



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

H  ωνη
ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 85
NO. 04



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte/>

600 EAST BLVD

CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

704-334-4771

www.htgo.org

OCT/NOV/DEC
2024

Salute to Our Veterans



Sunday, November 10, 2024: In its annual remembrance and salute, Holy Trinity recognized its fellow parishioners who have served in the United States and Greek Armed Forces. Pictured above, L-R: Steve Emmanuel, unidentified veteran, Nick Stavros, Peter Van Dell, Jimmy Pappas, Arthur Pappas, George Vasiliadis, Peter Burlos, George Andrews, George Diatzikis, Sam Vastis, David Proctor, Cliff Greene, Perry Vastis, John Georgoulakos, and Angelo Tatsis. Fr. Christian Siskos, at far right, celebrated the Divine Liturgy that preceded the recognition ceremony.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

- Reflections from the Pulpit 3
- President's Comments 4
- A News Roundup 5
- Youth News & Sunday School 6
- Preschool 10
- From the Choir Loft 11
- Stewardship/Philoptochos 12
- Around Charlottetown 13
- In Memoriam 14
- Greek School 15

600 EAST BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

HOLY TRINITY
Greek Orthodox Cathedral



Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 871

THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers:

Welcome back and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. There was much activity at Holy Trinity during the last three months of 2024, and we have captured some of it in this issue. Check on youth ministries (starting on page 6) and our schools (pages 8, 10, and 15).

On page 3, Father Christian reflects on how businesses and monasteries work, comparing some of their attributes, and asking which practices will lead us to the Orthodox mindset of the God-centered life we strive for.

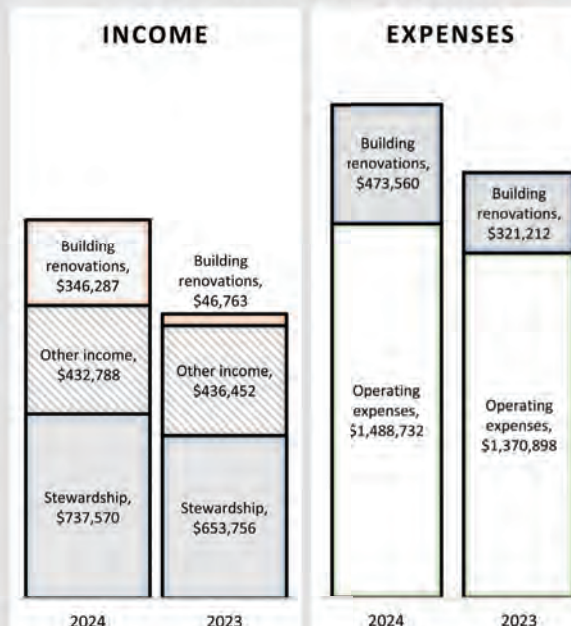
In Around Charlottetown (page 13), we celebrate the weddings of six couples. You will also find notes from the Parish Council President (page 4), a recap of the elections (page 5), and more.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

The Voice Staff

voice@htgo.org

HOLY TRINITY FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2024 AND 2023



ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Thursday, January 30	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, February 2	Presentation of Our Lord into The Temple Orthros 7:15am Divine Liturgy (English) 8:30am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) 9:30am Godparents Sunday
Saturday, February 22 Saturday, March 1 Saturday, March 8	Saturday of Souls Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Memorial Service for the Souls of the Departed
Monday, March 3	Great Lent Begins
Friday, March 7 Friday, March 14 Friday, March 21 Friday, March 28 Friday, April 4	Salutation to the Theotokos 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 25	Annunciation of the Theotokos Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, April 13 - Sunday, April 20	HOLY WEEK OF THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	
Friday-Sunday February 14-16	QCC (Queen City Classic) 2025
Thursday-Friday, March 6-7, and Monday-Tuesday, March 10-11	Philoptochos Pascha Bake Sale Preparations

REMINDER:

Check the bulletin and website calendars for updates or call the Office at 704-334-4771 to add or update your email address.

THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

600 East Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-334-4771
www.htgo.org

THE VOICE STAFF:

George Zogzas, Guest Editor
Ellen Couchell, Editor
Roxanna Dimitriu, Editor
Frances Zogzas, Copy Editor
George Andrews, Business Manager

CLERGY:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, *Dean*
Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos, *Associate Priest*
Rev. Fr. George Politis, *Deacon*

CATHEDRAL STAFF:

Kathy Xyrafakis, *Office Secretary*
Frances Zogzas, *Financial Secretary (PT)*
George Petsas, *Facilities Coordinator*
Sarah Vastis, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Irina Monzolevskaya, *Organist*
Dimitri Petropoulos, *Chanter*
Angelo Tatsis, *Building Assistant (PT)*
Maria Kleto, *Preschool Co-Director*
Lisa Giotis, *Preschool Co-Director*
Olympia Koutsokalis, *Greek School Dir.*

2024 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):

Vaki Karampourniotis (26) *President*
George T. Karres (24) *Vice President*
Stacey Vastis (24) *Secretary*
Gus A. Pappas (25) *Asst. Secretary*
Dean Peroulas (24) *Treasurer*
Georgette Boukidis (26) *Asst. Treasurer*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tina Apostolopoulos (26)
Hunter Clarke (25)
Dimitri Dounis (24)
Drew Dudley (25)
Kathy Kanellopoulos (25)
John Mahairas (25)
Serafim Pistiolis (26)
Christina Skiouris (24)
Roula Skenteris (26)

THE VOICE Advertising Rates

Rates are for ads in four issues.

Rates are subject to change

Ad Size	B&W	Color *
2 1/2" X 5"	\$275.00	\$300.00
5" X 5"	\$500.00	\$550.00
7 1/2" X 5"	\$750.00	\$825.00
5" X 10"	\$950.00	\$1,050.00
7 1/2" X 10"	\$1,425.00	\$1,550.00

Ad Size for portrait or landscape orientation.

* Color ads on back page only.

We also offer assistance with ad design.

Contact George Andrews at 704.364.7224,
gandrews2018@gmail.com or send an email
to voice@htgo.org

Use **ADVERTISE** in the subject line.



Free Delivery

- 15% off the 3rd of Every Month on all Non-Prescription Items
- Drive Thru
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Six Month Supply Discount
- US Post Office

SOUTH END
2334 South Blvd
(704) 523-8608

SOUTH PARK
4501 Cameron Valley Pkwy
(704) 367-7440

www.cannonpharmacies.com

Tell our advertisers that
you saw their ad in:

THE VOICE

To place an ad, contact
Business Manager
George Andrews at
gandrews2018@gmail.com,
or 704.364.7224

Next Issue:

DEADLINES:

for articles or photographs is:

Friday, March 28, 2025

Photos should be in large format
.JPEG attachment (300 dpi min.)

for advertisements is:

Monday, March 17, 2025

Email to voice@htgo.org

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by
Rev. Christian Siskos
Associate Priest

Henry Ford once said “The customer can have any color they want, as long as it’s black.” This summarized Ford’s business philosophy: production efficiency first, customer, second. He raised wages from \$2.34 to \$5, almost doubling wages in that time. This he accomplished through the assembly line. He brought work to the people, rather than the people going to work. And now we may not realize it, but Ford’s business, his philosophy has greatly impacted how we live our lives today, and I don’t mean by what we buy, but how we run our homes. Many of us are business minded and so we may focus on running our lives with a business mindset. We focus on productivity and efficiency, budgeting and scheduling, the manner of our work and output and the proper use of our time.

I would like to suggest that this way of thinking stems from a business mindset like that of Ford, rather than from an Orthodox mindset.

To find this Orthodox mindset, we have to look at the way a monastery is run and to implement that way of living into our own lives. And no, I don’t mean chanting 24/7 or living remotely, though the “remoteness” sounds just lovely. To that end, I’ll break it down into four areas, purpose, work, rhythm and time. Although other areas can be covered, I think these will highlight for us how to see the difference between a business mindset and a monastic mindset.

Purpose

The first is purpose. A business has profit, output, efficiency, and the bottom

line which drives all its decisions. People here are valued based on their ability to contribute to the goals of the organization as a whole. And so, the purpose of a business is really to produce—to produce well and to produce fast. And this production is not necessarily the production of a product, but rather the increase of profit and money in a particular allotted time.

We can summarize in this way, saying that the purpose of a business is money, while the purpose of a monastery is the transformation of a person. It is communion with God. Every aspect of life in a monastery is directed toward this encounter with God, both in its personal components as well as in its communal worship. Spiritual transformation, that is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, is the ultimate goal of the monastery. And so, decisions are made not with a quick profit in mind, but rather with providing opportunities for the soul to interact with God in their daily and mundane activities.

Work

Second is the aspect of work. A business focuses on the means to an end. They are often disconnected from spiritual or personal growth. Speed, scalability and cost efficiency dominate, often at the expense of a person and their own care and particular needs. In terms of business, the work itself is a form of sacrifice, and so the sacrifice of our lives, of our time, of our relationships, for the sake of work is so that we can optimize our output in the here and now. In other words, growth is measured materially with less regard to long term sustainability, whether environmentally or emotionally or physically.

The monastery, on the other hand, focuses on asceticism and prayer. It is not so much about getting tasks done, but about offering one’s efforts to God in all that we do. It is not so much about the output of a particular product or its efficiency to the market place, but rather about connecting with God in our daily and mundane activities. If you’re washing toilets, then you can be sanctified by that. If you’re taking care of children, you can be sanctified by that. And if you’re washing dishes, you can be sanctified by that.

The monastery becomes an environment where a person is valued, even if they are unable to produce. In a business mindset, the weak, the young and the old, are casted out for their

inability to provide value since they can’t produce. But in a monastic setting, the elderly are revered, the young are nurtured, and the weak are strengthened because we come to understand that our salvation is found with our neighbor. This is especially applicable in that of a household and a family where the young and elderly are cast aside. Children are shunned from Churches because of their loud voices. A monastery, while it has its own rules and culture, emphasizes on the love of the person.

Rhythm

This is that of the rhythm of either a business of monastery. Both are vastly different. A business rhythm focuses on production. More production in a shorter time span. The rhythm of the business is to produce more per quarter. A business does not follow the seasons. A season is connected to nature, the feast days. But the 4 quarters of a calendar are cold, calculable and measured. The bottom line is the most important. So, rest is secondary to output and schedules are frequently unbalanced and demanding. The rhythm is one of fast paced, chaotic, pressured and a demanding price for any specific person.

But in a monastery, the rhythm flows liturgically. We follow the liturgical cycle of the church. We attend the feast days of our Lord and of the saints. We pause and take time to contemplate the work of salvation in our own lives. It is structured and balanced both with prayer, work and rest. The Schedule revolves around communal worship, private worship and meaningful work. These are all seen as acts of worship in and of themselves. The one monastic who has been cooking all night is performing the same work as the monastic who is inside the Church chanting the vigil. While the rhythm of a monastery is scheduled, it nonetheless allows for flexibility, and is not as rigid as what we find in a business.

Time

And lastly, there’s the component of time. In a business, time is viewed as a limited commodity to be maximized, as the old adage goes, “time is money.” Time that is not used towards making a profit is time that is wasted. Boredom is problematic for how can you be bored when you could be making money? The pace is harried, with little room for reflection or contemplation. You’re always on the clock, running about

calculating numbers and focusing on the increase of output in any given time so that you can bring more value to the marketplace and so be paid according to that value that you provide.

In a monastery, however, time is seen as both temporal and yet ever eternal. Every moment is an opportunity to glorify God and to grow in holiness. There is a focus on living deliberately and attentively and avoiding distractions or haste. For a monastic, the task itself does not need to be done for the sake of profit. Neither does it need to be done as efficiently as possible. The task rather, is accomplished in a manner that is healing to our soul—in a way in which we can commune with God and with our neighbor. The task itself becomes sanctifying because our aim is not to make more money, but rather to encounter God in those activities.

And so, I encourage you to look at the rhythm and patterns of your own families and to ask yourself, “Am I living in a business mindset, running to and fro with all the activities that I have placed upon myself and my children, making sure that everything is constantly clean and spotless, making sure that everyone’s chores are getting done? Because again, we need to maximize output, budgeting away without taking into account that I must offer back up to God? Or can I begin to make changes to include a more monastic setting in my life and in my family’s life, so that we are following the cycle of the Church and its seasons and not falling prey to a mindset that is foreign to the Orthodox faith. In what ways can I adjust our family’s rhythm to include times for reflection and prayer, both privately and together as a family? In what ways can I shift our understanding of work to be one that is an offering both to our neighbor and to God? And in what ways can I remind myself and my children that the purpose of our home is for the spiritual transformation and strengthening, so that when our children leave our homes, they are strengthened in Christ to stand in opposition to the pleasures of the world?”

As parents, these are the questions that we must ask ourselves.



ELAINE FAGAN
BROKER | REALTOR®
Licensed in NC & SC
Selling Greater Charlotte & Blowing Rock/Boone

704.936.6566
elaine@liveloveinvestclt.com
www.LiveLoveInvestCLT.com

Selling, Buying or just need Friendly Advice (Μιλάω Ελληνικά)

(704) 844-1004

SOUTH 21 MATTHEWS

THE OASIS OF THE HAMBURGER

HOURS:
Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 11:00 am - 9:30 pm
*Closed Sunday & Monday

11450 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD.
MATTHEWS, NC

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis



Beloved parishioners, I pray this message finds you well.

Prayer is the heartbeat of our spiritual life in the Orthodox Church, deeply woven into our theology, worship, and daily practice. For us, prayer is not merely a personal act but a sacred dialogue with God, rooted in centuries of tradition. It serves as a means of communion with the Holy Trinity, aligning our hearts with the divine will and guiding us toward spiritual transformation. The Orthodox Church sees prayer as a living expression of faith, integrating it into every aspect of life — from the liturgical prayers of the

Divine Liturgy to the quiet, personal recitation of the Jesus Prayer. Through prayer, we draw closer to God, seeking His guidance, mercy, and grace while growing in humility, love, and holiness.

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες, προσεύχομαι να είστε όλοι καλά.

Η προσευχή είναι ο παλμός της πνευματικής ζωής για την Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία, βαθιά συνυφασμένη με την θεολογία, λατρεία και καθημερινή άσκηση. Για τους Ορθόδοξους Χριστιανούς, η προσευχή δεν είναι απλώς μια προσωπική πράξη, αλλά ένας ιερός διάλογος με τον Θεό, ριζωμένη για αιώνες στις παραδόσεις. Χρησιμεύει ως επικοινωνία με την Αγία Τριάδα, ένας τρόπος ευθυγράμμισης της καρδιάς με το θεικό θέλημα και το μονοπάτι για πνευματική μεταμόρφωση. Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία βλέπει την προσευχή σαν ζωντανή έκφραση πίστης, ενσωματώνοντάς την σε κάθε όψη της ζωής- από τις προσευχές της Θείας Λειτουργίας έως τις προσωπικές προσευχές. Μέσα από την προσευχή, οι πιστοί έρχονται πιο κοντά στον Θεό, αναζητώντας την καθοδήγησή, την ευπλαχνία, και την χάρη Του ενώ αυξάνουν την ταπεινοφροσύνη, την αγάπη και την αγιότητα.

Θέλω να μοιραστώ μαζί σας μια από τις αγαπημένες μου προσευχές:

Η ΠΡΟΣΕΥΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΣΙΖΗΣ

Θεέ μου, κάνε με όργανο (εργαλείο) της ειρήνης Σου

Όπου υπάρχει μίσος, ας σπείρω αγάπη.

Όπου υπάρχει λύπη, ας φέρω χαρά.

Όπου υπάρχει απελπισία, ας φέρω ελπίδα.

Όπου υπάρχει βλάβη, ας φέρω θεραπεία και συγχώρηση.

Όπου υπάρχει αμφιβολία, ας φέρω πίστη.

Όπου υπάρχει σκοτάδι, ας φέρω φώς.

Ναι, Θεέ και Κύριε μου, βοήθησέ με ώστε να μην επιζητώ

Να με παρηγορούν, αλλά να παρηγορώ.

Να με καταλαβαίνουν, αλλά να καταλαβαίνω.

Να με αγαπούν, αλλά να αγαπώ.

Γιατί δίνοντας, λαμβάνουμε,

συγχωρώντας, συγχωρούμαστε,

και πεθαίνοντας, γεννιόμαστε στην αιώνια ζωή.

Η επιστολή προς Θεσσαλονικείς 5:16 λέει: «Να είστε χαρούμενοι. Να προσεύχεστε αδιάκοπα»

1 Thessalonians 5:16 says; "Rejoice Always, pray without ceasing". I encourage everyone to pray daily. Through prayer Orthodox faithful find strength in trials, peace in turmoil, and joy in communion with God. In the end, prayer is not only an expression of faith but also a pathway to eternal life in God's kingdom.

Σας παρακινώ να προσεύχεστε καθημερινά. Με την προσευχή οι Ορθόδοξοι πιστοί βρίσκουν δύναμη στις δοκιμασίες της ζωής, ειρήνη στην αναταραχή και χαρά στην επικοινωνία με τον Θεό. Στην τελική, η προσευχή δεν είναι μόνο μια έκφραση της πίστης αλλά ο δρόμος για την αιώνια ζωή στην Βασιλεία των Ουρανών.

Now more than ever, personalized advice matters



The L/A Wealth Management Group

John J. Anderson, CFP®
Senior Vice President
Wealth Management Advisor
980.282.1738

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
6000 Fairview Road
Suite 600
Charlotte, NC 28210
704.705.3332



Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BoFA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BoFA Corp.

Investment products: **Are Not FDIC Insured** **Are Not Bank Guaranteed** **May Lose Value**

The Bull Symbol and Merrill are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation.
CFP Board owns the marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, and CFP® (with plaque design) in the U.S.
© 2023 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

MAP5272720 | AD-07-23-0196.B | 470944PM-0123 | 07/2023



- Design & Layout
- Stationary
- Brochures
- Newsletters

(704) 529-6606

Diane Solomon Gilbert

4612-B South Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28209
fax (704) 529-6616

info@copycatsouth.com
www.copycatsouth.com

A NEWS ROUNDUP by The Voice Staff

Elections 2024

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, Holy Trinity held its Parish Elections. Voters were electing candidates to fill five Parish Council and two Foundation seats. The five Parish Council members whose terms ended in 2024 were Dimitri Dounis, George T. Karres, Dean Peroulas, Christina Skiouris, and Stacey Vastis. Only one of the five chose to run for another three year term (Skiouris). The ballot included five additional candidates: Maria Pribas Diamantis, Athanasios Georgalis, Nickolas Goanos, Penelope L. Hefner, and Constantine Moschopoulos.

Dr. George Andrinopoulos and George Zogzas (guest editor of The Voice) completed their five year terms on the Foundation this year. Trustees must stay off the Board for at least one year before running again. Two candidates were nominated to fill the two open seats. Those candidates were George Andrews and Eleni Saunders.



As in the recent past, parishioners could cast their vote electronically when they appeared in person on Election Day on the Holy Trinity campus. Elections Committee chair Leonidas Kyriazis and the committee conducted an orderly and smooth election process.

Results from the elections are at right.

PARISH COUNCIL RESULTS

Option	Votes	
 Diamantis, Maria Pribas - Διαμάντη, Μαρία Πρίμπα	21%	(162)
 Hefner, Penelope L - Χέφνερ, Πηνελόπη Λ	20%	(159)
 Skiouris, Christina K - Σκίουρη, Χριστίνα Κ	17%	(133)
 Goanos, Nickolas - Γκοάνος, Νικόλαος	15%	(117)
 Moschopoulos, Constantine M - Μοσχόπουλος, Κωνσταντίνος Μ	14%	(106)
 Georgalis, Athanasios - Γεώργαλης, Αθανάσιος	13%	(100)

FOUNDATION RESULTS

Option	Votes	
 Andrews, George A - Ανδρεανόπουλος, Γεώργιος	55%	(184)
 Saunders, Eleni S - Σώντερς, Ελένη Σ	45%	(151)

Meet the New P. C. Members

The Voice asked the new members a few questions. Their edited responses follow.

Maria Pribas Diamantis



Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

A. I consider it a privilege and an important responsibility to serve our community via the Parish Council. My parents immigrated to Charlotte and joined Holy Trinity in the 1950's/60's. I was baptized and married at Holy Trinity and my children have also been baptized and actively involved at Holy Trinity.

Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?

A. My personal goal for serving the community is to help grow and move our community to the "next level" for future generations. I believe my professional experience in Project Management and Process Improvement consulting will be helpful in reaching those goals.

Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?

A. Communication and stakeholder engagement are critical to making successful changes which are important and long-lasting. If parishioners have feedback or ideas for improvements, I am always willing to listen.

Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?

A. I have not served on parish council before.

Nicholas Goanos



Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

The reason I sought to serve on the Council is because our Community has always supported my family and me, as well as others. I hope that, via this small measure of service, I can help repay some of that support.

Penelope L. Hefner



Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

A. I have been a member of Holy Trinity since I was born. Some of my best memories are from my time growing up- attempting to play sports, going on church trips, having amazing Sunday School teachers, and learning to Greek dance. I want to ensure that my children have a similar experience and feel connected to our church and culture.

Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?

A. I want to be helpful in whatever way most benefits the church. Given that I have four young children (all boys- ages 6 to 11), I have a particular interest in ensuring we provide quality instruction and experience for our children.

Q. What opportunities and challenges do you see?

A. It can be challenging to navigate maintaining tradition while being open to new ideas. I hope I am able to listen to all sides and find a way to get everyone on board. I know it won't be easy to fulfill my role while working full-time and having four kids, but I have the support of my amazing husband, Scott, and the rest of my family (who make everything I do possible!).

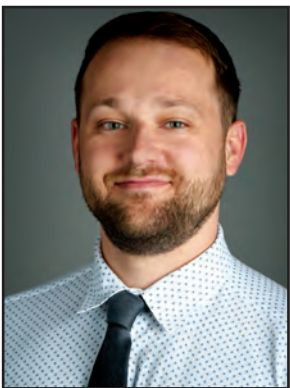
Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?

A. I would love to hear from all members, from all walks of life. As helpful as opinions can be, it is even more helpful to come with potential solutions.

Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?

A. I have never been on the parish council before, but I have served on several nonprofit boards and have served as the pre-K Sunday school teacher for Holy Trinity.

Constantine Moschopoulos



Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?

A. I have been blessed to be a member of the church, its community, and watch it grow over the years since I have been in Charlotte. I wanted an opportunity to further serve Holy Trinity and its parish as it continues to grow and am excited to play a small part in this.

Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?

A. Under the leadership of Father Jonathan I would like to assist the church in its ongoing efforts to help the most vulnerable and needy of the community. Ensuring the Church has all of the resources it needs to meet its goals, both short and long term, will be an important part of that.

Q. What opportunities and challenges do you see?

A. I see a lot of wonderful opportunities for growth, as God has blessed our church with such a great and energetic community. I feel this is unique to this parish and am excited to see the wonderful things that can be made possible as the community comes together.

As in any large organization there are realistic challenges, financial constraints, disagreements in direction etc. Having the blessing of such strong leadership in Father Jonathan, a united parish and common vision/goals should help overcome these obstacles.

Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?

A. Continued involvement in the church!

Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?

A. I have not served on a parish council before, although I have volunteered for Holy Trinity as well as my prior parish, St Katherine's in Falls Church Virginia.

YOUTH NEWS *by Sarah Vastis*Youth Ministry Highlights:
October to December 2024

The past three months have been a vibrant and exciting season for our youth ministries. From meaningful milestones to festive celebrations, our youth have been actively engaged in faith, fellowship, and fun, both on and off the Holy Trinity Campus.

Athletics: The final months of the year wrap up our Fall soccer season while leading right into our 2024-2025 basketball season. We held an end-of-season soccer party at Hellenic Park on November 16, where the kids enjoyed bounce houses and running around the park, and the parents enjoyed each other's company. Medals were distributed and sights were set on the Spring season.



Our youngest girls' team (U6 division), coached by Sydney Ballas



Our oldest boys' team (U19 division), coached by George Karres and Gus Liagas

On November 8-10, our junior and senior basketball teams traveled to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Norfolk, VA for their annual tournament, and our 11th grade boys took the senior division win.



GOYAns and a few coaches in good spirits after the senior division championship win.

On October 26, the GOYAns met at Elatos Park for their annual bonfire. While the evening's rain kept us from football and soccer in the field, the GOYAns were still able to gather around a warm chiminea for a spiritual talk with Father Christian followed by a variety of group games under the pavilion.



Father Christian Siskos teaching the kids about the Jesus Prayer

At left: Natalia Konstantinou, Andrew Karres, and Katerina Brikas dressed in costume



Below: Angela Christodoulis leading GOYAns in a game.



GOYA

In November, Holy Trinity hosted a GOYA Greek Night, which was a beautiful evening of dancing and delicious food, bringing kids from multiple communities together for a fun night of fellowship. At the end of the month, those in town for the Thanksgiving holiday met at Providence Hills Clubhouse for a cozy meal and a laid-back night of games and fellowship.



Above: DJ Tommy Karas prepping the Fr. "C" Hall for a night of dancing.

Below: A cozy evening at the Providence Hills Clubhouse during the Thanksgiving holiday.



Finally, on December 14, we met for a GOYA Christmas party, which included a gingerbread house contest, a gift exchange, and a Gen Z reading of the Nativity Story by Father Christian. A good time was had by all.



YOUTH NEWS by Sarah Vastis

Hope & Joy

On October 11, our Hope & Joy fellowship group enjoyed a beautiful Friday evening at Hall Family Farm. The kids enjoyed pizza and s'mores, hayrides, and more. On October 29, we held our annual Fall Festival. Holy Trinity parishioners of all ages dressed in costume and enjoyed crafts, games, and treats. This year's additions of a dunk booth and glow maze were a huge hit.



Above: Some of our Hope & Joy children roasting marshmallows at the Farm.

Below: James Vastis getting ready for his turn in the dunk booth.



Right: Our 2nd graders participating in a donut-on-a-string eating contest. No hands!

Below, right: Andi Vastis and Niko Vastis posing at the photo booth.

Below, left: Lia Katsaros, Georgia Hester, and Vasiliki Elefandis in their costumes.



Winter Youth Rally

Winter Youth Rally: On December 27-30, our GOYAns traveled to Atlanta, GA for the annual Winter Youth Rally, at which our youth competed in tournaments for basketball, volleyball, and Bible Bowl. Team Skenteris snatched a first-place win in the girls' basketball tournament, and Team Couchell took second place in the boys' basketball junior division. Eight of our players also received All-Star awards.



Above: Team Skenteris with a W.

Below: Team Couchell with a 2nd place finish



2024 WYR All Stars:

Pictured below, left to right: John Michael Russell, Kosta Athanas, Maria Kakouras, Thomas Kampiziones, Andie Koutsokalis, Angela Christodoulis, Nikoleta Doulaveris, Toley Bisbikis.



Looking ahead: As we move into the new year, I am excited for more opportunities for our youth to grow in faith, build friendships, and create cherished memories. Thank you to all parents, volunteers, and ministry leaders who made these events possible.



December 27, 2024: All 118 WYR participants ready to load the buses to Atlanta.

SUNDAY SCHOOL by Sarah Vastis

On October 6, our third graders received their very own Orthodox Study Bibles during a special presentation by their Sunday School teachers, marking an important step in their spiritual journey. Teachers Dora Russell and Joann Christodoulis will begin showing the children how to use the Bible during their studies, both in class and at home.

On November 17, Sunday School students participated in the annual Sunday of Service, during which they completed multiple service projects to benefit the Dilworth Soup Kitchen and Roof Above.

The year ended with a combined Sunday School and Greek School Christmas Pageant Celebration, where our youth presented the story of the Nativity to parishioners in the Cathedral. The performance featured English and Greek carols beautifully sung by a youth choir led by Yannoula Kakouras. A reception followed in the Fr. "C" Hall.



October 6, 2024: The 3rd Grade Bible Presentation. Pictured front row (left to right): Alexandros Vardalos, Tina Stavrinou, Amalia Stathopoulos, Lia Katsaros, Coco Katsanos, Christianna Housiadas, Andrew Holland, Georgia Hester, Vasiliki Elefandis; Back row (left to right): Joann Christodoulis, Dora Russell, Father Jonathan Resmini, Father Christian Siskos



Sunday of Service

Clockwise from left: 8th grade boys and their teacher making sandwiches for Roof Above.

Our PreK students and their teachers packing socks with homemade cards for the Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

The 5th & 6th grade students packing care packages for the Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

12th grade students ready to take some of the sandwiches over to Roof Above.





Above: Father Jonathan, Father Christian, and Deacon George with our amazing youth after the Christmas Pageant, celebrating their heartfelt performance and the joy of the Nativity season.

At left: PreK students dressed for the pageant.

Our thanks for the Poinsettias in the Cathedral during the Nativity Season made in Memory of and in Honor of the following:

In Memory Of:			
Eftihia Anastasi	Pavlos Drosinis	Pete J. Mahairas	Cassie Anne Thomas
Soterios & Helen Andrews	Angelo & Irene Evangelatos	Mary & Peter Milliones	Alexandros Toufekoulas
Harry Andros	Ekaterini Georgiou	Mary & Peter Milliones	Georgios Tsiaras
Andrew Bakis	Nikolaos Georgiou	Ed & Christine Morrison	Christopher Tsoulos
Shannon Bell	Konstantinos Georgiou	Papapitsios Family	Dimitra Tsoulos
Christina P. Besseas	Malama Gregor	Angelo Pappas	Dimitrios Tsoulos
Theodora H Besseas	Theodore Gregor	George T. & Ioanna B. Pappas	Evangelos Tsoulos
Theodore & Christina Besseas	Athanasios Holevas	George & Chris Pappas	Georgios Tsoulos
Bisbikis Family	Athanasios & Yiannoula	John & Tula Pappas	Sotirios Tsoulos
Tim Burch	Housiadas	Angela Sophia Panos	
George Burlos	Bill & Louise Jackson	Panos Photopoulos	<u>In Health Of/Honor Of:</u>
Demetrios Collis	Lambrakis Family	Anastasios & Maria Pitsikoulis	Charlotte Black Car Service
George Copsis	Harry Karras	Crist A. & Marie Pitsikoulis	Eleni Demopoulos
Billy Dean	Jeanne Karras	Panayiotis Pitsikoulis	Vasilia Holevas
Kostas Demopoulos	Ronnie Katopodis	Smaragda Pitsikoulis	Nikolaos & Yianoula Kastanas
Konstantinos & Kyparissia	Dimitrios Katsanos	Georgios & Vasiliki Psilopoulos	Gerasimos Pistiolis
Doufekias	Thomas Kofinas	Evelyn Salop	Tula Pistiolis
Ioannis Drosinis	Peter Koutroumanos	John Salop	Panagiotis, Maria & Georgia
	George Livas	Panagiotis Sikiotis	Sarris
	Sophia Livas	The Sugar Family	



WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto and Lisa Giotis

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me" then He took them in his arms and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16

Preschool Update: A Wonderful Year

The preschool is off to a fantastic start, and the children have quickly settled into their daily routines. In addition to focusing on academics, our teachers are committed to teaching the children how to work together in a group setting. They learn valuable life skills such as sharing, taking turns, being kind to their friends, expressing themselves with words, following directions, and adhering to class rules. Our teachers work diligently to ensure each child is progressing academically, socially, and emotionally, while also fostering independence and confidence in their abilities. We strive to create a warm and loving environment where we all work together as one school family.

October: Fall Fun and Fire Safety

In October, we explored the beauty of the Fall season—the changing leaves, cooler temperatures, farms and animals, the fall harvest, and how animals begin to prepare for winter. October is also Fire Safety Month. We focused on fire safety by discussing how to stay safe during a fire, practicing “stop, drop, and roll,” and learning how to call “911.” We also held a fire drill to practice safety procedures. The children always look forward to their class fall parties and trick-or-treating to different church offices at the end of the month. Additionally, we’ve been attending weekday services and receiving Holy Communion for those children who

we always take time to reflect on our blessings. Our greatest blessing at preschool, of course, is our children. We are incredibly grateful to the parents for sharing their children with us and for the unwavering love and support they show to our staff and school. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated group of teachers who genuinely care about every child’s success, both in preschool and beyond.

The Preschool also counts on the support of the Preschool Board, our Priests, the Parish Council, and the entire Holy Trinity community.

December: Celebrating Christmas and the Nativity

In December, we focused on the true meaning of the Christmas season—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the story of the Nativity. The children enjoyed seeing the school Christmas tree decorated with ornaments they had made. They also decorated paper plates, which were used to create a large Christmas tree displayed in our hallway next to the Nativity scene. This month, we had a special visitor in the preschool office—the Elf on the Shelf—who made his way around the office and school, bringing holiday cheer.

On December 18th and 19th, we wrapped up the month with a day of fun and celebration. The children enjoyed Pajama Day, reading the Nativity story, watching a Christmas video, and having their class Christmas parties.



have been baptized. In October, we also launched our new initiative, “Our Faith with Father.” Twice a month, Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian lead religious lessons with the children.

November: Thanksgiving and Gratitude

In November, our focus shifted to Thanksgiving, a time to reflect on the importance of being thankful for our family, friends, and the many blessings we have in our lives. It was also an opportunity to reinforce the values of good manners, being thoughtful and appreciative, and using words like “please” and “thank you.” The children especially enjoyed learning about the holiday through a Thanksgiving video and a special snack on November 25th and 26th.

During the Thanksgiving holiday,

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

Preschool Fall registration will be opening very soon (see dates below). Contact one of the Co-Directors at the numbers below for more information.

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

January 15th (Wednesday) –
Currently Enrolled Students and Siblings
February 1st (Saturday) – Orthodox Community
February 15th (Saturday) – All Others

Co-Directors Contact Information:

Lisa Giotis *704-807-5926

Maria Kleto *704-564-5842

preschool@hto.org or 704-333-4961

SIGNS IN THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE STARS

by V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas

As winter heralds the beginning of a new season and climate change, so do our clocks, watches and variety of time pieces. We accordingly “fall back” an hour so as to gain an additional morning sunlight hour for commercial productivity. This is a daunting effect on our psychology as we surrender to long winter nights that do not incline us to extraordinary outdoor activity. It really becomes for some a mental “well-being challenge.” The human spirit has a visceral need for light. The GOSPEL message enunciates this vividly when our Lord Jesus says “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” A vigil lamp, a candle, or any other light-bearing instrument has been our safety valve from childhood. Did we not all desire before sleep to have but a bit of light in the room to chase away the nocturnal shadows? The light of Christ reflected on the wall icon assured us of God’s ever-Presence in our slumber and awakening.

Venturing through these shortest of winter “days” where darkness envelopes us unawares, we may suffer loneliness, anxiety, and grievous abandonment. Some may be aware of the phenomenon titled “sun-downer syndrome” suffered by elders with increasing dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease. Even here, the flesh responds to the unwelcomed darkness that extinguishes the light of blessed assurance. Here, the mind and spirit of the person desperately reach for the unwaning light: THE CHRIST! In the weeks of festive rejoicing of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany, we are urged by the Holy Spirit to overcome discouragement of any kind. Reflect in quietude the family members, friends and neighbors who are intrinsic to your life and welfare. Gaze with awe upon the magisterium of God’s natural creation surrounding you: the trees, birds, clouds, and snowflakes that frost your window. God is alive and embracing you intimately. Open yourself to His PRESENCE!

The human specie is instructed to attend the creative power of God present for us in all places and time. The Lord’s eternal creative power is evident in the signs of the sun, moon, stars and YOU. Yes! You are an essential piece of the spiritual enigma held as a mystery of His constant presence in our lives. Recognize His handiwork in the natural world. Respect and have deserved reverence for his divine creative spirit of The Creator. You are part of the fabric, design and wonder of His lifegiving force. Love God! Love your familial and neighbor intimates! However, do not forget nor neglect to also love yourself. If only for a fleeting moment, find a quiet place and ignite the luminous peace of heart, mind and spirit that dwells within. Become now and ever-more the mirrored light of divine love for everyone at arms reach!

Note: V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas is president of the Greek Orthodox Retired Clergy of America. This article appeared in the November 2024 Issue of The Epistle. Learn more at www.rca.goarch.org.



CAROLINA FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC



Move Well to Live Well!



*Complete
Chiropractic Care!*

Noninvasive Decompression
Therapy, Massage Therapy,
Cold Laser & Acupuncture,
Rehabilitation / Exercise
Counseling

*The Starting Point
of Your Future*

704-321-0656
carolinafamilychiropractic.com

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT *by Olga Yamalis*

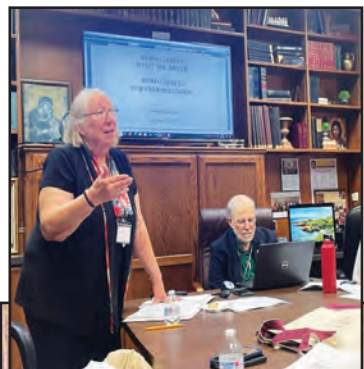
What a busy year 2024 was for the HTC Choir! In addition to our regular weekly Liturgies, holiday services, and Yiasou Festival performances, we participated in several exciting extra events that made this year especially memorable. These events included attending two out-of-state summer conferences, hosting the Atlanta Metropolis Annual Choir Conference, and performing at the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) event in Charlotte.

Our HTC Choir Director, Lucy Pappadakes, represented our choir at the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, which took place in conjunction with the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress from June 30 to July 4 in San Diego, California.

Olga Yamalis and Georgia Petsas also took part in the 77th Annual Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians (MEFGOX) conference, held from July 25–28 in Southgate, MI, as part of the Detroit Metropolis.



In September, we had the honor of hosting the 46th Annual Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (SFGOCM) Choir Conference for our Atlanta Metropolis, held from September 19–22. This conference brought together representatives from the Boston, Detroit, and Atlanta Metropolises. The guest conductor for the event was Christina Wynn from Charleston, SC, with guest organist Niko Gonatos from Tarpon Springs, FL. The workshop clinicians included Jessica Suchy-Pilalis from Potsdam, NY; Stan and Nancy Takis from Lansing, MI; and George Theodossiou from Brockton, MA.



Our HTC Choir also participated in the 2024 IOCC “Harmony of Hope” event on October 26, held at St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Charlotte. We performed the Hymn of Kassiani and Agni Parthene, conducted by our very own Lucy Pappadakes.



Looking ahead, 2025 is shaping up to be another exciting year for the HTC Choir. We would love for you to join our choir family—everyone is welcome!



Visit qcc2025.com for all the information on registering a team, becoming a sponsor, and more.

An Epistle Reading

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2*

Shop the
HOSANNA BOOKSTORE

Find books, bibles, icons, gifts and more for adults and children to enhance your personal journey in our faith.

Are you a writer?
A photographer?
Skilled in the use of InDesign?

The Voice, your community publication, can benefit from your time and talent.

Email EDITOR at
voice@htgo.org to learn more.

Announcing
Carolinas Commercial Brokerage

A Charlotte based firm

We help clients:

- ✓ Buy and sell commercial property
- ✓ Buy and sell existing restaurant space
- ✓ Investments through 1031 tax deferred transactions [1031 transactions are handled by Hazlehurst & Blake PLLC law firm].
- ✓ Provide free valuation of your restaurant business
- ✓ In person private consultations
- ✓ Registered to MLS for residential needs
- ✓ Speak fluent Greek

Contact me today to discuss your property needs.

Tony Tsurunakis
443-226-9906
AdoniosT20@Gmail.com



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE by Nick and Carmen Kallelis

AS WE WELCOME 2025, it's a time to reflect on the events of the past year. At the beginning of 2024, the success of Holy Trinity's 100-year celebration was still fresh in our minds. Thanks to the Centennial Committee, this milestone event was a tremendous success. To preserve those memories, we had the opportunity to purchase the Centennial Book, which highlights the events of 2023. These books are still available and serve as a valuable treasure, keeping future generations informed about the accomplishments of the past and reminding us of our responsibility to continue the growth of our church community.

As 2024 unfolded, it was rewarding to see the generosity from 2023 carry into the new year, with record levels of financial support and volunteerism. This was a significant achievement, especially as the church works towards becoming self-supporting—relying less on festival funds and encouraging more parishioner involvement in church ministries and activities.

The start of 2025 presents an opportunity to build on the successes of the past. As we enter the next century of Holy Trinity, our Vision Committee is working to establish goals that will honor the vision of the 33 families who introduced Orthodoxy to the Charlotte community in 1923.

The success of our future plans depends on the full support of everyone in our church community. We need all capable individuals to volunteer in our ministries and committees. The financial support shown over the past two years demonstrates our commitment to the success of our beloved church. This has inspired the Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee to present a

self-supporting budget for 2025, which was approved by parishioners at the Fall General Assembly. Now, it's our collective responsibility to support this commitment of one million dollars and help the church become fully self-sustaining.

With just over one thousand families in our church community, our 2024 stewardship campaign set an ambitious goal of \$100 per family per month. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we reached this target for the first time, bringing us closer to our vision of self-sufficiency. The 2025 budget is achievable, but it can only be met if we all contribute—giving back to the church that provides us with Liturgies, Holy Sacraments, education, youth development, counseling, ministries, and social events. Our educational programs are designed to nurture our youth, adults, and those new to Orthodoxy. We also strive to address the needs of our members and the greater Charlotte community.

The success of Holy Trinity depends on our ability to fulfill the stewardship commitment of one million dollars, which was approved at the General Assembly. Let's make 2025 the year that, when we look back on our accomplishments, we can proudly say that Holy Trinity became a self-supporting church with record volunteerism.

May 2025 be a blessed year for Holy Trinity and every member of our church community.

"Be sure to do what you should, for then you will enjoy the personal satisfaction of having done your work well, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else."
— Galatians 6:4

PHILOPTOCHOS by Pamela Bostian

As we bid farewell to 2024 and step into the new year, our Chapter has been busy making a difference. Here are some highlights from our recent activities:

Holiday Bake Sale

Our annual Holiday Bake Sale was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of our members, volunteers, and the generous support of our community. From delicious pastries to savory treats, the overwhelming support made this year's sale one of our most successful yet. The funds raised will significantly support our ongoing initiatives, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time and efforts to make this event such a success!

Holiday Events

The holiday season kicked off with our annual Christmas Party, held in Father "C" Hall on Tuesday, December 10th. Attendees enjoyed a delightful Christmas dinner, which made for a memorable evening of fellowship. On Tuesday, December 17th, members had the special opportunity to visit the Billy Graham Library for the "Christmas at the Library" celebration. This season also saw us reaching out to our homebound members. We visited them with gifts and holiday cheer, ensuring they felt loved and valued during this festive time.

Feed the Hungry Initiative

As part of our Feed the Hungry initiative, our Chapter sponsored a local family through the Union County Christmas Bureau. The family consisted of a couple and their five children. We received the children's Christmas wish lists and set up a Signup Genius for donations. In addition to gifts, we provided the family with a holiday meal through gift cards to local grocery stores. All gifts were thoughtfully wrapped and brought to our Christmas party, where they were delivered to the family's home on December 11th. We are so grateful for the generosity of those who contributed to this cause. This initiative truly captured the spirit of the season—giving back and making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

**Classroom Central - Operation Classroom Supply Drive**

Our Chapter also supported the Classroom Supply Drive benefiting Classroom Central. From notebooks to pencils, every donation helped provide students with the essential supplies they need to succeed. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this important cause!

Board and General Meetings

Board Meetings were held on Thursday, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th. General Meetings were held on Tuesday, October 8th, and November 12th.

In 2024, our Chapter donated over \$24,000 to support various charitable causes, including helping parishioners in need. As we reflect on these achievements, we eagerly look ahead to 2025, excited and hopeful to continue making a meaningful difference in our community.



Perfect For
Game Days,
Birthdays
& Mondays.



Catering with Chick-fil-A is easy! We offer a wide range of options from our signature Chick-fil-A Chicken Nugget Trays to our wonderful selection of Boxed Meals. Keep in mind that we also cater our breakfast, so if you are having an early meeting, don't forget Chick-fil-A!

Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



Bank of America
101 South Tryon St
(704) 344-0222



Cotswold
4431 Randolph Road
(704) 366-0073



South End
3015 South Boulevard
(704) 665-6371

AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

Copsis - Politis



Nicole Copsis and Nik Politis were married on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. A reception followed at Quail Hollow Country Club. Nicole is the daughter of Chris and Lisa Copsis. Nik is the son of Deacon George and Koula Politis. The couple has delayed their honeymoon and reside in Charlotte.

Levantis - Vlahos



Sophia Levantis and Christos Vlahos were married on May 29, 2024 in Vari, Greece. Sophia is the daughter of Stamatis and Stacey Levantis. Christos is the son of Vivian and Virgil Baucom and George Vlahos. The wedding ceremony and reception were held at the Island Art and Taste venue. The couple honeymooned island hopping to Naxos, Paros, and Santorini. They reside in Charlotte.

Dean – Reep

Ashley Dean and Ethan Reep were married on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Ashley is the daughter of Joyce and Billy Dean. Ethan is the son of Jennifer and Thad Reep. The wedding ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. A reception followed at Pine Island Country Club. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico and now reside in Mount Holly, NC.



McBride – Vlahos

Caliope “Callie” McBride and Eleftherios “Evan” Vlahos were married on Saturday, October 12, 2024. The wedding ceremony and reception took place at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta, GA. Callie is the daughter of Thomas and Carolyn McBride III. Evan is the son of Vivian and Virgil Baucom, and George Vlahos. The couple has postponed plans for a honeymoon, and reside in San Antonio, TX.



Duffy - Goudes



Nicholas Joseph Goudes and Gillian Agnes Duffy were married on November 16, 2024 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Charleston, SC with Rev. Fr. Aristotle Damaskos presiding. The groom is the son of Vera Goudes of Charlotte, NC and grandson of the late Nicholas and Alma Goudes. The bride is the daughter of Colin Duffy and Virginia Conroy of Rockville Centre, NY. The reception was held at Harborside East in Mount Pleasant, SC. They currently reside in Summerville, SC.

Sheltra - Summerford

Tyler Marie Sheltra and Nicholas John Summerford were married on Saturday, November 23, 2024. The ceremony took place at The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Orleans, LA. The reception followed at The Elms Mansion. Tyler is the daughter of Linay and Michael Sheltra. Nicholas is the son of Tula and Allen Summerford. The couple took a “minimoon” to London and are planning a 2 week trip to Greece in the summer of 2025. They reside in Charlotte.



REMINDER:

Please complete and submit your 2025 Stewardship Forms. Don't delay. The information you provide is vital to developing the best future for the community.

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.



Waxhaw
704.243.2024

www.stackskitchen.com

Matthews
704.841.2025



Ritsa Neary
(704) 845-6229

Koufeto

Favors & Lambathes for Baptisms & Weddings

Stefana • Baptistika

Hand Made Specialties

R & M Enterprises

3347 Darlington Rd. Matthews, NC 28105

In Memoriam



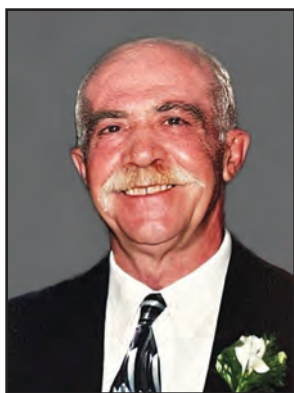
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25



PANAGIOTA DOUNIS, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, December 15th.

Panagiota is survived by her husband, Vasilios of 60 years; her son, Dimitris (Effie); daughter, Georgia (George); grandson, Vasilios (Allison); granddaughter, Christina; great-grandson, Dimitris; sister, Matina in Greece; nephews, Panagiotis Pelonis (Maria), Dimitris Dounis (Vasiliki), George Kandrevas, Louie Raptis (Brenda), Gus Raptis (Debbie), Jim Raptis, George Mytilinaiou; nieces, Helen Mclean (Brian), Maria Pelonis,

Aleka Tsilikas (Kosta), Mina David (Dan), Aspasia Mytilinaiou, as well as several cousins in the US and Greece.



ATHANASIOS IOANNIS KANELLOS, age 80, passed unto the Lord on Monday, October 14th.

Athanasios is survived by his wife of 52 years, Konstantia 'Tula' Kakavitsas Kanellos; his children, Vivi Pistolis and her husband, George, Sandy Sklar and her husband, Paul, John Kanellos and his wife, Ioulia Drosou and grandchildren, Billy, Tommy, Athan, Konstantina, Mason and Ella. Also surviving are his brothers in Greece, Konstantinos Kanellos and his wife, Panagiota, Vasilios Kanellos and his wife, Panayiota and his many nieces, nephews and godchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Ioannis and Paraskevi Kanellos.



VASILIKI "KOULA" HONDROS KANOS, age 77, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, December 21st.

Vasiliki is preceded in death by her husband, James Dennis Kanos & son, Deno James Kanos. She is survived by her brother James Hondros (Elaine), and sister Maria Pappas (Jimmy); son, Dennis Kanos (Collins) and her daughter Maria Kay Kanos Phillips (James); ten grandchildren, Vickie Kanos, Patricia Welliver (Brandon), Victoria Escoto (Derik), Austin Phillips (Kayton), Katherine Kanos, Martha Phillips, Demetri Kanos, Alex Phillips, Madison Kanos and Emerson Kanos; and two great grandchildren, Adriana and Sophia; many nieces and nephews and God children.



JOHN PEROULAS, age 91, passed unto the Lord on Friday, December 6th.

John is survived by his wife of 64 years, Tina Peroulas; their children, Jeannie Hines (David), Patricia Peroulas, and Dean (Stacie); six grandchildren, Jordan, Ellie, Shane, Katerina, Yianni, and Taki; his sisters, Theodora Balaouras and Georgia Rigas, and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Konstantinos and Eugenia Peroulas; his sister, Eleni Asimakopoulos, and his brothers, George Peroulas and Eleutherios "Larry" Peroulas.



GEORGE TSOUROUDIAKAKIS, age 59, passed unto the Lord on Sunday, November 10th.

George is survived by his mother, Dimitra (Toula) Tsouroudiakakis and his sister, Sandy Vlahos and her husband, Danny and their children Taxe, Panos and Demi as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Panagiotis Tsouroudiakakis.

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of Nicholas Demetrios Katsanos. May his memory be eternal.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Lillian B. Pappas. May her memory be eternal.



Kenneth W. Poe
Funeral Service

1321 Berkeley Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204
704-641-7606 www.KennethPoeServices.com

"Dedicated to Serving the Greek Orthodox Community"



Andrew Bahanovich, Funeral Director, has faithfully served the Greek Community, while being a valued staff member of Kenneth Poe Services.



FAMILY OWNEDTraditional Burials.... Pre-Planning Available

Carolina
Funeral Service
&
Cremation Center



5505 Monroe Rd
Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023

www.carolinafuneral.com

Dignity Afforability Simplicity

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director

Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας

FIRST DAY OF GREEK SCHOOL BLESSING

Ο ιερέας Ιωνάθαν Ρεσμίνη ευλόγησε τους μαθητές και τους ευχήθηκε καλή πρόοδο στην πλουσιότερη γλώσσα του κόσμου, τη γλώσσα των Ευαγγελίων μας και τη μητέρα των γλωσσών, τη γλώσσα την Ελληνική. Με 70 μαθητών θα λειτουργήσει φέτος το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο.

Στιγμιότυπα από τον Αγιασμό έναρξης της νέας σχολικής χρονιάς στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο του Καθεδρικού μας
Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος 2024-2025



OXI DAY 2024

Με μεγαλοπρέπεια και ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια γιόρτασαν και πάλι φέτος την επέτειο της 28^{ης} Οκτωβρίου 1940 οι 70 μαθητές του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού Σχολείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος. Μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί, γονείς και πλήθος φίλων τους, ανταποκρινόμενοι στην πρόσκληση του σχολείου, τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους την θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση και βροντοφώνησαν για άλλη μια φορά το μεγάλο ιστορικό «ΟΧΙ», το ηρωικό κατόρθωμα που, ευτυχώς, άλλαξε τη ροή της παγκόσμιας ιστορίας.

Ο προϊστάμενος π. Ιωνάθαν Ρεσμίνη κήρυξε την έναρξη των εκδηλώσεων με προσευχή. Αφού τραγουδήσαμε όλοι μαζί τους εθνικούς ύμνους Ελλάδος και Αμερικής, στη συνέχεια οι μαθητές όλων των τάξεων τραγούδησαν αξέχαστα τραγούδια της εποχής εκείνης και έκαναν μια ιστορική αναδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του έπους του '40 με απαγγελίες ποιημάτων και παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Θερμότατους χαιρετισμούς απηύθυναν επίσης η διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου κυρία Ολυμπία και η πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Δασκάλων κ. Stephanie Kaltsounis. Ευχαριστούμε για την υποστήριξη προς τα παιδιά μας. Και του χρόνου!



Christmas Celebration: Greek School and Sunday School

Στιγμιότυπα από τη χαρούμενη Χριστουγεννιάτικη γιορτή των μαθητών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος. Οι Μαθητές, οι Ιερείς, οι Εκπαιδευτικοί, ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και η Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος εύχονται σε Όλους τους Γονείς και σε Όλα τα Μέλη της Ευρύτερης Ελληνοαμερικανικής μας Κοινότητας Καλές Γιορτές και Καλή Χρονιά με Υγεία, Ειρήνη, Δημιουργία και Αισιοδοξία. Επίσης, το Ελληνικό Σχολείο κέρδισε το φλουρί της βασιλόπιτας για το φετινό χρόνο!





GET SOCIAL WITH HOLY TRINITY

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte>



@holytrinitycharlotte



Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral



Showmars
southern • fresh • greek

Built on family roots, Showmars' founder George Couchell combined the Greek flavors of his childhood with his love of the Carolinas 40 years ago in 1982. A pioneer of the fast-casual concept, Showmars has something for every guest who walks through its doors, from its wild-caught World Famous Fish Sandwich to its original Pita Burgers™, traditional Gyros, and fresh Greek Salads. *Southern, Fresh, Greek*, that's Showmars' signature and promise.

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [showmars.com](#)



704-641-9996

Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos

12104 Copper Way Suite 100 | Charlotte, NC 28277

Website: www.homes4Charlotte.com

Email: dkourakos1@gmail.com

Facebook: [SellingCharlotteHomes-Dimitra Tula Kourakos](#)



**The HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL**
CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATIVE
ALBUM

*Bring home our parish's history and the
commemoration of the centennial celebrations.*

♦♦ Available Only on Sundays | \$100 ♦♦



The Best Relationships Start With Trust

Business | Commercial | Personal | Mortgage

HomeTrust Bank has always been about
relationships. Let us help you prepare for
what's next.



Kosta Koutsokalis

Associate Branch Manager

NMLS ID# 2064386

6310 Fairview Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210

704.972.7251

htb.com/southpark

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender



240610-1234019591