



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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THE KOINOTHTOS

VOL. 87
NO. 02



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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

600 EAST BLVD

CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

704-334-4771

www.htgo.org

SECOND QUARTER
2026

Congratulations to the Class of 2026



Photograph courtesy of Joanna Katsanos



Happy 250th Birthday, USA

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

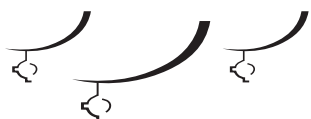
is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

Reflections from the Pulpit 3
PC President's Commentary 4
From the Cathedral Office 4
HS Seniors 9 - 13
Philo托chos 14
Stewardship 14
Preschool 16
Greek School 17
In Memoriam 18-19

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Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers:

Welcome back. This Second Quarter issue is one of my favorites. We highlight the High School seniors who have achieved a major milestone. This year's class was the largest one ever with 37 graduates recognized on May 17, 2026. You can read more about each of them on pages 10-13.

Seniors were not the only ones reaching a milestone. Preschool and Greek School completed their school years in May as well. Read about both on pages 16 and 17.

Father Elefterios submits his first Reflections from the Pulpit on page 3. He came to us in February and shares some of his impressions of our Community.

This issue of *The Voice* will come to you shortly after the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. A mere blink of an eye in comparison to the more than 2,000 years since the founding of Christ's church.

The Declaration's high ideals and aspirations were stated plainly in the most often quoted portion of the document: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*" While we have fallen short in some ways during these 250 years, I believe that this country and its faithful will continue to strive for a more perfect union, seeing that God created all people in His image and that they are equal. It is up to us to follow Christ's command to "love our neighbors as ourselves". May God continue to bless the United States of America.

It is not too soon to get ready for the upcoming Yiasou Greek Festival. This year's festival will be held September 11-13. Do yourself a favor and sign up to help at one of the many stations during those three days. Almost everyone who volunteers says afterwards, "I'm exhausted but that was fun." There are opportunities to help before and after the festival, too. We hope to see you there. We will capture images from that event to include in the upcoming issue of *The Voice*.

Drop us a line with you comment about this issue and what else you would like to see us cover.

Thanks for reading.

GZ

voice@htgo.org

ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Monday July 20	Holy Prophet Elijah Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Saturday July 25	Dormition of St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos <i>The Chapel of Panagia Prousiotissa at Elatos Park</i> Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Monday July 27	St. Panteleimon the Holy Martyr Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
August 1 - 14	The Dormition Fast
Thursday August 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Blessing of the Grapes
Saturday August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Saturday August 29	Beheading of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Tuesday September 8	Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
Monday September 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
OTHER EVENTS	
Saturday August 29	Yiasou Greek Festival 5K 7:00 - 8:00am
Monday September 21	First Day of Preschool
Tuesday September 22	First Day of Greek School
Sunday September 27	First Day of Sunday School

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**HOLY TRINITY GREEK
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Next Issue:

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Friday, September 25, 2026

Photos should be in large format
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for advertisements is:

Monday, September 14, 2026

Email to voice@htgo.org

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by
Rev. Elefterios Plevrakis
Associate Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that the light of God continues to shine in your lives!

The summer is finally here, which means vacationing is in full gear! All of you have worked so hard over the past year and a little relaxation is well deserved. I hope and pray you have a joyful time with family and friends,

and that God keeps you all safe in your travels.

I want to begin by expressing how grateful I am in offering a few words to this edition of THE VOICE. Being a part of the community news of our blessed Cathedral is an opportunity that not only do I see as being honorable, but God-given. It is surreal to think, when looking back at old editions of the newspaper, that my words would be read by the parishioners of the historic church of Charlotte. I still pinch myself to feel if it is all for real. You have all been incredible to me and my family. I am genuinely thankful with all that you have done.

Having served for the past five months at our parish, I have seen the incredible work all the families put into the community to preserve the Greek heritage and the Traditions of the Orthodox faith. The Parish Council, Ladies Philoptochos, Seniors, and other ministries of the parish have put the entire work of the community at a high priority in their lives, and that is not only inspiring for me having now come in, but a privilege to serve in.

I am a firm believer in bringing the past to the present time so we may live our potential future. Preserving our

heritage and faith through these three modes of time allows us to be whole and protects us from falling in between the cracks of societies' generational gaps. Communities like Holy Trinity give families the opportunity to transition through life without losing anything of their identity, and that is priceless. This community is truly the nucleus in which bonds everything else around it, and I am so happy that I am now a part of it.

As I mentioned above, I truly believe it was God-given that I am here today writing to all of you. Nothing in the past gave me the impression that, after nine years of serving as a Proestaminos in Maryland, I would end up in Charlotte. I came into the life of the community wondering why it all happened this way. Fortunately, it didn't take long for me to realize it. I thought to myself, there is nobody else that knows us better than God. He knows I love my Greek heritage and teaching the Orthodox faith. They are the lenses in which I see through when looking out into the world. He also knows that Charlotte is a hub for powerful community work. Thus, marrying us was no accident. It was meant to happen in order for us to move to the next phase of our calling.

With these few words, I want to

express again my appreciation to the entire community for being so patient and loving towards me as I transitioned to my new life serving our parish. Your love and hospitality have been exceptional and I couldn't have done it without you. Finally, I am relieved that my family is now here with me and we can continue our journey together. I look forward to seeing Presvytera and our children be a part of the different ministries of the church. I ask that you continue to pray for our entire family. Please come to me if you ever have any questions or would like to talk. I am always available!

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios Plevrakis
Associate Priest

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.
- I Corinthians 13: 4-8

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PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Dino M. Pappas



time on the Parish Council.

Many familiar faces are still here, but they have been joined by so many new ones. We now have two full Divine Liturgies on Sunday. There are so many events taking place that it can be hard to keep up. People are moving to Charlotte from other cities, while others are converting to Orthodoxy.

After a few months, I came to the realization that while the people and faces may be different, this is not new for our Cathedral. In many ways, this is part of what Holy Trinity has always been.

Throughout her history, Holy Trinity has seen waves of people move to Charlotte and become part of our community. Whether they were converts through mixed marriages or immigrants from Greece, we have always experienced an influx of new people. The number of converts may be different today, and the places from which people are moving may have changed, but the experience itself is not new. Holy Trinity is built for this.

Our Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral has experienced growth, transplants, converts, and many other unique challenges over her 102 years. Too often, we allow ourselves to believe that what we are facing today is completely new and that we can solve it on our own. That assumption is not new, and the challenges before us are not meant to be solved on our own. God has blessed us with knowledgeable and experienced fellow parishioners who remember how we addressed past challenges.

Since being reelected to the Parish Council and elected President, I have observed a parish that looks very different from the one I remembered from my last

In the sea of new faces, there are still a lot of familiar ones. They are easy to recognize. They are the ones chairing committees, the ones who sit in the same area every Divine Liturgy, the ones who are always involved, the ones running Festival booths, and the ones questioning our great new ideas. They are often the people others may believe make all the decisions.

I see it differently.

They are the people who have knowledge gained from years of experience. They are the guardians of our Church.

Their motivation is love for the Church and they do what is asked of them. They show up and do the hard work. They know the bylaws, the history, the ministries, the hierarchy, the feast days, and the reasons why we do and do not do certain things. They know all of these things because they have chosen to know.

Do they sometimes create barriers? Of course they do. But should we not expect a guard at the front gate to create a barrier to entry?

For those of us who want to get involved and truly participate, these are the people we should learn from and mimic. We should join committees, subcommittees, and ministries of the Church. We should get to know these people by building relationships with them.

Above all, we should attend the Divine Liturgy regularly. We do not live in monasteries on a mountaintop or by the sea, so we cannot go daily, but we should attend the Divine Liturgy as often as possible. It sets our hearts and minds in order for the week ahead.

Through participation in the Divine Liturgy, committees, subcommittees, ministries, and other Church activities, we grow within the community.

The Church does not need you. Rather, it is you who needs the Church. Not for handouts, but for your health. Giving of yourself to the Church helps you more than it helps the Church.

FROM THE CATHEDRAL OFFICE

by Sarah Vastis, Parish Administrator



My favorite type of gathering has always been a group game night. Looking back, I think my love of games began when I was just a girl visiting my grandparents.

My Papou and Yiayia immigrated just after World War II to a suburb of Toledo, Ohio, where they had a large plot of land with cherry trees, grapevines, and Florina peppers growing in their garden. My siblings and cousins would spend our summer days there climbing trees and arguing about who could sit with Papou in the riding lawn mower, and in the evenings, we would always relax around the table and play cards. The game of choice would change depending on how many people we had that evening. Rummy or Euchre if it was just a few of us; Hearts for a crowd.

As I grew, my love of games expanded beyond the card table. There were board games during my mother's traditional Friday night family nights, billiards and darts with college friends, and later trivia nights and music bingo with coworkers.

At some point I realized that my love for games is not really about games at all, but rather, a love for people. Games help me connect with those around me through laughter and conversation, and they create inside jokes and shared memories. This is why I made sure all my youth events included some sort of structured play, why I sometimes use games during professional development meetings with the staff, and why I even snuck in a game at our latest Ministry Head dinner, during which we all had to respond to silly questions regarding ministry life at Holy Trinity (it was fun, I promise!).

So, in the spirit of making connections through games, I thought it would be fun to play one with all of you. See if you can guess the correct responses to the trivia questions below about Holy Trinity before checking the answer key. Enjoy!

3. How many group texts is our Athletics Director managing right now?

- A. Less than 5
- B. Between 5-10
- C. More than 10

4. What is the most common reason someone visits Holy Trinity for the first time?

- A. They are in Charlotte for the weekend and wanted to go to Church.
- B. They live in Charlotte and learned about Orthodoxy on social media.
- C. They live in Charlotte and have a personal relationship with one of our Parishioners.

5. What is Father Jonathan's favorite opening phrase in the social media sensation, "Questions with Father"?

- A. That's a great question.
- B. How are you today?
- C. God Bless You.

6. Which staff member is most likely to sing their way through the office hallway?

- A. Yours Truly
- B. Father Elefterios
- C. Robert Brendle

7. What phrase is first spoken by parishioners on at least 85% of incoming phone calls?

- A. I have a quick question.
- B. May I speak with Kathy?
- C. What time is Divine Liturgy this week?

8. What is the quickest way to find out Holy Trinity news?

- A. Reading the Weekly Word email
- B. Looking at Facebook or Instagram
- C. Visiting your Yiayia

Answers:

1- B. More than 400. 464 youth have participated in at least one of our programs since September 2025.

2- A. Over 100. Our clergy have performed 112 Weddings, Baptisms, and Chrismations since September 2025.

3- C. More than 10! At the moment, Eleni is managing 18 group chats. During HDF, soccer, and basketball seasons, it can be even more!

4- B. They live in Charlotte and learned about Orthodoxy on social media. Orthodox churches are experiencing this all over the world!

5- A. That's a great question. You can watch all episodes of Questions with Father on FaceBook and Instagram.

6- B. Father Elefterios. If you hear chanting echoing through the hallway, Father Elefterios isn't far behind!

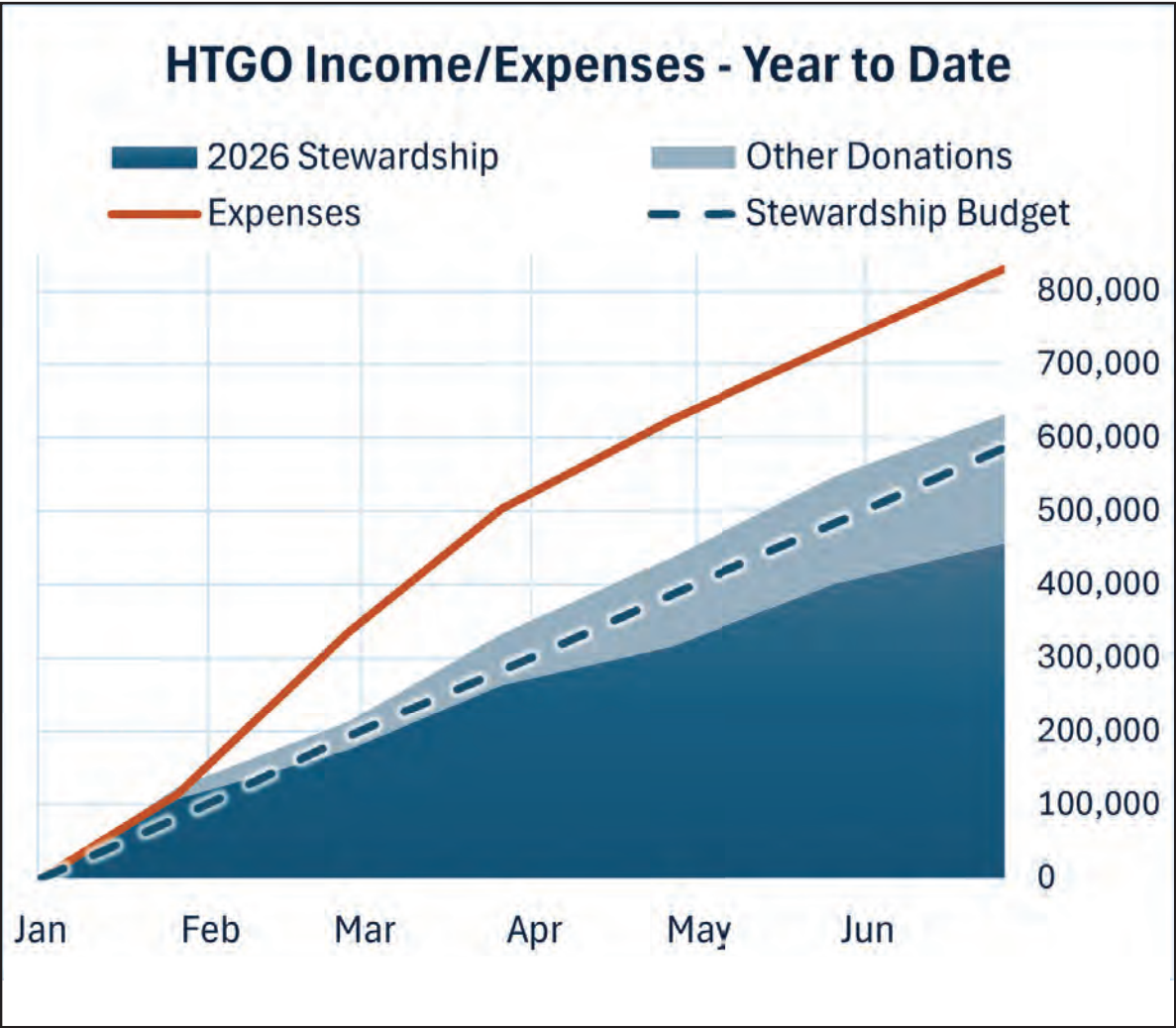
7- B. May I speak with Kathy? Our parishioners love hearing Kathy's beautiful voice (and so do I)!

8- C. Visiting your Yiayia. Prove me wrong!



Preparations for the Festival are ongoing throughout the summer. Choose where you will be the most help and get involved. Your help is needed before, during, and after the festival. You will love it!

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL SNAPSHOTS



STEWARDSHIP 2026		
as of 06/30/2026		
YTD Financials	2026 Total	2025 Total
Stewardship	\$457,702	\$428,600
Candles, rentals, other	\$177,100	\$124,744
Building/IRRC donations	\$149,894	\$37,601
Minus: Operating expenses	-\$782,092	-\$583,555
Minus: Building fund expenses	-\$198,272	-\$51,788
Net Ordinary Income (Deficit)	-\$195,668	-\$44,368

Did You Know that in 2026:

- * Avg monthly utilities were \$15,450.
- * Avg monthly building maintenance costs were \$15,068.
- * It costs approx. **\$3,916/day** to operate just our 600 East Blvd facilities excluding renovation expenses.

Join our Tithely App and consider setting up a monthly or weekly stewardship offering.

Please fill out your 2026 stewardship form on htgo.org with ALL information so we can update our parishioner database and which ministries you want to participate in.

☺ Did you know that you can donate appreciated stock or part of your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your IRA and save money on your taxes? This is an easy way to pay your stewardship.

Please call Frances at the Church office or email her at frances@htgo.org and she can help you with this.

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HOLY WEEK AND GREAT PASCHA April 5 - 12, 2026



Our community was honored to host His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos on Holy Saturday. He led us in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



PANAGYRI 2026 May 31, 2026



THANK YOU to all the families that came out to enjoy a day of fellowship and celebration of the feast day of the Cathedral.

Our thanks to the Sponsors and Volunteers who helped setup, serve, and clean-up after this fun day.

- Theofilos & Danielle Moutselos
- Pete Boukidis
- Kostas & Corinna Konstantinou
- Alex Brikas
- Dino Kalevas
- Dean Peroulas
- Jimmy Kotrotsios
- Petro Kakavitsas
- John Karagounis
- Tommy Raptis
- John Hondros
- John Kostopoulos
- Pete Spero
- Vasilios Liagas
- John & Hresanthe Georgopoulos
- John, Elaine, & Maria Mahairas
- John Bisbikis
- John Doulaveris
- Bill & Roula Skenteris
- Tryfon Moutselos
- Gus Pappas
- Jimmy Politis
- Nick J. Politis
- Chris Holevas
- Lambros Kaltsounis
- Bobby & Nikolaos Hadley
- Nick Peroulas
- John Sarris
- Spiro & Eleni Karageorgos
- Hefner Family
- John & Ismini Fragakis
- Robert Brendle
- Johnny Kleto
- George Andrews



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\$5 ALA CARTE MENU

Souvlaki skewer
Side salad
Fries
Potato Salad
Beer
Wine

\$10 KID'S PLATE

Chicken tenders and fries

Complimentary Ice Cream for the Kids!



YOUTH NEWS by Robert Brendle

**Myrofores**

One of the most beautiful traditions of Holy Week is seeing our Myrofores, dressed in white, reverently preparing for Holy Friday. Their participation is a moving reminder of the Myrrh-bearing Women who faithfully came to Christ's tomb. It is always inspiring to see so many of our youth taking active roles throughout the liturgical year, growing in their faith while serving our parish with love and devotion.

**Hope and Joy Spring Outing (Lazy 5 Ranch)**

More than 40 of our Hope & Joy children, parents, and volunteers enjoyed a wonderful spring outing to Lazy 5 Ranch! Blessed with beautiful weather, our families had the opportunity to see newborn spring animals, feed a variety of wildlife, and experience God's incredible creation together. It was a day filled with laughter, learning, and fellowship, creating memories that our Hope & Joy community will cherish for years to come.

GOYA Field Day

More than 50 GOYAns and volunteers gathered at Hellenic Park for an exciting Field Day filled with friendly competition, teamwork, and plenty of laughs! Throughout the day, our youth participated in a variety of field day games while also taking time to learn about the significance of each day of Holy Week. Over lunch, they strengthened friendships, deepened their faith, and experienced the joy of growing together as one community in Christ.

Class of 2026 Graduation

This year, we were blessed to celebrate our largest graduating class yet as the Class of 2026 was honored during a beautiful graduation ceremony in the Cathedral (see pp 9-13). Surrounded by their families, friends, and parish community, our seniors were recognized for their accomplishments and encouraged as they begin the next chapter of their lives. The celebration continued in Father C Hall, where everyone gathered to reminisce over years of memories and celebrate the lasting friendships and faith that have been nurtured at Holy Trinity. We are incredibly proud of our graduates and pray that God guides them in all that lies ahead.

Father Elefterios' First Vacation Bible Camp

This year marked Father Elefterios' very first Vacation Bible Camp, and we were so grateful to have him with us! Throughout the week, he led Orthodox Life sessions, answered thoughtful questions, and spent quality time getting to know the children. While Vacation Bible Camp can certainly be a whirlwind to experience for the first time, we think he had just as much fun as the kids did! We look forward to many more summers of learning, laughter, and growing in Christ together.

Our annual Vacation Bible Camp group photo captures an incredible week of faith, friendship, and fun! This year, more than 125 campers, counselors, and volunteers came together to learn about God's House while growing in Christ and building lasting memories. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported Vacation Bible Camp and to all of the campers who

made the week so special. With over 125 of us together, there was certainly no shortage of smiles, laughter, and unforgettable moments!

**Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**

Huge congratulations to Anastasia Georgali on winning the District Level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee! We are so proud of her incredible accomplishment and the way she represented our community.

Saturday of Lazarus / Family Day of Service

A huge thank you to our GOYAns and Service Committee for packing over 200 bags for the Dilworth Soup Kitchen and folding crosses for Palm Sunday. The Dilworth Soup Kitchen was incredibly grateful for the donation, and it was amazing to see what we can accomplish when our community comes together to serve others with love and generosity. We are so proud of our youth for putting their faith into action and making a real difference!



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SENIOR CLASS GRADUATION / AHEPA DAY / MAY 17, 2026

On May 17, 2026, 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 and began by relating how when he arrived here when they were ten or eleven years old. *“Now, you’re like adults and off doing big things. It’s amazing.”* He continued with a reflection on our calling. *“We all have the same calling, we just express it in a different way. Because our call is, first and foremost, the call of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, to love God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.”* He reminded them that the choices they make do not dictate the rest of their life, it just leads them to the next choice that has to be made.

Members of the class then spoke from the pulpit. First Katerina Brika, GOYA Co-President, addressed her classmates and the congregation. She recounted her experience at Holy Trinity arriving from Greece and being welcomed with open arms and with memories I would never forget. She pointed out to her classmates *“As the Bible calls us to do, “do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself”, live in the moment*

and trust in His plan. Focus on what is in front of you, not behind or ahead of you, for the memories, friendships, and lessons you will encounter here are ones that will build you up and prepare you to face your future endeavors.”

She was followed by fellow GOYA Co-President, Evi Pappas. Her remarks ended with her closely held belief that comforts and strengthens her. *“As I prepare to leave for college, I know this community will always be a part of me, no matter where I go. One Bible verse that has always stayed with me is **Genesis 28:15: “Behold, I am with you and will keep you whenever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”** That verse reminds me that no matter where life takes us, God will always be there with us and will protect us”.*

Those remarks were followed by two special presentations. First, Mrs. Georgia Andrews and Mrs. Cathy Poulimenos presented the Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship, for the first time, to two graduates,. Ms. Katerina Brika and Ms. Evi Pappas.

Next, Director of Youth Ministries Robert Brendle 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. James P. Vastis. [See more about these two awards at Around Charlottetown, page 15]

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

Robert Brendle announced the name of each graduate who came forward to receive their certificate and a gift. Father Jonathan assisted in passing out the gifts.

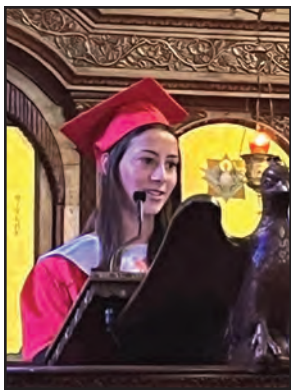
The ceremony finished after Senior Stavros Karampourniotis gave the closing prayer, ending with the recitation of the Prayer of St. Patrick which begins *“Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me . . .”* and ends *“Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears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

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

SENIOR CLASS SPEAKERS



Katerina Brika



Evi Pappas



Stavros Karampourniotis

On Sunday, May 17, the Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 awarded \$38,000 in scholarship money to 22 college and high school students. Foundation Chairman Terry Sarantou and 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 Andrew Bahanovich.

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.

Marathon Chapter No. 2, in Charlotte, was founded 2 months later on September 11, 1922.

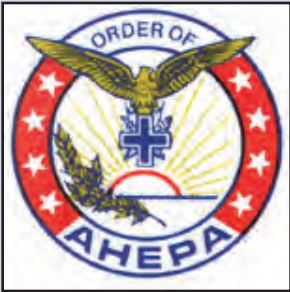
Again this year, there were two externally sponsored awards. The Pappas Family Foundation, led by siblings Peter and Ellen Pappas, funded a \$5,000 scholarship named for their late father, Thomas P. Pappas. Thomas was a long time, active AHEPA member and past President of the Marathon Chapter. Peter A. Pappas announced this year’s winner.

The second scholarship was named for Khalil “Kal” Kardous. Kal was a past President of the Marathon chapter. This award was for \$3,000. Funds for this scholarship were raised by friends, family, and AHEPA brothers.

The local chapter makes merit scholarships available to the children and grandchildren of its active members. Nearby are the names of the scholarship recipients. The named scholarships go to the applicants with the highest overall scores. This year’s five other named scholarships were for \$2,000 each.

- Thomas P. Pappas Scholarship
- Charles William Euripides
- Khalil E. Kardous Scholarship
- Nikki Maria Blathras
- Marathon Chapter No. 2 Scholarship
- Theodora Voula Kokalis
- Venus Chapter No.102 Scholarship
- Heidi Nicole Emmanuel
- PSP John G. Plumides Scholarship
- Anna Clarkson Plumides
- Father “C” Scholarship
- Vasilios Constantine Blathras
- Larry C. Peroulas Scholarship
- Demetra Panayiota Karres
- Chapter No. 2 Founders Scholarship (\$1,500 each):

- Mathew Michael Diamantis
- Hampton Stavro Hearn
- Mallory Carlyle Hearn
- Theodore George Karres
- Evi M. Pappas
- Sam Constantine Pappas
- Mary Emma Thevaos
- Alexa Georgia Tsefrikas
- Andrew John Tsefrikas
- Leah Marie Tsefrikas
- Academic Award Scholarship (\$1,000 each):
- Constantine Boardman-Katsoudas
- Christina L. Diamantis
- Andrew George Karres
- Michael A. Keretsis
- Avangelia “Ava” M. Russell



2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

VASILIOS CONSTANTINE BLATHRAS**Providence High School**

Vasilios is the son of Constantine and Georgia Blathras.

Vasilios graduated Summa Cum Laude. He was an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of the National Honor, Spanish Honor, Technical Honor, and National Math Honor Societies, as well as the Society of High School Scholars.

He was Vice President of Greek Club, a member of the Spanish and Key Clubs in high school.

At Holy Trinity, Vasilios played on the basketball and soccer teams, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival as a member of Levendia. He was on the GOYA Leadership team and participated in the Oratorical Festival.

Vasilios will be attending the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill studying Biomedical Engineering.

KATERINA AGAPI BRIKA**Myers Park High School**

Katerina is the daughter of Alexandra and Alexandros Brikas.

Katerina was a four-year A Honor Roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She completed college coursework at Central Piedmont Community College during her junior and senior years and earned a spot on the President's list for two

consecutive years. She also earned the Elinomathia Certificate of Proficiency in the Greek language. She founded and served as President of the Myers Park Hellenic Heritage Club.

At Holy Trinity, she danced and volunteered at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the HDF. She was on the GOYA board, serving as 2026 GOYA Co-President. She took part in the basketball and soccer teams, attended the Winter Youth Rally and St. Stephen's Camp. She was involved in volunteer opportunities.

Katerina will be attending Auburn University, majoring in Information Systems Management.

STEPHEN BUIE**Cox Mill High School**

Stephen is the son of Chadwick and Alexandria Buie.

He was on the honor roll and enrolled in advanced placement and dual enrollment courses. He was a member of the Cox Mill wrestling team, serving as a team captain. In 2026, he was a North Carolina State high school wrestling qualifier.

At Holy Trinity, Stephen served as an acolyte and

danced in the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Stephen will be attending Appalachian State University (Boone, NC) in the fall studying business.

MARIA IOANNA DERMAS**Myers Park High School**

Maria is the daughter of Kiki Koufaliotis and John Dernas.

She was a member of the CMS Athletic Honor Society and participated in dual enrollment, earning half of her associate's degree.

She was on the Varsity Golf Team, where she earned All-Conference, and she played AAU basketball for PSB. She

served as a leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of Young Life.

Maria founded Skin in the Game, a melanoma awareness campaign for student athletes, and received a Young Philanthropist Award from the Atrium Health Foundation.

At Holy Trinity, Maria was active in GOYA, Yiasou Greek Festival, and HDF Dance and basketball.

Maria will attend the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with an intended major in International Business and a minor in Spanish.

CHRISTINA VASILIA DIAMANTIS**Carmel Christian School**

Christina is the daughter of Michael and Maria Diamantis.

She was selected for the Novant Health Junior Volunteer Summer Clinic Program and participated in three International and Domestic Christian Mission Service Trips.

She was on the Varsity Soccer team at Carmel Christian, Captain of the

Charlotte Independence Club, and a summer camp counselor (2 years) at the Charlotte YMCA.

At Holy Trinity, she was on the GOYA Senior Leadership team, Bible Bowl team, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Christina will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she plans on studying Exercise Science in pursuit of her DPT for a career as a Physical Therapist.

DANIEL FIORE**Weddington High School**

Daniel is the son of Louis and Effie Fiore.

Daniel graduated summa cum laude.

Daniel has competed in varsity cross-country and track & field throughout all four years of high school. He was a member of the Make-A-Wish Club, and regularly participated in community fundraising races.

At Holy Trinity, he attended Greek School and participated in both the Yiasou Greek Festival, and the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Daniel will continue his academic and athletic career at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he plans to study economics and business.

JOSEPH FIORE**Weddington High School**

Joseph is the son of Louis and Effie Fiore.

A year-round student athlete, Joseph was a four-year member of both the Weddington baseball team and On Deck Baseball Academy. He was a four-year member of JROTC, participated in the Make-a-Wish Club, and volunteered with Common Heart.

At Holy Trinity, he attended Greek school and participated in both the Yiasou Greek Festival and the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Joseph will continue his academic and athletic career at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, on a merit scholarship and plans to study business and construction management.

MARIA IOANNA GEORGIOU**Myers Park High School**

Maryianna is the daughter of Foteini and Vasilios Georgiou.

She graduated in the top 5% of her class as an AP Capstone Diploma student and a dual enrollment student at CPCC. She served as President of the Icing Smiles Club, was the Editor of Senior Ads for the Myers Park Yearbook, and was a member

of the National Honor and National Technical Honor Societies. She also passed the A2 and B1 Ellinomatheia exams.

At Holy Trinity, Maryianna was a GOYA member, a competitive dancer at the Hellenic Dance Festival and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and played soccer. She attended Greek School and Sunday School, and volunteered at Vacation Bible School.

Maryianna will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study Elementary Education.

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

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

LENA MARIA GEORGOPOULOS

Myers Park High School



Lena is the daughter of John and Hresanthe Georgopoulos.

Lena was a proud member of the Holy Trinity Youth Program where she played basketball, soccer, and danced for the festival and HDF every year. She attended HTGO preschool, Sunday school and graduated from our Greek School. She was

always an active participant in GOYA activities.

Lena's hobbies include basketball, thrifting, baking, and physical fitness.

She plans to stay in Charlotte, study to be an Esthetician, and stay active in her Holy Trinity community by assistant coaching in Basketball and directing with the dance program.

ANDREW GEORGE GREGORY

Socrates Academy



Andrew is the son of George and Effie Gregory.

Andrew was on the A and A/B honor roll through out Middle and High school. He was a member of the National Junior Honor (6th-8th) and National Honor Societies (11th -12th). He earned certification for the National Ellinomathia exams A-2 and B-1 for Greek studies.

At Holy Trinity, Andrew danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and played on basketball teams. He was on the Socrates Academy basketball team for three years.

Andrew will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte majoring in Graphic Design.

MICHAELA ATHENA HARRIS

Porter Ridge High School



Michaila is the daughter of Michael and Panagiota Harris.

Michaila won the Intro to Horticulture group competition. She was an AP Capstone student and one of the top 20 students of her senior class.

She was an officer and member of FFA, a member of NAHS and Prom Committee. At Holy

Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Michaila is attending Wingate University majoring in Biology and plans to attend a Physician Assistant program post undergraduate studies.

GEORGANN IOANNA KALEVAS

David W. Butler High School



Georgann is the daughter of Dino and Kiki Kalevas.

Georgann was part of the Biomedical Nursing Academy at Butler.

Georgann participated in the Yiasou Greek Festival, HDF, attended WYR, QCC and played basketball at Holy Trinity. She also volunteered in Vacation Bible School.

Georgann will be attending Queens University of Charlotte to major in nursing for her future goal to be a pediatric nurse.

KONSTADINA EO KALEVAS

David W. Butler High School



Konstadina is the daughter of Dino and Kiki Kalevas.

Konstadina participated in a Biomedical Nursing Academy at Butler.

At Holy Trinity, she volunteered and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and Vacation Bible School. She competed at HDF,

participated in basketball, and attended Winter Youth Rally.

Konstadina will be attending Queens University majoring in Physical Therapy.

STAVROS IAKOVOS KARAMPOURNIOTIS

Gaston Christian School



Stavros is the son of Vaki and Dia Karampourniotis.

He was a member of the National Honor Society, serving as Vice President. He was also in the BETA Club and served as a Junior Marshall.

Stavros was on the Chick Fil-A Leadership team. He was the Tennis Team Captain, 3-time All-Conference standout, and 3-time Tennis Conference

Champion.

At Holy Trinity, he was on the GOYA Leadership Team, HDF Platinum and Gold Winner, participated in basketball with IFBL, QCC, & WYR Championships. He also danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, served as an Altar Boy, and was on the Bible Bowl team which placed 3rd twice at WYR.

Stavros will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying Sports, Health, and Exercise Science.

DIMITRIOS NIKOLAOS KATSANOS

Myers Park High School



Dimitri is the son of Niko and Joanna Katsanos.

Dimitri earned recognition as a Junior Marshal, AP Scholar with Distinction, and NSDA Academic All-American with Outstanding Distinction.

He served as Co-President of the Speech & Debate Team, Varsity Congressional Debate Captain, Co-Editor-In-Chief

of the school newspaper, President of FBLA, and commentator for the NFHS basketball and football broadcasts. Dimitri was a member of the National, Social Studies, and Spanish Honor Societies, and DECA.

At Holy Trinity, Dimitri participated in the Oratorical Festival, served as an acolyte, and was part of the GOYA leadership team. He played basketball and soccer and performed at the Yiasou Festival and the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Dimitri will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, double majoring in Business and Journalism.

SOTIRI KELLY

Providence High School



Sotiri is the son of John and Effie Kelly.

He was a dedicated student in AP and Honors coursework throughout high school. He was a member of the 2025 Varsity Football 8A Conference Championship team, two-time All-Conference selection, and Queen City Senior Bowl selection. At Holy Trinity, he has also been actively

involved in the church community as an acolyte, a member of GOYA, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival dancer and competed at HDF

Sotiri will attend Hampden-Sydney College (Virginia) this fall, where he will major in Finance.

NATALIA KONSTANTINOU

Central Academy of Technology and Arts



Natalia is the daughter of Kosta and Corinna Konstantinou.

Natalia was a member of the National Honor Society and was dual enrolled at South Piedmont Community College. She passed the B1 level of the Ellinomatheia Exam.

At Holy Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and

competed at HDF. She was a member of GOYA serving as fellowship chair and helping to organize and volunteer at Vacation Bible School. She attended St. Stephens Camp and Winter Youth Rally.

Natalia will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte majoring in Biology and following a pre-med track.

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

ATHENA MARIA KOTROTSIOS

Ballantyne Ridge High School



Athena is the daughter of Spiro C. & Maria G. Kotrotsios

Athena was an AP/ Honors student, a member of the National Honors Society, Best Buddies and Young Life Clubs, Senior Class President and Homecoming Queen and was on Prom Court.

She was an active member of Goya including leadership committee junior year. She was a Vacation Bible School camp counselor. She attended Greek School and received both Ellinomatheia proficiency certificates. She played soccer and basketball for Holy Trinity, participated at Winter Youth Rally and QCC. She attended St. Stephen's Camp and danced in the festival every year.

Athena will be attending The University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the fall majoring in Business.

ALEXANDROS DIMITRIOS KOUTSOKALIS

Myers Park High School



Alexandros is the son of Jimmy & Maria Koutsokalis

Alexandros was on the A/B Honor Roll in high school. He was in the Myers Park Greek Club and a member of the Kalungi Foundation supporting needy and under privileged families in Uganda.

At Holy Trinity he danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, attended Winter Youth Rally, was an Acolyte, and played soccer and basketball. As a soccer club member, he played in the ECNL and NPL levels for CLT Metro, CLT Independence and Alpha Soccer Academy.

Aleko will be attending Wingate University studying International Business.

EVA CLARA MANOUSOS

Charlotte Country Day School



Eva is the daughter of George and Erica Manousos.

Eva was a member of the National Honors, International Thespian, and Tri-M Music Honors societies. She was recognized with the Head of School, Global Citizenship, and Outstanding Cultural Contribution Awards.

She served on the Executive Board for Diversity Awareness Forums, was VP of the Greek Culture Club, Ally Director for Latinx Heritage Club, and was a Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor for two years.

She participated in Lyrical, Hip-hop, and Tap dance for 15 years.

At Holy Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Eva will be attending the University of Toronto to study psychology and Spanish in pursuit of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist.

EVI MARIE PAPPAS

South Mecklenburg High School



Evi is the daughter of Dino and Maria Pappas.

Evi was on the A/B Honor Roll and an AP Scholar. She was a member of the Beta Club and the National Honors and National Art Honors Societies. She was on the lacrosse team all four years and on the golf team in her senior year.

She participated in dance at the Miller Street Dance Academy.

At Holy Trinity, Evi was GOYA co-president this year, attended Sunday school, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival. She was on basketball and volleyball teams that attended the Winter Youth Rally, and she attended the St. Stephens Camp.

Evi will attend North Carolina State University studying mathematics.

MELINA ATHANASIA PAPPAS

Grace Academy



Melina is the daughter of Pete and Helen Pappas.

She danced at the Miller Street Dance Academy for 16 years.

At Holy Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and attended the Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta.

Melina will be attending Appalachian State University (Boone, NC) majoring in Interior Design.

SAM CONSTANTINE PAPPAS

South Mecklenburg High School



Sam is the son of Dino and Maria Pappas.

Sam was on the A/B Honor Roll and an AP Scholar. He was a member of the Beta Club and the National Honor Society. He was on the wrestling team sophomore and junior years, and on the volleyball team his sophomore year.

At Holy Trinity, Sam participated in basketball and soccer, attended Sunday school, served as an acolyte, was a member of GOYA, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival. He was on basketball teams that competed at the Winter Youth Rally, and he attended the St. Stephens Camp.

Sam will attend North Carolina State University.

TAKI PEROULAS

Providence Day School



Taki is the son of Dean and Stacie Peroulas.

He was a member of the National Honor Society, the French National Honor Society, and earned the Seal of Biliteracy in French.

Taki was on the Varsity Soccer Team at PDS, two years as captain. He co-founded the Alzheimer's Club at the school. At Holy Trinity, he participated in the Greek Folk Dance programs including Hellenic Dance Festival on team Levendia.

Taki will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

CHRYSOSTOMOS RIGAS

Weddington High School



Chrysostomos is the son of Heidi and Andrew Rigas.

Chrysostomos was a National Merit Scholarship Recipient, scored in the Top 1% SAT and ACT scores, was research poster presenter at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, competed at NCSAS and NCSEF, participated

at the DECA International Career Development Conference, and was chosen a Cambridge Centre for International Research Future Scholar.

He founded a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the AERIS Foundation, which raised \$12,000 in toys for Levine Children's Hospital, and helped raise \$20,000 over 2 years for the Alzheimer's Association as National Honor Society president.

He is 2nd Degree Black Belt, Instructor, and National Competitor in Tae Kwon-Do.

At Holy Trinity, he participated at HDF and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival. He was on the Bible Bowl team at WYR for 3 years, and won 3rd place.

Chrysostomos will be attending Duke University to study Chemistry and Professional Writing on the Pre-Med track.

VASSILIKI CHRISTINA SKARLATOS

Porter Ridge High School



Vassiliki is the daughter of Chris and Stasy Skarlatos.

Vassiliki was an Honor Roll student and was involved in many academic and service clubs. She was vice president of FFA, a member of NHS, BETA, & Interact.

At Holy Trinity, she was a GOYA member, participated in soccer, Festival Dance and volunteered at Vacation Bible School. She continues to help out at Holy Trinity Preschool. She has volunteered at Angelic Riders and Greater Charlotte

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

SPCA. She spent her junior and senior year interning at Miller Animal Hospital.

Vassiliki will be attending Queens University majoring in Biology with a Pre Veterinary track.

MATTHEW SPETZ

Cato Middle College High School



Matthew is the son of Craig and Georgia Spetz.

He was a member of the National Honor Society and earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence. He graduated with an Associate's Degree and was on the Dean's list at CPCC.

He balanced employment at Auto Bell while earning the Boy

Scouts rank of Eagle Scout.

At Holy Trinity, Matthew danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, competed at HDF, played basketball, was active in GOYA and was an acolyte.

Matthew will intern at United Mechanical Corporation this summer. In the fall, he will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, majoring in mechanical engineering.

DEMETRI VASILIOS TASIOS

Weddington High School



Demetri is the son of Bill & Kalliroe Tasios

Demetri actively participated in his school's Shark Tank Club, where he developed and strengthened his entrepreneurial mindset and collaboration skills.

At Holy Trinity, he actively participated in soccer and basketball, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival,

celebrating his heritage and contributing to the community.

Demetri plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, majoring in Exercise Science as he pursues his goal of becoming a physical therapist.

CONSTANTINE GEORGIOS THANOS

Weddington High School



Constantine is the son of George and Vicki Thanos.

Constantine graduated Cum Laude.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in soccer, was a member of GOYA, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival, he completed the Greek School curriculum, and served as an acolyte

Constantine will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

ALEXA GEORGIA TSEFRİKAS

Weddington High School



Alexa is the daughter of Renee Andrews and John Tsefrikas.

Lexie was an AP and honors student. She was dual enrolled at South Piedmont Community College taking college courses. She was a Junior Varsity and Varsity cheerleader. She was also a member of Spanish Club, Honor Society, and Mentor Club.

At Holy Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, was a GOYA member, and attended Winter Youth Rally.

Lexie will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the fall and will be majoring in psychology.

ALEXANDER JOHN TSUMAS

Christ the King Catholic High School



Alex is the son of John and Amber Tsumas.

He received the Presidential Service Award all four years of high school and was the lead of the coding club.

Alex was on the school soccer team for 4 years, winning the state championship his freshman year, and was the JV team captain.

At Holy Trinity he participated in soccer, basketball and danced in the Yiasou Greek Festival. Additionally, he attended Winter Youth Rally, and St. Stephens summer camp.

Alex will be attending North Carolina State University in the spring majoring in computer science with a minor in finance.

JAMES PERRY VASTIS

David W. Butler High School



James is the son of John and Stacey Vastis.

James graduated with high honors from the Butler School of Health Sciences. He earned A Honor Roll distinction and received the Excellence in Science Award for outstanding academic achievements. He was a member of the National Honor Society and served as a Junior Marshall.

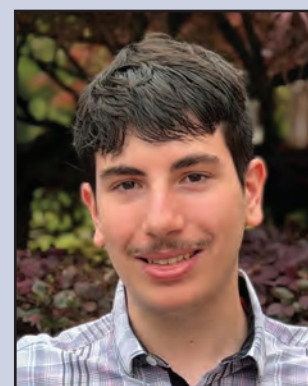
James served as captain of both the Varsity football and basketball teams. He also participated in track & field, golf, and volleyball teams. He was a member of the Dream Team and the FC Charlotte Leadership Club.

At Holy Trinity, he served as an altar boy and the GOYA Leadership team. He played soccer and basketball, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and competed at HDF. He volunteered at Vacation Bible School.

James will be attending North Carolina State University studying human biology and health sciences.

KONSTANTINOS ZAHAROPOULOS

David W. Butler High School



Konstantinos is the son of George and Fay Zaharopoulos.

Kosta was an Honors and AP student and on the A/B Honor Roll, all 4 years. He participated in the dual enrollment program with Central Piedmont Community College his senior year. He also successfully earned his Ellinomatheia A2 certification.

At Holy Trinity, Kosta played soccer and basketball, danced and volunteered at the Yiasou Greek Festival. He participated in flag football through the YMCA.

Kosta will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Presenting the Senior Gift



May 17, 2026: During the Senior Sunday School Class graduation celebration, GOYA co-presidents Katerina Brika and Evi Pappas presented an icon to Fr. Jonathan (pictured above). The icon is of Christ with the loaves and the fishes. It is a mosaic made up of the faces of the seniors from pictures provided by their families. It will be placed in the Education Wing across from the 7th grade Sunday school classroom.

A second senior gift is a Japanese Maple tree planted behind the Cathedral next to the bench.

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

PHILOPTOCHOS by Demetra Boardman

This spring was a busy and rewarding season for Philoptochos; we are happy to share these highlights!

Community Outreach & Gratitude

Our chapter received many thoughtful thank-you notes this spring from organizations and individuals touched by the generosity and service of Philoptochos. Messages of appreciation were received from Classroom Central, Families Forward, St. Hermione Home, Thompson Child & Family Services, National Philoptochos, and others who have benefited from our outreach efforts. These notes serve as a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a lasting impact on those we serve.

Pascha Homebound Visits

One of the most meaningful ministries of our chapter each year is reaching out to our homebound parishioners during the Paschal season. This year, members assembled and delivered 46 Pascha gift bags filled with treats and thoughtful items to bring the joy of the Resurrection to those unable to attend church services. These visits continue to be a cherished expression of Christian love and fellowship.

Operation Classroom

Our commitment to local students and teachers continued through Operation Classroom. Members volunteered at Classroom Central's Mobile Packing Project, helping prepare and organize educational supplies for area classrooms. We are grateful to all who participated and helped make this outreach effort a success.

Feed the Hungry

Philoptochos continued supporting families in need through our Feed the Hungry ministry and our partnership with Families Forward. Through ongoing service opportunities, our members remain dedicated to helping alleviate food insecurity and supporting vulnerable families in our community.

Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship

The Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship continues to be an important ministry of our chapter. We fund this scholarship through our year-round tiropitakia sales - so order those tiropitakia! Scholarship applications were reviewed this spring, and this year there was a tie. Evi Pappas and Katerina Brikas were selected to receive the award during the Sunday School Graduation ceremony. We congratulate all the young women who

applied and commend them for their commitment to faith, education, and service.

Lenten & Pascha Bake Sales

The Lenten and Pascha Bake Sales were once again a tremendous success. Volunteers spent many hours preparing Lenten and traditional koulourakia, tsourekia, red-dyed Pascha eggs, tiropitakia, homemade bread and other seasonal favorites. We are grateful to everyone who baked, packaged, sold, and purchased these items in support of our philanthropic ministries.

Fellowship & Educational Programs

Our General Meetings this spring featured opportunities for fellowship and learning. Fr. Elefterios joined us during Lent for a meaningful discussion, and in April we welcomed attorney David DuFault of Sodoma Law, who presented valuable information on estate planning. These programs continue to enrich our members while strengthening the bonds of our Philoptochos family.

Parish Support & Stewardship

Philoptochos remains committed to supporting the projects and needs of Holy Trinity Cathedral. This spring, members discussed several projects that will enhance parish life for future generations. We were also pleased to support Holy Trinity Name Day celebrations and continued preparations for the Yiasou Festival baking season, including the addition of portokalopita to this year's offerings.

Interested in Joining Philoptochos?

The Agia Elpis Philoptochos Society warmly welcomes women of the parish who are interested in fellowship, service, and philanthropy. Through charitable outreach, community engagement, and spiritual growth, our members work together to live out the mission of Philoptochos: helping those in need and supporting the ministries of the Church. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member, please email agiaelpisphiloptochos@gmail.com for more information.

**STEWARDSHIP** by Penelope Hefner**Roots of Generosity: Mothers on the Meaning of Stewardship**

Stewardship is one of those words that can mean different things to different people — but at its heart, it is a deeply personal practice, often shaped by the quiet lessons of childhood and carried forward through the seasons of life. We recently asked some of the mothers in our community to share their experiences with stewardship: how they came to understand it, and why they continue to give. Their answers were honest, thoughtful, and deeply moving.

It Begins with Small Things

For many of us, the seeds of stewardship were planted long before we could fully understand the word. One mother in our community, Stephanie Kaltsounis, traced hers back to a simple but powerful ritual:

"It started with the simple click of coins. Those Sunday morning yellow stewardship envelopes I would fill up with coins from my piggy bank and take to the basket in my Sunday School classroom. My mom made sure we did not leave the house without them."

What a beautiful image — a child, coins in hand, learning that what she had was worth offering. As she grew, so did her understanding:

"In middle school and high school, that envelope expanded and I learned that stewardship was not just the monetary donation I was able to provide, but also my time and talents."

By the time she reached adulthood, stewardship had become something deeper than a habit — it had become a part of her identity. And now, watching her own children walk that same path at Holy Trinity, she describes it as the loop coming full circle: *"Turning a personal discipline of mine into a blessing for them."*

Her story is a reminder that stewardship is not something we arrive at all at once. It grows with us.

Three Pillars: Love, Time, and Money

Another mother in our community, Valerie Athanas, offered a framework that is both practical and profound. When asked why she gives, her answer began simply: *"First off, let me say — I love my church."*

From that foundation of love, she described stewardship as resting on three pillars: **love, time, and money**. In her words:

"Similarly to my house, the church does not work without money, time, and love. Money is what keeps the doors open and allows the church and community to function — to serve everyone of every age."

She was candid about something many of us quietly sense but rarely say aloud: *"I think sometimes we forget, or we assume someone else is going to give. But truly, it's a community — and only a community working together can keep everything operating smoothly."*

A thriving church is never the result of a few people carrying the weight. It is the product of many people each doing their part — imperfectly, consistently, and with love.

She closes with something that speaks to the joy of giving: *"Holy Trinity is where I find my happy place. With every donation, I think about how I'm playing my part — not only with money, but with love and time."*

A Word for Our Community

These two women speak for many of us. Stewardship is not a line item on a budget — it is an expression of who we are and what we value. It is the coins in a child's piggy bank. It is the hours volunteered. It is the check written not out of obligation, but out of belonging.

Holy Trinity is only as strong as the community that sustains it. If you are still finding your footing in your own stewardship journey, know that it is never too early — and never too late — to begin. And if you have children watching, remember: they are paying close attention.

May we each find our own way to love, serve, and give — and may Holy Trinity continue to be the place where those gifts take root and flourish.

Do you have a stewardship story you'd like to share? Reach out to Penelope Hefner on the Stewardship Committee (penelope.hefner@gmail.com) — we'd love to hear from you.

AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

2026 Scholarships and Awards
Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides
Scholarship



(L-R: Georgia Andrews, Evi Pappas, Katerina Brika, Cathy Poulimenos, Fr. Jonathan)

The Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship selection committee announced the winner of this year’s \$2,500 award during the Sunday school Graduation ceremony. For the first time in the nine years of this scholarship, there was a tie between two graduates. Katerina A Brika and Evi M Pappas will share the award. Katerina will be attending Auburn University and Evi is headed to North Carolina State University.

The announcement was made by Scholarship Selection Committee Chair Georgia Andrews and Agia Elpis Chapter President Cathy Poulimenos. The scholarship was funded by the Agia Elpis Chapter and named for Presbytera Kathryn. She served this community with her husband, +Rev. Fr. 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.

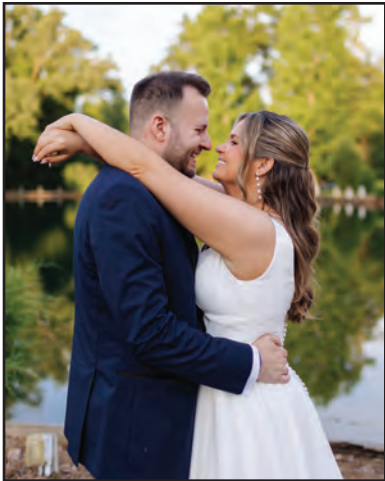
Evi and Katerina join previous recipients: Helen McGinnis (2018); Apostolia Liana Kendrick (2019); Eleftheria Euripides (2020); Katerina Anastasia Peroulas (2021); Maria Kaltounis (2022); Theodora Kokalis (2023); Meredith Boukidis (2024), and Mary Emma Thevaos (2025).

#doyourbestgiveGODtherest award



Youth Director Robert Brendle 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 James P Vastis (pictured at left, center, between Robert Brendle and Fr. Jonathan). James will be attending North Carolina State University. He follows previous recipients Theodore Harakas (2023), Nikki Blathras (2024), and Andrew Karres (2025).

Lowery - Politis



Olivia Lowery and Dimitri Politis were married on Saturday, May 30, 2026 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The bride is the daughter of Adrian Carras and Walter Lowery. The groom is the son of Athina Politis and the late Angelo P. Politis. A reception followed at the Pearl Mansion in Charlotte. The couple honeymooned in Barbados and reside in Charlotte.

Mavroidis - Lambertson



Maria Mavroidis and Austin Lambertson were married on Saturday, June 6, 2026 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Maria is the daughter of Steve Mavroidis and Doug & Irene Bryant. A reception followed at the Foundation for the Carolinas in Uptown Charlotte. The couple honeymooned in Croatia and Italy. They reside in Denver, Colorado.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 FESTIVAL

BAKING SCHEDULE

AUG 17-19	KOULOURAKIA & BAKLAVA BAGS
AUG 20-21	ICE CREAM BAKLAVA & BAKLAVA BAGS
AUG 24-28	BAKLAVA PANS
AUG TBD	KARIDOPITA
SEPT 6-7	PACKING PASTRIES

We will begin our days at 9:30am except on September 6th, which will begin after Church Service. On Monday, September 7th, we will begin at 10:00am.

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 2026 Stewardship Forms. Don't delay. The information you provide is vital to developing the best future for the community.



WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto and Lisa Giotis

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

April, May and June are always busy months at the Preschool as we approach the end of the school year. As April rolls in, it is time to 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 and caring for our planet. Some of the other topics covered this month included, April showers, flowers, rainbows, baby birds and bird's nests, baby chicks, bunnies, squirrels, insects, animals and life cycles. It is an amazing thing to see the beautiful world God has created.

Our main focus this month was to continue teaching the children 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 6 – 10th for Spring break. It is always nice when Spring Break falls during our Holy Week. When we returned from the break in April 13th, each of the classes celebrated with an Easter Party and an Easter Egg Hunt. The children really enjoyed their parties and the egg hunt, quickly finding all the hidden Easter eggs. Thank you to our parents who helped us prepare for the parties.

During Lent, the Preschool had its annual Luminary Bag fundraising project where you could purchase a bag "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. Thank you to everyone in the community who supported our

four-year-old classes had parent teacher conferences. The teachers had been evaluating the children for the last several months. These evaluations are used as a guide to see where the children are excelling and in what areas they need to continue working on. 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 extremely rewarding to watch the children progress throughout the year, approaching each new challenge with enthusiasm while gaining confidence in their abilities. Great job preschool friends!

It was hard to believe how quickly this school year went by. Over the last couple of months, the children worked extremely hard practicing their songs for the Graduation Program and End of Year Celebration that was held on Friday, May 29th. It was a special day to celebrate our 2026 Graduates, and to honor all our preschool students moving up to the next grade level. As always, all the children did a great job singing a medley of songs in Greek and English! This year's graduation program was an extra special celebration since the 2026 graduates were our 25th class to graduate from preschool. What a blessing it is to think about how many preschool graduates we have had over the last 25 years.

The end of each year is always a bittersweet time for our staff as we will miss all our children over the summer, but especially our four-year-old class as they leave us to go on to kindergarten. We wish our graduates many blessings as they begin their new journey. We were honored to have shared in the early stages of their education and development. We are proud to know that our rising kindergartners are well prepared and ready for elementary school in the fall. We love them and we will miss them!

who support the preschool's events and fundraising efforts. On behalf of the staff, we thank them for their love and support, the many thoughtful things they have done for our school and staff, and the gifts they have given us throughout the year. Most of all, we are grateful to our parents for allowing us to share in the academic, social and spiritual development of their children. Sharing your children with us was the most precious gift of all. We also would like to thank Fr. Jonathan, Fr. Elefterios, Fr. Jerry and Fr. Christian for their love and spiritual guidance throughout the year and for doing "Our Faith with Father" religious sessions. A big thank you to the Preschool Board for their help, support and guidance in everything we do as a school both at our events and in the planning and organizing our program. We also thank the Parish Council and the Holy Trinity community for always supporting our events and fundraisers. And finally, a huge thank you to our teachers for working together in a team atmosphere, for the countless hours they put into planning and preparing lessons and activities and in making their classrooms a warm and inviting learning environment. The teachers absolutely love each child and work hard to have them confident and independent in their abilities. These are a great group of ladies, and we are fortunate to have them in our Preschool!!! As they say, "it takes a village to raise a child." We are beyond blessed to be a part of such a special village... Thank you everyone!

With the arrival of summer, it is time to turn our focus to the 2026 – 2027 school year. During the summer, we take the time to reflect on the past year to see what changes and improvements we can implement and work on preparing our school and classes for when preschool starts back on September 21st. As we move forward into the new school year, we are looking

Preschool Summer Camps



Week 1 On the Farm



Week 2 Dr Seuss



Week 3 God's House

fundraiser!

There is always a lot of activity in May as we wrap up the school year while trying to squeeze in as much learning and fun before the year ends. It was a time to review 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, and in the older classes recognizing and writing their names, as well as practicing for the Graduation and End of Year program. Other topics this month included summer, sea life, obeying God, just to name a few. We discussed the special bond between the children and their parents for Mother's Day and Father's Day and how much we love and respect them. On May 6th, we invited all our Moms and Dads to the preschool for a Coffee Hour in honor of their celebrations. We had a great turnout, and the children enjoyed sharing that special time with their parents.

At the end of the school year, the two, three and

This year in June the preschool held three sessions of summer camp for the children ages three to five. The camps took place on June 1st – 5th, June 8th – 12th and June 15th – 18th. The camp themes were "Down on the Farm," "Fun with Dr. Seuss" and "Welcome to God's House. A special thank you to Mr. Robert Brendle for bringing two four-day old baby goats to visit our Summer Camp during Farm Week. They were so adorable and the children loved seeing them! The children really enjoyed their summer camp experience and spending time with their friends. 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 our teachers, Ms. Alex Tatsis, Ms. Georgia Harakas, Ms. Kontilo Pappas, Ms. Kim Tatsis, and Ms. Dina Sohoritis for their help as well. Excellent job ladies!

As the year closes, there are many people we need to thank. At HTGOP, we were blessed to have a wonderful group of parents in our preschool family

forward to seeing our returning families and getting to know our new families. We pray that God will continue to bless our preschool children and families, the staff and board members, and the entire Holy Trinity community. Many blessings for a happy, healthy and safe summer break.

*The Co-Directors will not be in the Preschool Office on a daily basis over the summer months. **During the summer break, please CALL or TEXT them on the mobile numbers listed below if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the preschool.***

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

Preschool Office at preschool@htgo.org or 704-333-4961

ΝΕΑ & ΦΩΝΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΑΣ

MARCH 25TH Γιορτή της 25 Μάρτιου



Στης 29 Μαρτίου το Ελληνικό Σχολείο της Αγίας Τριάδας γιόρτασε και φέτος τη μεγάλη διπλή γιορτή του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου μας και της Ελληνικής μας Παλιγγενεσίας. Οι μαθητές, ιερείς, γονείς και φίλοι απέδωσαν φόρο

τιμής στους θάνατους ήρωες του 1821, οι οποίοι χάρισαν τη λευτεριά στην Ελλάδα μας. Όλα τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου δούλεψαν σκληρά και παρουσίασαν ένα όμορφο πρόγραμμα. Το πρόγραμμα περιλάμβανε μια ιστορική διαδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του έπους του 1821 μέσα από πατριωτικά ποιήματα, τραγούδια και παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Φέτος, το πρόγραμμά μας ήταν αφιερωμένο στη συμπλήρωση 200 χρόνων από την Έξοδο του Μεσολογγίου το 1826, ένα από τα σημαντικότερα γεγονότα της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης. Οι μαθητές μας παρουσίασαν με συγκίνηση το όμορφο τραγούδι «Μεσολόγγι» και απέδωσαν με ιδιαίτερη ευαισθησία τον συμβολισμό του διάσημου πίνακα του Ευγένιου Ντελακρουά, «Η Ελλάδα στα ερείπια του Μεσολογγίου», τιμώντας την αυτοθυσία και τον ηρωισμό των Ελεύθερων Πολιορκημένων. Οι μαθητές μας εργάστηκαν σκληρά σε αυτό το έργο και είμαστε πολύ περήφανοι για την επίδειξη δημιουργικότητας, έρευνας και δεξιοτήτων γραφής.

Η εκδήλωση ξεκίνησε με τους εθνικούς ύμνους της Αμερικής και της Ελλάδας στη μεγάλη αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων της κοινότητας με κατάθεση στεφάνου, προσευχή, χαιρετισμούς και ολιγόλεπτες ομιλίες από τον πατερ. Ελευθέριο Πλευράκη και από την διευθύντρια Ολυμπία Κουτσοκάλη. Η γιορτή έκλεισε με σύντομη ομιλία της κυρίας Μαρίας Ασπρογιάννη εκ μέρους του συλλόγου γονέων και κηδεμόνων. Ένα ειλικρινές «ευχαριστώ» σε όλους τους εθελοντές που βοήθησαν στην επιτυχία αυτής της εκδήλωσης προσφέροντας νόστιμα γλυκά και οι οποίοι προσφέρθηκαν εθελοντικά. Ζήτω η Ελλάς!

Είχαμε επίσης τη χαρά να απονεύμουμε τα πιστοποιητικά και τα βραβεία στους μαθητές που συμμετείχαν στις εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας της περασμένης σχολικής χρονιάς. Η τελετή απονομής είχε αρχικά προγραμματιστεί νωρίτερα, αλλά αναβλήθηκε λόγω της χιονοθύελλας. Συγχαίρουμε θερμά όλους τους μαθητές για την προσπάθεια, την αφοσίωση και την επιτυχία τους και τους ευχόμαστε να συνεχίσουν με τον ίδιο ζήλο την εκμάθηση της ελληνικής γλώσσας. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στην κ. Κική Καπερώνη και στην κ. Ευδοξία Βάγιου που προετοίμασαν τα παιδιά μας για τις εξετάσεις.

Οι παρακάτω λάβανε πιστοποιητικό ελληνομάθειας. Συγχαρητήρια!

A1	B2
Ελισάβετ Χουσιάδα	Ιωάννης Ελεφάντης
Αθανάσιος Καλτσούνης	Ελισάβετ Φουρνιώτη
Γιώργος Κιζούλης	Σωτηρία Παλούμπα
Νικολέτα Μυλωνά	
Στεφανία Πρασσά	
Σπύρος Σταθόπουλος	



MAY DAY - Πρωτομαγιά

Τη Δευτέρα, 5 Μαΐου, το Ελληνικό Σχολείο της Αγίας Τριάδας συγκεντρώθηκε στο Hellenic Park για να γιορτάσουμε όλοι μαζί την Πρωτομαγιά. Μαθητές, γονείς και εκπαιδευτικοί απόλαυσαν μια όμορφη ανοιξιάτικη βραδιά γεμάτη χαμόγελα και δημιουργικές δραστηριότητες.

Η Πρωτομαγιά αποτελεί μία από τις πιο όμορφες γιορτές της ελληνικής παράδοσης, καθώς σηματοδοτεί τον ερχομό της άνοιξης και την αναγέννηση της φύσης. Από την αρχαιότητα μέχρι σήμερα, οι άνθρωποι γιορτάζουν την ανθοφορία της γης και τη νέα ζωή που φέρνει ο Μάιος.

Ένα από τα πιο αγαπημένα έθιμα της ημέρας είναι η κατασκευή του πρωτομαγιάτικου στεφανιού από πολύχρωμα αγριολούλουδα και αρωματικά φυτά. Το στεφάνι συμβολίζει τη χαρά, την ευημερία και την ανανέωση και συνήθίζεται να κρεμιέται στην εξώπορτα του σπιτιού ως σύμβολο καλής τύχης και προστασίας.

Τα παιδιά κατασκεύασαν πολύχρωμα πρωτομαγιάτικα στεφάνια, συμμετείχαν σε διασκεδαστικά παιχνίδια, χόρεψαν και διασκεδάσαν με ελληνική μουσική. Ο υπέροχος καιρός μάς επέτρεψε να απολαύσουμε τη φύση και να περάσουμε όλοι μαζί μια αξέχαστη βραδιά.

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε θερμά το ΡΤΟ για την ευγενική προσφορά της νόστιμης πίτσας, την οποία απόλαυσαν μικροί και μεγάλοι. Ευχαριστούμε επίσης όλες τις οικογένειες που συμμετείχαν και συνέβαλαν στην επιτυχία της εκδήλωσης.



Αποφοίτηση της ΣΤ 'σ τάξης του Ελληνικού Σχολείου της Αγίας Τριάδας

CLASS OF 2026 GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION

Την Τρίτη, 26 Μαΐου, γιορτάσαμε με ιδιαίτερη χαρά και συγκίνηση την αποφοίτηση της ΣΤ Τάξης του 2026.

Η τελετή ξεκίνησε με την είσοδο όλων των μαθητών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, οι οποίοι παρέλασαν ανά

τάξη μαζί με τους δασκάλους τους, και ολοκληρώθηκε με την πανηγυρική είσοδο των μαθητών της ΣΤ' τάξης. Στη συνέχεια, μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί και παρευρισκόμενοι έψαλαν όλοι μαζί τον Εθνικό Ύμνο της Ελλάδας και τον Εθνικό Ύμνο των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών.

Ο πατέρ. Ιωνάθαν άνοιξε την εκδήλωση με προσευχή και έναν συγκινητικό χαιρετισμό, μοιραζόμενος όμορφες αναμνήσεις από τους αποφοίτους, τους οποίους γνώρισε από την πρώτη στιγμή που εντάχθηκε στην ενορία μας. Χαιρετισμούς και ευχές απηύθυναν επίσης η πρόεδρος του ΡΤΟ, κα Μαρία Ασπρογιάννη, η διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, κα Ολυμπία Κουτσοκάλη, καθώς και ο Πατέρας Ελευθέριος Πλευράκης.

Κατά τη διάρκεια της τελετής απονεμήθηκαν ακαδημαϊκά βραβεία στους μαθητές κάθε τάξης που διακρίθηκαν για τις επιδόσεις τους. Στους αποφοίτους της ΣΤ' τάξης απονεμήθηκαν επίσης αναμνηστικά μετάλλια, βραβεία καλύτερης εργασίας καθώς και ειδικά ακαδημαϊκά βραβεία για τις εξαιρετικές τους επιδόσεις. Κάθε απόφοιτος απηύθυνε έναν σύντομο λόγο ευχαριστώντας τους δασκάλους και την οικογένειά του για τη στήριξη και την καθοδήγησή τους, ενώ όλοι μαζί απηύγειλαν την Υπόσχεση των Αποφοίτων.

Η τελετή ολοκληρώθηκε με την προβολή ενός ιδιαίτερα συγκινητικού βίντεο, το οποίο παρουσίασε στιγμές από την πορεία των μαθητών στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο, ξυπνώντας όμορφες αναμνήσεις σε όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους.

Μετά το πέρας της εκδήλωσης, οι απόφοιτοι και οι οικογένειές τους απόλαυσαν ένα υπέροχο δείπνο στην κοινωνική αίθουσα της κοινότητάς μας, γιορτάζοντας όλοι μαζί αυτό το σημαντικό ορόσημο στη ζωή των παιδιών μας.



Συγχαρητήρια στους αποφοίτους της ΣΤ 'σ τάξης	
Ιωάννης Ελεφάντης	Ευδοκία Παυλοπούλου
Γεώργιος Κιζούλης	Ελισάβετ Φουρνιώτη
Αθανάσιος Καλτσούνης	Αλεξάνδρεια Γουίτμορ
Ιωάννης Καραγιάννης	Ελισάβετ Χουσιάδα
Μάριος Μυλωνάς	Διονύσιος Ζιζώζιος
Νικολέττα Μυλωνά	

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



ALICE NOLAN CHAGARIS, age 85, passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Born on January 24, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, Alice was the daughter of John and Alice Barlow Nolan.

Alice is survived by her son, Christopher Chagaris; her daughter, Cheryl Swain and her husband Tim; her grandchildren, Catherine and Nicole Chagaris, and Claire Swain; her niece, Nola Rave; and George and Patricia Raad, family by choice.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Alice Barlow Nolan, and her husband, George Chagaris.



JOHN PETER GEORGOULAKOS, age 85, passed unto the Lord on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Born on March 28, 1941, in Oitylo, Mani, Greece.

John is survived by his son, Michael Georgoulakos; his granddaughter, Georgia Georgoulakos; and many loving nieces, nephews, family members, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Georgia Georgoulakos.



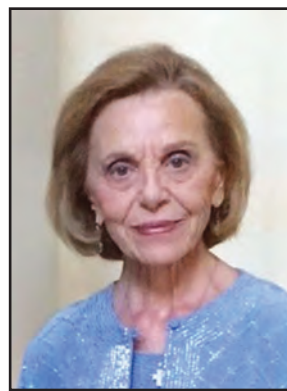
DR. ANDREW PETER HARAKAS, age 69, passed away on Friday, April 17, 2026.

Born on June 3, 1956, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Andrew was the son of Peter Andrew Harakas and Rebecca

Theodore Harakas.

Andrew is survived by his wife of forty years, Norma Ree Porter Harakas; his children, Andrew Harakas (Ashley), Chrysanthé Hill (Josh), Alexander Harakas (Courtney), Constantine Harakas, and Christopher Harakas; his grandson, Jaxon; his brother, Peter Theodore Harakas, and sister-in-law, Evangeline Harakas; his mother-in-law, Edna Ree Porter; his sister-in-law, Renee Porter Lassiter; his brother-in-law, Clete Lassiter; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Norman E. Porter.



ELIZABETH KASTANAS HARAKAS, age 89, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Born on December 16, 1936, in Karyes, Laconia, Greece, Elizabeth was the daughter of Maria Skiouris and George Kastanas.

Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Theodore "Ted" Harakas; her children, Kaleen Kanos (Spero), Maria Caldwell (Barry), Nanette Lyssikatos (Nick), and Andre Harakas (Georgia); her grandchildren, Tiffany Doulaveris (William), Alek Kanos, Anna Jackson (Brent), Jonathan Caldwell (Lauren), Kostas Lyssikatos (Claire), Elizabeth Lyssikatos, Teddy Harakas, and James Harakas; her great grandchildren, Steven, Luke, Jack, and Michael Doulaveris; her sister, Lula Kouvaris; and many loving nephews, nieces, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Maria and George Kastanas; her sister, Aphroula Anderson; and her brothers in law, Jimmie Anderson and Peter Kouvaris.



GEORGE ANGELO KARNEZIS, age 88, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Born on October 6, 1937, in Silimna, Arcadia, Greece, George was the son of Evagelos and Demetra (Papoulas) Karnezis.

George is survived by his wife of sixty years, Panagiota "Penny" Karnezis; his son, Angelo Karnezis and his wife, Teresa; his daughter, Saradina and her fiancé, Mike; his grandchildren, Marc Morris (Alejandra), Lucas Karnezis (Courtney), Jesse Karnezis (Hannah), George Morris (Claire), and Maria Hartman (Tanner); four great-grandchildren; his sister, Georgia of Tripoli, Greece; his brother, Sotiros of California; his brothers-in-law, Nikos Karnazes (Toni) and John Karnazes (Anastasia); and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Evagelos and Demetra Karnezis; his brothers, Stavros and Kostakis Karnezis; and his sisters, Eleni Perimeni and Panagiota Karnezis.



THEODORE A. KARRES (Theodoros Andreas Kariyiannis), age 91, passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Born on September 19, 1934, in Karyes, Laconia, Greece, Theodore was the son of Andreas and Panayiota Kariyiannis.

Theodore is survived by his sons, Andrew Karres and George Karres and his wife, Vasiliki; his grandchildren, Demetra, Theodore, and Andrew Karres; Louis and Mimi Dizes (George Dizes, their father); his brother, Nikos A. Karres (Kariyiannis) of Karyes, Greece; his sister, Kalliope Sarris and her husband, Dimos of Chicago; his sister-in-law, Tina Karres of Florida; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Andreas and Panayiota Kariyiannis; his wife of sixty-four years, Demetra Karres; his daughter, Pamela Karres Dizes; his brother, Konstantinos "Gus" Karres; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Panos and Christine Diamaduros; his uncle and aunt, George and Mary Kakaris; and his best friend, Peter J. Couchell.



PANAGIOTIS "PETER" NIKOLAOS MARINAKOS, of Charlotte, passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

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



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In Memoriam

He was born in Oria, Kastri, Arkadia, Greece, in 1940, to Nikolaos and Efstathia (Sarantakos) Marinakos.

Pete is survived by his wife of 58 years, Vasiliki "Bessie" (Economopoulos); daughter, Efstathia "Stella"; son, Nikolaos "Nick" (Megan); daughter, Konstantina "Dina" Oara (David); grandsons, Peter, John, Marco, and Adrian; sisters, Eleni (Stathopoulos) and Vasiliki "Kiki" (Matalas); and several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his sister, Panagiota "Pota" Mavroidis and his brother, Yannis.



NICHOLAS COSTAS MELISSARIS, age 59, passed away on April 4, 2026.

Born in October 1966, Nicholas was the beloved son of Costas and Nicole Melissaris.

Nicholas is survived by his children, Konstantine Melissaris and Alexandra Melissaris; his parents, Costas and Nicole Melissaris; and his sister, Christina.



DEMETRIOS LYKUGOS MINAKAKIS, age 86, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Born on March 5, 1940, in Kalyvia Sohas, Sparta, Greece, Demetrios was the son of Lykourgios and Penelope (Antonakou) Minakakis.

Demetrios is survived by his wife, Pitsa (Kaperonis) Minakakis; his sons, Larry Minakakis and George Minakakis; his grandchildren, Panagiota (Anna Maria) Minakakis and Dimitri Minakakis; and many beloved relatives, godchildren, and friends in the United States and Greece.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lykourgios and Penelope Minakakis; his brothers, Stavros and Sarantos; and his sister, Efthimia.



HELEN NIXON, age 85, passed unto the Lord on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Born on June 22, 1940, in Mavromata, Evrytania, Greece, Helen was the daughter of Vasilios Georgiou and Theodosia Xistras Georgiou.

Helen is survived by her son, Konstatine Nixon (Anna); her granddaughters, Elina Labrakis (Christos) and Marianna Costantini (Dominic); her great granddaughter, Anna Labrakis; and many loving family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Nixon; her parents, Vasilios and Theodosia Georgiou; her brothers, Nick and John Georgiou; her sister, Elpidia Papadimitriou; her sisters in law, Ekaterini Georgiou and Eleni Ntallas; and her nephew, Konstantinos Georgiou



PENELOPE RAPDIS, age 95, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Born on May 21, 1931, in Viniani,

Evrytania, Greece, Penelope was the daughter of George and Maria Mantis.

Penelope is survived by her children, Nia, Voula, Tommy, and Nick; her grandchildren, John, Jacob, Thomas, Alexis, JoJo, Lea, and Kosta; and her brother, Sam Mantis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Serafim Raptis; her son, George Raptis; and her parents, George and Maria Mantis.



NICK D. YIOTTIS, age 94, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Born on October 16, 1931, in Asimohori, Konitsa, Greece, Nick was the son of Dionysios and Efthalia Yiottis.

Nick is survived by his wife, Georgia Yiottis; his children, Danny Yiottis (Anastasia), Tessie Yiottis, and Peter Yiottis; his grandchildren, Nick Yiottis (Casey), Georgia Yiottis, and Dimitri Yiottis; his great-granddaughter, Anastasia; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dionysios and Efthalia Yiottis.



Condolences

Our condolences to Elizabeth Bakatsias and her husband Nick on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Frances Paspalaris Katsis of Burlington,

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St. Paisios of Mount Athos



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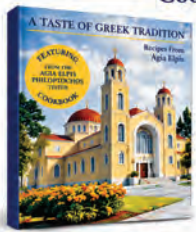
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