



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 84
NO. 04

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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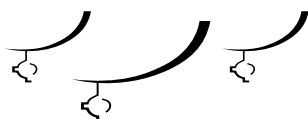
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Greetings Readers!

What a start to the new ecclesiastical year! We began with the 45th Yiasou Greek Festival, one of the best in history. A record number of volunteers served droves of patrons, many whom attended the event for the first time. Two short weeks later, a memorable weekend was had celebrating the Centennial of Holy Trinity Cathedral. Guests and dignitaries from around the world descended upon the Queen City to celebrate 100 years of ministry in Charlotte with three days of festivities.

The ministry year is in full swing with many new faces as Holy Trinity continues to grow each week. Youth programming, adult catechism, Philoptochos, and Greek folk dance have all seen an increase in participation, just to name a few. Special projects and new ministries are in the works for the near future as the Cathedral enters its second century.

Finally, as I resume my "Voice" duties, I would like to thank George Zogzas for helping in the interim. We also welcome Ellen Couchell to the Voice Staff!

Happy reading, and have a happy holiday season.
John Shelton voice@htgo.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 14th	5:00pm Forever Young
Saturday, December 16th	GOYA Christmas Party
Sunday, December 17th	Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Liturgy Orthodox Forum 21+ Christmas Coffee House
Tuesday, December 19th	Greek School Christmas Party
Sunday, December 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Orthros 6:00pm Divine Liturgy 7:15pm
Monday, December 25th	NATIVITY OF CHRIST Orthros: 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, December 31st	Orthros: 7:45am Divine Liturgy: 9:00am
Sunday, December 31st	New Year's Eve Dance Le Meridien Hotel
Monday, January 1st	New Year's Day Orthros: 8:15am Divine Liturgy: 9:30am
Thursday, January 11th - Monday, January 15th	Hellenic Dance Festival Orlando, Florida

REMINDER:

Check the Weekly Word, Tithely Church App, or website calendars for updates or call the Office at 704-334-4771 to add or update your email address.

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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

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**Thursday, December 27,
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



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

Fr. Jonathan's Remarks at the Centennial Gala

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I greet you with great humility and joy in the name of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. We have reached a milestone one hundred years have passed since a group of families, Greek immigrants, gathered to establish the Holy Trinity community that would eventually become the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral that we know and love. I am left with awe and thanks to God that I was given the privilege to be the spiritual leader of this community during the centennial commemoration. I have stepped into a grand legacy and find

myself profoundly moved to be here.

Throughout the centennial year, I have chosen to highlight two defining themes to orient our commemoration of the completion of the first one hundred years of our story. Legacy and vision are essential in understanding the meaning of this momentous occasion. In what follows, I will expound upon why I think these two themes help shape our celebrations while positioning us well as we set forth into the next century and beyond.

A legacy is something we have received from those who have come before us. As we celebrate our centennial, we hold in our embrace the legacy of this community, but also of those individuals who have shaped it throughout the past century. Our legacy runs deeper than just the physical space in which we occupy. Yes, we can look back and see our journey from a group of people that met in the upper room of the Chamber of Commerce, our purchase of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the building of

our current buildings on East Boulevard and declare these as monuments to our legacy. However, I would say that our legacy is found most profoundly in the spirit, ethos, and character of our people, both past and present.

We began with very little. Our predecessors were faithful, humble, diligent, and hopeful. Despite the obstacles that lay before them and the challenges that came from starting fresh in a new land, they knew that all would be well if they could hold on to the things that made them who they were—if they held on to the legacy of those that came before them. First and foremost, they knew that it was their faith in God that would lay the foundation of their new life in this new place. So, despite the

financial burden that they were under as immigrants, they sought to find a place they could call their spiritual home. Approximately thirty families, came together to lay the foundations of a spiritual home that stands as their legacy to us.

The truth is that in this very

act, we see our second theme manifest as well. What else could we see in their commitment to establishing a spiritual home than a vision for the future? Yes, they were addressing real and present needs, but they also knew that what they were building would be the center of their community's life for generations to come. Perhaps the vision that they had, was too far removed to imagine what it would become—over one thousand families and three distinct communities in the Charlotte area—but we can say with confidence that they knew that what they started would endure.

That is where I offer us all a challenge going forward. We stand now on the legacy built through the vision of those who have come before us. We are left with a monumental task as we move forward in the years to come. How will we build upon the legacy that we have inherited? What is our vision for the future? Just as we look back and then forward in this time, so too will our children and their children do in the future. What do we want to be the enduring legacy that we leave to them?

Fr. Jonathan is elevated to Protopresbyter

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros elevated the Reverend Dr. Jonathan Resmini to the office of Protopresbyter of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

AXIOS! WORTHY!



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT by Olga Yamalis

The HTC choir was exceptionally active, participating in four events spread across a four-week period. First, they had two 30-minute performances on Saturday, September 9 during our Yiasou Festival, both masterfully narrated and directed by Dr. Philip Thevaos. These performances offered festival guests an overview of hymns from our Orthodox Ecclesiastical year, including Apolitikion Tou Lithou Sfraghisthentos, Communion Hymn Ainette, O Angelos Evoa, I Parthenos Simeron, Dhefte Lavete Fos, Christos Anesti, and the Holy Trinity Hymn Evlogitos I Christe. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Philip Thevaos, organist Irina Monzolevskaya, and the choir members who dedicated their time and talent to these choral performances. Well done!

Secondly, on Saturday, September 23, the HTC choir delivered a stunning performance at our much-anticipated Centennial Gala. They presented our national anthems, the Greek folksong "Ekklisaki/the Little Church," and the Holy Trinity

Hymn Evlogitos I Christe, all under the skillful direction of Dr. Philip Thevaos. On Sunday, September 24, the HTC choir's melodious voices filled our Centennial Hierarchical Liturgy, graced by the presence of Archbishop Elpidophoros, Metropolitan Alexios, Metropolitan Gregory, Metropolitan Dimitrios, and several clergy members, who celebrated our century of existence.

Finally, the fourth event for the HTC choir occurred on Sunday, October 1, marking National Church Music Sunday. Every October, we dedicate one Sunday to honor the contributions of choir members, psalti, and music educators who serve the church through hymnology in our Orthodox Church. The choir and psalti were honored on the solea with a heartfelt prayer and recognition for their invaluable contributions as church musicians.

To each and every one of you, we express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and contributions.



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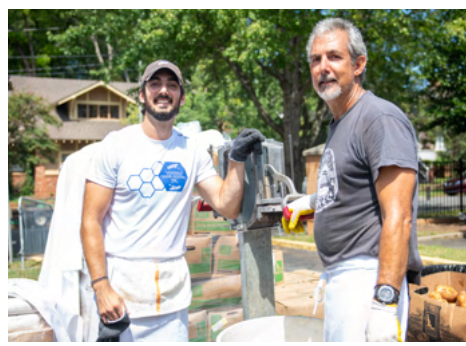
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45th Yiasou Greek Festival



45th Yiasou Greek Festival



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THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WEEKEND





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Attention Newlyweds and Graduates

To place your wedding or graduation announcement in *The Voice's* Around Charlottetown section, please email a photo (JPEG format) and a brief writeup to Kathy Xyrafakis (kathy@htgo.org).

We will include it in an upcoming issue.

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PHILOPTOCHOS by Pamela Bostian

The start of our ecclesiastical New Year in September marked a festive period for our community.

September kicked-off with our annual Greek Festival, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated ladies of Philoptochos and all volunteers for their commitment of time and effort.

We celebrated our Chapter's Name Day (Agia Elpis) with a Coffee Hour on September 17th, in the Fr. "C" Hall, following the Divine Liturgy service. The Coffee Hour was held in loving memory of our past presidents. The Artoklasia service was held in honor of all our members.

The efforts of our Chapter continued with the Centennial Celebration Community Luncheon, where our ladies assisted with preparations and provided desserts, adding a special touch to the Centennial festivities.

On October 15th, our Chapter participated in Ministry Sunday, providing valuable information about our organization's mission and philanthropic activities.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Fanouropita, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, and Ecumenical Patriarchate

trays. The funds collected support many philanthropic causes both nationally and within our metropolis.

Our Board met on September 14th, October 5th, and November 2nd. Our first two General meetings took place on October 10th and November 14th..

Bake Sale order pickup will be available at the church on Sunday, November 19th, Saturday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 3rd (from 12:00 - 2:00 PM). All volunteers are invited to assist with order pickup activities!

Feed the Hungry: Our Chapter proudly supports the UNCC Jamil Niner Student Pantry and welcomes donations of food and toiletries. Items can be dropped off in the Cathedral office lobby. For additional information, please contact Christina Katsanos. **Save the Date:**

Christmas Dinner Party will be held on December 12th, starting at 6:00 pm in the Church Social Room. \$40.00 per person. Pay online at htgo.org/philoptochos or by Check. Reservations and payment deadline is December 4th.

Apokries Glendi Fundraiser on March 9th, 2024, at the Fr. "C" Hall. Details about this event will be announced soon.

AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

Congratulation to Bo & Katina (nee Kondilis) Coggins for the birth of their son on September 20, 2023. Proud grandparent are Steve & Dena (nee Nixon) Kondilis and Boyd & Anne Hay Coggins.



Congratulations to Kelly and John Stathopoulos for their birth of their daughter Theodora Rose Stathopoulos on 11/11/2023. Theodora Rose is the sister of Sophia Stathopoulos. Her grandparents are Regina & Harry Stathopoulos and Sue & Jim Brittan.



Kris Shqevi & Anisa Taylor were married on October 28, 2023 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Kris is the son of Aleksander and Luljeta Shqevi and Anisa is the daughter of Marion Taylor and the late Terrence Taylor The reception was at The Ruth and the couple had a "mini moon" in Asheville, but will be honeymooning next summer in Albania.





Jay Littlejohn and Alexandra Politis were married on Saturday, September 23, 2023, in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Alexandra is the daughter of Dimitrios and Andromahe Politis. Jay is the son of Bryan Littlejohn. A reception was held at The Collector's Room in Charlotte, NC. The couple will honeymoon to Greece and Italy in summer 2024, and will reside in Lincolnton, NC.



Vickie Erin Poulimenos & Gerald Thomas Newburg were married on September 30th, 2023 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Vickie is the daughter of Chris & Catherine Poulimenos, and Jerry is the son of Thomas & Martha Newburg. A reception was held at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte and the couple honeymooned in Bora Bora, and Kauai, Hawaii. The Newburgs reside in the Charlotte area.

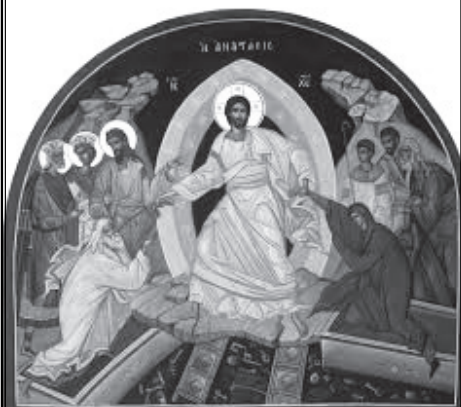


Gabrielle Stavropoulos Cerrone and Dean Christopher Cerrone were married on October 7th, 2023 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Gabrielle is the daughter of Christina Melissaris and Mark Stavropoulos. Dean is the son of Effie Cerrone and Chris Cerrone. A reception was held in the Fr. "C" Hall at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The couple spent their honeymoon in the Maldives and reside in Denver, Colorado.



Hunter and Courtney Brown were married on October 14th 2023 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Courtney is the daughter of Evan and Jennifer Karagias. The couple honeymooned in Antigua and are residing in Gastonia, NC.

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

George Gavrilis

George Gavrilis passed unto the Lord on Friday, September 1st, 2023. Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203, on September 11, 2023. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

George is survived by daughters Laina, Maria and Eva; son-in-law Constantine; grandchildren Perry, Nina, Michaela, Nicholas and Aleydis, along with their spouses Erin, Will, Nathan, Christie and Jenna and ten great grandchildren Ava, Lunete, Zeke, Lysandros, Demosthenes, Addison, Theodore, Briseis, Noah and Amelia. He is now at peace with the Lord and his loving wife Nina (whom he missed very much), his brothers Vasili and Pete, sisters Hariklia and Sophia, along with his parents and other family and friends who preceded him. Maria Kakavitsas as well as many nieces and nephews.

Thomas Galatas

Thomas Galatas, at age 63, passed unto the Lord on Monday, October 2nd, 2023.



Thomas is survived by his wife Dimitra (Mima), his children, Kelly Sohoritis and her husband, George, Georgia Karagiorgis and her husband, Stavros, Niko Galatas and his wife, Maria; and grandson, Panos Sohoritis. He is also survived by his siblings, Dimitri, Irene, Dina, and Georgia, all of Greece and his brother, Andrea of Charlotte along with several nieces and nephews. Thomas was predeceased by his parents, Nikolaos and Kalidona Galatas.

Funeral Services for Thomas were held on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Aphrodite "Aphroula" Anderson

Aphroula Anderson passed unto the Lord on Monday, October 16th, 2023. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 20, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Aphroula is survived by her four children, Renee Collins and her husband, Daryl, Gary Anderson, George Anderson and his wife, Lee Ann of Nashville, TN and John Anderson and his wife, Mimi.



Aphroula "Yiayia" will be deeply missed by her grandchildren, of whom she was immensely proud: Philip Collins and his wife, Erica of Nashville, TN, James N. Anderson of Los Angeles, CA, Carter Anderson, Margaret "Liza" Anderson of Nashville, TN, James F. Anderson, Katherine "Kate" Anderson and James G. Anderson; three great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews. Also surviving are her sisters, Lula Kouvaris and Ellie Harakas and her husband, Theodore and her sister-in-law, Bett Anderson Kofinas. She was predeceased by her husband of 34 years, James A. Anderson, her parents, Maria and George Kastanas and her grandson, Christopher Collins.

Hristoforos Karagiannis

Hristoforos Karagiannis, 81, passed unto the Lord on Friday, October 20, 2023.

Hristoforos is survived by his loving wife, Kostoula "Dina" Karagiannis (nee Sokos); his son, John Karagiannis and his wife, Eva (nee Raptis); his adored and beloved grandchildren, Christopher and Ian Karagiannis; his brother, Serafim Karagiannis and his wife, Zografia Karagiannis, and his sister, Aliko Prassas. He is also survived by his beloved nieces and nephews Vaso (Demetri) Papakonstantinou, Theodora (George) Kampiziones,



Kathy (George) Kanellakis, Katerina (Konstantinos) Papakostas, Katerina Taprantzis, Dimetra (Tim) Slawter, Jimmy Prassas, and their children. Hristoforos was preceded in death by his father, Ioannis Karagiannis; his mother, Aikaterini Karagiannis (nee Nasopoulos); his sister, Eleni and her husband, Alekos Taprantzis, and his brother-in-law, Gus Prassas.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

IN APPRECIATION:

The family of Hristoforos Karagiannis would like to thank everyone for all of your prayers, cards, calls, love and support during their difficult time of his illness and passing.

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WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto

In September, we always look forward to seeing our returning children and families and getting to know our new Preschool families. We are so happy to once again have our classrooms filled with our preschooler's smiling faces and a few teary ones as well. As always, we look forward to watching the children develop spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically throughout the year. Our Mission is to provide each child with a positive learning environment allowing them to master the appropriate educational and social skills needed for school readiness. It is very rewarding to see how much the children progress each year, gaining more confidence and independence in preparation for the next grade level.

The Preschool opened on Monday, September 18th with the Open House and Agiasmos. The parents and children first gathered in the classrooms to meet their teachers, explore their new environment and to see their old and new friends. Everyone then moved to the church where Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian did the Agiasmos service blessing our families and school for the start of the new year. The first official day of classes began the following day. There are always a few tears at the beginning of each school year with some of our younger children. It is reassuring to know that they are quickly adjusting to being in school with their friends. Most of the time, the separation is harder on the parents than the children, but eventually everyone settles into the routine.

Once again, the Preschool is truly blessed and thankful to have a group of very dedicated and caring teachers on our team. Our teachers put in a great deal of time and effort both inside and outside of class to prepare their lesson

plans and their classrooms. They work hard to make the Preschool a warm and inviting learning environment where the children can thrive. Our staff members for this school year are:

Monday and Wednesday Toddler Class: Kim Tatsis and Cetta Hankins

Monday and Tuesday Two Years Old Class: Stasy Skarlatos and Irene Lowder

Tuesday and Thursday Two Years Old Class: Lisa Giotis, Stasy Skarlatos (T) and Georgia Harakas (TH)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Three Years Old Class: Lisa Giotis, Alex Tatsis (MW) and Kim Tatis (F)

Monday – Friday Four Years Old Class: Aggie Poulos and Caitlyn Elf

Director: Maria Kleto

In September, our classes focused on getting to know our teachers and friends, settling into the new routine, learning about the different class centers and the classroom rules. We talked about being kind to our friends, sharing and taking turns, using good manners and kind words to express our feelings. Throughout the year, we will continue to work with the children to be independent, responsible for themselves and confident in their abilities. The children are so proud of themselves every time they can accomplish a new task or master a new skill. We also wanted to thank the preschool families and friends that volunteered to help at the Preschool's Playland Beverage Booth at the Yiasou Greek Festival. We appreciate everyone's help and support of the Preschool program!

In October, we talked about the beauty of the Fall season, the leaves changing colors, the cooler temperatures, the farms and farm animals, the fall harvest,



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