



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 85  
NO. 04

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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600 EAST BLVD

CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

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FIRST QUARTER  
2025



## The 2025 Parish Council

*After the completion of the Divine Liturgy, the members of the Parish Council were sworn in. Pictured above, L-R, Gus A. Pappas, Serafim Pistiolis, Georgette Boukidis, Constantine Moschopoulos, Maria Diamantis, Fr. Christian, Roula Skenteris, Fr. Jonathan, Kathy Kanellopoulos, Hunter Clarke, Vaki Karampourniotis, Christina Skiouris, John Mahairas, Tina Apostolopoulos, and Penelope Hefner. Not pictured: Drew Dudley, Nick Goanos*

### Our Vision

With the Grace of God, to provide a loving and caring Community where all belong to Christ, through worship, sacramental life, everyday spiritual discipline, sanctification, education, witness and fellowship.

### Our Mission

is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

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HOLY TRINITY  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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## THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers:

There has been much activity at Holy Trinity in the first quarter of this year and we have captured some of it in this issue. The new Parish Council was sworn in and went straight to work. They held the Spring Parish Assembly on March 2. Read the details on pages 4 and 5.

Our Greek school (p. 11), Preschool (p. 10), and Sunday school (p.6) are providing our children with a positive, stimulating, curriculum. See their reports inside.

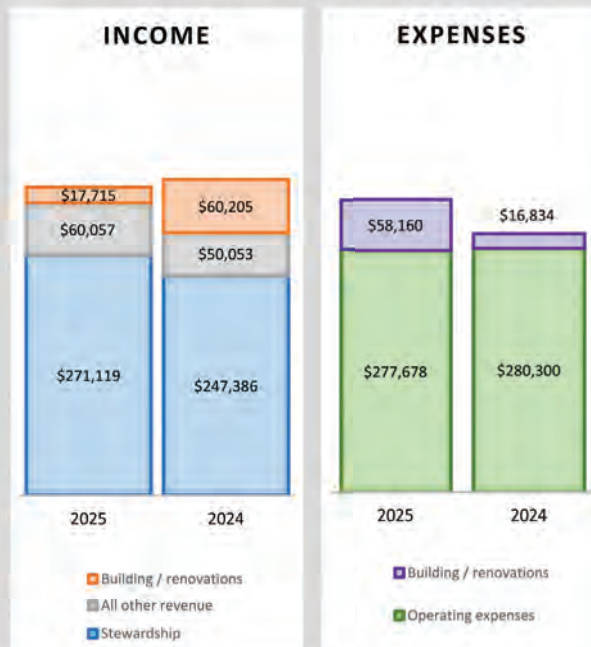
Mark your calendar to be at Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 11. It is Mother's Day and there will be a community brunch to honor them. There will also be a special assembly to discuss the 708 East Blvd property that is up for sale. Read more about both on page 10.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

The Voice Staff

voice@htgo.org

### HOLY TRINITY FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH YEAR TO DATE FOR 2025 AND 2024



## ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Wednesday, May 21	<b>STS. CONSTANTINE &amp; HELEN</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Thursday, May 29	<b>HOLY ASCENSION</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, June 8	<b>HOLY PENTECOST</b> Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Sunday, June 29	<b>STS. PETER AND PAUL</b> Orthros 7:15am Divine Liturgy 8:30am (english) Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Monday, June 30	<b>SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES</b>
<b>EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
Sunday, May 11	Community Special Assembly with Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 18	AHEPA Day including Last day of Sunday School 12th Grade Graduation Ceremony
Tuesday, May 27	Greek School Graduation and End of Year Celebration
Friday, May 30	Preschool Graduation and End of Year Celebration
Sunday, June 8	Parish Feastday Luncheon and Celebration
Monday-Thursday June 16-19	Vacation Bible School

## 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

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Roxanna Dimitriu, Editor  
Frances Zogzas, Copy Editor  
George Andrews, Business Manager

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Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos, *Associate Priest*  
Rev. Fr. George Politis, *Deacon*  
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Maria Kleto, *Preschool Co-Director*  
Lisa Giotis, *Preschool Co-Director*  
Olympia Koutsokalis, *Greek School Dir.*

## 2025 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):

Vaki Karampourniotis (26) *President*  
Gus A. Pappas (25) *Vice President*  
Maria Diamantis (27) *Secretary*  
Penelope Hefner (27) *Asst. Secretary*  
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Nick Goanos (27) *Asst. Treasurer*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Hunter Clarke (25)  
Drew Dudley (25)  
Kathy Kanellopoulos (25)  
John Mahairas (25)  
Constantine Moschopoulos (27)  
Serafim Pistiolis (26)  
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## Next Issue:

## DEADLINES:

for articles or photographs is:

**Friday, June 27, 2025**

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

for advertisements is:

**Monday, June 16, 2025**

Email to voice@htgo.org



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by  
**Rev. Christian Siskos**  
Associate Priest

When we think of virtues, we often think of humility, patience, long-suffering, and the like. But according to the holy fathers of the desert, and especially according to Saint Anthony, the great desert Father, the queen of all virtues is, in fact, the virtue of discernment (Διάκριση).

Discernment is the light of the soul. It is the ability to judge things correctly—not according to our own interpretation, but according to the right judgment of God. When a person has discernment, they walk on the right path. As Christ says in the Gospel, *“Walk while you still have the light”* (John 12:35).

Discernment, therefore, is like a type of light that allows you to see things as they truly are. You no longer see things according to your passions, your own interpretations, or your wounds, but rather, you see things as God sees them.

When you have discernment, you also have Christ, because Christ says of Himself, *“I am the light of the world”* (John 8:12).

Saint Anthony the Great says that without discernment, all of our ascetical practices are in vain. He goes on to tell the story of different monks who lived in his time. Though they practiced great ascetical works, they lacked the virtue of discernment and met their own demise.

One monk, fasting too much without proper discernment, journeyed into the desert and perished because, lacking nourishment, he did not have the strength to go on. Another monk, having listened to the words of an angel, went and dug a hole for himself, from which he could not escape. Lacking discernment, he could not see that the angel speaking to him was, in fact, the devil. There, he died in that hole.

A third monk was visited by an angel of light while he was praying. The angel told him that he was impressed by his asceticism and instructed him to go up the mountain to pray, as he was to be received into Paradise immediately. His elder saw this from afar and noticed that his disciple was speaking to a demon. But the disciple lacked discernment and

thought he was speaking to an angel. As they climbed the mountain, the angel led him astray, so that the young monk would fall off the cliff and perish. By God’s grace, the elder saw this and saved the young man before he could fall.

Therefore, we can see that without proper discernment, all of our striving toward the Kingdom will be in vain. Our fasting, vigil, and prayer will fall short of the glory of God if we don’t strive to acquire discernment in our lives.

How do we gain discernment? It is, first and foremost, a gift of the Holy Spirit. But it is also cultivated through a relationship with a Spiritual Father, in obedience to the Church and its teachings, and in total and complete renunciation of our will, along with the confession of our sins. A person who does this can be assured that, over time, they will acquire the gift of discernment. They will not rely on their own will or thoughts, but on the will of God. As Saint Paul says, *“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:2).

The Gospel account of Martha and Mary speaks to this clearly. Martha, who is anxious and troubled about many things, contrasts with Mary, her sister, who sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to every word that proceeds from His mouth. In this story, we can apply the virtue of discernment. Because

Martha lacked discernment, she became anxious and troubled about many things, neglecting the one thing needful: to sit at the feet of Jesus and absorb His words like a sponge.

We are often like Martha—anxious and troubled about many things. We become anxious about the pain and hurt others have caused us, about our responsibilities, and about our sins. Without discernment, we remain in our anxiety and trouble. But we need only bring these troubles, this pain and hurt, before the Lord. We need only acknowledge our sins and stand at the feet of Christ.

By doing so, we will set aside all earthly cares, as we say in the Divine Liturgy, and stand before Christ, who says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Then, truly, we will have chosen the one thing needful, which will not be taken away from us.

Let us ask Christ, our God, for discernment and learn from our Holy Mother, who exemplifies perfect discernment, for she has chosen the right portion, which will not be taken away from her.

In Christ,  
+Fr. Christian Siskos  
Associate Priest

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE by John Mahairas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

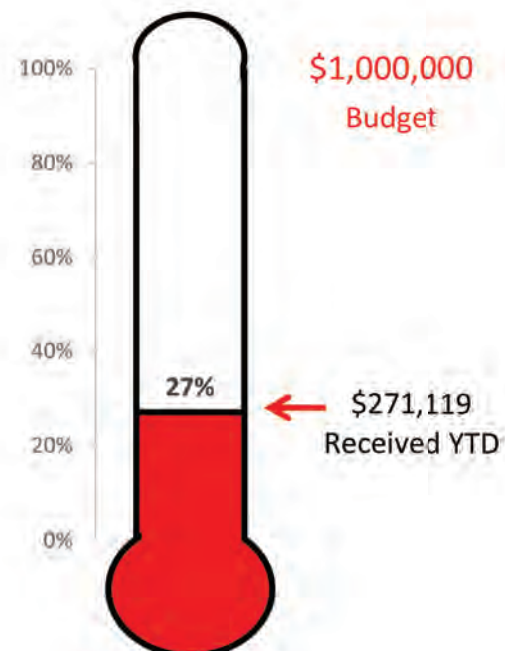
As we approach Easter and the glorious Anastasi of our Lord Jesus Christ, we encourage you to nurture your spiritual well-being through fasting, confession, prayer, Holy Communion, and participation in Church services.

We also extend a loving reminder to all parishioners who have not yet returned their Stewardship Commitment Form to the Church Office. Submitting your commitment allows us to better understand our financial position for the year and plan accordingly.

Your Stewardship forms the foundation of our Parish Ministries, supporting our mission to spread Christ’s Word and uphold our Greek Orthodox Faith. It is an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and values, express gratitude, and grow in grace. Stewardship is more than just giving—it is an act of faith and participation in God’s work. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us, “A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.”

We encourage you to make your Stewardship Commitment today, helping our Church expand its ministries and fulfill its sacred mission.

May our Lord abundantly bless you and your family in all things.

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as of March 31, 2025

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## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis



Beloved Parishioners of Holy Trinity,

I pray this message finds you all in good health and spirits. It is an honor to serve as your Parish President for a second year. With God's guidance, the unwavering support of our incredible Parish Council, and the leadership of Fr. Jonathan, our first year in the second century of Holy Trinity has been incredibly productive.

In 2024, we were able to accomplish several key projects, including:

- Ensuring all of our accounts are now FDIC insured.
- Completing an insurance review and updating our policy with Church Mutual for better protection of our parish.
- Identifying and resolving a humidity issue in the preschool.
- Creating a new maintenance plan for Hellenic Park, including a new gate, updated locks, functional bathrooms, and new lighting.
- Repairing the pavers, which are no longer a safety hazard.
- Completing repairs to the outer band of Fr. C Hall.
- Purchasing new chairs for Fr. C Hall.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Parish Council is excited to continue our forward-thinking approach and tackle new projects. Here's a look at some of our plans:

- We have a unique opportunity to acquire 708 East Blvd. The Parish Council has moved quickly to secure the property under contract and is currently conducting due diligence, gathering information to present to the community for parish approval.
- The Vision Committee is working diligently to develop a 25-year blueprint for all Holy Trinity properties, ensuring long-term growth and sustainability.
- We are seeking bids to renovate the bathrooms in Fr. C Hall, bringing them up to code and making them ADA compliant.
- We are exploring options to refresh the interior of Fr. C Hall.
- Maintenance plans are being developed to anticipate future needs and allow for budgeting in advance.
- We will be polishing and cleaning the Narthex floors to enhance the space.

This is just a glimpse of the exciting things happening at Holy Trinity. I am deeply grateful for all of your prayers and ongoing support. The love and commitment of our Holy Trinity families never cease to amaze me.

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες, εύχομαι και προσεύχομαι να είστε όλοι καλά.

Έχω την τιμή να είμαι ο Πρόεδρος της Κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδος για δεύτερη χρονιά. Με την βοήθεια του Θεού και την υποστήριξη του καταπληκτικού συμβουλίου, και την ηγεσία του Πατέρ Ιωνάθων, το πρώτο έτος απο την δεύτερη εκατονταετία ήταν όντως παραγωγικό. Το 2024 ολοκληρώσαμε με μεγάλη επιτυχία τις ακόλουθες σημαντικές εργασίες:

- Όλοι οι λογαριασμοί της Αγίας Τριάδος τώρα είναι ασφαλισμένοι FDIC
- Μετά την αξιολόγηση της ασφάλειας και για την καλύτερη προστασία της κοινότητας μας, ανανεώσαμε το συμβόλαιο με το Church Mutual.
- Βρήκαμε και τακτοποιήσαμε το πρόβλημα της υγρασίας του νηπιαγωγείου.
- Το πάρκο της κοινότητας μας έχει σχέδιο συντήρησης, καινούργια πύλη, κλειδωνιές, καθαρές τουαλέτες και καλό φωτισμό.
- Οι επικύνδινες επιστρώσεις τώρα είναι ασφαλείς.
- Η εξωτερική ζώνη στο Fr. C hall έχει επισκευαστεί.
- Καινούργιες καρέκλες έχουν στολίσει το Fr. C Hall.

Καθώς μπαίνουμε στο νέο έτος 2025, το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο προγραμματίζει να συνεχίσει με μελλοντικά σχέδια για την καλύτερη λειτουργία της κοινότητας. Εδώ είναι μερικά απο τα σχέδια τα οποία ευχόμαστε να αναπτύξουμε και να πετύχουμε:

- Έχουμε μια μεγάλη ευκαιρία να αγοράσουμε το 708 East Blvd. Το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο ενήργησε πολύ γρήγορα να δεσμεύσει το κτίριο και να συγγεντρώσει τις απαραίτητες πληροφορίες για να τις παρουσιάσει, για την Έγκριση της Κοινότητας.
- Η Επιτροπή Μελλοντικών Σχεδίων, μέσω προσεκτικής έρευνας, ετοιμάζει ένα εικοσιπενταετές προσχέδιο για όλα τα υπάρχοντα της Αγίας Τριάδος.
- Πέρνουμε προσφορές για την ανακαίνιση των μπάνιων στο Fr. C Hall, για να τα εκσυγχρονίσουμε και να είναι συμβατά για το ΑμεΑ (Άτομα με Αναπηρία).
- Ψάχνουμε για επιλογές για την ανανέωση του Fr. C Hall.
- Δημιουργούμε σχέδια συντήρησης για να καλύψουν εκ των προτέρων μελλοντικές ανάγκες.
- Θα καθαρίσουμε/ γυαλίσουμε το πάτωμα στην είσοδο του ναού.(τον Νάρθηκα)

Αυτά είναι απλώς μια ματιά για τα σχέδια μας. Είμαι ευγνώμων για τις προσευχές και την υποστήριξη όλων σας. Η αγάπη των μελών της Αγίας Τριάδος συνεχίζει να με αφήνει κατάπληκτο.

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A NEWS ROUNDUP by The Voice Staff



January 5, 2025: Holy Trinity held the traditional vasilopita cutting and the blessing of the water on the eve of Epiphany. At left, Philoptochos Vice President Tula Kourakos assists Father Jonathan and Father Christian.

Parish Assembly - March 2, 2025

EDITOR’S NOTE: These are NOT the minutes of the meeting.

The springtime Parish Assembly was held immediately following the completion of the Divine Liturgy. Peter Thomopoulos was elected Assembly Chair. John Tsumas was chosen as Vice Chair. Thomopoulos then appointed secretary (Georgette Boukidis), parliamentarian (Anna Pitsikoulis), and timekeeper (Joanna Pitsikoulis).

After the approval of the previous assembly meeting minutes, the floor was opened to select delegates for the upcoming Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Conference. This year’s conference is in Charleston, SC, June 11-14, 2025. In addition to Fr. Jonathan, the assembly selected Hunter Clarke and George Zogzas as delegates.

John Mahairas gave the Stewardship report. Noteworthy in his comments were that (1) the 2025 two-part Stewardship goal is to collect \$1,000,000 and increase the number of stewards in good standing. Other goals are to attract additional members to the committee and to improve overall communications between the committee, Parish Council, and the community. John replaces long time Stewardship committee chairs Nick and Carmen Kallelis who we thank for many years of leadership.

Anna Pitsikoulis reported that the By-Laws committee has been working on revisions to the local rules. Any proposed changes must be presented to the Metropolis for comment and approval.

Dino Pappas reported for the Vision Committee. The goal is to create a vision for the entire Holy Trinity campus (East Blvd, Hellenic Park, etc.) and how best to utilize them. An external firm will be selected to guide the process. This is because those firms have the demographic data to help the analysis. The Vision Committee is advisory only reporting to the Parish Council. Parish Council will then decide what will be presented to the Parish Assembly, where any ultimate decisions will be made.

In other Old Business, the assembly heard about the campus bathrooms. A committee has been looking into making the bathrooms in Fr. C Hall fully accessible. Gus Pappas reported that an initial estimate to modify the bathrooms could cost around \$325,000. Gus added that, at this time, it may not be feasible to modify the bathrooms in the education wing.

Under New Business, it was reported that he New Year’s Eve dance netted about \$7,000. John Tsumas asked if there is a way to appeal the Metropolis edict banning raffles.

There are conversations over the makeup of the Gus and Helen Pauls fund seeking to remove the restrictions on investments allowed. Currently, investment options are limited to fixed income products and mutual funds. The Pauls fund was established at the passing of Mrs. Pauls and included initial principal of \$1,000,000.

Nicholas Stavros spoke encouraging the community to update its parish directory. The last one was dated 2019.

The meetings adjourned at 12:42pm.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT

To Holy Trinity Community:

The Foundation is pleased to report that 2024 was another productive year. We held eight meetings with 90% attendance in 2024.

Financial results show the approximate value of assets at the end of the year was just under \$1.8 million, up 6% from the end of 2023. Restricted funds of \$1,272,733 represent the total of all memorials, donations, and bequests received since 1973. While restricted funds cannot be spent, they are invested to earn income that can be distributed. Revenues totaled \$111,300 in 2024 comprised of \$87,074 in dividends & interest and \$24,226 in memorials and donations received. Grants and donations made totaled \$78,500 (details below), or approximately 4.7% of average assets. Almost one third of that total was in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.

Our thanks to outgoing Trustees Dr. George Andrinopoulos and George Zogzas. We welcome newcomers George Andrews and Eleni Saunders.

Please reach out to any of the 2025 Trustees listed below with questions. You may also email us at [info@htgof.org](mailto:info@htgof.org), or visit our website, <https://htgof.org>.

----- THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
March 2, 2025

GRANTS AND DONATIONS MADE IN 2024 sorted largest to smallest amount, then alphabetically):	
Recipient	Amount
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Hurricane Helene relief)	\$25,000
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral (audio system upgrade)	\$7,500
The St. Sophia School	\$5,000
St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church ( Mooresville, NC)	\$5,000
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choir Musicians	\$3,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities (I.O.C.C.)	\$3,000
Alexander Youth Network	\$3,000
Crisis Assistance Ministry	\$3,000
Dilworth Community Association	\$3,000
VIA Health Partners (formerly Hospice & Palliative Care)	\$3,000
Safe Alliance	\$3,000
Second Harvest Food Bank	\$3,000
St. Hermione Home, Inc.	\$3,000
Thompson Child and Family Focus	\$3,000
Diocese of Eldorat and Northern Kenya [Africa] (via HTGOC)	\$2,500
Holy Cross School of Theology	\$1,000
Orthodox Christian Mission Center (O.C.M.C.)	\$1,000
Anoixi 2024	\$500
Cystic Fibrosis	\$500
Saint Basil Academy	\$500
Total Donations and Grants	\$78,500

2025 Board of Trustees		Term Ends
		Dec:
Nick Kantsios	Chairman	2025
Nick X. Nixon	Vice Chair	2026
George Andrews	Secretary	2029
George C. Copsis	Treasurer	2028
Yianni Haralambous	Trustee	2026
Eleni Saunders	Trustee	2029
Tommy Skenteris	Trustee	2027

This report is provided in compliance with the terms of the Indenture dated February 5, 1973, that created the Foundation over fifty years ago. The report was first made available at the Parish Assembly held on March 2, 2025.



**YOUTH NEWS: HOLY TRINITY SENIORS VISIT ST. PHOTIOS** *by Sarah Vastis*

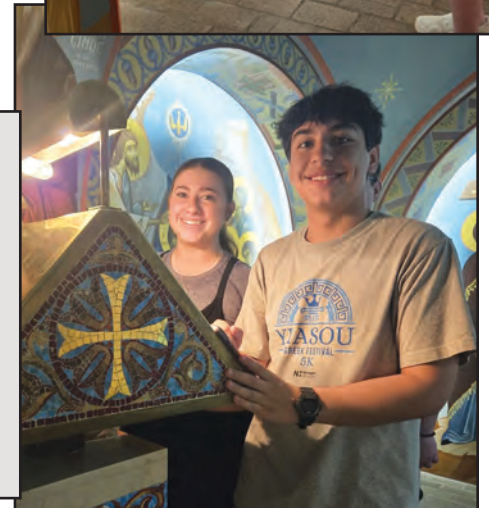
From March 27–30, the 12th-grade Sunday School class at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte participated in the annual St. Photios Pilgrimage, a four-day, three-night retreat in St. Augustine, Florida. They were accompanied by Rev. Fr. Jonathan Resmini and chaperones Sarah Vastis, Mark Mingo, and Kathy Kanellopoulos.

The weekend began with a visit to the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, where the group toured the facilities and spoke with Presbytera Renee Ritsi, who shared insights from her 10 years as a missionary in Kenya. The group then toured the St. Photios National Shrine, located on the site where the first Greek Orthodox faithful settled in America. While at the shrine, they participated in a Heretismi (Salutations to the Theotokos) service held in the shrine's chapel, followed by an evening tour of the historic city.

Saturday featured an escape room activity that encouraged teamwork and laughter, as well as a trip to Atlantic Beach in Jacksonville to enjoy the Florida sunshine. In the evenings, the group gathered for meals and reflection.

A special part of the retreat was the opportunity for each student to meet one-on-one with Father Jonathan to talk about their goals and plans after graduation. The trip concluded with Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning at St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, where our seniors attended Sunday School and reconnected with friends they had met through St. Stephen's Camp.

The annual pilgrimage offers a meaningful and memorable experience for Holy Trinity's graduating class as they prepare to embark on their next chapter, grounded in faith and community.



*Clockwise, starting above: Our group at the Shrine, our reader; our chanters; the seniors at the OCMC; in front of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, FL*



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YOUTH NEWS by Sarah Vastis

A Successful Oratorical Festival!

The Holy Trinity St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held on Saturday, March 15, where seven of our talented youth delivered inspiring speeches on topics related to their faith. This nationwide ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America provides young Orthodox Christians the opportunity to explore their beliefs while developing valuable public speaking skills. Our speakers impressed both the judges and the audience with their thoughtful reflections, demonstrating a deep understanding of their faith and its relevance in today’s world.

We are proud of each participant and excited to support our top finalists as they advance to the next level of competition, which will be held at St. Nektarios on April 5, 2025. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this meaningful event.



Pictured from left to right: Mena Nickolopoulos (Chair), Anastasia Georgali (Junior Division Finalist), Evangelia Kakouras (Junior Division Finalist), Alexia Konstantinou (Senior Division Finalist), Athena Kotrotsios (Senior Division Finalist), Danae Cornwell, Yianni Stathopoulos, Tommy Stathopoulos, Father Christian Siskos



Are you a writer?  
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Email EDITOR at  
voice@htgo.org to learn more

2024-2025 Basketball Season

Our 24-25 basketball season wrapped up with divisional end-of-season tournaments and a Holy Trinity Seniors vs. Coaches game on February 21.

Congratulations to the seniors for winning the Seniors vs. Coaches game and to the following teams for their performance within their divisions:

In the **Interfaith Basketball League**  
*1st place in 7th grade division*  
coached by Jamie Bingham and Mark Mingo

*1st place in 10th grade division*  
coached by Jimmy Christodoulis and Yianni Margiotis

*1st place in 11th grade division*  
coached by John Vastis and Dean Peroulas

*2nd place in 9th-12th grade division*  
coached by Roula Skenteris and Eleni Karageorgos



Above: 11th Grade Team Vastis  
Below: 12th Grade Team Skenteris



Above: 7th Grade Team Bingham  
Below: 9-10th Grade Team Christodoulis





## Archon Religious Freedom Symposium at University of South Carolina ‘Supremely Successful’



HISEMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, addressed a Religious Freedom Symposium, “God Created Us to Live In Harmony (Romans 12:16).” This symposium, presented by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Other featured speakers included His Eminence Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States from the Holy See of Rome; the Reverend Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace, Ordained Pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church; and Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP).

The organizers of the symposium were Archons Steve Trakas, Dr. Terry Sarantou and Drew Theodore; the moderators were Archon Professor Aristotle “Telly” Papanikolaou, Professor of Theology and Archbishop



*Archbishop Elpidophoros is joined by His Eminence Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Reverend Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and moderators Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou and Archon Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou. (All photos by J. Mindala)*

at all. This says a great deal about how we treat minority belief systems within all societies, and whether they can be seen as having equal value with those of the majority.”

His Eminence explained that differing faith traditions were akin to different lenses through which we see the world: “We may well have different lenses, ground over time and circumstances to varying strengths and magnifications, sharpness and contrast, but we are all united by the fundamental truth of the Gospel. Even within our own faith communities, there can be tremendous divergence of emphases and priorities. This is one of the main reasons that we often resonate with those outside our circles, rather than those within them.”

His Eminence Cardinal Pierre outlined the varying responses of the Roman Catholic Church to the question of religious freedom over the centuries.

are respected.”

Dr. Cannon spoke of how welcomed she had been made to feel and said “hospitality is a part of what Christian unity is all about.” She added that “kindness, hospitality, generosity, and graciousness” were the fruits of the Spirit as noted in Saint Paul’s Letter to the Galatians. Dr. Cannon detailed how the Christians of the Middle East exemplified the unity that all Christians are called to manifest, even coming to informal agreement on the date of Easter so that they could all worship together.

Dr. Cannon said that “in many Christian circles, there has been an over-spiritualization of unity,” and thanked His Eminence for speaking about the need to wrestle with that which divides us. She quoted Dr. M. Scott Peck, author of *The Road Less Traveled*, saying that “conflict is a necessity in the formation of real community.”



*Conference organizers Archons Drew Theodore, Steve Trakas and Dr. Terry Sarantou.*

Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture and Co-founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University; and Professor Elizabeth Prodromou, Professor of the International Studies Program at Boston College and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center. Archons throughout the east coast were in attendance, demonstrating their support for religious freedom for the Holy Mother Church.

The symposium’s mission was to look through the lens of the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant faith teachings to better understand how our loving God has protected His flock and the issues facing Christians today.

At the symposium itself, Dr. Limberakis welcomed the gathering in the Opening Session and presented the origins of the ancient title Archon. He also detailed the significant Archon initiatives in educating the oikoumene regarding the deficit of religious freedom in Turkey and the Archons’ efforts to ameliorate that deficit.

In his remarks, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros emphasized that “freedom of conscience – an interior state – must be accompanied by the freedom to exercise that conscience, or it is no freedom



*National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis delivers remarks on ‘What is An Archon’ at the University of South Carolina.*

He noted the groundbreaking efforts of Father John Courtney Murray, a twentieth-century American Jesuit, in “the rediscovery of biblical principles of religious freedom, rooted in the dignity of the human person,” which, said Cardinal Pierre, “started in the United States of America.”

Father Murray, stated Cardinal Pierre, “dedicated his life’s work to reconciling Catholicism and participation of Catholics in public and political life with religious pluralism and freedom. He reasoned that religious freedom is not a concession granted by the state but a fundamental right stemming from human dignity.

Cardinal Pierre outlined how this became the position of the Roman Catholic Church at the Second Vatican Council and is a cornerstone of the ministry of Pope Francis. Cardinal Pierre explained that “from the Catholic point of view, freedom of religion is a fundamental human right rooted in the dignity of the human person. The Catholic Church teaches that every individual has the right to seek the truth about God, adhere to that truth once it is found, and practice their faith freely, without coercion or unjust interference, as long as the rights of others and the common good



*Archon Hon. Nick Theodore, former Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, presents an official Proclamation issued by Henry Dargan McMaster, the Governor of South Carolina proclaiming March 22, 2025 as Archon Religious Freedom Symposium Day.*

At times, Dr. Cannon added, consensus is reached quickly, but at other times is only the fruit of “lengthy struggle. Just because it’s a safe place does not mean that a community is a place without conflict. It is, however, a place where conflict can be resolved without physical or emotional bloodshed, and with wisdom as well as grace.”

Dr. Limberakis stated: “Profound gratitude is expressed to an exceptional Archon team of leaders, organizers and volunteers. AXIOI!”

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) is a devoted group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – the historical spiritual center of the world’s 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

*Editor’s Note: This is an abridged version of a posting on the Archons wesite. The entire story and a video presentation of the session can be found at <https://archons.org/university-south-carolina-symposium/>*



YOUTH NEWS by Sarah Vastis

2025 QUEEN CITY CLASSIC

The 8th Annual Queen City Classic (QCC) was a weekend to remember, bringing together GOYAns and families from Greek Orthodox communities across the region for a thrilling tournament filled with competitive basketball, faith, and fellowship. Hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on February 14-16, this year’s QCC welcomed teams from Asheville, Atlanta, Greenville, New Orleans, Raleigh, St. Nektarios, and Winston-Salem.

The weekend began with an exciting opening night at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Teams and families enjoyed an open gym session, dinner and fellowship, followed by an Agiasmo service, an enthusiastic skills competition, and the live bracket selection.

The tournament then tipped off early Saturday morning at Carolina Courts in Indian Trail, with division games running throughout the day. A bowling event was hosted in the evening for all players and coaches at which the tournament All Stars were announced. The weekend finished with Divine Liturgy on Sunday followed by the championship games in the Fr. “C” Hall.” A brunch buffet and frappe were served to visitors and the Holy Trinity community during the games.

Congratulations to our 2025 QCC Champs: Junior Boys – Atlanta; Girls – Atlanta; Senior Boys – Charlotte (Team Vastis)



Above: Charlotte's Team Vastis won the Senior Division Championship

Left: The team praying before tipoff.

Right: Coach Thomas Koufaliotis giving his team a pep talk



HELLENIC DANCE RECOGNITION

Dancers and Instructors were recognized in the Cathedral after the 9:30 Divine Liturgy on February 2, 2025.







## 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 is arms and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16*

The preschool resumed classes on Monday, January 6th, and it was wonderful to welcome our children back after the holiday break. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our preschool families for their thoughtful gifts, delicious treats, and kindness shown to our staff during the holidays.

The children quickly settled back into their daily routines, eager to learn and reconnect with their friends. January's curriculum focused on the winter season, exploring cold weather, snow, ice, polar bears, penguins, and hibernating animals. This year, we were fortunate to experience a little snowfall, giving the children a chance to see and feel snow firsthand. Additional topics included learning about our bodies, the importance of staying healthy, and visiting the doctor. Some classes also explored veterinary care and the responsibility of taking care of pets. In religious education, we discussed the baptism of Jesus, Theophany, and the lives of St. John the Baptist and St. Anthony.

We began student evaluations in preparation for parent-teacher conferences. Over the next few months, teachers will assess children in the two-, three-, and four-year-old classes. These evaluations provide parents with insights into their children's strengths and areas for growth. By fostering open communication between parents and teachers, we aim to support each child's success and readiness for the next academic level.

In February, our focus turned to love—loving Jesus, our families, our friends, and one another as God loves us. We emphasized kindness, compassion, and following Christ's example. Valentine's Day was a highlight, with each class enjoying celebrations filled with treats and card exchanges. Other February lessons included Groundhog Day and dental health. A special thank you to Dr. Annie Carberry, a local dentist, who visited our four-year-old class to teach the importance of good dental hygiene. Our students also participated in weekday church services and learned about the Presentation of Our Lord, St. Haralambos, and preparing for the Lenten season.

March was dedicated to Lent and the journey to Pascha. We celebrated the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Greek Independence Day with icon coloring, wreath decorating, Greek flag crafts, and singing the Greek National Anthem. As spring winds arrived, the

children learned about the season's breezy weather and enjoyed flying "diamond-shaped" kites. On Clean Monday, Fr. Jonathan joined us as we flew kites in the parking lot, marking the start of Lent. St. Patrick's Day provided an opportunity to discuss the symbolism of the shamrock, representing the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our Lenten lessons included Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, the washing of the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, and Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. The children also began learning



*Kite flying Preschoolers and Fr. Jonathan*

traditional Lenten and Easter greetings, such as Kali Sarakosti, Kalo Pascha, Kali Anastasi, Christos Anesti, and Alithos Anesti, and practiced singing the Christos Anesti hymn.

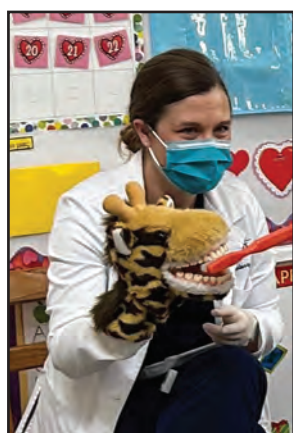
We launched our annual Luminary fundraising project. Families can purchase luminaries in memory or in honor of loved ones. Each name is submitted for blessing during church services, and the luminaries will be displayed in the church courtyard under the covered dome area. This tradition beautifully honors our loved ones as we celebrate the miracle of Pascha.

Preschool registration for the 2025–2026 school year is off to a strong start. We will introduce a second two-year-old class this fall. Enrollment is ongoing, and spaces are limited. If you would like more information about our program or are interested in registering your child, please contact one of our directors for class availability. Our contact details are listed below.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool Contact Information:

Co-Directors: Lisa Giotis 704-807-5926 and Maria Kleto 704-564-5842

Preschool Office: [preschool@htgo.org](mailto:preschool@htgo.org) or 704-333-4961



*Dr. Annie Carberry*

## AN INVITATION

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH US  
— AND HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE!

### Mother's Day Brunch & Special Parish Assembly

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Join us on Sunday, May 11,  
immediately following the Divine  
Liturgy for a Mother's Day Brunch in  
the Fr. "C" Hall.

While we honor the incredible  
mothers in our community, we will  
also hold a Special Parish Assembly  
to vote on the proposed purchase of  
708 East Blvd.

This is an important opportunity to  
come together as a parish family to  
enjoy fellowship and take part in a  
meaningful decision about our  
Cathedral's future.

## AND A COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY



### HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203  
Tel: (704) 334-4771 | Fax: (704) 335-5440

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioners,

In recent weeks, our Holy Trinity Community was presented with an opportunity to purchase a property adjacent to our "AHEPA" property on East Blvd. As is often the case with real estate in desirable locations, time is of the essence. Recognizing this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Holy Trinity, the Parish Council acted quickly.

With guidance from our parishioners, experienced in both real estate and real estate law, the Parish Council was able to negotiate an agreement to put the property at 708 East Blvd under contract. 708 East Blvd is located directly adjacent to our existing property at 712 East Blvd, as well as our existing property at 1823 Springdale Ave.


As with any large decision, in accordance with our Bylaws, it is up to the community to vote and make the final decision to complete the transaction to purchase the property. Over the next 60 days, the Parish can expect to receive a notice of a Special General Assembly to discuss and approve the purchase of 708 East Blvd.

During that period, the Parish Council will also perform due diligence to understand the condition of the property, survey the property, solidify financing options, etc. All pertinent information will be presented to the community ahead of the General Assembly, as required by our Bylaws.

The Parish Council unanimously recognizes that this is a "generational" type of opportunity for Holy Trinity. Purchasing a property that is contiguous to our existing properties and in such close proximity to our main campus, will only enhance the possibilities for the future of our Holy Trinity Parish.

The Parish Council looks forward to gathering more information to present to the community in the coming weeks. The goal is to allow for an informed discussion with the community, so that we can collectively decide on how to proceed.

In Christ's Service

  
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini  
Cathedral Dean

  
Vaki Karamprouniotis  
Parish Council President

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, Cathedral Dean | Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos, Assistant Priest  
[frjonathan@htgo.org](mailto:frjonathan@htgo.org) | [frchristian@htgo.org](mailto:frchristian@htgo.org)



## Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας

### CUTTING OF THE VASILOPITA

Στις αρχές Ιανουαρίου, μετά από τις Χριστουγεννιάτικες διακοπές του Σχολείου μας, τα μέλη του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Δασκάλων οργάνωσαν και πάλι με μεγάλη φροντίδα, χαρά και αγάπη την εκδήλωση για την κοπή της βασιλόπιτας. Στο Ελληνικό σχολείο έπεσε επίσης το φλουρί από την Βασιλόπιτα που κόψαμε στην εκκλησία για όλη την κοινότητα.



Ο π. Jonathan μίλησε στους μαθητές για τη σημασία της κοπής της βασιλόπιτας, διάβασαν τις ωραιότερες προσευχές και ευχήθηκαν σε όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους (μαθητές, γονείς, εκπαιδευτικούς και μέλη του Συλλόγου) να έχουν ένα ευτυχισμένο και δημιουργικό Νέο Έτος. Στη συνέχεια, έκοψαν και μοίρασαν τις πίτες. Οι πίτες, κάθε μια με το δικό της «φλουρί», ήταν, όπως πάντοτε, νοστιμότερες και έδωσαν χαρά στους τυχερούς των «φλουριών».

### THREE HEIRARCHS AND GREEK LETTERS 2025

Το καθιερωμένο πρόγραμμα του Ελληνικού σχολείου για τη γιορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών αναβλήθηκε λόγω κακοκαιρίας και η απονομή των πιστοποιητικών της Ελληνομάθειας στους μαθητές έγινε με μια τελετή στην Εκκλησία.

Την Κυριακή 26 Ιανουαρίου, μαθητές, γονείς, φίλοι και επίσημοι παραβρέθηκαν στο ναό της Αγίας Τριάδας μπροστά στην κοινότητα για να τιμήσουν με την παρουσία τους την μνήμη των Τριών Ιεραρχών και να συγχαρούν τους επιτυχόντες στις Εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας 2024. Ο κ. Μάνθος Σταμούλης μαζί με την κ. Ολυμπία Κουτσοκάλη δώσανε τα πιστοποιητικά Ελληνομάθειας στους μαθητές και η κ. Βιβή Καραμπουρνιώτη μοίρασε τα Ελληνικά Λεξικά στη Β τάξη. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στην κ. Κική Καπερώνη και στην κ. Ευδοξία βάγιου (διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου στο Winston Salem) που προετοίμασαν τα παιδιά μας για τις εξετάσεις.

Οι παρακάτω λάβανε πιστοποιητικό ελληνομάθειας. Συγχαρητήρια!

William Vrochides- B1  
Constantinos Vlachos Mobley-B1  
Dimitris Tsigaridas-B1  
Elisavet Hadley-A2  
Adrienne Thomopoulos-B1  
Odysseas Kalimeris-B1



### MARCH 25TH 2025

Την Τρίτη 25, Μαρτίου το Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγίας Τριάδος γιόρτασε και φέτος τη μεγάλη διπλή γιορτή του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου μας και της Ελληνικής μας Παλιγγενεσίας. Οι μαθητές, ιερείς, γονείς και φίλοι απέδωσαν φόρο τιμής στους αθάνατους ήρωες του 1821, οι οποίοι χάρισαν τη λευτεριά στην Ελλάδα μας. Όλα τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου δούλεψαν σκληρά και παρουσίασαν ένα όμορφο πρόγραμμα. Το πρόγραμμα περιλάμβανε μια ιστορική διαδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του έπους του 1821 μέσα από πατριωτικά ποιήματα, τραγούδια και παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Η αίθουσα διακοσμήθηκε με τα Ιστορικά Έργα του 1821 από όλες τις βαθμίδες για να τα θαυμάσουν όλοι. Οι μαθητές μας εργάστηκαν σκληρά σε αυτό το έργο και είμαστε πολύ περήφανοι για την επίδειξη δημιουργικότητας, έρευνας και δεξιοτήτων γραφής.

Η εκδήλωση ξεκίνησε με τους εθνικούς ύμνους της Αμερικής και Ελλάδας στη μεγάλη αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων της κοινότητας με κατάθεση στεφάνου, τον Ακάθιστο Ύμνο, προσευχή, χαιρετισμούς και ολιγόλεπτες ομιλίες



από τον προϊστάμενο το Καθεδρικού Ναού π. Ιωάνθαν Ρεσμίνη και από την διευθύντρια Ολυμπία Κουτσοκάλη. Η γιορτή έκλεισε με σύντομη ομιλία της κυρίας Σοφίας Θωμοπούλου εκ μέρους του συλλόγου γονέων και κηδεμόνων. Ένα ειλικρινές «ευχαριστώ» σε όλους τους εθελοντές που βοήθησαν στην επιτυχία αυτής της εκδήλωσης προσφέροντας νόστιμα γλυκά και οι οποίοι προσφέρθηκαν εθελοντικά. Ζήτω η Ελλάς!





**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Pamela Bostian

As we begin the new year, we are happy to share the accomplishments we've achieved so far. We look forward to building on this momentum for the year ahead!

**Vasilopita Fundraiser**

Our annual Vasilopita fundraiser took place on Sunday, January 5th. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed. The funds raised were donated to national youth programs and to St. Basil's Academy, providing support to both the 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 8th. With 39 participants supporting our Philoptochos team - including family members and friends - the event was a tremendous success.

**Annual Membership Drive**

Our annual membership drive kicked off on February 11th. Dr. Georgianne Georgoulis was our guest speaker. Georgianne provided advice on taking control of our heart-health with simple actions inspired by the Mediterranean lifestyle and diet. We are excited to announce 32 new members joined our Chapter during the February Membership drive! All members are reminded that 2025 membership dues can be paid by check or online. For further details, please contact Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos at [dkourakos1@gmail.com](mailto:dkourakos1@gmail.com).

**Koliva Room Renovations**

Our chapter recently completed renovations to the church's Koliva room, fully funding the improvements. These renovations were made in loving memory of our members, honoring their contributions to our chapter and community.

**Donation Trays**

- **Children's Medical Fund (CMF) Sunday:** On Sunday, March 16th, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos designated the day as Children's Medical Fund Sunday. During church services, our members passed around a collection tray for parishioners to contribute toward the National Philoptochos CMF Luncheon, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday, September 27, 2025.
- **Holy Cross/Hellenic College Lenten Fund:** On Sunday, March 23rd, another donation tray was made available in the Narthex for contributions to the Holy Cross/Hellenic College Lenten Fund. All proceeds will help cover the college's operating expenses.

We are grateful to all supporters for their generous contributions.

**Families Forward Charlotte**

On Monday, March 3rd, 14 members volunteered at Families Forward, assisting with their Weekend Food Packs Program and prepared toiletry packages. As part of our national commitment to Feed the Hungry, our

Chapter also made a monetary contribution to help supply the backpacks, that are filled with child-friendly food items. These backpacks are distributed to Title I school students to ensure they have enough food over weekends and holidays. After the event, a lovely lunch was enjoyed by our volunteers.

**Lenten Bake Sale**

Our Lenten Bake Sale fundraiser ran from March 2nd through March 30th, every Sunday after the Divine Liturgies. Items for sale include: lenten koulourakia, homemade bread, and lenten soups. A special thank you to everyone who helped prepare and sell these items!

**Board and General Meetings**

The Philoptochos Board met on January 9th, February 6th and March 6th. Our General Meetings were held on January 14th, February 11th and March 11th.



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

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## AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

### Mantekas - Tsoulos

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, Jessica Constance Mantekas and Ioannis Dimitrios Tsoulos were married in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Jessica is the daughter of Jean E. and the late Sotirios Mantekas. Ioannis is the son of Paraskevi D. and the late Dimitrios Evangelos Tsoulos. A reception followed at The Laboratory Mill. The couple honeymooned in Saint Lucia and lives in Matthews, NC.



### Slack - Lamach

Anna Grace Slack and Nicholas Alexander Lamach were married on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The ceremony was at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Anna Grace is the daughter of Mrs. Laurie DiMaria Slack. Nicholas is the son of Michael Lamach, Sr., and Mary Lamach. The couple honeymooned in Mexico and now reside in Charlotte.



### HDF Recognizes John Karagiannis

Our own John Karagiannis was honored and recognized by the Hellenic Dance Festival organizers for his valuable efforts and assistance with the technology for the event held in Winston Salem in January.

John is pictured at right with his sons Christopher (left) and Ian.

Congratulations John!

## ELEVATION OF METROPOLITAN SEVASTIANOS



Dear and much beloved Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta:

It is with sentiments of delight that I write to inform you of Bishop Sevastianos of Zela's unanimous election as Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta by the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Holy and Sacred Synod today, Monday, December 2.

Since 2019, His Eminence has been serving the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta with great poise and dignity, supporting the wonderful ministries under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. The love from within the community is felt throughout the Metropolis and the Archdiocese. I join these voices of our clergy and laity to loudly exclaim AXIOS for this most worthy and faithful hierarch of our Church!

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and fraternal appreciation to His Eminence Metropolitan Savvas of Pittsburgh for accepting to extend his loving archpastoral oversight of the Metropolis during his service as Locum Tenens until the enthronement. However, kindly know that as of today, Metropolitan Sevastianos is to be commemorated in all the divine services celebrated in the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta as its canonical shepherd.

Please be aware that the Enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta at 10:00 a.m. The following day, Sunday, January 26, he will celebrate his first Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral as Metropolitan of Atlanta.

Bestowing upon all of you my Archiepiscopal blessings, I beseech our Heavenly Master to protect you forevermore, keeping you under the wise spiritual care, guidance and leadership of your new shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta.

With paternal blessings and love in the Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

### 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](mailto:kathy@htgo.org)). We will include it in an upcoming issue.



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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*



CONSTANCE GEORGE BELLIOS, 93, passed unto the Lord on Thursday, February 20, 2025. She was born August 25, 1931, in Brunswick, GA to George and Angelika Karson Bellios, both of whom emigrated from Greece. She grew up in Laurinburg, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents, her older sister Demetra "Toula" and younger brother, John.



JAMES KASTRICHES, passed unto the Lord on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

James was born in the village of Daphni in Evrytania, Greece and is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Angie Kastriches; his children, Sam Kastriches and his wife, Laura, Dennis Kastriches and his wife, Elizabeth; grandchildren, Jamie, Jon, James and Victoria. Also surviving is his sister, Helen Paparoupas. He was predeceased by his parents, Sam and Maria Kastriches and his sisters, Martha Karani and Fotini Geogopoulos.



WILLIAM "BILL" KATOPODIS, 99, passed unto the Lord on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

He was born on August 3, 1925, in Karya, Lefkada, Greece, to Dimitrios Katopodis and Ourania Stavrakas Katopodis. Bill is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Theodoula;

his daughters, Christine Copsis (Chris) and Demetra Zangotsis (George); his son, Johnny Katopodis; and six grandchildren, Heather, George, and Aspen Copsis; Victoria, Stephen, and Thalia Zangotsis. Also surviving are his siblings, Art Katopodis (Olga) and Loula Katopodis (Angelo); his sisters-in-law, Maria Katopodis and Loula Katopodis; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dimitrios and Ourania Katopodis; sisters, Vickie Mikronis (Spiro) and Effie Koucouliotis (George); and his brothers, Philip and Paul Katopodis.



GEORGE VASILIOS KATSANOS, age 86, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

George was born on April 4, 1938, in Agia Vlaherina, Evrytania, Greece, to the late Vasilios and Fotini Katsanos (nee Groumbas).

He is survived by his wife, Christina; their children, Vasilios, Fotini, Eftihia, and Christos (wife, Erica); grandchildren, Christina, Leonidas, Anastassia, Nicoletta, Georgia, and Paraskevi; godchildren, Dimitra Zangotsis and Spiro Katsanos; numerous nephews and nieces. Also surviving are his brothers, Christodoulos, and Kosta (wife, Chrisoula); sister, Maria Politis; sisters-in-law, Katerini and Penelope Katsanos; brother-in-law, Demetrios Anastasis (wife, Margarita), and their

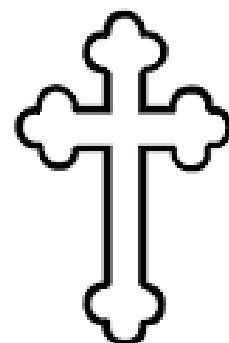
son, Christos Anastasis in Athens, Greece.

George was predeceased by his brothers, Panagioti (wife, Athanasia) and Dimitrios; his sisters, Fotini (husband, Spiro Katsanos), Vasiliki Doulaveris (husband, Paul).



BESSIE "BETT" ANDERSON KOFINAS, passed unto the Lord on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1921, Bett is survived by her sons, Gary and Fr. Steve; daughter-in-law, Georgia; granddaughter, Vasiliki and husband Marios Farazis; and great granddaughter, Christina. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kosmas, in 2002.



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## In Memoriam



EVANGELIA "ANGIE" KROUSTALIS, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, February 1, 2025.

She was born in Viniani, Evrytania Greece to Vasilios and Chrisoula Nikopoulos. Angie is survived by her loving sons, George Kroustalis and his fiancé, Alexa Panos and Bill Kroustalis and his wife Anastasia; granddaughter, Eva and grandson, Gregory. She was predeceased by her husband, Gregory in 2021.

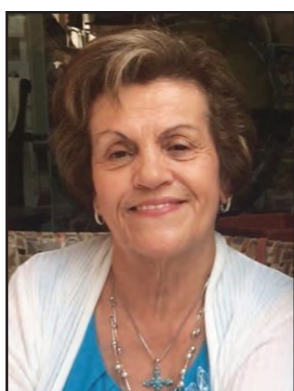


MARGARET PSILLOS NIXON passed unto the Lord on Saturday, January 11, 2025.

Margaret was born in Nostimo, Evrytania Greece to Pauline Makrigiannis and Nicholaos Psillos.

She is survived by her daughter, Penny Nixon of Cornelius; son, Speros Steve Nixon and wife, Georgia Ann Nixon; sister, Angie Psillos; two granddaughters, Christina Nixon, Nicole Nixon Michael (Eliott); four great-grandchildren, Stavros Bell, Alexandros Bell, Arianna Bell, Niko Michael; many nieces and nephews, as well as her many God-children.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Steve Nixon, parents, and granddaughter, Stephanie Nixon Bell.



ANTHOULA CHRISTOU TATSIS passed unto the Lord on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

She was born on March 15, 1942, in Xioniathes, Epirus, Greece and is survived by her son, Mike Tatsis; grandson, Elias Stergiou and his wife, Alexis; great-grandson, George Stergiou; her sister, Agleia Exarchon; brother, Panagiotis Christou and his wife, Tola of Greece; son-in-law, George Stergiou; sisters-in-law, Antonia Tatsis of Charlotte and Evthokia Siosos of Greece; brothers-in-law, Tasos Tatsis, Angelo Tatsis and his wife, Avgoula all of Charlotte and Rev. Dionysios Tatsis and his Presbyteria Marianthi of Greece, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Nick Tatsis; her parents, Thomas and Eleftheria Christou; her loving daughter, Vivian Tatsis Stergiou; brothers, Apostolis and Vangelis Christou; brothers-in-law, Peter D. Tatsis and Kostas Exarchon and sister-in-law, Sophia Tatsis.



LAMBROS GEORGE ZAHAROPOULOS, 86, passed onto the Lord on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. He was born in Agia Vlaherna Evrytanis "Irkista" Greece on January 25, 1939 to the late George and Eloeni (Katsanos) Zaharopoulos. Lambros is survived by his son, George (Maria) Zaharopoulos, daughter Eleni Zaharopoulos, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, brothers and sisters living in Greece as well as several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Lambros was preceded in death by his wife Androniki.

## Condolences

Our condolences to Mitch and Tina Christenbury on the passing of Mitch's father, Mr. John Christenbury. May his memory be eternal.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Nicholas George Mentavlos. May his memory be eternal.

## Meet our mailing crew!

They are just a few of our wonderful Holy Trinity volunteers. This group works behind the scenes & gather in fellowship to offer their time & talent by assembling not only the Monthly Message, but all of our mailings. We are grateful & thankful for all that they do!

We have many ministries that you can get involved in as well as many volunteers opportunities. Reach out to the Church office to see how you can also offer your time & talent.



Pictured in the front: Perry Vastis, Haido Copsis, Theo Pappas, Arthur Pappas, Sam Vastis.

Pictured in the back: Jimmy Galatas, George Retsios, Anna Koufaliotis, Matoula Vastis, Tola Photopoulos, Melpo Kalevas & Spero Kalevas

Missing from photo: Theodore Karres, Niki Vastis, Nick Zaharakis & Roula Zaharakis

## Memorial Sunday March 30, 2025



*Above, Fr. Jerry (left) and Fr. Christian read the 714 names on the list being remembered during the memorial service.*

Every year, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation holds a memorial service to remember our departed family and friends that have been remembered through donations to the Foundation. This year, Fr. Jerry and Fr. Christian read the 714 names during the trisagion after the Divine Liturgy.

The current Trustees were joined on the front rows by family members of the first Trustees and previous trustees. Selected in 1973, the first trustees were Peter J. Couchell, George Diamaduros, Philip J. Forlidas, Nick D. Kaperonis, Steve M. Karres, George J. Miller, and Jimmie Pourlos.

Those original 7 trustees have been followed in the succeeding 52 years by 53 more dedicated community members. The newest two serving their first year are George Andrews and Eleni Saunders.

Trustees are elected by Holy Trinity stewards each year end during the general election. At least one trustee term ends every 5 years. Eligible candidates must be members of Holy Trinity Cathedral in good standing for no less than the twelve months preceding the election. An elected trustee must maintain that good standing for the entire time they serve. A trustee that fails to maintain their good standing shall "ipso facto" cause the resignation from the Foundation Board. See more at <https://htgof.org/about/>.





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