



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 86  
NO. 02



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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

600 EAST BLVD

CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

704-334-4771

[www.htgo.org](http://www.htgo.org)

SECOND QUARTER  
2025

## *Congratulations to the Class of 2025*



### 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:

Welcome back. The spring is a time for excitement and anticipation around Holy Trinity. The inspiring and life affirming celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Great Pascha; the rebirth of the earth's plants and vegetation; and the reaching of another milestone.

Our community celebrated the graduation of 22 seniors on May 18. We can all take pride in their many accomplishments, especially their commitment to their faith and to Holy Trinity. Read about them on pages 8-9.

Holy Trinity Preschool (page 10) and Greek School (page 11) programs also graduated their latest classes in May, as well.

Mark your calendar for the annual Yiasou Festival which begins its three day run on Friday, September 5. There are plenty of preparations before then and your help before, during, and after will be greatly appreciated.

The Voice Staff

[voice@htgo.org](mailto:voice@htgo.org)

## STEWARDSHIP 2025

as of 06/30/2025

YTD Financials	2025 Total	2024 Total
Stewardship	\$428,600	\$392,269
Candles, rentals, other	\$124,744	\$122,341
Building/IRRC donations	\$37,601	\$78,260
Minus: Operating expenses	-\$571,666	-\$583,204
Minus: Building fund expenses	-\$118,468	-\$86,495
Net Ordinary Income (Deficit)	<b>-\$99,189</b>	<b>-\$76,829</b>

Did You Know that in 2025:

Our average monthly electric & gas cost is \$10,678, and  
Average monthly building maintenance cost is \$17,300.

2025 Stewardship Budget	\$1,000,000
2025 YTD Pledges (210 families)	\$297,375

Many stewardship forms are being returned without pledge amounts. Please try and estimate how much you can donate so that we can plan better.

Thank you to all who have donated your time, talents, and treasure to help our beautiful Cathedral.

## ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Friday, August 1	<b>Dormition Fast Begins</b>
Wednesday, August 6	<b>Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Blessing of the Grapes
Friday, August 15	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> Orthros 7:15am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Friday, August 29	<b>Beheading of John the Baptist</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, September 14	<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> Orthros 7:15am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Wednesday, September 17	<b>St. Sophia and 3 Daughters, Faith, Hope and Love</b> Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday, August 15	Cathedral Office Closed
Monday, September 1	Cathedral Office Closed
Tuesday, September 16	Agiasmos and First Day of Greek School Classes

## Updated Reception Hours Starting July 21

Starting July 21, our reception desk and phone lines will be available from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. While staff will still be working between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, this update reflects the hours when the front office will be open for walk-ins and calls.

This adjustment helps ensure that when you visit or call, someone will be available to assist you promptly, while also allowing our staff uninterrupted time to complete their daily responsibilities at the beginning and the end of each day.

We look forward to welcoming you during these updated hours.

Sarah Vastis, Parish Administrator

**THE VOICE**  
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**HOLY TRINITY GREEK  
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**

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Charlotte, NC 28203  
704-334-4771  
[www.htgo.org](http://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*  
Rev. Fr. Jerry Hall, *Retired Priest*

## CATHEDRAL STAFF:

Sarah Vastis, *Parish Administrator*  
Kathy Xyrafakis, *Ministry Coordinator*  
Frances Zogzas, *Financial Secretary (PT)*  
George Petsas, *Facilities Coordinator*  
Robert Brendle, *Dir. of Youth Ministries*  
Eleni Karageorgos, *Athletic Director*  
Sarah Kakouras, *Parish Receptionist*  
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.*

## 2025 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):

Vaki Karampourniotis (26) *President*  
Gus A. Pappas (25) *Vice President*  
Maria Diamantis (27) *Secretary*  
Penelope Hefner (27) *Asst. Secretary*  
Georgette Boukidis (26) *Treasurer*  
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)  
Roula Skenteris (26)  
Christina Skiouris (27)

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## Next Issue:

## DEADLINES:

for articles or photographs is:

**Friday, September 26, 2025**

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

for advertisements is:

**Monday, September 15, 2025**

Email to [voice@htgo.org](mailto:voice@htgo.org)

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the fasts, feasts, and daily rhythms of the Church year, the presence of the Most Holy Theotokos—our Blessed Mother—remains constant and close. The ecclesiastical year begins with the feast of her birth and comes

to its close with her Dormition. Her presence is like a deep embrace, a mother's embrace, that comforts and guides us along the way.

She is ever-present. Her image adorns our icons, her name echoes in our hymns, and her prayers uphold us. Yet her role in our life of faith is not merely symbolic or poetic; it is deeply real, personal, and transformative.

The title "Theotokos"—God-bearer—is more than an affirmation of Orthodox Christian doctrine. It expresses the mystery of the Incarnation: that the eternal Word of God took flesh from the Virgin Mary. In her womb, heaven and earth were united. By freely offering herself to God's will—"Behold, the handmaid of the Lord" (Luke 1:38)—she became the gate through which Christ entered our world.

In this way, the Theotokos is the first and truest Christian. She believed before she understood. She trusted when she could not yet see. At the Annunciation, at the foot of the Cross, and in the upper room after the Ascension, she

exemplifies the obedience, patience, and prayer that form the very foundation of Christian life.

But she is not merely an example from the past. She is a mother in the present.

As Orthodox Christians, we do not approach the Mother of God as a distant figure. We approach her as beloved children, confident in her care. In every trial, every sickness, every moment of fear or confusion, we turn to her with a child's trust: "Most Holy Theotokos, save us." And she always hears. Not because she is divine—she is not—but because she is the most intimate friend of God, and her prayers are powerful in His sight.

The Fathers of the Church often liken her to a ladder between heaven and earth, or a cloud overshadowed with the grace of the Holy Spirit. She does not draw attention to herself, but leads us unfailingly to her Son. Her soul magnified the Lord once (Luke 1:46), and it continues to do so in the life of every believer who seeks her intercession.

In our own struggles, especially when we feel alone, misunderstood, or overwhelmed by sin, the Theotokos is with us. She understands sorrow, for she stood at the Cross. She knows joy, for she held the risen Christ. She knows the hidden life of faith, for she kept all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19). And she leads us, step by step, toward that same communion with Christ.

Let us not forget her place in our homes, our prayers, and our hearts. Let us teach our children to love her, not as a faraway figure, but as their heavenly mother who always listens. Let us greet her icon with reverence, call upon her name with faith, and sing her hymns with gratitude.

She has never failed those who run to her. And she will not fail us.

O Most Holy Theotokos, shelter us under your holy protection and lead us ever closer to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



## Holy Week and Great Pascha 2025



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## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis



Beloved Holy Trinity Class of 2025, Congratulations!

You have completed high school, what an accomplishment! I enjoyed getting to know all of you this year in Sunday School. Your witty remarks, constant laughter, and smiles will be missed. I am sad that we did not take our class trip in the church bus to Auto Bell to visit a classmate at work, but we will definitely make it our class reunion destination, haha. Now, all of you are ready for a new adventure, an adventure in which you will be making decisions on your own. Luckily, you all have been blessed with parents who brought you to our Lovely

Holy Trinity to participate in services, Sunday School, and many youth programs.

As you begin this next chapter in life, I would like to remind you of some of the practices we discussed during our time together.

Remember to pray and be grateful for all things. ***“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16***

Remember not to be afraid because God is always with you, has a plan for you, and will lead you. ***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11***

And finally, the main topic we discussed in Sunday School, remember to put God F.I.R.S.T. in all aspects of your life. **F**irst in your **F**inances, **f**irst in your **R**elationships, **f**irst in your **S**chedule, **f**irst in your **T**roubles.

I know that all of you have a bright future. I want you to know that your Holy Trinity family is proud of you and always here for you, to support you and cheer you on!

## GUEST COMMENTS by George Petsas

## ΠΑΣΧΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙΟΥ

Όπως όλοι γνωρίζουμε στις 15 Αυγούστου τιμάμε και γιορτάζουμε την Κοίμηση Της Θεοτόκου όπως και την Μετάσταση Της Θεοτόκου στα Ουράνια.

Μία από τις σημαντικότερες γιορτές της Χριστιανοσύνης.

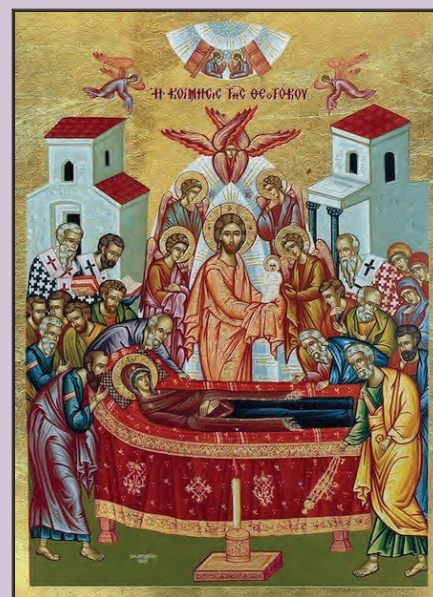
Ως η Πλατυτέρα τών Ουρανών και Όλης της Γής παρακαλούμε την βοήθειά της ώστε να αντιμετωπίσουμε τις ποικίλες δυσκολίες της ζωής και να στεριώσουμε την Πίστη μας στην Αγία Τριάδα.

Η Παναγία όταν βρισκόταν στην επίγεια ζωή βοηθούσε πάρα πολύ τους ανθρώπους με την φιλανθρωπία και την προσευχή της. Αυτό κάνει και τώρα.

Τώρα βοηθά περισσότερο διότι μπορεί να βρίσκεται σε οποιοδήποτε σημείο της γής ανά πάσα στιγμή για να βοηθήσει. Αυτή την δυνατότητα δίνει ο Θεός σε όσους Αγιάζουν.

Εμείς από την πλευρά μας εκείνη την ημέρα ας την τιμήσουμε με την παρουσία μας ανάβοντας ένα κερί προς τιμή της.

Ο ΘΕΟΣ ΝΑ ΜΑΣ ΕΥΛΟΓΕΙ



## THE SUMMER PASCHA

As we all know, on August 15, we honor and celebrate the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, as well as the Metastasis of the Virgin Mary in Heaven. One of the most important holidays of Christianity.

As the Breadth of Heaven and All Earth, we ask for her help to face the various difficulties of life and to consolidate our Faith in the Holy Trinity.

When the Virgin Mary was in earthly life, she helped people immensely with her charity and prayer. This is what she does now. Now she helps more because she can be anywhere on earth at any time to help. This possibility God gives to those who Sanctify.

For our part, let us honor her on that day with our presence by lighting a candle in her honor.

MAY GOD BLESS US

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A NEWS ROUNDUP

Supporting the Life of Our Parish: Introducing New Roles at Holy Trinity

From the Parish Council-

As our Holy Trinity family continues to grow in both size and spiritual activity, the Parish Council—under the guidance of Fr. Jonathan—recognized the need for stronger support behind the many ministries, programs, and people who make our community thrive. In response, several staff roles were recently restructured and new positions created to reflect the evolving life of our Cathedral. These updates were made possible through the reallocation of existing budgeted funds and the thoughtful repurposing of resources from previously vacant roles—ensuring a staffing structure that is both effective and financially responsible.

Parish Administrator – Sarah Vastis

Sarah Vastis has taken on the role of Parish Administrator, serving as the point person for operations across our parish and properties. In this role, she manages the day-to-day operations of the parish, oversees our staff, and helps coordinate major projects and events. She also supports our clergy and Parish Council with long-term planning and ensures that everything—from communication and special projects to rentals and HR—is running smoothly. It’s a mix of administration, team leadership, and community engagement, all aimed at helping the church function efficiently and grow.

Ministry Coordinator – Kathy Xyrafakis

To enhance coordination and communication across our vibrant ministries, Kathy Xyrafakis is now serving as our Ministry Coordinator. She keeps everything running smoothly between clergy, ministries, and parishioners—whether it’s scheduling weddings and baptisms, helping with events, or welcoming new families. She also manages our ministry calendars and internal communications, serving as the hub for much of our community and liturgical activity. It’s a role that requires strong organization, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of parish life.

Director of Youth Ministries – Robert Brendle

We are excited to welcome Robert Brendle as our new full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Robert brings great energy and experience to this vital role, which oversees the spiritual development and fellowship of our youth from Kindergarten through high school. In addition to managing core programs like Sunday School, HOPE/JOY, GOYA, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, and Vacation Bible Camp, he will be expanding retreat opportunities and launching youth education classes and workshops. He is also responsible for shaping the culture of our youth programs, maintaining youth protection policies, and ensuring that our ministry practices reflect both faith and best practices.

Athletic Director – Eleni Karageorgos

With the continued growth of our youth athletics programs, we have created a new part-time position of Athletic Director who will work under the guidance

of the Director of Youth Ministries. Eleni Karageorgos will coordinate our basketball, soccer, and newly re-formed volleyball programs, and will provide additional support for our Dance Board and the Queen City Classic Committee. Eleni’s role includes organizing teams, supporting coaches, and ensuring that our sports offerings remain safe, Christ-centered, and well-managed.

Parish Receptionist – Sarah Kakouras

We also welcome Sarah Kakouras as our Parish Receptionist. In addition to answering phones and greeting guests, Sarah will help support parish communications by creating flyers, assisting with social media, and helping to organize the front office. Her presence helps improve both hospitality and behind-the-scenes organization, allowing the rest of our team to focus more deeply on their respective roles.

Why the Change?

These staffing changes reflect the evolving needs of our growing and vibrant parish. As the scope of parish life has expanded—from youth ministries to sacraments, communications, and campus activity—it became clear that additional structure and support were needed behind the scenes.

The Parish Administrator role was created to bring cohesion and oversight to parish operations, helping ministries, staff, and campus systems work together more efficiently. This position also frees up our clergy to focus more fully on their pastoral and sacramental responsibilities.

The Ministry Coordinator role emerged from a growing need for consistent planning and communication across our many parish groups. With an increasingly full calendar and more new families joining us, this position helps ensure that our ministries stay connected and supported.

In youth programming, what was once one role—responsible for both faith formation and athletics—has been split into two, allowing for better focus and sustainability. A full-time Director of Youth Ministries now leads our youth programs and policy development, while a part-time Athletic Director oversees our growing sports leagues under that same umbrella.

Finally, the Parish Receptionist role was created to carry forward many of the front-office responsibilities previously handled under the Cathedral Secretary position. This transition enhances hospitality and strengthens our capacity for communications and office organization—building on the solid groundwork Kathy had established as she moves into her new role.

We’re excited about the direction these changes represent and look forward to seeing how they will continue to strengthen parish life. Please join us in welcoming our new and returning staff as they begin this next chapter in service to our Holy Trinity family.

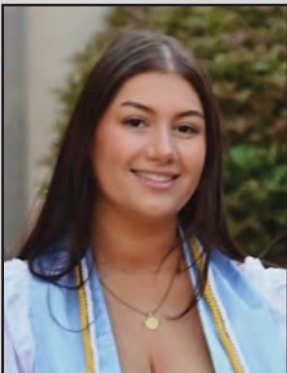
Panegyri 2025



Robert Brendle



Eleni Karageorgos



Sarah Kakouras

**YOUTH NEWS** by Robert Brendle**Sunday School Class Display Handmade Icons (above)**

Our 7th and 8th grade Sunday School students stand proudly in front of the iconostasis, holding the icons they prayerfully created and had blessed, marking the culmination of a year of spiritual growth and learning. We offer our sincere thanks to Vickie Thanos, our devoted lead teacher and volunteer, whose guidance and dedication made this meaningful project a reality.

**Team Bingham Soccer U14 Boys Champions (above)**

Congratulations to Team Bingham on winning the Spring 2025 U14 Boys Soccer Championship! We are incredibly proud of your hard work, teamwork, and determination—you've made both your families and the entire community proud.

**Vacation Bible School Campers, Counselors, and Volunteers (below)**

This year's Vacation Bible Camp was a joyful success, with over 125 people coming together in faith and fellowship to create a memorable week for our youth. We offer heartfelt thanks to all our GOYA counselors for their energy and leadership, and an extra special thank you to the parents who volunteered—their time, love, and dedication made it all possible.

**PANEGYRI 2025**

On June 8, 2025, we joyfully gathered for our annual Community Picnic—the **Panegyri**—to celebrate Pentecost and the Feast Day of our beloved Holy Trinity. Despite a bit of rain, it turned out to be a beautiful Sunday afternoon filled with fellowship, laughter, and love.

The delicious food was thoughtfully organized by a dedicated team of parishioners, and the festive atmosphere was brought to life by music from DJ Kosta Housiadas. Many members of our community came together to make this a truly wonderful celebration.

**With heartfelt gratitude, we thank the following individuals for their generous donations:**

Pete Boukidis  
Alex Brikas  
Hunter Clarke  
John Doulaveris  
Kosta Housiadas  
Dino Kalevas  
Spiro Karageorgos  
Kostas Konstantinou  
Mark Mingo  
Theophilos Moutselos  
Dean Peroulas  
Dimitri Petropoulos

A special thank you to those who gave their time to help organize, prepare, and serve:

George & Georgia Andrews  
John Bisbikis  
Georgette Boukidis  
Jimmy Christodoulis  
Maria Diamantis  
Jonathan Diamantis  
John Doulaveris  
John Fragakis  
John Georgopoulos  
Chris Holevas  
Terry Holevas  
Spiro & Eleni Karageorgos  
Vivian Karampourniotis  
Dia Karampourniotis & Boys  
George Karres  
Theo Karres  
Kathy Kanelopoulos  
Kosta & Corinna Konstantinou  
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Jimmy Kotrotsios  
Spero & Maria Kotrotsios  
Arthur & Chrysoula Pappas  
Jimmy Pappas  
Kosta Pappas & Dimitri  
Theo & Mary Pappas  
Christina Skiouris  
Billy Vastis & Niko  
John Vastis, James & Evan

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Panegyri a joyful and memorable event. Your generosity and spirit of service are what make our Holy Trinity community so special!

*But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, because He is holy.*

*- Joshua 24: 15*

GRADUATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

On Sunday, May 18, the Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 awarded \$39,000 in scholarship money to 22 college and high school students. Scholarship Committee Chairman George Zogzas presented the awards in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Simultaneously, the awards were announced at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church by Chapter Vice President Chris Franks.



AHEPA, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, was founded in July 1922 in Atlanta, GA. AHEPA was founded to fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred. Its mission is to promote the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Charlotte's Marathon Chapter No. 2 was founded two months later, on September 11, 1922.

For the second year, the Pappas Family Foundation, led by siblings Peter and Ellen Pappas, funded a \$5,000.00 scholarship named for their late father, Thomas P. Pappas. Thomas was a long time, active AHEPA member and past President of the Marathon Chapter.

The second scholarship was named for Khalil "Kal" Kardous. Kal was a past President of the Marathon chapter. This award was for \$3,000.00. Funds for this scholarship were raised by friends, family, and AHEPA brothers.

**Thomas P. Pappas Scholarship**  
Erinne Chrissa Kastanas  
**Khalil E. Kardous Scholarship**  
Theodora Voula Kokalis

The local chapter makes merit scholarships available to the children and grandchildren of its active members. Below are the names of the scholarship recipients. The 5 named scholarships go to the applicants with the highest overall scores. This year's named scholarships were for \$2,000.00 each.

**Marathon Chapter No. 2 Scholarship**  
Charles William Euripides  
**Venus Chapter No.102 Scholarship**  
Avangelia "Ava" M. Russell  
**PSP John G. Plumides Scholarship**  
Demetra Panayiota Karres  
**Father "C" Scholarship**  
Thomas Alexander Keretsis  
**Larry C. Peroulas Scholarship**  
Alexis Danielle Christenbury

**Chapter No. 2 Founders Scholarship (\$1,500.00 each):**  
Nikki Maria Blathras  
Mathew Michael Diamantis  
Christala Nicole Doufekias  
Heidi Nicole Emmanuel  
George Giannopoulos  
Mallory Carlyle Hearn  
Andrew George Karres



Theodore George Karres  
Anna Clarkson Plumides  
Mary Emma Thevaos  
Andrew John Tsefrikas  
Leah Marie Tsefrikas

**Academic Award Scholarship (\$1,000.00 each):**  
Jonathan Christopher Diamantis  
Michael A. Keretsis  
Martha Briana Russell

GRADUATION DAY

On May 18, 2025, the Senior Sunday school graduates donned their respective caps and gowns in school colors and proceeded down the middle aisle as their names were read.

Father Jonathan addressed the graduates relating how fortunate he has been to arrive here six years ago to see them graduate from the Greek School program, and now, to see them reach this next milestone. He continued: "Try, as best as you can, to remain faithful; faithful to the choices you make, and faithful in the choices you make. Trust that God will guide you where you need to be."



Ava Russell



Andrew Karres



Johnny Gillette

Members of the class then spoke from the pulpit. First Ava Russell, GOYA Co-President, addressed her classmates and the congregation. She recounted her experience at Holy Trinity from the first day of Sunday school until now. She summed up "I know that we will never forget where we came from and I can't wait to see how much everyone flourishes in this next chapter of our lives. I hope we can all stay connected to our culture but most of all, our faith even as life takes us all into different directions."

She was followed by fellow GOYA Co-President, Andrew Karres. His remarks ended with encouragement to his classmates to "Remember the Church, remember that we always have a home that we can return to. As we leave today, remember, your journey of faith continues. It does not stop when you walk out the church doors. We must live our faith daily and stay connected with the Church."

Those remarks were followed by two

special presentations. First, Mrs. Georgia Andrews presented the Presbyteria Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship to Mary Emma Thevaos.

Next, Fr. Jonathan announced the #doyourbestgiveGODtherest award. The award recognizes a Holy Trinity senior for their involvement in our GOYA and youth programs. This year's winner was Mr. Andrew Karres. [See more about these two awards at Around Charlottetown, page 13]

George Zogzas presented the AHEPA Marathon Chapter No. 2 scholarships (see details in the article nearby).

Sarah Vastis, Sunday School Director and Director of Youth Ministries, announced the names of the graduates who came forward to receive certificates and gifts.. Father Jonathan and Father Christian assisted in passing out the gifts.

The ceremony finished after Senior Johnny Gillette gave the closing prayer, ending with the recitation of the Prayer of St. Patrick which begins "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me . . ." and ends ". Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. To Him be glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. One God. Amen."

Congratulations to the class of 2025.

The graduates, families and friends, proceeded to Father C Hall for a video presentation featuring the graduates.

Scholarship recipients at St. Nektarios (pictured above) and at Holy Trinity (below). With so many industrious scholars working internships, awards were received by parents, grandparents. and siblings of the award winners.



Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

- Romans 12: 9-13

## 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

## ALEXANDRIA "LEXI" DIMITRA BISBIKIS

Weddington High School



Lexi is the daughter of Jimmy and Cathy Bisbikis. She was an AP Scholar and Honors Student throughout high school. She earned the Ellinomatheia A2 and B1 Certificates of Proficiency in the Greek language.

She was a member of the National Honor, English, and History Honor Societies. She was an elected Student Body

Leader on the Principal's Advisory Council and a member of the Mentor's, Spanish, Make-A-Wish, and Rachel's Kindness Clubs.

At Holy Trinity, Lexi was in GOYA, participated in the YIASOU Greek Festival and competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival. She played on soccer and basketball teams, and attended WYR and QCC.

Lexi also devoted 15 years to dance at Miller Street Dance Academy, performing and teaching younger dancers.

Lexi will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, pursuing a degree in nursing.

## JOHN EFRAIM CHRISTODOULIAS

Ardrey Kell High School



John is the son of Gus and Andrea Christodoulis.

He was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized as an AP Scholar with Honors. He consistently achieved A-Honor Roll status and was named to the President's List at Central Piedmont Community College,

earning an Associate Degree in Biology.

John received the Ellinomatheia Certificate of Proficiency in the Greek language.

At Holy Trinity, he played basketball through IFBL and participated in the Winter Youth Rally and Queen City Classic. He played soccer, performed at the Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. John served as acolyte and a member of GOYA, where he grew spiritually and socially through service and fellowship.

John will attend Wingate University majoring in Biochemistry aspiring to a career in either pharmacy or optometry.

## ALEXA EVA KALTSOUNIS

Weddington High School



Alexa is the daughter of Angelo and Agathe Kaltsounis.

Alexa was an AP and Honors student, while also taking college-level courses through SPCC. She completed the Greek School program at Holy Trinity, graduating with multiple awards and honors.

She played competitive soccer with Charlotte Soccer Academy since age eight and high school JV and Varsity soccer teams. She was an active member of several clubs, including the Make-A-Wish, Spanish, TEAMS, and Kindness Matters Clubs.

At Holy Trinity, Alexa served as a GOYA board member. She danced in the annual Greek Festival, competed at HDF, played basketball at Winter Youth Rally and QCC, as well as Sunday School and soccer.

Alexa will attend the University of South Carolina in Columbia in the fall majoring in Hospitality Management and Marketing.

## ANGELA PANAYIOTA CHRISTODOULIAS

Weddington High School



Angela is the daughter of Jimmy and Joann Christodoulis.

Angela consistently earned A Honor Roll recognition throughout her high school years. She was active in both school and church communities. At Weddington, she was a member of the Make-A-Wish and Helping Hearts

Clubs. She played Junior Varsity Basketball as a freshman and sophomore and advanced to the Varsity team as a junior.

At Holy Trinity, Angela served as a GOYA Leadership Team member as Witness Leader. She was a member of basketball and soccer teams, danced at the YIASOU Greek Festival, and competed at the HDF. She attended the Winter Youth Rally and the Queen City Classic (QCC), strengthening her connection to faith and fellowship.

Angela will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte studying business.

## VASILEIOS "BASIL" GEORGIOS FOURTOUNIS

David W. Butler High School



Basil is the son of Georgios and Demetra Jamie Fourtounis.

Basil was eligible for early midyear graduation and earned ServSafe Certificate. He was actively involved in a variety of school and church activities. At Butler, he participated in both JV and Varsity Wrestling, was a member of the

Fishing Club, and joined the Food and Nutrition Club. At Holy Trinity, he played on the soccer team, performed in Festival Dance, competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF), and was a dedicated GOYA member.

Basil plans to continue volunteering with the Butler Wrestling Team and assisting with the Fishing Club while pursuing further education in electrical engineering.

## THOMAS ANTHONY KAMPIZIONES

Weddington High School



Thomas is the son of Terry and Niki Kampiziones.

Thomas consistently earned A/B Honor Roll recognition. Thomas has been active in extracurricular activities. He played on his high school soccer team and participated in club soccer. He also co-founded a student club at Weddington.

At Holy Trinity, he was involved in Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF), GOYA, soccer, and basketball. He volunteered at the annual YIASOU festival.

Thomas plans to pursue a college education in the field of Physical Science.

## ANDREW GEORGE KARRES

Carmel Christian School



Andrew is the son of George and Kiki Karres.

Andrew was a member of the National Honor Society, recipient of the Timothy Project Academic Award, member of the Beta and HOSA Clubs, and a Carmel Christian School Ambassador. He played varsity soccer.

At Holy Trinity, Andrew served as GOYA President and Worship Chairperson and he is the Head Acolyte. He received recognition in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, participated in HDF (Hellenic Dance Festival), and volunteered at the annual Yiasou Festival. He also played soccer and basketball.

Andrew will attend Clemson University in the fall to study Pre-Pharmacy.

## HUNTER WHEATLEY

Myers Park High School



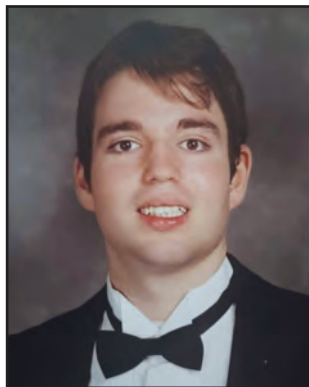
Hunter is the son of Ashley Lyle and Robert Wheatley.

At Holy Trinity, Hunter was an Altar Boy, participated in the Dance program, played basketball and soccer, played in the Winter Youth Rally and QCC. He also volunteered during Vacation Bible School and was in GOYA.

Hunter will be attending the automotive technology program at Central Piedmont Community College with a concentration in BMW.

## JOHN SAMUEL GILLETTE

Socrates Academy



John is the son of Joel and Irene Gillette.

John earned Honor Roll distinction during his time at Socrates Academy, where he was recognized for his academic dedication. A faithful participant in Sunday School and a proud dancer in the annual Greek Festival, John has always embraced his heritage and community. He

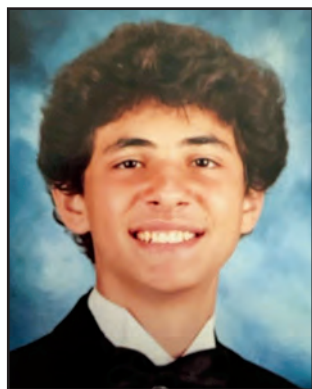
especially cherished his time volunteering at the Matthews Playhouse, where he discovered a love for the arts and service.

After graduation, John plans to take time to reflect and thoughtfully chart his path forward.

## 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### SAM CONSTANTINE KOSKINAS

Weddington High School



Sam is the son of George and Vickie Koskinas.

Sam was inducted into the National Honor Society and is also a proud member of the History Honor Society, DECA Club, and the Shark Tank Business Club at Weddington High School.

At Holy Trinity, Sam has participated in Sunday School, played on basketball and soccer teams, danced at the annual Yiasou Festival, and was a member of GOYA, serving as Fellowship Co-Chair.

This fall, Sam will be attending North Carolina State University (Raleigh), pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a focus in Finance.

### JONATHAN MATALAS

Weddington High School



Jonathan is the son of Pete and Nitsa Matalas.

Jonathan was an Honor roll student. He volunteered at Unto Ages of Ages Ministry, The Dilworth Soup Kitchen, Roof Above and Vacation Bible School. Jonathan played soccer for Charlotte Soccer Academy.

At Holy Trinity he danced at the Yiasou Festival and competed at Hellenic Dance Festival. Jonathan was in the GOYA Fellowship team and served as an Acolyte. He also played soccer and basketball and attended Winter Youth Rally and Queen City Classic.

Jonathan will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this fall.

### GEORGE VASILIOS TASIOS

Weddington High School



George is the son of Bill and Kalliroe Tasios

George consistently maintained A/B Honor Roll status.

At Holy Trinity, he was actively involved in basketball and participated in the annual Greek Festival, celebrating his heritage and community.

George will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he plans to major in Exercise Science as he pursues his goal of becoming a physical therapist.

### ELENI KONSTANDINA KOUKOUTSIS

Myers Park High School



Eleni is the daughter of Dionysios and Marina Koukoutsis.

At Holy Trinity, she graduated from Greek School, participated in Vacation Bible School as a student and as a counselor. She attended Winter Youth Rally and the St. Stephens Camp. She participated in the annual Yiasou Greek Festival and the Hellenic

Dance Festival (HDF). She also played on basketball and soccer teams for Holy Trinity, but began basketball at the YMCA.

Eleni will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte pursuing a degree in Business.

### GIANNA MARIA MINGO

Gaston Christian School



Gianna is the daughter of Mark and Maria Mingo.

Gianna received the A/B Honor Roll and was part of the National Honor Society.

She was Vice President of Spirit Club, President of the Mosaic Club, participated in International and Interactive Clubs, and Chick fil-A Leadership

Academy. She was also captain of the Varsity Basketball team.

At Holy Trinity, Gianna participated at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at HDF.

Gianna will be attending the UNC Wilmington in the fall, majoring in Psychology, towards her goal of becoming an occupational therapist.

### MARY EMMA THEVAOS

Marvin Ridge High School



Mary Emma is the daughter of Celia and Philip Thevaos.

Mary Emma graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, was a member of National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (National Math Honor Society), and Spanish Honor Society. She was a Marvin Ridge High School Ambassador and

Make a Wish Co-Chair.

She was also a member of Spanish Club and Beta Club, and a student at Holt School of Fine Art.

At Holy Trinity, she was a member of GOYA, danced at Yiasou Festival, and competed at HDF. Mary volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank and enjoys playing tennis.

Mary will be attending Clemson University majoring in Biology.

### JACOB DAVID LAVERGNE

Sanctuary Academy



Jacob is the son of Beau and Kathy LaVergne.

Jacob was dual enrolled at CPCC while a junior and senior in high school. He made Dean's List his junior year and President's List his senior year. Jacob was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society junior year, and graduated May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with his

Degree in Associates in Arts and a Certificate in Business Management.

Jacob felt led to convert to the Greek Orthodox faith in 2024 and, by himself, started attending Holy Trinity, where he was welcomed in April 2025. In his spare time, he is heavily involved with weightlifting.

Jacob plans to obtain his North Carolina insurance adjuster license and may attend Orthodox seminary school in the future.

### AVANGELIA MARIA RUSSELL

Weddington High School



Avangelia is the daughter of Caleb and Dora Russell

Ava graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, and was part of National Society of Leadership and Success. She was on the A Honor Roll. She was on the soccer team and a member of the Make a Wish and Rachel's Kindness Matters Clubs. She also

tutored other students.

At Holy Trinity, Ava was active in GOYA and served as Co-President. She also participated in Greek Festival Dance and HDF, attended St. Stephens Camp and Winter Youth Rally, QCC, and volunteered at VBS. She was Captain of CSA soccer Club and a member of the Holy Trinity basketball team.

Ava will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall studying Exercise and Sports Science.

### ANDREW JOHN TSEFRİKAS

Weddington High School



Andrew is the son of Renee Andrews and John Tsefrikas

Andrew was a member of Science National Honor Society and was an AP and Honor Student. He was a member of the Varsity lacrosse team as well as participating in Club lacrosse. He was also enrolled at SPCC Extracurricular

Achievements.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in basketball, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at Hellenic Dance Festival.

Andrew will attend the University of Tennessee in Knoxville this fall studying exercise science.

Bios and photos were provided by the student. Content has been edited to fit in the space available.



## 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*

April, May and June are always busy months at the Preschool. We turn our attention to the reawakening of the Spring Season, the warmer weather and getting to spend more time outdoors. Being outdoors is always a time for the children to play but also a time to learn about the changes happening in the spring. They learned about April showers, flowers, rainbows, baby birds and bird's nests, baby chicks, bunnies, squirrels, insects, animals and life cycles.

They focused on the importance of the Easter celebration and all the events leading up to it. The children did a beautiful job learning the Christos Anesti hymn and to say, Christos Anesti and Alithos Anesti. The Preschool was closed from April 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> for Spring break which coincided with our Holy Week. Returning from the break each of the classes celebrated with an Easter Party and egg hunt.

The Preschool held its annual Luminary Bag fundraising project during Great Lent. Luminaries were "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a loved one. The luminary bags were displayed under the round dome area of the courtyard during the Holy Friday evening service. All the names from the luminaries were given to our priests to be blessed during the services. It is a beautiful way of remembering and blessing our loved ones as we rejoice in the miracle of Easter.



In May we wrap up the school year but not before squeezing in as much learning, fun and fellowship before the year ends. We reviewed what the children have learned throughout the year such as sharing, taking turns, following directions, the alphabet, numbers and counting, colors and shapes, the days of the week, the months, practicing fine and large motor skills, sorting, matching, sequencing, summer, sea life, obeying God, and in the older classes recognizing and writing their names, as well as practicing for the Graduation and End of Year program. For Mother's Day and Father's Day we discussed the special bond between the children and their parents., We invited all our Moms and Dads to the preschool for a Coffee Hour on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their special days. We had a great turnout, and the children enjoyed sharing that special time with their parents.

We held parent-teacher conferences for the two, three- and four-year-old classes. The teacher evaluations are used as a guide to see where the children are excelling and in what areas have room for improvement. Our goal throughout the year is to prepare each child academically, emotionally and socially to be ready to move on to the next grade level. It was very rewarding to watch the children progress throughout the year, approaching each new challenge with enthusiasm while gaining confidence in their abilities.

The children worked hard practicing their songs for the Graduation Program and End of Year Celebration held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated our 2025 Graduates and honored all our preschool students moving up to the next grade level. The children did a great job singing a medley of songs in Greek and English!

The preschool held three sessions of summer camp for children ages three to five. The camps took place on June 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. The camp themes were "Bugs, Bugs, Bugs", "Vacation Bible Camp" and "Book Adventures". Activities included:

- A firefly jar with fairy light for the book *The Very Quiet Cricket*
- Decoupaged tray with the Icon for the Hospitality of Abraham and canvas Icon of the children's patron saint that were both blessed by Fr. Jonathan
- A papier-mâché hot air balloon for the book *All the Places You'll Go*.
- Water day on the last day of each week of the camp

We had a great turn out and the children really enjoyed the experience. We look forward to having this program again next summer. Thank you to Ms. Lisa Giotis, Ms. Stasy Skarlatos and Ms. Aggie Poulos for the time and effort they put into planning for the camps and to Ms. Alex, Ms. Kontilo for their help as well. Great job ladies!

This summer we turn our focus to the 2025 – 2026 school year. The next school year will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have a second 2-year-old class. Staffing for the classes will be:

- T's Class (MW): Ms. Kim Tatsis and Ms. Kontilo Pappas
- 2's Class (MW): Ms. Stasy Skarlatos and Ms. Dina Sohoritis
- 2's Class (TTH): Ms. Kontilo Pappas and Ms. Georgia Harakas
- 3's Class (MWF): Ms. Lisa Giotis, Ms. Alex Tatsis (W) and Ms. Kim Tatsis (F)
- 4's Class (M-F): Ms. Aggie Poulos, Ms. Irene Lowder (M-TH) and Ms. Stasy Skarlatos (F)

The directors and staff want to express their appreciation to everyone that makes the preschool such a success. Starting with the children and their families, the Cathedral staff, our Preschool Board, the Parish Council, Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian for spending time with us bimonthly doing "Our Faith with Father". Our preschool has been operating for more than 20 years, and we could not have sustained this high quality program without the unending support of the entire Holy Trinity Community.

*Pictures, clockwise from top right- Week 1 summer campers; Week 2 summer campers; Week 3 summer campers; 2025 graduating class takes center stage at the End of Year Celebration on May 30, 2025.*

Please CALL or TEXT the Co-Directors at the numbers below with questions or for more information.

Co-Directors:

Lisa Giotis 704-807-5926

Maria Kleto 704-564-5842

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



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## NEA & ΦΩΝΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΑΣ

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025**

Μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί και γονείς γιορτάζουν στο Ελληνικό μας Πάρκο την Πρωτομαγιά 2025.

Ήταν μια υπέροχη μέρα στο Hellenic Park για τον εορτασμό της Πρωτομαγιάς. Ο ήλιος έλαμπε στον καταγάλανο ουρανό, και η φύση ήταν στο απόγειό της, γεμάτη πολύχρωμα λουλούδια και αρώματα της άνοιξης. Ο κόσμος είχε μαζευτεί με χαμόγελα, στρώνοντας κουβέρτες και καρέκλες στο γρασίδι και πλέκοντας στεφάνια με αγριολούλουδα. Παιδιά έτρεχαν ανέμελα, παίζανε ποδόσφαιρο, ενώ οι μεγάλοι απολάμβαναν φαγητό και ζεστές συζητήσεις. Ήταν μια μέρα γεμάτη χαρά, ελληνική παράδοση και αγάπη για τη φύση. Μεγάλη επιτυχία είχαν οι αγώνες δρόμου, σκυταλοδρομίας, αυγοδρομίας, και άλλων παιχνιδιών που οργάνωσαν η διεύθυνση και οι εκπαιδευτικοί του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου. Χίλια ευχαριστώ στις ακούραστες κυρίες του Συλλόγου που πρόσφεραν τα φαγητά, και τα λουλούδια για τα παραδοσιακά στεφάνια.



## GRADUATION 2025

Συγχαρητήρια στους αποφοίτους του 2025!

Οι απόφοιτοι του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας της Σάρλοτ. Σπύρος Σταθόπουλος, Σαμουήλ Πέτερσον, Στεφανία Πρασσά, Ζηνοβία Πετροπούλου, και Σωτηρία Παλούμπα με την δασκάλα τους Ιωάννα Κωστή και διευθύντρια, Ολύμπια Κουτσοκάλη.

Όλοι οι φετινοί απόφοιτοι έφυγαν από το σχολείο με πολλές και αξέχαστες αναμνήσεις, υπερηφάνεια αλλά και τιμητικές διακρίσεις, επαίνους και χρηματικά βραβεία από την ΑΧΕΠΑ, την κοινότητα, το Σύλλογο Γονέων και Δασκάλων και από θερμούς υποστηρικτές του σχολείου για άριστη σχολική επίδοση, για αξιόλογες πτυχιακές εργασίες και εξαιρετικές παρουσίες. Βραβεύτηκαν επίσης για τις εξαιρετικές τους εργασίες που υπέβαλαν στη διεύθυνση του σχολείου ως προϋπόθεση αποφοίτησής τους με θέμα «Η Γενέτειρα των Προγόνων μου». Το πρόγραμμα γιορτής συνέχισε με αποχαιρετιστήρια μηνύματα, τραγούδια και χοροί από τους μαθητές όλων των τάξεων. Μετά την τελετή αποφοίτησης, οι απόφοιτοι μαζί με τις οικογένειές τους συγκεντρώθηκαν στο Dave and Buster's Arcade για να γιορτάσουν την επιτυχία τους και να διασκεδάσουν πριν ξεκινήσει το καλοκαίρι. Γέλια, παιχνίδια και χαρούμενες στιγμές κυριάρχησαν στον χώρο, δημιουργώντας αξέχαστες αναμνήσεις για όλους.

### Graduating Class of 2025

Σπύρος Σταθόπουλος, Σαμουήλ Πέτερσον, Στεφανία Πρασσά, Ζηνοβία Πετροπούλου, Σωτηρία Παλούμπα

Σπύρος Σταθόπουλος- First Place Academic Award and AHEPA Award

Στεφανία Πρασσά- Second Place Academic Award

Σωτηρία Παλούμπα- Third Place Academic Award

Στεφανία Πρασσά - First Place Project Award

Ένα ιδιαίτερο ευχαριστώ στους παρακάτω δωρητές:

**AHEPA; Cannon Pharmacy Ms. Leah Raptis**

Οι Μαθητές, η Διεύθυνση, οι Δασκάλες και ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και Διδασκάλων του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος απευθύνουμε θερμότερες ευχαριστίες στην Κατερίνα Ξυραφάκη και Φράνσις Ζόγκτζα για την ανιδιοτελή προσφορά των υπηρεσιών τους στην εκπλήρωση της αποστολής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου. Επίσης στην Λαμπρινή Ελεφάντη για τον πολύτιμο χρόνο που διέθεσαν, το ταλέντο και τη δημιουργική τους συμβολή στο σχεδιασμό και παραγωγή του αναμνηστικού σχολικού βιβλίου 2024-2025.

Ευχαριστούμε και πάλι στα όργανα διοίκησης του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Κηδεμόνων:

President: Mrs. Stephie Kaltsounis

Vice-President: Mrs. Sophia Thomopoulos

Secretary: Mrs. Vicki Stathopoulos

Treasurer: Mrs. Maria Asprogiannis



**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Demetra Boardman

This spring was a busy one for our Chapter. We are happy to share these highlights!

**Pascha Bake Sale and Easter Egg Dyeing** activities were a tremendous success. The funds raised support our programs, such as: Social Services, Disaster Relief, Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship and more. We are extending our appreciation and gratitude to our volunteers and patrons.

**Easter Homebound Community Visits.** Our chapter made heartwarming visits to bring gift bags of Easter joy to thirty-six members of our homebound community. Visits are a reminder of how compassion and community connect us all.

**Operation Classroom.** On April 28th and 30th, our members volunteered at Classroom Central.



**Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship:** Four applications were received for this year's Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship. The 2025 scholarship of \$2,500 was awarded on May 18th to Mary-Emma Thevaos during the Sunday School graduation ceremony. Congratulations to Mary-Emma and to all applicants!

**Board and General Meetings.** Our final Philoptochos Board meeting for the year was held on May 1st followed by our end of year General Meeting and picnic on May 16th at Freedom Park.

**New Board and Election of Officers.** The new board members were sworn in on June 1st after Divine Liturgy. The election of officers was held in the library after church services. Our new board members include:

**Officers:** Cathy Poulimenos, President; Tula Kourakos, 1st Vice President; Mary Pappas, 2nd Vice President; Effie Rodriguez, Recording Secretary; Demetra Boardman, Correspondence Secretary; Christine Copsis, Treasurer; Vicki O'Keefe, Assistant Treasurer; Diane Ramsay, Advisor.



*Officers and Board Members sworn in*

**Members:** Georgia Andrews, Georgia Blathras, Ana Dudley, Elaine Haskell, Toni Karnazes, Cecelia Kotsipias, Chris Pappas, Maria S. Pappas, Irene Politis, Frances Troupes, Maria Wheatley.

**Holy Trinity Name Day Celebration.** On June 9th, our chapter provided Artoclasia and a wonderful table of refreshments for all visiting priests, guests, and the members of the community that were in attendance.

**Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference** was held in Charleston, SC on June 11th - 15th. Irene Politis (Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos President) and Cathy Poulimenos (Agia Elpis Chapter President) attended the conference. It was a conference of fellowship, inspiring guest speakers, reviewing our philanthropic work, and the continued commitment to our mission. This year's theme was Faith, Family, and Love which was embraced by all. A report will be given at our first General Meeting in September.



*Pictured clockwise: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros with Chapter President Cathy Poulimenos, ladies at the year end picnic, and hosting coffee fellowship on the Feastday of the Holy Trinity.*

**SAVE THE DATES**

Yiasou Festival Baking and Packing schedule:

Karidopita, TBA,  
Koulourakia August 4 - 6t  
Baklava August 7 - 14  
Packing Labor Day Weekend  
August 29 - September 1

Agia Elpis Nameday Luncheon/Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – Red Rocks Café @ 12:00.

Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, Saturday, September 27th, 2025, Atlanta, GA



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Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



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Under The Auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Epiphanius of America and The Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta The National Philoptochos Society

20th Anniversary of the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025  
11:00 am: Reception  
12:00 pm: Program begins

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Let's make a difference together!

**AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN** by Kathy Xyrafakis

**Anderson – Moschopoulos**

Mackenzie Anderson and Constantine Moschopoulos were married on Saturday, June 14, 2025. The ceremony was at Holy Trinity Cathedral followed by a reception at the Mint Museum Randolph. Mackenzie is the daughter of Ira and James Litaker. Constantine is the son of Lotta and John Moschopoulos. The couple honeymooned in Bora Bora. They reside in Charlotte.



**Ballas - Drossopoulos**



Angelika Nicole Ballas and Peter Nicholas Drossopoulos were married on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Angelika is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nickolas J. Ballas of Charlotte. Peter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nikolaos P. Drossopoulos of Charlotte. The couple honeymooned in Bali, Indonesia and now reside in Charlotte.

**Karagounis - York**

Evdoxia Gloria Karagounis and Adam Gregory York were married on Saturday, May 10, 2025. The ceremony was at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and a reception followed at The Revelry. Gloria is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Karagounis. Adam is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory York. The couple will honeymoon to Europe in September and now reside in Charlotte.



**2025 Scholarships and Awards  
Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides  
Scholarship**



The Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship selection committee announced the winner of this year's \$2,500 award during the Sunday school Graduation ceremony. The scholarship was awarded to Mary Emma Thevaos, pictured above at left with Georgia Andrews, Cathy Poulimenos, and Effie Rodriguez. Mary Emma will be attending Clemson University.

The scholarship was funded by the Agia Elpis Chapter and named for Presbytera Kathryn. She served this community with her husband, Reverend Father Phaethon Constantinides (Father C) for 30 years. The scholarship is intended to be awarded annually to a qualified and deserving female high school senior from Holy Trinity.

Mary Emma joins previous recipients: Helen McGinnis (2018); Apostolia Liana Kendrick (2019); Eleftheria Euripides (2020); Katerina Anastasia Peroulas (2021); Maria Kaltsounis (2022); Theodora Kokalis (2023); and Meredith Boukidis (2024).

**#doyourbestgiveGODtherest award**



Fr. Jonathan announced the #doyourbestgiveGODtherest award. The award recognizes a Holy Trinity senior for their involvement in our GOYA and youth programs. This year's winner was Andrew Karres (pictured above, at left, with Fr. Jonathan). Andrew will be attending Clemson University. He joins previous recipients Theodore Harakas (2023) and Nikki Blathras (2024).

**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.

**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.

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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*



**DIONYSIA (DENISE) PETROPOULOS ATHANS**, age 88, passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the age of 88. Born in Amaliada, Greece on December 8, 1936, "Sia" was the daughter of Themistocles and Panagiota Petropoulos; wife to the deceased George Athans for 62 years; mother; grandmother and great-grandmother.

Sia is survived by son Athanasios (Tom) Athans and daughter Themis (Tammy) Athans Conits (George), and grandchildren Ian George Conits

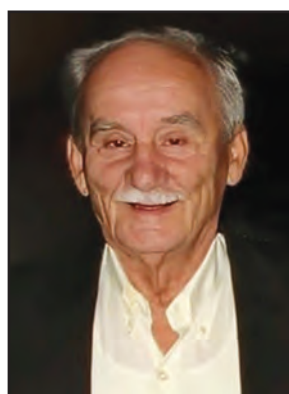
(Eleni) and Nina Denise Conits Marflake (Matt), and her great-granddaughter, Maria Conits.



**JOHN GUS BAKOS**, age 88, passed unto the Lord on Thursday, May 22, 2025. He was born on August 1, 1936, in the mountain village of Mikro Chorio (now Paleo Mikro Chorio), Evrytania, Greece, to Konstantinos and Ourania (née Triantafilli) Bakogiannis.

John is survived by his loving wife of over 65 years, Helen (née Vlahos) Bakos; his daughters, Katherine Bakos Cestrone (Peter) and Urania "Renee" Bakos Keretses (Constantine "Deno"); and his grandchildren, Anthony Cestrone, Elena Keretses Burrus (Sam), Kristina Cestrone Trimnal (Dalton), Steven Keretses, Peter J. Cestrone, and Mary Katherine Cestrone. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Vaia Burrus and John Burrus; his siblings, Maria Zaharis, Larry Bakos (Vickie), and Eve Lainis; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Konstantinos and Ourania Bakogiannis; his sister, Rena Stelter; and his brothers-in-law, Paul Zaharis, Horst Stelter, John Lainis, and Jimmie Pappas.

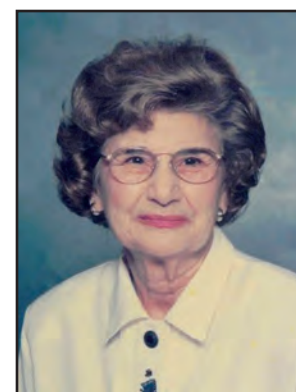


**KONSTANTINOS BRIKAS**, age 84, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, June 7, 2025, after a brief illness. He was born on April 8, 1941, in Ipati, Lamia, Greece.

Konstantinos is survived by his beloved wife, Ekaterini (Stamoulis) Brikas; his sons, Alexandros (Alexandra) Brikas and Theofilos (Athanasia) Brikas; and his cherished grandchildren, Konstantinos A., Dimitrios A., Aikaterini T., Konstantinos T., and Aikaterini A. Brikas.



Anthoula is survived by her children, Dr. Peter Copsis (Pam) and Maria Copsis Tassopoulos (Tim); her grandchildren, Luke Tassopoulos, Nicholas Tassopoulos, Anthea Copsis, and Vasili Copsis; her brother-in-law, John Antone; sister-in-law, Haido Copsis; many cherished nieces and nephews; and her beloved godchildren, Johnny G. Couchell, Kiki Karres, John L. Maheras, Theofani Nixon, and Patty Robinson.



**HELEN FLOROS FLEGGAS**, age 102, passed unto the Lord on Sunday, April 27, 2025, in Charlotte, North Carolina, surrounded by family and close friends.

She is survived by her son, Speros Fleggias, and his wife, Patricia, of Raleigh, NC; her grandchildren, John Fleggias and Elena Fleggias; and her great-grandsons, Speros and Niko Fleggias, all of Raleigh. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews in North and South Carolina and in Greece.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, John Fleggias; her son, Gus Fleggias; her brothers, Jimmy Floros, Spiro Floros, and Nick Floros; and her sisters, Katherine Anastes and Sula Morrow.

**ANTHOULA MARKOS COPSIS**, age 89, passed unto the Lord peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 54 years, Nick Copsis; her grandson, Nicholas P. Copsis; her parents, Paraskevi and Spiros Markos; and her siblings, Leo Markos and Helen Antone.

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## In Memoriam

*continued from prior page*



**KONSTANTINOS "GUS" SERAFIM GOUMAS**, age 82, passed unto the Lord peacefully on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Maria; his daughters, Frances Simopoulos (Peter) and Tina Christenbury (Mitch); and his grandchildren, Sotiri Simopoulos, Connie Simopoulos, Maria Christenbury, and Alexis Christenbury.

Also surviving are his sister, Alexandra Koutsikos; his brothers, George Goumas and Ioannis Goumas; his sisters-in-law, Bessie Margonis (George) and Melody Katsanos; and many beloved nieces and nephews.



**ELISSAVET IOANNOU KAZAKOU** age 89, passed unto the Lord peacefully at her home on Monday, April 7, 2025, in Weddington, North Carolina.

She is survived by her daughters, Dimitra Forniotis (Jimmy), Lambrini Kalevas (Spero), and Athina Ternioti (Ioannis); and her grandchildren, Nicko, Elissavet, Loukas, Yiannis, Maria, Elisavet, and Aristidis.

Also surviving are her brothers, Konstantinos and Serafim Mpakalios; her sister, Martha Kodakis; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ioannis Kazakos, and her parents.



**SOTIRIA "RULA" KARAGOUNIS POULOS** passed away on Friday, June 20, 2025. She was born on September 3, 1953 in Kerasochori, Evrytanas, Greece to the late Penelope and the late Andreas Karagounis.

Rula was preceded in death by her loving husband Gus Poulos and is survived by her cherished son, Tommy, by her three sisters, Katerinia Raptis (George), Elli Kontogiorgos (Chris) and Fotini Tsopanas, by her brothers, Pete Karagounis (Lambrini), George Karagounis (Liz), Kostas Karagounis, and Steve Karagounis, her sister in laws, Savoula Demas of Greece, Mary Gallis (Bill) of Indian Trail, NC, and numerous nieces and nephews in and around the Charlotte area and Greece.



**ANASTASIOS "TASOS" DEMETRIOS TATSIS**, age 86, passed unto the Lord on April 29, 2025, after a brief illness, surrounded by his beloved family.

He is survived by his son, Steve Tatsis; daughter, Anna Tatsis Shinas; and granddaughter, Efthimia "Mia" Shinas. Also surviving are his brother, Angelo Tatsis (Avgoula); sister-in-law, Antonia Tatsis; Reverend Dionysios Tatsis and Presbyteria Marianthi; sister, Evthokia Siozios; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sophia Tatsis; his brothers, Peter Tatsis and Nick Tatsis; his sister, Katerina Skourtis; sister-in-law, Anthoula Tatsis; and niece, Vivian Tatsis Stergiou.

## Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of Zorita "Rita" Castanas. May her memory be eternal.

## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT by Olga Yamalis

The 47<sup>th</sup> annual choir conference of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (SFGOCM) was held in June 12th - 15th, 2025, in Charleston, SC, in conjunction with our Atlanta Metropolis Clergy Laity. HTC Choir's participants included Cecelia Kotsipias, Pauline Velonis, Dean Johns, Olga Yamalis and Lucy Pappadakes. The Guest Conductor of this conference was Joanne Kambouris of Holy Trinity, Clearwater, FL and the Guest Organist was Niko Gonatos of St. Nicholas, Tarpon Springs, FL. The performance included the Greek/English liturgical music of Nicholas Roubanis.

The highlights of this conference included:

- The Grand Banquet, held on Thursday night at the Charleston Gaillard Center.
- Opening Plenary Session took place on Friday morning. There, the federation choir began the conference with the Greek national anthem, Star Spangled Banner and Doxology.
- Friday dinner was held at Trinity Hall, along with the Broadway Trivia.
- Saturday, there was a rehearsal; for dinner, people experienced the local cuisine at various Charleston restaurants.
- Sunday concluded with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Father's Day Luncheon.



*Holy Trinity choir members attending the Choir Conference.*

A great thank you goes out to the Holy Trinity Charleston for hosting and doing a fantastic job! We are looking forward to our 48<sup>th</sup> annual SFGOCM choir conference in June 2026 to be in "A-Town" Atlanta, GA.

There are more events coming up this summer and fall, and new conferences that HTC choir's members will attend. Those interested should look for updates in the next Voice edition.



*"Once again, from the top . . ." A practice session with the participants in the choir conference in Charleston.*



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