



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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THIRD QUARTER
2025



Much to Celebrate in September

The annual Yiasou Greek Festival kicked off its three day run on Friday, September 5, 2025. The Agiasmo marks the blessing of the event. Pictured, at left, l-r: Deacon George Politis, Fr. Jonathan Resmini, protochanter Dimitri Petropoulos, and Fr. Christian Siskos.

September 17 is the Feast Day of Saint Sophia and her three daughters (Faith, Hope, and Love). Agia Elpis (Hope) is the name of our Philoptochos chapter and her icon is pictured above.

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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THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back. We have gotten a quick taste of autumn here at the end of September. It is refreshing with a promise of what some of us consider the best time of the year: football season!

As always, there has been activity at Holy Trinity both near and far. On the near side, the annual Yiasou Festival brought Charlotteans to 600 East Blvd for food, culture, and fun (pp 7-10); the Agape group took flight (p 4), and the preschool kicked off its new school year (p 11)

On the far side, delegate Hunter Clarke recounts his experience at the biennial Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity conference in Charleston, SC (p 5); choir members participated in multiple conferences throughout the summer (p 12); and on the really far side, Harry T. Cavalaris was part of a group that accompanied His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros on an exciting visit to Old Rome and New Rome (p 15).

Thanks for reading.

GZ

voice@htgo.org

ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Saturday, November 15	Nativity Fast Begins
Tuesday, November 25	St. Catherine the Great Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Saturday, December 6	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Thursday, December 25	Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 27	Cathedral Office Closed
Friday, November 28	
Wednesday, December 24	
Thursday, December 25	
Friday, December 26	

THE VOICE
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STEWARDSHIP 2025

as of 09/30/2025

<u>YTD Financials</u>	<u>2025 Total</u>	<u>2024 Total</u>
Stewardship	\$580,023	\$515,098
Candles, rentals, other	\$188,400	\$162,466
Building/IRRC donations	\$43,316	\$299,390
Minus: Operating expenses	-\$1,003,464	-\$863,602
Minus: Building fund expenses	-\$99,834	-\$410,030
Net Ordinary Income (Deficit)	-\$291,559	-\$296,678

Did You Know that in 2025:

Our average monthly electric & gas cost is \$10,209, and
Average monthly building maintenance cost is \$16,950.

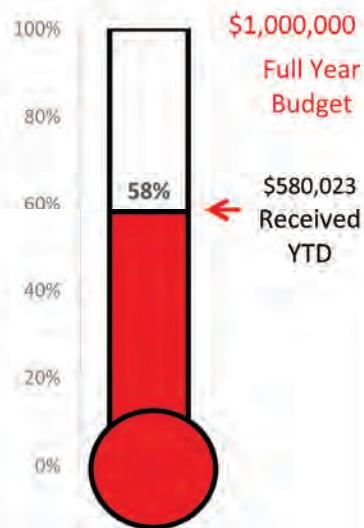
2025 Stewardship Budget	\$1,000,000
2025 YTD Pledges (217 families)	\$301,075

Please remember to send your stewardship donations so that we receive them before December 31st in order to get credit in 2025.

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for advertisements is:

Monday, December 15, 2025

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



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

Unity and Community in Christ

In every generation, the Church is called to shine as a living witness of God's love in a world fractured by division. Our Lord Himself prayed on the night before His Passion that His disciples "may all be one, even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You" (John 17:21). Unity, then, is not a matter of convenience or strategy. It is the very will of Christ for His people.

We often think of unity as agreement or harmony, but for us as Orthodox Christians, it is something far deeper. It is participation in the life of the Holy Trinity. The unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is not uniformity but perfect communion in love. In the same way, the Church preserves her richness of peoples, cultures, and gifts, while remaining one Body in Christ.

Unity as Christ's Gift

The first thing we must remember is that unity is a gift. Our Lord did not simply instruct His followers to be united; He prayed for it. This tells us that oneness is not something we achieve through our own strength, but rather something granted to us by God through the Holy Spirit. It is a grace we receive and a treasure we must guard.

St. Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Ephesians, where he begs the faithful to "lead a life worthy of your calling, with all humility and patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3). Paul speaks

of humility, patience, and love because these are the virtues that protect the gift of unity. When pride, anger, or self-will take over, the bond of peace begins to fray.

The Apostolic Vision

The early Church lived this unity as a visible reality. To the Corinthians, Paul reminded them that "the bread we break... is a participation in the body of Christ. Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Every time the faithful gathered for the Eucharist, they were reminded that they belonged to one another. Their unity was not theoretical; it was sacramental.

At the same time, Paul criticized them for the rivalries and cliques that arose among them, saying, "While there are jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men?" (1 Cor. 3:3). For Paul, division was not a minor disagreement, it was a denial of what it meant to be the Church. To be united was to live in the Spirit; to be divided was to live according to the flesh.

The Fathers on the Oneness of the Church

The Fathers carried this teaching forward. St. Cyprian of Carthage wrote that no one could call God Father who does not also embrace the Church as mother. Unity with Christ is inseparable from unity with His Body. For him, to cut oneself off from the Church was to cut oneself off from life itself.

St. John Chrysostom was equally insistent. In his homilies, he warned that nothing provokes God's anger more than the division of the Church. Even if a person lives a life full of good works, Chrysostom said, if he destroys unity, he will be held accountable. These words remind us that division is not just unfortunate—it is sinful, because it strikes at the very heart of the Body of Christ.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, writing at the dawn of the second century, emphasized that unity is rooted in the Eucharist and expressed in love around the bishop. "Wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church," he wrote. For Ignatius, the Church's oneness was not an abstraction; it was lived in concrete relationships of faith, love, and obedience.

Why Division Arises

If unity is such a gift, why is it so hard to keep it? The Fathers point to pride and self-love. St. Basil the Great observed that dissension often springs from our unwillingness to yield our will to others. We prefer our own way, and when that preference hardens, it can fracture a community.

St. Maximus the Confessor saw the same truth: when our passions are unchecked, they not only tear us apart inside but also separate us from others. Healing comes when we practice humility, repentance, and love—virtues that tame the passions and make communion possible.

The Eucharist as the Heart of Unity

Above all, unity is sustained in the Holy Eucharist. It is at the chalice that our oneness is most clearly revealed. St. Cyril of Alexandria explained that by partaking of the one bread and the one Spirit, we are knit together into a single body in Christ. The Eucharist does not simply symbolize unity—it creates it.

This is why participation in Divine Liturgy is so vital. When we come together to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord, we are not individuals performing a private devotion. We are the Church, renewed and bound together in Christ. The challenge is to carry that Eucharistic unity into our daily lives, so that what we experience on Sunday shapes how we treat one another throughout the week.

Living Unity in Daily Parish Life

The call to unity is not abstract. It is lived in the concrete realities of parish life.

We preserve unity when we bear one another's burdens. Visiting the sick, helping those in need, listening to those who are struggling—all of this keeps us bound together. Unity is lived when we are patient with one another's shortcomings, forgiving quickly, and refusing to hold grudges.

We also preserve unity by guarding our tongues. As St. James reminds us, if we cannot bridle our speech, our religion is empty. Gossip and criticism may seem small, but they corrode fellowship. Encouragement, kind words, and gentle correction, on the other hand, build the Body up in love.

Unity also grows when we serve together. Whether in worship, education,

philanthropy, or preparing a parish festival, shared labor for Christ binds us together. Even ordinary acts of cooperation—such as cooking, cleaning, and organizing—become holy when they are done with love. Above all, we strengthen unity through prayer. St. John of Kronstadt observed that when people pray together, their souls are united, and God's love is poured into their hearts. A praying parish is a united parish.

Unity as Witness to the World

Christ prayed for unity not only for the Church's sake but for the world's. "That they may be one... so that the world may believe" (John 17:21). When the Church lives in harmony, the world sees a sign of God's Kingdom. When Christians quarrel, the world sees only another human institution divided by the same strife as everywhere else.

St. Seraphim of Sarov taught that if a person acquires the Spirit of peace, thousands around him will be saved. The same is true for a parish: when a community lives in peace, forgiveness, and love, it becomes a beacon that draws others to Christ.

Conclusion: Guarding the Gift

Unity is both a gift and a task. We cannot create it by our own strength, but we can cooperate with God's grace by living in humility, forgiveness, and service. In a world marked by division, our parishes are called to be icons of the Kingdom of God: places where people of every background and temperament become one family in Christ.

St. Paul told the Philippians that his joy would be complete if they were of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord, and doing nothing from selfishness but considering others better than themselves. These words are for us. Unity begins when we put Christ first, when we put aside our egos, and when we prefer one another in love.

If we do this, then our parish will not only be a place of worship but a true home of love and peace. It will be a living testimony to Christ's prayer that His people be one, so that the world may believe.

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PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis



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

As we are well into another year of our community's second century, we have established the **Vision Team**. This group of individuals has been collaborating with an outside firm, WGM Design, to collect feedback from the community about our future.

"Vision Through Faith 2050" is going to be a roadmap based on input provided by all members of the community. Priests, staff, parish council members, ministry heads, and many members of the parish have been interviewed. Based on the feedback provided by these interviews, the **Vision Team** created a survey that

has been emailed and mailed to all members and households of Holy Trinity. This survey allowed everyone to have a voice - a voice on how we grow and develop our properties and our ministries.

Over the next months, the **Vision Team** will comb through all the information collected. Based on the feedback provided, the team will create a roadmap to present to the community. Together, through prayer and faith, we will develop a blueprint that will guide our growth through 2050 and beyond.

Το μήνυμα του Προέδρου:

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ αδελφοί και ενορίτες της Αγίας Τριάδος, εύχομαι να είστε όλοι καλά.

Έχουμε μπει για τα καλά στο δεύτερο έτος της δεύτερης εκατοετιας της κοινότητας μας, και έχουμε θεμελιώσει την Ομάδα Οράματος. Η Ομάδα αυτή συνεργάζεται με την εταιρεία Σχεδιασμού WGM, να συλλέξει προτάσεις βελτίωσης από τους ενορίτες για το μέλλον της κοινότητας.

Το «Όραμα δια μέσου Πίστης 2050» θα είναι ο οδικός χάρτης βασισμένος στα δεδομένα τα οποία έδωσαν οι ενορίτες της Κοινότητας μας. Έδωσαν συνέντευξη οι ιερείς, το προσωπικό, το διοικητικό συμβούλιο, οι επικεφαλές των τμημάτων διακονίας και πολλά μέλη της κοινότητας. Βάση των πληροφοριών που δόθηκαν, η Ομάδα Οράματος δημιούργησε μια έρευνα απόψεων η οποία στάλθηκε ηλεκτρονικά και ταχυδρομικά σε όλα τα μέλη της κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδος. Η έρευνα απόψεων επιτρέπει στον καθένα να έχει λόγο και να εκφραστεί στο πώς θα μεγαλώσουμε και να αναπτύξουμε την ιδιοκτησία της εκκλησίας μας και τις ιερατικές διακονίες.

Στους επόμενους μήνες, η Ομάδα Οράματος θα ερευνήσει όλες τις πληροφορίες που συγκεντρώθηκαν. Η Ομάδα Οράματος, βασισμένη στις πληροφορίες που θα έχει θα δημιουργήσει τον οδικό χάρτη και θα τον παρουσιάσει στην κοινότητα. Όλοι μαζί, με προσευχή και πίστη, θα αναπτύξουμε ένα προσχέδιο το οποίο θα μας καθοδηγήσει στην ανάπτυξη έως το 2050 και παραπέρα.

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION

by Nick Kantsios, Chairman

A New Look and a New Way to Give

Established February 5, 1973, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation has grown steadily over the years. Its mission is to strengthen philanthropy by supporting religious, humanitarian, and educational initiatives that serve Orthodox Christian and Hellenic communities.

We're excited to announce the launch of our newly updated website!

The redesigned site offers a more modern look, improved mobile functionality, and easier access to the information you need. It's now simpler than ever to learn about the Foundation's work and how you can contribute.



One of the most exciting updates is the addition of a convenient electronic donation option through **Zelle**—no more writing checks or mailing envelopes. Just visit our website at **htgof.org**, navigate to the **About** or **Contact** section, and scan the QR code provided. This will guide you through setting up the Foundation as a payment contact, allowing for quick and easy donations going forward.

Please remember to include a note with your donation indicating its purpose, so we can ensure the funds are applied correctly and acknowledge the donor.

We hope you enjoy these updates and thank you for your continued support of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation, **your** "Cathedral Foundation", and its mission.

Agape Group: A new ministry

As parents, our children's well-being—especially their spiritual foundation—is always a top priority. One day, they will leave the nest, and we want them to be rooted in faith. That's why we're excited to introduce our newest ministry: **Agape**.

The Agape Group brings together the youngest members of our Orthodox community [PreK]—and their parents—to build lasting friendships and nurture a deeper understanding of our Orthodox traditions in a joyful, supportive environment.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6

We are honored to have **Apostle Peter** as the patron saint of the Agape ministry, following Christ's call to him: *"Feed My sheep."* (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Our upcoming meetups will be held on **Mondays at 9:30 AM** on the following dates: October 20, November 17, December 15

Locations will be announced closer to each date. For updates, please follow us on Facebook or join our GroupMe chat under the name **"Orthodox Agape Group Charlotte."**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Anastasia Koutsoupas** at (704) 776-5719. We look forward to growing in faith, together.

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2025 METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA CLERGY LAITY CONFERENCE - CHARLESTON, SC

by Hunter Clarke

The 2025 Clergy-Laity Conference of the Metropolis of Atlanta was held June 11–14 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Representing our parish were Fr. Jonathan Resmini, George Zogzas, and Hunter Clarke.

This year's conference marked a special milestone: it was the first Clergy-Laity presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos, following his elevation in January. We were also deeply honored by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

The conference began Wednesday evening with a warm welcome dinner, graciously hosted by the faithful of Holy Trinity Charleston. Thursday's sessions opened with gatherings for Philoptochos and the Sisterhood of Presvyteres. A highlight was the official welcome of the newest Philoptochos chapter from St. Porphyrios Orthodox Mission Church in Jacksonville, NC. Irene Politis of Holy Trinity was recognized for her many years of dedicated service as President of the Metropolis Philoptochos Society.

Archbishop Elpidophoros announced the renaming of the Diakonia Retreat Center to the **Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center**, honoring the legacy of our former Metropolitan, whose vision and leadership brought the center to life and nurtured its growth over two decades. His Eminence reflected on the conference theme, *Faith, Family, Love*, reminding us that the Church is not merely a building or institution, but a family formed in love. When we gather to worship and receive the Holy Eucharist, we become one body—Christ Himself. This sacred mystery calls us to live in self-sacrificial love for one another.

On Friday morning, Metropolitan Sevastianos delivered the keynote address, outlining priorities for the coming years. These include continued support for programs such as the Liturgical Arts Academy (training in Byzantine chant and iconography), annual Catechist Conferences, and St. Stephen's Summer Camp—all designed to faithfully pass on the Church's teachings and traditions. A key initiative will be encouraging vocations to the priesthood, with financial assistance available for students attending Hellenic College Holy Cross. Parishes are invited to consider how they might contribute to this vital effort. The Archdiocese's Clergy Family Initiative also continues to support clergy families through wellness resources, emotional care, and aid for widowed Presvyteres.

The Metropolis Family Life Ministry presented its newest publication, *One Good Thought*, a collection of uplifting quotes paired with short prayers for reflection. Previous titles, *Woven* and *Forged*, are interactive books for young women and men, designed to spark meaningful conversations and promote self-

understanding. The ministry also offers the *Journey of Marriage* program to help couples prepare for married life.

Friday and Saturday featured a wide range of workshops. Archon Frank Boardman spoke on the role of the Archons in defending religious freedom, the persecution of Christians in Turkey, and efforts to reopen the Halki seminary. The Archdiocese's Youth & Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) continues to offer its Parish Ministry Plan, National YAL Conference, and camping ministries including St. Stephen's Summer Camp and Ionian Village. Y2AM also introduced *Effective Christian Ministry*, a 9-month cohort program designed to help parishes strengthen their spiritual formation efforts.

Fr. Constantine Shepherd addressed mental health challenges in our communities—from clinical conditions to grief, stress, and everyday struggles. Surveys conducted by the Metropolis revealed that

many clergy feel underprepared to handle serious mental health issues. In response, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops launched the Mental Health Ministries in 2022 to connect Orthodox professionals with local communities and equip leaders with essential resources.

Additional workshops covered topics such as Orthodox home education, building project requirements, endowments and fundraising, cybersecurity, parish archives, storm preparedness, and theological reflections.

In Saturday's closing session, Metropolitan Sevastianos returned to the theme *Faith, Family, Love*, encouraging us to extend this principle beyond our homes and parishes to foster unity across the Metropolis, the nation, and the world. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among sister parishes, District Councils, and Clergy-Laity Conferences. Quoting St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12: "For the body does not consist of one member but of many... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." May we strive to live as one Body, each seeking the good of the other, so that we may all rejoice together.



Charlotte attendees in Charleston. Pictured, L-R: Front row: Demetra Boardman. Fr. Jonathan Resmini, Gerry Clonaris, Harry Cavalaris. Middle row: Frank Boardman, George Zogzas, Irene Politis, Suzanne Velonis. Back row: Hunter Clarke, Pauline Velonis, Cathy Poulimenos.



Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos President Irene Politis (right) with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (left) and His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos (middle) during the Philoptochos Conference gathering.

Sunday, October 26, 2025
The Fall Parish Assembly
in Father C. Hall

immediately following the Second Divine Liturgy

Agenda includes:

- *approve the 2026 Budget*
- *nominate candidates for Parish Council and Foundation elections*

YOUTH NEWS by Robert Brendle**Senior Sendoff**

Following the Divine Liturgy on August 3, 2025, families gathered to honor this year's graduating seniors with a special sendoff luncheon. Each graduate was prayerfully presented with a gift from Father Jonathan—a copy of *The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality*. It is our hope that as they step into this next chapter of life, they will carry with them the treasures of our faith, continue to grow spiritually, and let the light of Christ shine brightly through them in all they do.

**Yiasou 5k**

Our community was blessed once again with the success of this year's annual Yiasou 5K, which welcomed more than 1,100 registered runners. None of it would have been possible without the dedication and service of our GOYANs, who played an essential role in ensuring everything ran smoothly. From assisting with packet pickup and registration, to providing water along the course, serving as course monitors, distributing medals, and stepping in wherever needed, our youth showed up early and worked tirelessly with joy and teamwork. Their efforts not only helped the event run efficiently but also reflected the spirit of service and fellowship that strengthens our parish.

**Festival Dance**

The Yiasou Greek Festival dance performances went off beautifully this year, showcasing the dedication and spirit of our youth. Each team spent countless hours throughout the summer rehearsing, and their hard work shone brightly on stage. With energy, pride, and joy, they offered performances that honored our heritage and gave their families and community something truly special to celebrate.

**Festival Prep**

In preparation for the upcoming Yiasou Greek Festival, GOYANs and parents rolled up their sleeves and came together to prepare tzatziki cups, dolmades, hummus, and an array of delicious Greek favorites. The kitchen was filled with laughter, teamwork, and the joy of service. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the GOYA leadership team and our dedicated youth, what once felt like an overwhelming task became a beautiful expression of community spirit and fellowship. Truly, without their help, we might never have finished!

Soccer

Team Bingham proudly debuted the cathedral's new jerseys this season, bringing both spirit and unity to the field. Their teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship shone throughout the game, leading them to a well-deserved victory. While the fresh uniforms caught everyone's attention, it was their effort and camaraderie that truly made them stand out.

GOYA Kickoff Event

Our GOYA year began with an incredible kickoff event at SkyZone, where more than 60 GOYANs came together for an evening of fun, fellowship, and faith. The energy and enthusiasm of our youth set the perfect tone for a year centered on worship, service, witness, and fellowship, the very pillars of GOYA. The turnout was beyond what we anticipated, but it was exactly what we needed: a reminder of the vibrant spirit of our teens and the bright future of our community.

**GOYA Bible Study**

Our GOYANs gathered for the first Bible Study of the year, beginning what promises to be a meaningful journey through Holy Scripture. We are starting with the Book of Genesis, laying a strong foundation in God's creation and His plan for humanity, before moving on to the Gospel of Luke—this year's Bible Bowl topic for the Winter Youth Rally. With great enthusiasm and dedication, our youth are not only preparing their hearts and minds to grow deeper in the Orthodox faith but also setting their sights on representing our parish. We look forward to bringing many teams to Atlanta this December—and, God willing, maybe even bringing home a trophy or two!

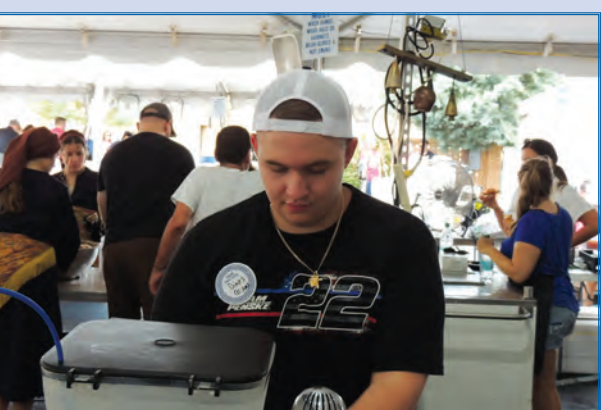


**Get involved in some of the many youth activities available at Holy Trinity.
You will be glad you did!**

2025 YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL



2025 YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL

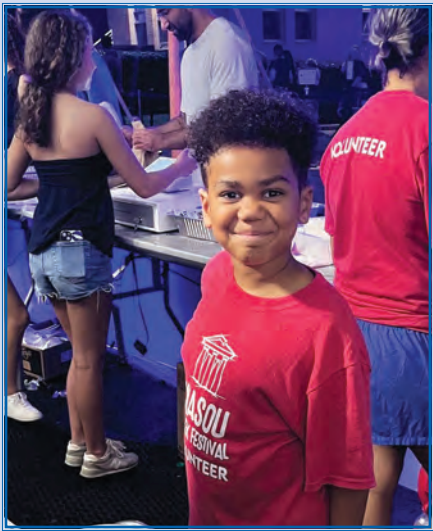


2025 YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL



Thank You 2025 Yiasou Festival Sponsors & Supporters





2025 YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL





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

We're thrilled to welcome our 2025–2026 preschool families! It's always a joy to see familiar faces return and to meet new ones. Our classrooms are once again filled with smiles—and a few tears, as expected during the first days. While separation can be tough, especially for parents, our little ones quickly settle into the routine and begin enjoying their time learning and playing with friends.

Summer is a quieter time in our preschool halls, giving staff a chance to reflect and prepare for the year ahead. Late August and early September shift our focus to the **Yiasou Greek Festival**, where our preschool staff and parents run the Play-land Beverage Booth. All proceeds benefit the preschool, and we're grateful to everyone who volunteered their time to support our church and school.

We officially kicked off the school year on **Monday, September 15th** with our Open House and the **Agiasmos (Blessing)** of the preschool. It was a

2025–2026 Preschool Staff:

Toddler Class (M/W): Kim Tatsis & Kontilo Pappas

Two-Year-Old Class (M/W): Stasy Skarlatos & Dina Sohoritis

Two-Year-Old Class (T/Th): Kontilo Pappas & Georgia Harakas

Three-Year-Old Class (M/W/F): Lisa Giotis, Alex Tatsis (M/W), Kim Tatsis (F)

Four-Year-Old Class (M–F): Aggie Poulos, Irene Lowder (M–Th), Stasy Skarlatos (F)

Co-Directors: Lisa Giotis & Maria Kleto

For those unfamiliar with **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool**, we offer a faith-based, half-day program for children ages 18 months to 4/5 years. Our hours are **9:15 AM to 1:15 PM**, and our mission is to support each child's development in a loving, supportive environment. We focus on building confidence, independence, and



beautiful way to begin, and we thank **Fr. Christian** for leading the service. Classes began the following day, and we're off to a wonderful start. We're also excited to resume our bi-monthly religious lessons, "**Our Faith with Father,**" with both Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian.

September was all about settling in—getting to know teachers and classmates, exploring classroom centers, and learning the rules. We emphasized kindness, sharing, taking turns, and using respectful words. As the year progresses, we'll continue helping children grow in independence, responsibility, and confidence. It's heartwarming to see their pride as they master new skills. We've also begun exploring the beauty of fall and attending weekday Divine Liturgies, with baptized children receiving Holy Communion.

We're truly blessed with a team of dedicated, caring teachers who work tirelessly to create a nurturing and engaging learning environment. Their commitment to each child's academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth is the heart of our program.



RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

by Centennial Committee

On Sunday, September 21, 2025, following the Divine Liturgy, the co-chairs of the Centennial Committee presented a copy of the Centennial Icon to Fr. Jonathan Resmini for his office in appreciation of his guidance and support during the three year effort preceeding the main event in September 2023.

They also presented an icon to Angelo Tatsis in appreciation and recognition of the wood border that he fashioned and installed around the three plaques located to the right of the Centennial Icon in the narthex.



Above: Presenting the Centennial Icon to Fr. Jonathan. L-R Committee co-chairs George Andrews, Fr. Jonathan, Georgia Andrews, and Harry Cavalaris

Below: Presenting the icon to Angelo Tatsis (center) with the co-chairs and Fr. Jonathan



VETERAN RECOGNITION



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PHILOPTOCHOS by Demetra Boardman**Agia Elpis Philoptochos Chapter**
Summer Highlights: A Season of Service and Fellowship

This summer has been a vibrant and fulfilling time for our **Agia Elpis Philoptochos chapter**, filled with meaningful service, spiritual celebrations, and strong community engagement.

We began August with **Yiasou Greek Festival Pastry Baking**, which spanned three busy weeks. Our dedicated volunteers prepared:

36 pans of **Karidopita**

Over **12,000 koulourakia**

500 bags of **baklava mixture**

140 sheet pans of **baklava for ice cream**

360 pans of **baklava**

In addition, we spent two full days packaging pastries. This incredible effort was made possible by the hard work and generosity of our Philoptochos ladies and volunteers—thank you to all who participated!

Our chapter held its first **board meetings** of the new year on **August 14** and **September 11**, laying the groundwork for another impactful season of service.

On **August 24**, we offered the **St. Phanourios tray**, with proceeds supporting youth programs in our Metropolis. Shortly after, from **September 5–7**, our members staffed the pastry booths at the **Yiasou Greek**

Festival, continuing our tradition of hospitality and fundraising.

On **September 14**, we offered the **Holy Cross/Hellenic College scholarship tray**, helping support students with tuition assistance as they pursue their education and spiritual growth.

We joyfully celebrated our **Agia Elpis Name Day** on **September 17** with a beautiful **liturgy and Artoclasia**, followed by a luncheon at **Red Rocks Café** attended by 45 members. On **September 21**, we sponsored the church **coffee hour** in honor of our name day, sharing fellowship with the broader parish community.

A special highlight of the season was the **National Philoptochos Children's Medical Luncheon**, held on **September 27** in **Atlanta, Georgia**. We were proud to be represented by **20 members** from our chapter, including our very own **Irene Politis**, who serves as President of the **Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos**. It was a powerful gathering in support of children's health initiatives nationwide.

We are deeply grateful for the continued dedication, generosity, and love shown by our members. Your efforts make a lasting impact in our church, our community, and beyond.



September 17, 2025: Feast Day of Agia Elpis: Above, refreshments following the Divine Liturgy. Below: the Members held a luncheon at Red Rocks Cafe.

**CHOIR NEWS** by Olga Yamalis

Summertime offers opportunities for our choir members to attend various choir conferences throughout the nation. Choir conferences are a fantastic way to connect with other choir members who share our commitment and talent through rehearsals, workshops, and social events. Choir conferences are also a fun way to re-connect with old friends and meet new friends.

On Tuesday, July 3 to Sunday, July 6, Olga Yamalis from our HTC Choir attended the 49th annual National Forum Conference at Holy Trinity in Clearwater, FL, and was one of the five delegates representing the Atlanta Metropolis. The National Forum is the official auxiliary of the Archdiocese that strengthens and perpetuates our Orthodox liturgical music with representatives from each of the Metropolises in America.

It was a successful conference reviewing new projects and projects in progress, all based on strengthening church musicians spiritually, musically, and educationally. Highlights of the conference included visiting Tarpon Springs, FL, fireworks at Safety Harbor Spa Resort on the Fourth of July, and Sunday's glorious Divine Liturgy conducted by Clearwater's choir director Joanne Kambouris. Each year, the conference has a set schedule consisting of site reading new composer's music in the mornings and meetings to review committee work in the afternoons. This year, we have begun planning for National Forum's 50th anniversary which will take place at the Archdiocese's Biennial Clergy Laity Conference to be held in Cleveland, OH June 30-July 3, 2026. There is a lot of excitement and preparation happening and more will follow in the months ahead.

On Wednesday, July 16 to Sunday,

July 20, Georgia Petsas from our HTC Choir attended the 78th annual Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX) at Holy Trinity in Camp Hill, PA which represents both the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises. Highlights of the choir conference included going to Hotel Hershey, the Pennsylvania State Capital building in Harrisburg, PA, fun workshops, and Sunday's memorable acapella Divine Liturgy with the liturgical music of Kevin Lawrence which he conducted.

Finally, we all know what September brings to our parish. The sights, sounds of people, vendors, dancers, music and smells of delicious foods and desserts that take place on East Boulevard which is our Yiasou Festival.

The HTC Choir held two performances on Saturday, September 6 at 3pm and 4pm inside the Cathedral. Both performances were directed by Dr. Philip Thevaos and organist Irina Monzolevskaya. Each 30-minute concert gave guests an overview of our Orthodox Ecclesiastical year. Philip provided brief comments on the 2000 year history of the Church and the significance of the iconography and its placement in the Cathedral. The hymns included the *Apolitikion Katylsas To Stavro Sou, Se Imnoumen*, Church Hymn of the Holy Trinity *Evlogitosi Christe* and *Axion Esti*. Also, *I Parthenos Simeron* sung during Advent and Pascha hymns *Dtheft Lavete Fos* and *Christos Anesti*. A great big thank you goes out to Philip and Irina and all the fantastic choir members who took time from their various volunteer activities to participate in the choral performances. Excellent job, kai to chrono!!

What is next for the HTC Choir as we embark on our new Ecclesiastical year? We are preparing to host a holiday IOCC event in November with other area Orthodox choirs in Father C Hall. Stay tuned for more, and as always, we would love for you to join our choir family, all are welcome! If you are interested, drop an email to Olga Yamalis at olga3music@gmail.com.



Left: Atlanta Metropolis delegates: Philip Vavalides-Greensboro, NC, Olga Yamalis-Charlotte, NC, Dino and Tony Giallourakis, Clearwater, FL.

Below: 49th annual National Forum 2025 Clearwater, FL



AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN *by Kathy Xyrafakis*

Boardman - Kafkas

Florianna Boardman and Dr. Nicholas Kafkas were married on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at the Church of the Three Neo Martyrs on the Greek island of Spetses officiated by Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta. Florianna is the daughter of Demetra and Frank Boardman. Nicholas is the son of Mary and Theodore Kafkas of Franklin, WI. The couple honeymooned on the island of Ios and in Montenegro. They currently reside in Winston-Salem, NC.



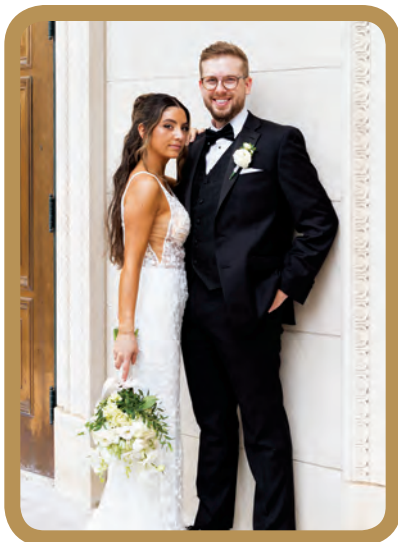
Peterson - Papageorge

Hanna Peterson and Panou Papageorge were married on August 28, 2025 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Hanna is the daughter of Steve and Julie Peterson. Panou is the son of Judy Papageorge and the late Steve Papageorge. A reception was held at the Ziozios family residence. The couple are planning a honeymoon trip to Europe in 2026. They reside in Charlotte.



Kacorri – Simpson

Erisa Vasiliki Kacorri and Ethan James Simpson were married on Saturday, July 12, 2025 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Erisa is the daughter of Gregory and Agne Kakavitsas. Ethan is the son of Loyd and Sheila Simpson. After a reception at The Terrace at Cedar Hill, the couple honeymooned in Greece, mostly in Athens and Crete. The couple reside in Charlotte.



Touati - Shahoud

Soumaya Touati and Hanna Shahoud were married on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with three priests officiating. The Shahoud family is from Syria and the Touati family is from Tunisia. A reception followed at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Uptown. The couple honeymooned in Florida and reside in Matthews, NC.

Meier - Morris

Claire Meier and George Morris were married on Saturday, August 23, 2025 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Claire is the daughter of Lisa and Gregory Meier. George is the son of Saradina Morris. The couple held a reception at Roosters at South Park. They reside in Charlotte.



Kaperonis Baptism

On July 3rd, the daughter of Sarantos and Mara Kaperonis, Fay “Fotini” Olivia Kaperonis, was baptized at the historic Panagia Evangelistria Church on the holy island of Tinos. Her godmother was Gabriella Ballas. The family is grateful to all friends and loved ones who traveled so far to share in this special occasion.



Save the Date
Giving Tuesday is coming
December 2, 2025
details to follow

REMINDER:

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

Attention Newlyweds and Graduates

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

College Grad Stavros Boardman



Stavros Paul Boardman, son of Demetra and Frank Paul Boardman of Charlotte graduated in with a degree in Construction Engineering from East Carolina University with honors on May 9, 2025. Stavros was inducted into Sigma Lambda Chi Construction Honor Society and was a member and officer of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. Stavros co-wrote with Dr. Danial Perrucci a paper published in the ASCE National Hazard Review in April 2025 and presented at HAN University in The Netherlands. Stavros is currently employed as a Project Engineer for Gray Construction in Charlotte.

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



NICOS DIMITRIOU, age 91, passed unto the Lord on July 8, 2025, at his home in Davidson, NC, surrounded by his beloved family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Carol; his sons, Thomas Dimitriou and Nicholas Dimitriou; his daughter, Anastasia Lucchese and her husband, Ben Lucchese; grandchildren, Alex Lucchese, Joseph Lucchese, and Madelyne Diaz and her husband, Jake; and three great-grandchildren.



HARALAMBOS "BOBBY" THEMISTOKLIS GALATAS, age 86, passed unto the Lord on August 2, 2025, in Charlotte, NC.

He is survived by his daughters, Maria Pitsonis (Kostas) and Aphrodite Katopodis (Nick); his grandchildren, Yianni Pitsonis (Penny) and Ava Katopodis; his brothers, Serafim Galatas (Sotiria) and Spiros Galatas (Stavroula); his sisters, Christina Toufekias and Anastasia Zaravelis; sister-in-law, Marika Galatas; cousin, Demetrios Galatas (Ioulia); sister-in-law, Spiridoula Kakavitsas; brother-in-laws, Mihalios Zaharopoulos, Giorgos Zaharopoulos (Stavroula), and Kostas Zaharopoulos (Dimitra); goddaughter, Christina Kakavitsa; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Eleni Galatas; his parents, Themistoklis and Maria Galatas; his in-laws, Dimitrios and Aphrodite Zaharopoulos; his brother, Ioannis Galatas; sister-in-laws, Koula Galatas, Yiannoula Kakavitsas, Eftihia Pappa, and Evagelia Zaharopoulou; brother-in-laws, Dimitrios Toufekias, Spiros Zaravelis, Haralambos Kakavitsas, Nikolaos Kakavitsas, Serafim Galatas, and Nikolaos Pappas; and nephews, Nick Kakavitsas, Tom Galatas, and Athanasios Kanellos.



GUS PETE MANDRAPILIAS, age 75, passed unto the Lord on September 4, 2025, at Carmel Hills in Charlotte, NC, surrounded by his beloved family.

He is survived by his wife, Geary; daughter, Jeanne Drexler; son, Dean Mandrapilias and his wife, Meghan; grandchildren, Hudson and Sohayla Drexler, Norah and Meryl Mandrapilias; sisters, Irene Mandrapilias and Theoni Carter; brother, George Mandrapilias; nieces, Erin Carter and Adrienne Fuller; grandnephews, Dylan and Ethan Fuller; godchildren, Adrienne Pilz and Wesley Diamaduros; and many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Toulia Mandrapilias.



LITSA POULOS, age 71, passed unto the Lord on August 7, 2025, at her home

in Denver, NC, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Poulos; her children, Andreas (Lina), Kostas, and Demetres (Rosa); her grandchildren, Alexzander, Stella, and Maddox; her brothers, Georgios and Michali; her sister, Kalliope; and many extended family members and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Konstantinos and Eleni Koutsampasi.



DIAMOND MICHAEL PSARIANOS, passed unto the Lord on August 7, 2025, at his residence, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Maria (Topaltzas) Psarianos; his children, Michael D. Psarianos and Stamatia A. Psarianos; grandchildren, Carter A. Psarianos and Emma S. Psarianos; sister, Irene (Valsamis) Lambadaridis; many nieces and nephews; sister- and brother-in-laws; bonus grandchildren; and friends and family around the world.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Stamatia (Mihalios) Psarianos.



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In Memoriam



Condolences

Our condolences to Chris and Stacy Skarlatos on the passing of Chris's father, Mr. Pavlos Skarlatos. May his memory be eternal.

In Appreciation

CATHERINE MICHELLE "SHELLY" TRIANTIS, passed unto the Lord on July 29, 2025, at her home in Charlotte, NC.

She is survived by her son, Jackson Spooner, and her partner of 26 years, Gregory Spooner; her mother, Kathy Triantis; her sisters, Alicia Francis (Zach) and Jennifer Triantis; and her second "mom," Sheila Spooner. She also leaves behind her beloved nephews, Myles and Bennett Francis, and Mikey Porcelli, as well as her nieces, Jessica Hough and Meaghan Gaddy.

She was preceded in death by her father, Phillip Triantis; paternal grandparents, Trifon and Catherine Triantis; and maternal grandparents, Bill and Frances Meisenheimer.

The Kastriches family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, visits & support during the illness and passing of Jimmy. Memory Eternal.



Scripture reading

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

---- St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

OLD ROME TO NEW ROME

by Archon Harry Cavalaris

This summer, I was among a group led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and His Eminence Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin in a trip to Rome, Constantinople and Nicaea, during the week of July 14th to 24th.

The first stop was in Rome, where we were granted a personal audience with Pope Leo XIV. The Pope is the first pontiff born in the United States and was installed as Pope on May 8, 2025, succeeding Pope Francis who died on April 21, 2025. Pope Leo gave his blessing and greeted each pilgrim personally. Later, there were prayers at the graves of St. Peter, St. Paul, and Pope Frances. We visited other religious and historical sites afterwards.

We then traveled to Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey) and to the home of the Orthodox Church. Our visit began by participating in an Ecumenical Patriarchate Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral. Our group was granted a private audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during the visit.

The journey continued with the Veneration of Holy Relics of St. Gregory the Theologian. St. Gregory presided over the 2nd Ecumenical Council (also known as the First Council of Constantinople) held in 381 AD. A major accomplishment of the council was the completion of the Nicene- Constantinopolitan Creed.

We continued with the Veneration of the Holy Relics of St. John Chrysostom, the most articulate and prolific orator of the Christian faith.

The relics of both saints were returned to Constantinople at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George on November 27, 2004. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the Holy Relics from His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the Vatican. The relics had been held at St. Peter's Basilica for eight hundred years along with the relics of St. Basil, Bishop of Caesarea Mazaca in Cappadocia, Asia Minor.

The journey included a visit to The Church of the Holy Savior of Chora. This house of worship is the second most important Byzantine Church in Istanbul and is known for its magnificent mosaics and frescoes.

The group visited the Life-Giving Spring of the Most Holy Theotokos also known as Panagia of Balukhl, drank from the Venerated Spring, and participated in the Memorial service for the Patriarchs buried at the Cathedral.

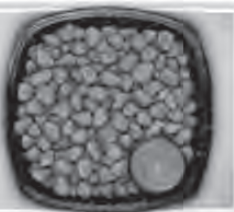
The final destination of this trip was Nicaea, site of two Ecumenical Councils (325AD and 787AD) of the early Christian Church. This is where the Nicene Creed was established. The Church is celebrating the 1700 year anniversary of the First Council. Our last stop of this extraordinary pilgrimage was the Church of Hagia Sophia in the center of Nicaea.



Above: Center, l-r, Cardinal Tobin of New Jersey, Pope Leo XIV, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America seated and posing for a group photo with the pilgrims. Below: Archon Harry Cavalaris receiving personal blessing from Pope Leo XIV (left) and being escorted by a Vatican Swiss Guard (right).



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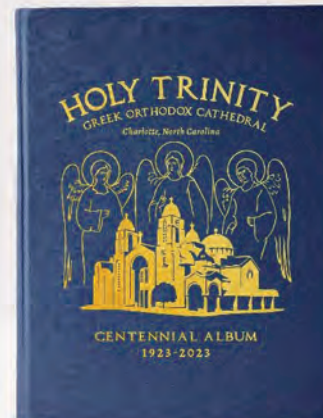
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