



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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NOV/DEC 2023  
JAN/APR 2024



## Visit of His Grace Bishop +Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt Kenya (Patriarchate of Alexandria)

Pictured L to R: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, His Grace Bishop +NEOFITOS,  
Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos

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### 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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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

We have come to the halfway point of 2024! The first year of our second century of ministry here at Holy Trinity has brought forth a plentitude of blessings. The celebration of our Centennial continues as our community grows in size, in offerings, and most importantly, in faith. Lives are being transformed through our youth ministry programming, Catechumens are being welcomed to the church through classes, Baptism, and Chrismation. Talks about the future of our Cathedral are beginning to take shape as our Vision Committee soon begins its work.

Much of our celebrations the last year and a half focused on legacy and vision. Honoring the pillars who laid the groundwork while looking ahead at what can be here at Holy Trinity. In this edition of The Voice, we look back at a beautiful Nativity season, a busy beginning of the year for our ministries, and hear about events and offerings in the second half of the year. Stay tuned, our next edition will be in your mailboxes and inboxed by the beginning of August!

**Happy Summer, and Happy Reading.**

The Voice Staff

POINSETTIA NAMES  
2023

## IN MEMORY OF

**Eftihia Anastasi**

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**John P. Drosinis**

**Paul K. Drosinis**

**Angelo & Irene Evangelatos**

**Angela Sofia Panos**

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**John Stambolitis**

**Evangelos Tsoulos**

**In memory of our loved ones  
(Anonymous)**

**In memory of our loved ones  
(Anonymous)**

## IN HONOR OF

**Coy & Brooks Buck**

**Stephanie Stambolitis**

## THE VOICE

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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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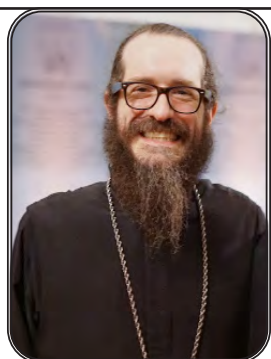
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REFLECTIONS FROM  
THE PULPIT

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

My beloved brothers and sisters,

I pray this finds you well. I have become aware of a concern in the community about the pastoral perspective on the use of Greek and English in the church services at our beloved Cathedral. As I am sure you are all aware for decades now, to meet the needs of our ever-growing community we have offered two liturgies on Sundays—except a few days during the academic year and in the summer when widespread community travel has meant fewer participants in our liturgical services. Historically, Orthros was offered as a bilingual service in Greek and English. This is then followed by a predominantly English Divine Liturgy. At different times and under the leadership of our illustrious proistamenoι, this service has either been entirely in English or majority English with certain refrains offered in Greek. When I was blessed to take over the leadership of Holy Trinity, first as Interim Dean, and now as Dean, I revisited the decision of my predecessors, which established the early liturgy as an English-only service as a ministry to our parishioners who do not speak or understand Greek. While this certainly is a reasonable decision, I am less constrictive in my approach. For this reason, portions of the early liturgy might include some Greek as a celebration of our Hellenic heritage which has deep roots in our community.

The second Divine Liturgy has for some time also varied in its use of Greek and English. From all Greek service to our current practice of approximately half and half approach, we continue to try to meet the present needs of the community. As the second Divine Liturgy does service a broader demographic of our community, who vary in their proficiency in the Greek language, we try to accommodate the needs of as many people as possible. We apply

this fluidly, but we do our best to have a degree of consistency and will continue to do so.

As you all may be aware, although I am blessed with Greek ancestry, I was not raised speaking Greek. Any competency in Greek I have through the wonderful instructors I had at Hellenic College and Holy Cross. Through my ministry here at Holy Trinity, I have had the opportunity to strengthen this as I serve all of you. Something for which I am eternally grateful. Realizing the needs of this community that I love, I continue to strive to grow in my proficiency, so that those who need pastoral care in Greek, or those who just wish to communicate in the language of our people, can do so freely. Likewise, I am a second-generation Greek American, also see the needs of those who seek pastoral care in English. For both, I commit to grow in my capacity to serve all in whatever needs you have.

Although the question of the use of Greek and English is a perennial one, I know that there are deeper concerns than simply what language we use in service. It is a matter of identity, heritage, culture, and perspective. It is about remembering where we come from, where we are, and where we are heading. The intersection of these perspectives, at this moment in time, means that we are always holding the needs of many in balance. We can feel at times things are favorable to our experience and at other times they are unfavorable. This balance is what allows us to exist as such a large community. I am committed to making sure that this balance exists in a way where all can feel at home.

Finally, in terms of my hopes for the future, I pray that Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral will be a place where everyone feels welcome. It will be a place where we celebrate Orthodoxy and Hellenism while meeting the needs of everyone who steps onto our campus. As the Greek Orthodox Cathedral here in Charlotte, we will hold fast to the legacy and heritage of those who came before us, while welcoming those who wish to participate in the life of this community. In this way, we will remain the vibrant community that is now in the early months of its second century in Charlotte.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini  
**Dean**

Αγαπητοί μου Αδελφοί και Αδελφές,

Εύχομαι το γράμμα μου να σας βρει όλους καλά. Έχω συνειδητοποιήσει ότι υπάρχει ανησυχία για την χρήση της Ελληνικής και Αγγλικής γλώσσας. Είμαι σίγουρος ότι γνωρίζετε για δεκαετίες τώρα, την αύξηση της Κοινότητός μας, και για αυτό, προσφέρουμε δύο Λειτουργίες τις Κυριακές, εκτός λίγων ημερών κατά την διάρκεια του ακαδημαϊκού έτους και το καλοκαίρι, που πολλά μέλη της Κοινότητας ταξιδεύουν. Ιστορικά, ο Όρθρος προσφερόταν ως δίγλωσση στα Ελληνικά και τα Αγγλικά. Κατόπιν ακολουθεί η Αγγλική Θεία Λειτουργία. Ορισμένες φορές και με την καθοδήγηση του Προϊσταμένου η Λειτουργία γίνεται η εντελώς στα Αγγλικά ως επί τον πλείστον Αγγλικά με ορισμένους επωδούς στα Ελληνικά. Όταν έγινα προσωρινός Προϊστάμενος και με τις ευλογίες, μου προσέφεραν την ηγεσία της Αγίας Τριάδος, αναθεώρησα και συνέχισα όπως στο παρελθόν την πρώτη Λειτουργία στα Αγγλικά για να εξυπηρετούνται όλοι όσοι δεν μιλούν την Ελληνική γλώσσα. Παρόλο αυτή είναι σίγουρα η λογική απόφαση, συμπεριλαμβάνω και ορισμένα Ελληνικά στην πρωινή Λειτουργία, για να τιμήσουμε την ελληνική μας παράδοση και τις βαθιές ρίζες στην κοινότητά μας.

Η δεύτερη Θεία Λειτουργία έχει παραλλαγές στην χρήση των Ελληνικών και Αγγλικών. Ορισμένες φορές είναι όλα Ελληνικά η όπως γίνεται σχεδόν τώρα μισά και μισά. Συνεχίζουμε να προσπαθούμε να εξυπηρετήσουμε τις ανάγκες της κοινότητάς μας. Επειδή η δεύτερη Θεία Λειτουργία εξυπηρετεί διάφορα μέλη της κοινότητος τα οποία διαφέρουν την γνώση της Ελληνικής γλώσσας, προσπαθούμε να ικανοποιήσουμε τις ανάγκες όσο ποιο πολλών ανθρώπων μπορούμε. Προσπαθούμε όσο γίνεται να μένει σταθερό.

Όπως όλοι μάλλον γνωρίζετε, παρόλο που έχω Ελληνική καταγωγή, δεν μεγάλωσα μιλώντας Ελληνικά. Οποιαδήποτε ικανότητα στα ελληνικά έχω μέσα από τους υπέροχους εκπαιδευτές που είχα στο Ελληνικό Κολλέγιο και Τίμιο Σταυρό. Μέσω της διακονίας μου εδώ στην Αγία Τριάδα, είχα την ευκαιρία να το ενισχύσω καθώς υπηρετώ όλους εσάς. Κάτι για το οποίο είμαι αιώνια ευγνώμων. Συνειδητοποιώντας τις ανάγκες της κοινότητάς που αγαπώ, συνεχίζω να προσπαθώ να αυξήσω τις γνώσεις μου, για όσους χρειάζονται Εκκλησιαστική φροντίδα στα Ελληνικά ή απλώς προτιμούν να επικοινωνούν σε αυτή την γλώσσα.

Επίσης, επειδή είμαι και εγώ δεύτερη γενιά Ελληνοαμερικανός, παρατηρώ τις ανάγκες αυτών που χρειάζονται Εκκλησιαστική φροντίδα στα Αγγλικά. Και στις δύο περιπτώσεις, προσπαθώ να αυξήσω την ικανότητά μου για να προσφέρω οτιδήποτε χρειάζόσαστε.

Αν και στο ζήτημα χρήσης της Ελληνικής και Αγγλικής γλώσσας είναι διαχρονικό, γνωρίζω ότι υπάρχουν ποιο βαθιές από την γλώσσα που θα χρησιμοποιούμε στις Λειτουργίες. Είναι θέμα ταυτότητας, κληρονομιάς, πολιτισμού και προοπτικής. Είναι να θυμόμαστε από πού ερχόμαστε, πού βρισκόμαστε και προς τα πού πάμε. Η διασταύρωση αυτών των προοπτικών, αυτή τη στιγμή, σημαίνει ότι κρατάμε πάντα τις ανάγκες πολλών σε ισορροπία. Μπορούμε να αισθανόμαστε κάποιες φορές τα πράγματα να είναι ευνοϊκά για την εμπειρία μας και άλλες φορές να είναι δυσμενή. Αυτή η ισορροπία είναι που μας επιτρέπει να υπάρχουμε ως μια μεγάλη κοινότητα. Δεσμεύομαι να διασφαλίσω ότι αυτή η ισορροπία υπάρχει με τέτοιο τρόπο που όλοι μπορούν να αισθάνονται σαν στο σπίτι τους.

Τέλος, όσον αφορά τις ελπίδες μου για το μέλλον, προσεύχομαι ο Ελληνικός Ορθόδοξος Καθεδρικός Ναός της Αγίας Τριάδας να είναι ένα μέρος όπου όλοι νιώθουν ευπρόσδεκτοι. Θα είναι ένα μέρος όπου θα γιορτάζουμε την Ορθοδοξία και τον Ελληνισμό, ενώ θα καλύπτουμε τις ανάγκες του καθενός που εισέρχεται. Ως Ελληνικός Ορθόδοξος Καθεδρικός Ναός εδώ στο Σάρлот, θα κρατήσουμε σταθερά την κληρονομιά και την κληρονομιά όσων ήρθαν πριν από εμάς, ενώ καλωσορίζουμε όσους επιθυμούν να συμμετάσχουν στη ζωή αυτής της κοινότητάς. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, θα παραμείνουμε η ζωντανή κοινότητα που βρίσκεται τώρα στους πρώτους μήνες της δεύτερης μας εκατονταετίας.

Εν Χριστώ,

π. Ιωνάθαν Ρεσμίνη  
Προϊστάμενος



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

by Olga Yamalis

The HTC Choir has big news! We are hosting the 46th annual Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musician (SFGOCM) September 19-22, 2024 right here at Holy Trinity Charlotte. Guest Conductor is Christina Wynn of Charleston, SC and Guest Organist is Niko Gonatos of Tarpon Spring, FL and the liturgical music will be the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in Greek/English by Nicholas Roubanis. Here's our conference theme:

Colossians 3:16—"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Our choir is busy this summer prepping and planning to host a fantastic and memorable conference

for our Atlanta Diocese. We have many opportunities for anyone in the parish and or ministry to offer your time and talent for that weekend. Please reach out to co-chairs Lucy Pappadakes at [lucy\\_38@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy_38@hotmail.com) or Olga Yamalis at [olga3music@gmail.com](mailto:olga3music@gmail.com) to offer help which would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to this summer's busy conference preparation, we have HTC choir representatives attending the Clergy Laity Congress in San Diego, California June 30-July 4 and the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFCOX) Conference in the Detroit Diocese being held in Southgate, Michigan July 25-28. More updates to follow in the next Voice edition.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Beloved parishioners of Holy Trinity, I pray this message finds you all well.

I am honored to be the Parish President. I have realized quickly, "you do not know, what you do not know". I commend all of those who have taken on the task before me. They have all done an amazing job to get us through our first one hundred years. Now, with God's guidance, I know we will continue to grow in our faith through the next 100 years.

We are blessed with a huge community and have many moving parts. You may have noticed roped off areas, scaffolding, and other work that has been going on around campus. I share with you at this time what this all means and the projects the Parish Council has completed or has in the works for this year.

All of our accounts are now FDIC insured.

Upon completing an insurance review, we have updated our policy with a different company, Church Mutual, to better protect our parish.

We have identified and are in the process of repairing a humidity

issue in the pre-school.

Hellenic Park has a new gate, new locks on the bathrooms, usable bathrooms, many trees have been trimmed, a new maintenance plan to keep the grounds in playable condition, working on repairing the lighting, and much, much more.

The maintenance of the Cathedral Copper Roof and gutters has been scheduled.

The outer band repairs have been identified and once bids are in, we will be making the necessary repairs.

A solution has been found for the hazardous, when wet, pavers. The correction has been scheduled to take place, prior to the festival.

This is just a glimpse of what is taking place at Holy Trinity. I appreciate everyone's prayers and support thus far. Our Holy Trinity Families love for our community never ceases to amaze me.

In Christ,

Vaki Karampourniotis



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Μήνυμα του προέδρου:

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ αδελφοί, εύχομαι να είστε όλοι καλά.

Είναι μεγάλη τιμή να είμαι ο πρόεδρος του Καθεδρικού της Αγίας Τριάδος.

Πολύ γρήγορα κατάλαβα μετά την εκλογή μου, ότι "Έν οίδα ότι ουδέν οίδα" "ένα πράγμα γνωρίζω ότι δεν γνωρίζω τίποτα."

Συγχαίρω τους προκατόχους μου, προέδρους και συμβούλια για τα έργα τους. Έκαναν σπουδαία δουλειά και μπορέσαμε να γιορτάσουμε τα πρώτα εκατό χρόνια της Κοινότητας. Τώρα, με την βοήθεια του Θεού, θα συνεχίσουμε με πίστη και ενότητα για τα επόμενα εκατό χρόνια.

Ο Θεός μας ευλόγησε με μεγάλη κοινότητα, και πολλές ευκαιρίες. Όπως θα έχετε παρατηρήσει στον αυλόγυρο της εκκλησίας έχουμε τοποθετήσει σκαλωσιές και περιφράξαμε με σκοινί τις επιστρώσεις. Σας παραθέτω για να γνωρίζετε τα έργα που ήδη έχουν ολοκληρωθεί απο το Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο και αυτά που είναι στο πρόγραμμα.

1. Όλοι οι Τραπεζιτικοί λογαριασμοί είναι FDIC ασφαλισμένοι.

2. Τακτοποιήθηκε η ασφάλεια με καινούρια εταιρία να είμαστε προστατευμένοι.

3. Τακτοποιήθηκε το θέμα της υγρασίας στο κτήριο που στεγάζετε το νηπιαγωγείο.

4. Βάλαμε καινούρια πύλη,

(πόρτα) στο Ελληνικό Πάρκο, καινούριες κλειδωνιές στις

τουαλέτες, για να μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν, κλαδέψαμε τα δέντρα και έχουμε

καινούριο σχέδιο συντήρησης, και πολλά άλλα.

5. Προγραμματίστηκε η συντήρηση της Χάλκινης Οροφής του Καθεδρικού.

6. Οι επισκευές της εξωτερικής ταινίας στο "Father C Hall" είναι στο πρόγραμμα.

7. Βρέθηκε η λύση για τα τις επικίνδυνες βρεγμένες επιστρώσεις

(pavers). Η διόρθωση

τους θα ολοκληρωθούν πριν το Festival.

Αυτά συμβαίνουν με μια ματιά στην Αγία Τριάδα. Σας ευχαριστώ όλους για τις προσευχές και

υποστήριξη σας. Η αγάπη των οικογενειών της Αγίας Τριάδος για την κοινότητα μας, δεν παύει ποτέ να με εκπλήσσει.

Με αγάπη

Ιάκωβος Καραμπουρνιώτης



**Parish Council Executive Board**

Pictured above (From L to R): Gus Pappas (Assistant Secretary), Georgette Boukidis (Assistant Treasurer), Vaki Karampourniotis (President), Stacey Vastis (Secretary), Dean Peroulas (Treasurer).

Not Pictured: George Karres (Vice President).

## STEWARSHIP REPORT

Your Stewardship Committee has been concentrating on the following areas during 2024:

In January under the guidance of Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian plans were developed for Stewardship Month. Fr. Christian and a subcommittee he organized was incorporated into the Stewardship Committee.

Stewardship Month was scheduled from Sunday, February 25 until Sunday, March 17. During the month the Clergy and Stewardship Committee gave brief presentations after the Liturgies and issued correspondence outlining the need to support Holy Trinity. The parishioners' support has resulted in a favorable outcome. As of May, the stewardship financial support is ahead of 2023 and if it continues throughout the year, it will achieve the goal set for 2024, which is approximately 6% above 2023.

During the same period three members of your Stewardship Committee were appointed to be part of the By-Laws Committee at the General Assembly Meeting. This committee has been meeting each month from January until June to review and update the Church By-Laws to ensure they comply with the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR). The review was completed in June and submitted to the Parish Council for approval and subsequent submission to the Metropolitan for review and approval.

The Stewardship Committee will be working on pre-festival preparations which start in July. We encourage all parishioners to volunteer some of their time and talents for our 2024 festival. This event is uniting us with the Charlotte community, which over the years has supported our festival with large attendance. It is one of the ways to promote Orthodoxy to attendees. Please consider devoting a few hours toward making the 2024 festival a success.

Your Stewardship Committee thanks all the dedicated parishioners who have given us feedback and participated in supporting Holy Trinity. As previously mentioned, the Parish Council and Stewardship Committee can only convey the needs of Holy Trinity. Success is solely dependent on every parishioner fulfilling their stewardship commitment.

*by Nick Kallelis*



**Swearing in of the Parish Council**

L-R Dimitri Dounis, Vaki Karampourniotis, Serafim Pistiolis, Stacey Vastis, Georgette Boukidis, Roula Skenteris, Kathy Kanelloupolous, Father Jonathan, Christina Skiouris, Hunter Clarke, John Mahairas, Tina Apostolopoulos, Gus A. Pappas and Dean Peroulas



## VETERAN'S DAY 2023

### A different view: Mothers, Daughters, Widows, Wives

Almost always, properly so, the Veteran is recognized on Veterans Day or on Memorial day. While increased interest in Veteran Wives is occurring-and our Special Ladies deserve special attention-my guess is that not a lot of people know about, much less understand the experiences of, the Veteran Mothers, Daughters, Widows, or Wives.

It is said our older generation is passing away or has passed away without our finding out about National or Family history. With your indulgence, I want to introduce to you one of the Special Veteran Ladies a delightful woman, many of you know-My Wife-Marilyn Greene. Not only is she special to me, I think she represents a slice of National and Family history which may not even be imaginable.

By way of setting the stage: Gold Star recognition, is for the Wife or family member of a Veteran passing away in the line of duty.

BlueStar recognition is for the family member of a living Veteran or one who passed away from natural causes.

Marilyn's mother married an Army SGT in the Air Defense area. Marilyn's first Daddy Norman was killed immediately after his arrival in China during WWII. He is commemorated on a massive Monument to the "Aviation Martyrs in the War of Resistance in Nanjung, China." He was 22 y/o. Therefore, Marilyn's Mother is a Gold Star Widow and Marilyn a Gold Star Daughter. Norman's body was shipped to Hawaii and, when the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punch Bowl, was created, he was one of the first buried there-as a war hero-just off of Memorial Drive. There was no funeral. What might seem unimaginable, Marilyn was not to know about her first Daddy's existence until she was nearly an adult, and nothing about his hero recognition or burial in the Punch Bowl until recently. Marilyn's Mother remarried very soon after his death as was the custom, to a Sailor, Ernie, Marilyn's second Daddy. Ernie was a highly decorated

sailor from the Pacific theater. He lived to a ripe old age, he was buried here in Waxhaw with a massive military funeral. Mom and Marilyn are also Blue Star recognized.

Lest we forget Mom, Gladys: while there are not military funerals for veteran's wives (even Gold Star Widows) something special happened.

Mom-both Gold Star and Blue Star widow-was buried with what approached, but wasn't quite, a military funeral. It was a massive military-significant event that was talked about as unprecedented because widows just don't experience a military honors funeral.

Marilyn still has more experiences than anyone should experience. As my wife, she patiently endured and put up with only the briefest introduction to my being stranded at sea near the Artic Circle and my rescue. She only briefly knows about my mission Task Force members that were killed. Thus she also is a Blue star Wife with much to ponder.

As if that is not enough, our Son is retired Army and is quite highly decorated with substantial war time under his belt. Thus, Marilyn is also a Blue Star Mother. I will just leave to your imagination all the things of which I don't have the slightest clue about, that Moms and Sons talk about that can never be mentioned here. Thus, Marilyn is also a Blue Star Mother.

My goal is to introduce you to the idea, reality, and briefest experience of the Veteran Mother, Daughter, Widow, and Wife during this Veteran's Day.

I don't think we can begin to understand all the things they know and ponder in their hearts. As such, for their unique sacrifices and experiences, let us all honor Veterans' Mothers, Daughters, Widows, and Wives.

*by Cliff Greene*



**2023  
Veteran's  
Day  
recognition  
ceremony –  
organized  
by George  
Andrews,  
US Army,  
Retired.**



## VISIT OF HIS GRACE BISHOP +NEOFITOS DIOCESE OF NYERI AND MT KENYA

During the first week of April, the Cathedral received His Grace, Bishop Neofitos from the Diocese of Nyeri and Mt Kenya (Patriarchate of Alexandria) for a visit. Charlotte was one of many stops on his tour of the Atlanta Metropolis as visiting communities to raise funds for his new diocese. While at Holy Trinity, His Grace celebrated the service of Salutations to the Theotokos, presided over a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Holy Cross, spent time with our GOYAns during bible study, and offered a reflection to our Agia Elpis chapter of Ladies' Philoptochos sharing the plenteous diocesan projects in progress. Through the generosity of our parishioners, Holy Trinity Cathedral offered an impactful donation of \$12,800 which will assist His Grace continue to grow the church and evangelize to



the people in Kenya. May God grant Him many years of blessed ministry! Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη, Δέσποτα!







## WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto

November - April

On behalf of the Preschool staff and children, we hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Day, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, a Happy Valentine's Day, a Happy Greek Independence Day and a blessed Lenten Journey.

We have some exciting news to share. Ms. Lisa Giotis, will now be one of the Co-Directors of our Preschool program. She has been working at HTGOP since 2015 teaching the two and three-year-old classes and will continue teaching the three's class this Fall. We are blessed to have Ms. Lisa also serving the Preschool in this capacity!

The Preschool was very busy through the months of November to April. In addition to the academic aspects of preschool, the children had lots of fun celebrations and activities during that time. We hope you enjoy the pictures as much as we enjoyed watching the children learn and experience fun, faith and fellowship as a Preschool family.



November 2023 Thanksgiving Turkey Masks – TTH 2's Class



Christmas 2023 Labrakis Plakas family gifts for preschool.



Christmas 2023 Paper Plate Christmas Tree.



Christmas 2023 PJ Day and Polar Express Storytime MW 2, 3, 4 (2).



January 2024. Preschool Vasilopita – TTH 2's and 4's Classes



February 2024  
Ground Hog Day 2024 Pancake Snack.



Preschool sponsored Coffee Hour/Brunch for the Parish General Assembly



March 2024 First Day of Lent and Kite Flying Day



March 25th, 2024 and the Annunciation Celebration – 4's Class Greek Independence Day



April 2024 Butterflies Released  
Life Cycle of a Butterfly – The children watched the caterpillars turn into butterflies before releasing them- 3's class





YOUTH RECAP

YOUTH WINTER RALLY RECAP

With the blessings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, our annual Winter Youth Rally was held December 27 - 30. The event began with 540 GOYAns and their advisors praying from 55 parishes in our Annunciation Metropolis Cathedral, as they prayed the blessing of the waters service as a Metropolis Church Family.

- Holy Trinity Cathedral winners
- Junior Boys Basketball Champions (Margiotis)
  - Girls Basketball Semifinalists (Skenteris)
  - Bible Bowl Semifinalists (Karres)

SEVEN GROUPS. ONE-HUNDRED SEVENTY DANCERS.

During Martin Luther King Day weekend in January, over 500 youth and adults from Holy Trinity traveled to Orlando, Florida for the 2024 Metropolis of Atlanta Hellenic Dance Festival. Our groups prepared for many months, rehearsing with musicians until the early morning hours in Orlando in order to put on two amazing performances each on Friday and Saturday.

A countless number of parents, siblings, grandparents, relatives, and friends joined our dancers and instructors in Florida for a fun-filled weekend of faith, music, and dance. Many of our own parishioners also assisted at the Metropolis level on the Festival Implementation Team (FIT) as well as the Competition Team.

A special thanks goes to Stacie Peroulas who not only leads our folk-dance ministry at Holy Trinity

but also serves as the Director of Competition for HDF, Elaine Mahairas for chairing our costume committee, and the Sarris family for transporting the costumes to Orlando.

Congratulations to our groups and their instructors for their participation!

**Thriamvos**  
(Yianoula Kakouras, Stephanie Kaltsounis and John Michael Xyrafakis)

**Paramythia**  
(Alex Choate, Eleni Galanis, Andi Pittman, and Lena Ziozios)

**Parea**  
(Marina Photopoulos)

**Levendia**  
(Renee Fragakis)

**Elpida**  
(DeeDee Kaltsounis, Yianni Margiotis, Maria Kefalas, and Stacie Peroulas)

**Mia Foni**  
(Aspen Copsis, Katerina Exarhos, Stefani (Palamaris) Wolno)

**Filodoxia**  
(John Shelton and Harry Koutroumanis)

The following groups received awards:

**Thriamvos** (Primary): Silver Medal  
**Paramythia** (Advanced Primary): Bronze Medal

**Parea** (Junior): Platinum Medal, Choral

**Levendia** (Advanced Junior): Gold Medal, Choral, and Costume

**Elpida** (Intermediate): Platinum Medal, Folk Expression

**Filodoxia** (Senior): Platinum Medal

2024 QUEEN CITY CLASSIC

Close to 300 GOYAns and hundreds of spectators gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina during President's Day Weekend for the Seventh Annual Queen City Classic basketball tournament. Hosted by the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, communities from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia participated in this year's classic. GOYAns competed in skills competitions during Friday night's welcome events which preceded the live bracket selections. Saturday's tournament was hosted at one venue which afforded all parishioners, youth and adults, to

enjoy all of the action under one roof and share in fellowship with one another.

A glendi was hosted Saturday evening at the parish of St. Nektarios and included dancing, dining, and bonding amongst the attendees.

Championship Sunday began with worship followed by three entertaining games for the Junior Boys, Girls, and Senior Boys Divisions. Congratulations to our 2024 QCC Champs:

Junior Boys – Charlotte (Team Margiotis)

Girls – Georgia

Senior Boys – Georgia





## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS : HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:HDF, WINTER YOUTH RALLY, AND QUEEN CITY CLASSIC





**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Pamela Bostian

As we said goodbye to 2023 and stepped into the new year, our Chapter has been bustling with activity. We're happy to share these highlights!

**Holiday Bake Sale**

Our annual Holiday Bake Sale was an outstanding success, thanks to the dedication of our members, volunteers, and patrons. Their hard work and support made this year's bake sale one of the most successful in our chapter's history.

**Annual Christmas Party**

The festive spirit carried on with our annual Christmas party held in the church social room. During this occasion, we had the honor of recognizing the dedication of several members who have served our chapter for 50 years. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to: Joanna Andrinopoulos, Nicky Bakis, Kathy Chicklistas, Helen Clonaris, Haido Copsis, Pat Economides, Betty Forlidas, Ellie Harakas, Penny Karnezis, Angie Kastriches, Olga Kleto, Cecelia Kotsipias, Angie Kroustalis, Dina Mahairas, Laura Nixon, Chris Pappas, Theodora Retsios, Dena Stassinis, and Matoula Vastis. Their commitment serves as an inspiring example to us all.

**UNCC Jamil Niner Food Pantry**

Our chapter extended support to the UNCC food pantry by providing donations of perishable food items

and toiletries. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer assistance to students facing food insecurities.

**Vasilopita Fundraiser**

Our annual Vasilopita fundraiser was held on January 7th. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous donations collected. The funds raised were donated to St. Basil's Academy, providing vital support to staff and students.

**Cupid's Cup 5K and 1 Mile Heart Walk**

We extend a big "thank you" to everyone who participated in our Cupid's Cup 5K and 1-mile heart walk on February 10th. With 49 participants joining our Philoptochos team, the event was a tremendous success.

**Annual Membership Drive**

Our annual membership drive kicked off on February 11th with a Coffee Hour in the church Social Room. Members are reminded that 2024 membership dues can be paid by check or online. For further details, please contact Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos at dkourakos1@gmail.com.

**Clergy Education Fund**

A collection tray for the Clergy Education Fund was available during the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour on February 11th. We are grateful to all supporters for their generous contributions.

**AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN** by Kathy Xyrafakis**Peter Moya**

4th player in South Mecklenburg High School history to score 1000 points in career  
2023-24 SOMECK 4A All-Conference  
2024 Top Ten 3-point shooter





**AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN** by Kathy Xyrafakis

**Griffin and Stefani Wolno**

Wedding date:  
November 11th, 2023  
Parents: Vicki Bisbikis,  
Mike Palamaris, and  
Bruce and Lori Wolno

Married in Charlotte,  
NC  
Honeymoon was in  
Saint Lucia  
Reception was held at  
Father C Hall  
Residing in Charlotte,  
NC



**Kristen Reinhold and Constantine Kiriakou**

Wedding date:  
December 9th 2023

Constantine's parents:  
Mom: JoAnne Radu  
Dad: John Radu

Kristen's parents:  
Mom: Darla King  
Dad: Chris King  
Married at Holy Trinity  
Greek Cathedral,  
Charlotte NC  
Reception held at: Hilton  
at University Place,  
Charlotte NC  
Honeymoon: Boone and  
Asheville, NC  
Residing: Lenoir, NC



**Michael and Lena Ziozios**

Wedding date:  
December 31st 2023

Groom's parents: Danny  
and Effie Ziozios

Bride's parents: Milton  
and Denice Polemides

Reception/ceremony at  
Holy Trinity Cathedral  
& reception at the Fr.  
"C" Hall.

Honeymoon: Playa  
Mujeres, Mexico

Residing in Charlotte,  
NC



**Attention Newlyweds and Graduates**

To place your wedding or graduation announcement in *The Voice's* Around Charlotte-town section, please email a photo (JPEG format) and a brief writeup to Kathy Xyrafakis ([kathy@htgo.org](mailto:kathy@htgo.org)). We will include it in an upcoming issue.



## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:HDF



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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: THE SOUP KITCHEN AND MUFFIN MINISTRY



Thank you, John, and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Charlotte



Tom thanks John for the Greek Church entree

MUFFIN MINISTRY

On a monthly basis, our parishioners support outreach ministries of nearby Christian communities (First Christian Church and First United Methodist Church) in preparing food for those less fortunate. GOYAns served breakfast for our “Uptown Friends” at First United Methodist Church in Charlotte.





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: SENIOR PILGRIMAGE TO ST. PHOTIOS SHRINE IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS : THE ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



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## In Memoriam



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



PETE LOUIE POLITIS, age 42, passed unto the Lord on Monday, November 27th, 2023.

In addition to his loving parents, Louie and Irene, Pete is survived by his sisters, Hope Leak and her husband, John and Zoe Politis; grandfather, Pete Politis, whom he is named after. He will be greatly missed by his nephews John Duncan Leak V and Louis James Leak who were his pride and joy. Also surviving are his

aunts and uncles, Spyros and Emily Dermatas, Chris Politis (Kimberly) and Athina Politis. He will be greatly missed by his cousins, Nick Dermatas (Katina), Eleni Evans (Jay), Peter Politis, Dimitri Politis, Samantha Politis and Christopher Politis (Sheila), his godfather, John Tsoulos, and his godsons Hunter and Christian Wheatley. Pete leaves behind a large and loving extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews who will cherish his memory. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Nick and Zoe Dermatas, grandmother, Alice Politis and uncle, Angelo Politis.



LAMBROS NAKOS, age 85, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, December 2nd.

Lambros is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Helen Dimitrios Kaffes Nakos; his loving children; daughter Hariklia Darnell (Spouse) Marion Lee Darnell, son Christos Nakos (Spouse) Sharon Nakos, Grandchildren; Michael McWaters, Sara Franklin, Elaina Nakos, Ella Nakos and Noah Nakos. Siblings; Vicki Pistolis, Theofanis Nakos, Anastasios Nakos. A long list of nieces and nephews & many more loving extended family and friends.



DEMETRA KARRES, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, November 4th, 2023.

Demetra is survived by her loving husband Theodore A. Karres; two sons, Andrew Karres, George Karres and his wife Vasiliki Karres, grandchildren Demetra, Theodore, and Andrew; her son-in-law George L. Dizes, grandchildren Louis and Mimi, her sister Pat Dizes of Toronto Canada, sisters-in-law Alkmini Vazenios of Greece, Tina Karres of Florida, Kalliope Sarris and her husband Dimitri of Chicago, her brother-in-law, Nikos A. Karres of Greece, and many nieces and nephews and other family members. Demetra was predeceased by her daughter, Pamela Karres Dizes and her sisters Fofa Larikos, Helen Mihalakkakos, Christine Diamaduros, brothers Vasileios and Nikos Vazenios, and her brother-in-law Gus Karres.



ELENI TSIABASSI, age 89, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, January 10th.

Eleni is survived by her daughter, Voula Pappas and her husband, Mike; son, Bobby Tsiabassis and his wife, Frances; her grandchildren, Dino Pappas and his wife, Maria, Tommy Pappas and his wife, Georgina, Nicholas Pappas and his wife, Kontilo and Leah Tsiabassis. Also surviving are her sister, Vasiliki Liapis of Athens Greece, as well as eight great-grandchildren, Sam and Evi Pappas; Mitchell, Eliana, Vivienne and Eve Pappas and Charlie and Kosta Pappas, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Athanasios, she was preceded in death by her parents, Nikolaos and Spyridoula Pistiolis Kokotini and her two brothers, Athanasios and Vasilios Kokotini.

## Condolences

Our Condolences to the families and friends of GEORGIA SKENTERIS MANTEKAS, PARASKEVI "VOULA" NIKOLAKOPOULOS, and FRANCES SCARPAS.

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**JENNIFER ELIZABETH VAHAMIKOS**, age 46, passed unto the Lord on Thursday, January 18th.

Jennifer is survived by her parents, Angelo and Helen Vahamikos, and her brother, George Vahamikos and his fiancée, Cristina Perez-Arranz. She will be fondly remembered by many cousins and friends.



**EFTHIMIOS "TIM" TSOULOS**, age 76, passed unto the Lord on Tuesday, January 30th.

Tim is survived by his siblings, Mr. Sam Tsoulos and his wife, Theodora of Charlotte, NC, Mrs. Anthoula Masouras and her husband, Pete of Charlotte, NC, Mr. John Tsoulos and his wife, Vicki of Charlotte, NC and Mrs. Fay Pitsikoulis and her husband, Stacy of Denver, NC. Also surviving are his nieces, nephews and goddaughter, Ms. Mavra Papadotos, of Sydney, Australia. In addition to his parents, Mr. Tsoulos was preceded in death by his brothers, Steve Tsoulos and Angelo Tsoulos.



**KONSTANTINOS "GUS" DELIGIANNIDIS**, age 77, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, February 14th.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Evthokia Apostolou "Effie" Deligiannidis; 3 children,

Simela "Melina" Oueini and her husband, Daniel, Maria Pavlopoulos and her husband, Antonis and Theodoros Deligiannidis and his wife, Karin; 11 grandchildren, Evthokia "Effie" Thompson and her husband, Hank, Sophia Oueini, Zoe Oueini, Samuel "Sammy" Oueini, Dimitra "Demi" Pavlopoulos, Evthokia "Effie" Pavlopoulos, John Pavlopoulos, Evthokia "Evi" Deligiannidis, Konstantinos "Gus" Deligiannidis, Thomas Deligiannidis and Gregory Deligiannidis and his twin brother, Neoptolemos Deligiannidis and his



**ZOE ANDREWS**, age 90, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, February 24th.

Zoe is survived by her children, Elaine Mahairas and her husband, John, Christina Iv and her husband, Roc and Stuart Andrews; her eight grandchildren, Peter, Andriana, and Maria Mahairas, Andi, Zoe and Harrison Iv, and Alicia and Jonathan Andrews and one great-granddaughter, Elena Iv. Also surviving are her sister, Freda Law; brother, Gus Psomadakis and his wife, Teresa; brother-in-law, George Andrews and his wife, Georgia, and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Andy Andrews; two sisters, Mary Renfroe and Theo Tanner; brother, Charlie Psomadakis; brother-in-law, Pete Andrews; sister-in-law, Bessie Paskalis and her husband, Pete.



**DIMITRIOS SKOTIDAS**, age 75, passed unto the Lord on Friday, December 22nd.

Jimmy is survived by the love of his life, Christine; children Dean Skotidas of Cary and Faye Skotidas of Mooresville; brother Tom Skotidas of New York, and many more loving families from the United States and Greece.



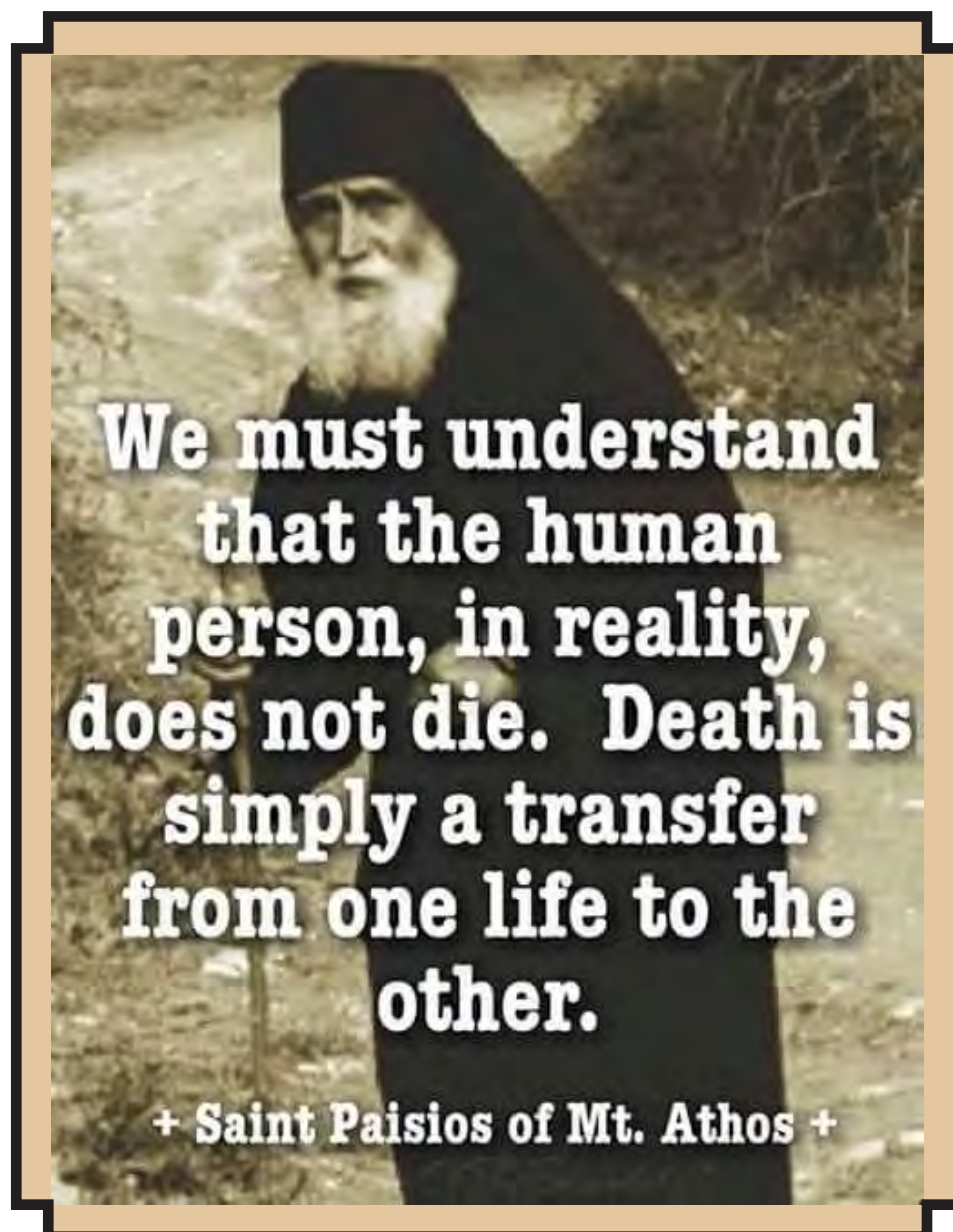
**GEORGE NICK VLAHOS**, age 95, passed unto the Lord on Monday, March 4th.

He is survived by his son, Nicholas and daughter-in-law Lee Vlahos, and their son, George (28 years), who is his namesake. His sister, Helen and her husband John Bakos of Charlotte, their daughters, Katherine Cestrone of Charlotte and Renee Keretses of Waxhaw, and their families. His nephews John Pappas of Apex, NC, Alex Pappas of Greenville, NC, Richard Pappas of Huntersville, NC, and their families. He also leaves behind five beautiful goddaughters and their families who were an important part of his life and meant the world to him.



**HARALABOS "HARRY" DIMITRIOS KAKAVITSAS**, age 93, passed unto the Lord on Friday, March 22nd.

Haralabos is survived by his wife of 74 years, Spyridoula Zaharopoulos Kakavitsas; his children, Dimitrios Kakavitsas and his wife, Eleftheria, Konstantia Kanellos and her husband, Athanasios, Eleni Mitsios and her husband, Konstantinos, Paraskevi Kakavitsas and her husband, Georgios, Margarita Koutsokalis, Maria Kakavitsas and his thirteen grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Maria Katsadouros and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren whom he all loved dearly. He was predeceased by his son, Nikolaos Kakavitsas; his parents, Dimitrios Kakavitsas and Ourania Moutopoulou Kakavitsas; his sisters, Penelope Karagounis and Martha Tselos and his brothers, Serafim, George, and Kostandinos Kakavitsas.







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George Couchell  
Founder

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