledge our sincere appreciation to our preschool families and Parish Members, our Priests, the Parish Council, and the Holy Trinity parishioners, for their continued support of our school and fundraising events. We are truly fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful community.

We have had many fun activities taking place at the preschool in November and December. Both the children and the teachers enjoyed the all the holiday parties. The Thanksgiving parties took place on November 21st and 22nd and the Christmas Parties and Pajama Day on December 14th, 15th and 16th.

In November, our main focus was on all that we are thankful for and thanking God for the many blessings in our lives. It was also a good time to reinforce good behavior, good manners, showing appreciation when someone does something nice for us and using the words “please” and “thank you”. We continued to talk about being kind to our friends, taking turns and sharing with our friends at school. This month the children went to church for communion to celebrate the feast days of the Archangels and the Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple.

In December, our main focus was on 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 some of 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 is always fun to wear our pajamas to school, read the story of Christmas and to celebrate the birth of Jesus all together before getting out for the holiday break.

On Sunday, December 11th, the Preschool sponsored the church coffee hours as one of our fundraising efforts. It was a very successful fundraiser. We want to thank our parents for providing some of the delicious refreshment items. A big thank you to our parents, staff and to the Holy Trinity community for the monetary donations to the preschool program. As a self-funded ministry of the church, we greatly appreciate the support of our fundraising efforts. We also want to thank Vivian Karampourniotis and all the ladies on the coffee hour team for such a beautiful set up and making our day so special. On December 6th and 12th, the children again went to church for communions in celebration of St. Nicholas’ and St. Spyridon’s feast days. The Preschool was closed from Monday, December 19 through Monday, January 2nd for the Christmas break. As we welcome in the New Year, we need to begin thinking about the coming school year. Registration for the 2023 – 2024 school year opens in January and February on the dates listed below. Also, to kick off the registration process, we will be selling the World’s Famous Chocolate Candy Bars after the Sunday Divine Liturgies. Proceeds from the candy bar fundraiser will benefit the preschool program.

### 2022 – 2023 Preschool Registration

**Opens on the following dates:**

- January 15th – Currently Enrolled Students and Siblings
- February 1st – Orthodox Members
- February 15th – Open Registration

For information regarding the preschool and for class availability, you can contact the Director or the Preschool Office.

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday and we pray that you have many blessings this holiday season and in 2023.

**Happy New Year and Ευτυχισµενο το Νεο Ετος!**

**Preschool Contact Information:**

- Director: Maria Kleton 704-564-5842
- Office: preschool@hto.org or 704-333-4961

The following 4 pictures of Preschool Christmas Pajama Day!
Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Χριστὸς γεννᾶται! Λοξιάσατε!

Again, like the Magi and the Shepherds, we come to the cave to see the Lord. The Logos of God, His Only-Begotten Son, has come into the world and we greet Him with hymns of glory like the angelic hosts. We marvel at the mystery beyond speech and our understanding. How is it that the Lord reclines in the manger? How does the Son of God dwell among us as the son of the virgin?

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity and call to mind the mystery of the incarnation, I consider the great gift that God has given us in His Son. These days it seems like so many things take priority in our lives. The hustle and bustle of our daily existence keep us bound to our routines. Marketing campaigns and endless advertisements leave us slaves to the pursuit of the next new thing. An endless back-and-forth between ideologies and perspectives holds us in endless tension. Economic concerns fix us in a state of perpetual anxiety and uncertainty. What are we to do? Where are we to turn?

This feast reminds us that all will be well. For we do not have a God who stands idly by when his people are suffering. At the same time, it speaks a necessary truth. We do not need to continue in the ways of the world. We do not need to remain in the same patterns of behavior. God has come into the world and made all things new. Through Him, we need not continue in our old ways of being.

Yes, we dwell in time, but we need not be bound to our routines, for time is renewed. Yes, we can feel like slaves to marketing and advertisement shouting in our ears, but we come before Christ in stillness and silence. Yes, the world is at odds with itself, and we are held in that endless tension, but Christ has come, and the “middle wall of separation” has been destroyed, and “we are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Yes, we are in a time of economic uncertainty, but we have received a gift that will not perish. When we turn to Christ, yes, we still exist in this world, but we are not of this world. We are a new creation.

Merry Christmas!
CENTENIAL CHRISTMAS
Qualifications and Tenure

The Trustees are elected to serve a five-year term. They must have been members in good standing at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Charlotte, NC, for the 12 calendar months preceding their election to the Foundation and must maintain their status for the entire time that they serve on the Foundation. The trustees serve staggered terms. Each year, either one or two trustees, are elected by the membership of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Officers and Responsibilities

The Chairman is the chief executive officer of the Foundation. The members of the Foundation elect him/her to serve a one-year term. Among the Chairman’s primary duties are scheduling and calling of the meetings of the Foundation, setting the agenda, and presiding at the meetings. The Chairman represents the Foundation, setting the agenda, and calling of the meetings of the Foundation. The trustees remain qualified to serve. The trustees remain qualified to serve.

Executive and Governance Committee is comprised of the elected officers, with Foundation Chair expected to lead. Responsibilities include identifying qualified candidates to run for election and assure that current trustees remain qualified to serve. Finance and Investments Committee is comprised of at least two trustees, with Foundation Treasurer expected to lead. Responsibilities include reviewing accounting processes and reports; maintain communication with financial advisors, and review and recommend changes to the Investment Policy.

Benefactors and Grantees Committee is comprised of at least two trustees, with Foundation Vice Chair expected to lead. Responsibilities include identifying and vetting grantee organizations; processing requests from individuals requesting financial assistance; and acknowledging donations received. The Trustees volunteer for their committee assignments.

A Tribute to Stewardship

When we talk about STEWARDSHIP, we try to emphasize it means supporting our beloved church by devoting our individual time and our individual talents to fulfill the Vision of Holy Trinity.

There was a true reflection of STEWARDSHIP on Sunday, December 3rd, 2022 when the New Year celebration was scheduled for December 31st and was sold out, again showing our church community committed to coming together.

Please look forward to future celebrations which will be scheduled each month until the completion of this yearlong celebration recognizing the 100 year existence of Holy Trinity in September 2023.

Thank you! Thank you!
FROM THE CHOIR LOFT
by Olga Yamalis

CHOIR NEWS

Our Holy Trinity choir has certainly been busy for the past three months practicing both in-person and with Zoom practice meetings which led up to the most spectacular Centennial Christmas Celebration that took place Saturday, December 3 at 5pm in Father C Hall. What an incredible night complete with an orchestra, singing and dancing and reception.

This concert brought together two of our church’s ministries together consisting of Choir/Music ministry (Choir and instrumentalists) and the Youth ministry (Sunday School, Dance, and Youth Choir). For choir members, it was more than just a concert celebration. It was a reunion. A reunion to re-connect with friends and family within our choir community and our region of both past and present members.

We should be proud of our ministries leaders and participants who gave their time and talent for this outstanding performance.

A 50-voice choir consisted not only from Holy Trinity Charlotte past and present members, but Opera Carolina members, St. Nectarios members, and members from our Atlanta Diocese representing FL, SC, GA, as well as Pennsylvania and Virginia as well.

Instrumentalists were not only from Holy Trinity Charlotte, but from other areas of NC and GA as well. Concert narrators consisted of our clergy and ministry leaders. Sunday School students comprised the youth choir and festival dancers. Traditional carols such as Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Joy to the World were sung as well as Greek hymns such as I Parthenos Simeron and Tin Oreotita. Highlights included Nicholas, Holy Hierarch, the Hallelujah Chorus from “Messiah”, Peloponnesian carol, Icarion carol, Kalin Esperan carol, Silent Night, and the finale of the Apolitikion of the Holy Trinity Evloghitos I Christe in full orchestration written by composer Steven Karidoyanes specifically for this Centennial Celebration event.

A big Thank you goes out to our clergy, Dr. Philip Thevaos-Concert Conductor, Yannoula Kakouras-Youth Conductor, Stacie Peroulas-Dance Director, Irina Monzolevskaya-Organist, the chanters, instrumentalists, all the Centennial Singers, all the dancers, the narrators, stage managers, catering staff, and the Centennial Committee for making this extraordinary event go down in history.

Thank you to all for a job well done!

PHILOPTOCHOS
by Pamela Bostian

Our Philoptochos chapter has been busy over the past month preparing for and holding our annual Holiday Bake Sale. We want to extend a special thank you to the ladies of Philoptochos and to all our volunteers and patrons for making the 2022 Holiday Bake Sale a success!

Our Chapter held a Board Meeting on December 1, 2022.

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held on December 13th at Leo’s Italian Social. A delicious dinner and warm fellowship was enjoyed by all. Gift cards (totaling $730.00) and 12 gift bags filled with toiletries were collected for Safe Alliance-Domestic Violence Center (Charlotte, NC).

Over the past year, our Chapter provided donations totaling $8000.00 to the following charities: 2nd Harvest; Food Bank; InReach; Pat’s Place; Loaves & Fishes; Friendship Trays; St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; Safe Alliance; Dove’s Nest; Crisis Assistance; Roof Above; The Relatives.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Save the Date
Agia Elpis Philoptochos invites all to celebrate the Centennial of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Carmel Country Club on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 11:30 AM.
Today we are saying farewell to a unique, noble, hard-working, cultured, and kind person. A person that played a very significant role in the Greek education of not only our community, but also that of the entire Greek American community.

He served as both an educator and the principal of the Holy Trinity Greek School for more than 20 years, serving in these positions with commendable passion, strength, and enthusiasm. He saw the future of the Greek American Community in the younger generations, and he believed that the only way to ensure this future was through the development of Greek education and culture. He dedicated his teaching and administrative abilities to that mission.

The students of the Greek school will undoubtedly remember and draw inspiration from his strength, his patience, his work ethic, and the fact that he put his soul in his teaching. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with him, will never forget and never cease to be inspired by his hard work, his integrity, his self-sacrifice, and his vision for the Greek education of the Greek American community.

We bid you this farewell, with insurmountable admiration for all that you have offered to the Greek education of our community, for the struggles, for the dream.

We bid you this farewell, with immeasurable gratitude for everything that you have done for us, for everything that you taught us, for the great example that you set for us.

You shall forever be in our thoughts and in our hearts!

On behalf of the Greek School,

Principal

Olympia Koutsokalis

---

Αποχαιρετισμός στο Δάσκαλο και Διευθυντή του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας (1997 - 2021) ,
κ. Ελευθέριος Περούλα

Σήμερα αποχαιρετούμε έναν ξεχωριστό, έναν ευγενή, εργατικό, ευσυνείδητο και καλλιεργημένο άνθρωπο, ο οποίος διαδραμάτισε σημαντικό ρόλο στην Ελληνική Παιδεία της Κοινότητάς μας αλλά και όλης της Ομογένειας της Αμερικής.

Υπήρξε στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο της Αγίας Τριάδας ως Εκπαιδευτικός και Διευθυντής για περισσότερα από 20 χρόνια. Το υπηρέτησε με πάθος, με δύναμη και με ενθουσιασμό. Έβλεπε τη συνέχεια της Ομογένειας στα νέα παιδιά και πίστευε ότι αυτό θα μπορούσε να επιτευχθεί με την καλλιέργεια των Ελληνικών γραμμάτων και του Ελληνικού Πολιτισμού. Έθεσε τις διδακτικές και διοικητικές του ικανότητες στην υπηρεσία αυτού του σκοπού και τον υπηρέτησε με ευλάβεια.

Οι μαθητές του στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο θα έχουν να θυμόνται και να εμπνέουν από τη δύναμη, τη δουλειά, την υπομονή, την ψυχή που έβαζε σαν δάσκαλος στον καθένα απ’ αυτούς, και εμείς, όσοι δουλέψαμε μαζί του θα έχουμε να θυμόμαστε και να εμπνέομαστε από την εργατικότητά του, την ακεραιότητα, την συνεπάρχεια και το φιλεκπαιδευτικό του όραμα για την Ελληνική Παιδεία της Ομογένειας.

Σας αποχαιρετούμε, με απέραντο θυμισμό για όλα όσα προσφέρατε στα ελληνικά γράμματα της Ομογένειας, για τους στοίχειους, για το όνειρο!

Σας αποχαιρετούμε, με απέραντη ευγνώμονη για ό,τι κάνατε για εμάς, για όσα μας ήδη έδωσατε, για το οριστικό πρότυπο που μας προσφέρατε!

Θα είστε πάντα στη μνήμη μας και στην καρδιά μας!

Εκ μέρους του Ελληνικού Σχολείου,

Η διευθύντρια
Ολυμπία Κουτσοκάλη
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

In Memoriam

Elizabeth A. Tanos-Priest (1968-2022)

It is with sadness but hope in the Resurrection that we inform you our beloved sister in Christ, Elizabeth A. Tanos-Priest, age 54, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, December 14th, 2022. The trisagion was held on Tuesday, December 20th, at 11:30 AM, followed by the funeral, 1:30 pm, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Sharon Memorial Park.

Alene Ward Fadel

It is with sadness but hope in the Resurrection that we inform you our beloved sister in Christ, Alene Ward Fadel, passed unto the Lord on Monday, December 19th, 2022. Funeral services for Alene were held at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow at Sharon Memorial Park.

In Memoriam

Alene is survived by her children, Shea Fadel and his wife, Sandra, Amina Stewart and her husband, Eddie and Jamie Raad and her husband, Tommy; six grandchildren, Alex Fadel Nelson (Eric), Morgan Stewart (Zac), Matthew Raad (Katie), Shea Fadel II, Dylan Stewart (Anne) and Patrick Raad (Berenice); her five great-grandchildren, Cayson, Maverick, Anna Rose, Olivia and Madelyn. Also surviving are her sister, Gladys Johnson, of Texas and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck Fadel; son, Deeb Fadel and three sisters.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be offered in memory of Alene to CureSMA, c/o Cayson Stewart, 925 Basse Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 or Shriners Children’s, c/o Oasis Shriners, 604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262.

May Her Memory Be Eternal.
Showmarm southern • fresh • greek

Built on family roots, Showmarm founder George Droushel combined the Greek flavors of his childhood with in-love with the Carolinas 40 years ago in 1982. A pioneer of the fast-casual concept, Showmarm has something for everyone who walks through its doors, from its richly simmered chicken to our kid-friendly menu items in a variety of Greek and fresh family-style Southern, Fresh, Greek. Our current signature and promised.

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Facebook: SellingCharlotteHomes-Dimitra Tula Kourakos

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