



Holy Trinity

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILMINGTON DE

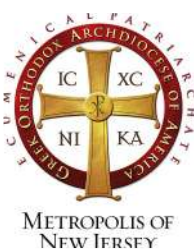


90th Anniversary

MARCH 2024 – ISSUE 3



Happy 90th Anniversary of our Parish!



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

808 N BROOM STREET

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

V. Rev. Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne

Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis, Proistamenos

frchristoforosoikon@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies only— dial Fr. Christoforos' cell @ 856-246-2756

Susan Kelleher, Church Secretary (302) 384-7805 (home)

2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Stacey Pennia, First Vice President - (302) 530-1669

Alexander Kirifides, Second Vice President - (302) 377-1704

George Rassias, Treasurer - (610) 322-3200

Dena Verikakis, Secretary - (484) 433-3896

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| (610) 358-8830 | Nicholas Demourtzidis | Tom Karas | (302) 438-7121 |
| (302) 562-3414 | Anna Fournaris | Alexia Moutsatsos | (302) 654-5611 |
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| (302) 633-1112 | Costas Fountzoulas | George Tsakataras | (302) 521-7300 |
| (302) 379-4335 | Georgia Halakos | Paraskevi Wolcott | (302) 654-4446 |

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| (494) 433-3896 | Philoptochos | Dena Verikakis, President |
| (856) 678-4924 | Sunday School | Maroula Haralambidis, Co-Director |
| (302) 293-1127 | Sunday School | Amalea Rassias, Co-Director |
| (484) 995-4414 | GOYA | Eleni Marcantonis, Co-President |
| (302) 682-1116 | GOYA | Christina Pennia, Co-President |
| (610) 864-4621 | JOY / HOPE | Angie Karakasidis |
| (302) 562-3414 | YAL | Anna Fournaris |
| 983-0857/(703) 317-7798 | Family Choir | Evita Guajardo / Christina Dietrich |
| (856) 905-0477 | Chanter | Grigorios Fotakis (Family Choir also) |
| (302) 753-3941 | Young @ Heart | Demetra Pappoulis, President |
| (302) 764-1849 | Greek School | Popi Tsaganos |
| (302) 475-5035 / 239-4950 | Altar Guild | Evie Fournaris & Joanne Tarabicos |
| (302) 633-1112 | Editorial Staff | Costas Fountzoulas |
| (302) 655-2252 / 764-2183 | Emmanuel Dining Room East | Nikkie Tsakataras & Tina Ganiaris King |
| (302) 585-6818 | Holy Trinity Food Pantry | Johanna Laskaris |
| (302) 239-6140 | Adult Bible Study | John Lazare |
| (856) 514-2227 | IOCC Parish Representative | Peter Kamenakis |
| (610) 274-2247 | OCF Mother | Leeza Kaliakin |

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (302) 478-3529 | AHEPA | Michael Kirifides, President |
| (302) 379-2015 | Daughters of Penelope | Anthoula Anagnostou, President |
| (607) 279-1387 | Hellenic University Club | Georgia Kollias, President |

Holy Trinity Website Address: www.holytrinitywilmington.org

ALL ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.
THESE ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF, EMAILED, FAXED OR U. S. MAIL.

FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE CHURCH SERVICES
OR PARISH EVENTS PLEASE CHECK WEEKLY BULLETIN AND PARISH WEBSITE



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΙΑΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ



My dear beloved parishioners of Holy Trinity,

It is amazing how quickly time moves! It seems like yesterday, when in December, I offered my first monthly bulletin message to you, and we are already in March! I am pleased to say though, that these past three months that I have been with you, was a time filled with blessings and accomplishments. During the Christmas holidays – one of the busiest times of the year – I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you and your families; a wonderful process that continues to this day. I have to say that Holy Trinity is a well-organized Parish, with wonderful people, with a bright past and a most promising future!

Speaking of “future”, the best part of it is our youth. We have a strong group of children, teenagers and young adults that stay close to our Orthodox Faith and love this Church with all their heart. This is evident in everything we do here at Holy Trinity; every day there is something going on for our youth, whether it is basketball practice, dance practice, JOY & HOPE family nights, GOYA meetings, Young Adult League gatherings, Greek School classes etc. However, the culmination of every youth activity is the participation of our children of all ages in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and the classes that follow. I am very proud of them, and I thank the parents for making the effort to bring our children to our church’s many activities and for entrusting them to Jesus Christ, His Church and us.

On the weekend of February 17 & 18, 2024, we had our annual Basketball Tournament hosting nine Churches and their teams here at Holy Trinity. This was a huge undertaking resulting in a beautifully organized event that all thoroughly enjoyed. I would like to thank our GOYA Advisors and Coaches, together with the countless volunteers, who put their time and effort into making this year’s Tournament a success. On that Sunday, we had the blessing of welcoming our Spiritual Father, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, who celebrated the Divine Liturgy and offered his blessing to all. His Eminence’s presence marked the beginning of our Parish’s official celebration of our 90th Anniversary! His Eminence was amazed by the presence of so many young people in Church and was very thankful for the great participation of our youth in the Divine Liturgy. Moreover, we were all very excited and proud when our Holy Trinity Girls Basketball Team won the Tournament on that Sunday! Congratulations girls!

On a different note, this month we are entering Great Lent. This is the most sacred time of the ecclesiastical year and in the liturgical life of our Church. Great Lent is the appropriate time and opportunity to take a break from our hectic schedules and busy lives and look into our spiritual life and health. Our Holy Mother Church will be calling us all throughout this fasting season, to change our “lifestyles”, not by simply going “vegan” but by restricting our bodily passions. And our passions can only be controlled and reduced by doing two things: fasting and praying. Only through fasting and praying can we deepen our relationship with God.

On “Forgiveness” Sunday, March 17, we will be asked by our Church to offer our forgiveness to everyone, even to our enemies, to begin the “good fight” of Lent. On “Clean Monday”, March 18, which is the first day of Great Lent, the fast begins in earnest, with strict guidelines for fasting and prayer. On that day, we have the first Great Compline Service in the evening (*see analytical Lenten Liturgical Schedule below*), followed by an Orthodox Lecture-Discussion, where we will have the opportunity to learn more about Lent and other topics that concern our spiritual lives.

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Every Wednesday evening, beginning March 20th, we will be celebrating the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a very special and unique liturgical service. The Presanctified Liturgy is a solemn Lenten Vespers Service with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. This gives us the chance to receive the most precious Body and Blood of Christ in the middle of the week, allowing us to obtain strength and blessing to continue our spiritual fight and struggle. The evening Liturgy will be followed by a community meal.

Every Friday of Lent, for five Fridays, we will be celebrating the Salutations to the Theotokos. This joyful and beautiful Service, organically connected with the Feast of the Annunciation, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and helps us advance and progress in our spiritual life by coming closer to Her and entrusting ourselves to the Mother of God, Panagia.

On the Saturdays of the 9th, the 16th and the 23rd of March we remember our deceased (Saturday of the Souls). We will be offering memorial prayers at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and our faithful are asked to bring the names of their deceased and kollyva (boiled wheat) as per our tradition, to be commemorated in the Service.

We can realize from the above that we are entering a unique season, filled with blessings and spiritual opportunities, but also with a lot of work to do! Let us try more this Great Lent. Let us increase our efforts to fast, repent, forgive and serve our brothers and sisters. Let us make every effort to come as much as we can to the sacred services of our Church, enjoy the beauty of the sacred services allowing them to lead us to our spiritual regeneration.

I pray that you all have a blessed and fruitful Great Lent, filled with the Grace of God.



Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

Αγαπητοί μου Ενορίτες,

Ήδη βρισκόμαστε στον μήνα Μάρτιο, ο οποίος μας εισάγει στην Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Αντιλαμβανόμαστε πόσο γρήγορα κυλά ο χρόνος, σχεδόν αμείλικτα. Μου φαίνεται σαν χθες, όταν ήλθα στην Αγία Τριάδα πριν από τρεις μήνες. Από τότε, είχα την ευκαιρία να σας γνωρίσω, να κάνω φιλίες και να γίνω μέρος της καθημερινότητάς σας. Πραγματικά νιώθω ευλογημένος για όλα αυτά και συνεχίζω με πιο πολύ όρεξη και ένταση το έργο που μου έχει αναθέσει η Εκκλησία, δηλαδή να σας διακονώ.

Το μεγαλύτερο στολίδι της Ενορίας μας είναι η νεολαία μας. Τα νέα παιδιά που πλημμυρίζουν τους χώρους της Εκκλησίας μας και γεμίζουν με ζωντάνια τα πάντα! Αυτά τα παιδιά του Θεού, τα δικά σας παιδιά, που είναι και δικά μας, νιώθουν την Εκκλησία να είναι το σπίτι τους. Χαίρομαι που εμπιστεύεστε τα παιδιά σας στην Εκκλησία, ιδιαίτερα αυτούς τους δύσκολους καιρούς, όπου η κοινωνία θέλει να τα διδάξει καινούρια, άγνωστα, περίεργα πράγματα. Η μόνη προστασία τους από κάθε είδους κακές επιρροές και βλαβερές συνήθειες είναι η Εκκλησία του Χριστού.

Το Σαββατοκύριακο 17 και 18 Φεβρουαρίου είχαμε το καθιερωμένο τουρνουά μπάσκετ, και φιλοξενήσαμε νέους και νέες από 9 Ενορίες. Με τη Χάρη του Θεού, όλα πήγαν υπέροχα. Την διαφορά όμως έκαναν οι νέοι της Αγίας Τριάδας. Με πολύ αγάπη και καλοσύνη υποδέχθηκαν τα άλλα παιδιά και τις οικογένειές τους και βοήθησαν στην όλη διοργάνωση με άψογο τρόπο. Πραγματικά καμάρωσα τα παιδιά μας και ένιωσα υπερήφανος γι'αυτά. Ιδιαίτερα την Κυριακή εκείνη, όπου είχαμε την τιμή και ευλογία να υποδεχθούμε τον Πνευματικό μας Πατέρα, τον Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Απόστολο, ο οποίος επισκέφθηκε την Ενορία μας για πρώτη φορά μετά την Ενθρόνισή του. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος με την παρουσία του κήρυξε την έναρξη των επίσημων εορτασμών για τα 90 χρόνια της Ενορίας μας, αλλά κυρίως ευχαριστήθηκε με την μεγάλη παρουσία των παιδιών μας. Να τα ευλογεί ο Θεός!

Να πούμε όμως και λίγα λόγια για τις μεγάλες και σπουδαίες ημέρες που έρχονται. Στις 18 Μαρτίου ξεκινά η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Είναι μια πνευματική περίοδος όπου η Εκκλησία μας προσκαλεί να προετοιμαστούμε για το Πάθος και την Ανάσταση του Κυρίου μας. Αυτή η προετοιμασία περιλαμβάνει νηστεία, εγκράτεια παθών, συγχώρηση, μετάνοια, εξομολόγηση, ελεημοσύνη και προσευχή. Είναι δηλαδή ένα πνευματικό στάδιο αρετών, στο οποίο καλούμαστε να αγωνιστούμε ώστε να νικήσουμε τον ίδιο μας τον (κακό) εαυτό...

Κύριο χαρακτηριστικό της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής είναι, όπως είπαμε, η νηστεία και η προσευχή. Η νηστεία δεν έχει σκοπό να μας εξουθενώσει αλλά ούτε και να μας αδυνατίσει. Σκοπό έχει να μας μάθει την ευλογημένη «εγκράτεια». Χαρακτηριστικά αναφέρει ο μακαριστός Μητροπολίτης Διοκλείας Κάλλιστος: «είναι σημαντικό να μην παραβλέπουμε τις σωματικές απαιτήσεις της νηστείας αλλά είναι ακόμα πιο σημαντικό να μην παραβλέπουμε την πνευματική της σημασία. Η νηστεία δεν είναι μόνο ζήτημα διαίτας. Είναι ηθικό όπως και σωματικό. Η πραγματική νηστεία πρέπει να μεταστραφεί στην καρδιά και στη θέληση. Πρέπει να επιστρέφει στο Θεό, πρέπει να γυρίσει σαν τον Ασωτο στο σπίτι του Πατέρα μας. Με τα λόγια του Αγίου Ιωάννη του Χρυσοστόμου «εγκράτεια σημαίνει όχι μόνο από τα φαγητά αλλά και από τις αμαρτίες». «Η νηστεία», επιμένει, «έπρεπε να τηρείται όχι μόνον από το στόμα αλλά και από τα μάτια, τα αυτιά, τα πόδια, τα χέρια και όλα τα μέλη του σώματος»: το μάτι πρέπει να απέχει από αισχρά θεάματα, το αυτί από κακεντρεχή φλυαρία, τα χέρια από πράξεις αδικίας.» (‘‘Νηστεία σημαίνει Εγκράτεια, Προσευχή, Αγαθοεργία’’, Σοφία και Λόγος, Φεβρ. 2015)

Όσο για την προσευχή, τώρα είναι η ευκαιρία να την αγαπήσουμε περισσότερο. Η περίοδος αυτή μας δίνει τη δυνατότητα όπως είπαμε να έλθουμε πιο κοντά στον Θεό διά της προσευχής. Προσευχή είναι η επικοινωνία μας με τον Πατέρα μας. Όπως γράφει και πάλι ο μακαριστός Μητροπολίτης Διοκλείας Κάλλιστος: «Ο ορθόδοξος συγγραφέας Τίτο Κόλλιαντερ γράφει: «έχουμε δημιουργηθεί για την προσευχή, όπως ακριβώς δημιουργηθήκαμε για να μιλάμε και να σκεφτόμαστε». Η προσευχή είναι η αληθινή μας φύση. Χωρίς προσευχή δεν είμαστε πραγματικά άνθρωποι. Αυτός είναι ο λόγος που ο απόστολος Παύλος έλεγε «ἀδιαλείπτως προσεύχεσθε» (Α' Θεσ. 5:17). Με την προτροπή αυτή δεν εννοούσε ότι θα πρέπει να λέμε προσευχές όλη την ώρα, καθώς κάτι τέτοιο είναι στην πραγματικότητα αδύνατο. Κάποιες στιγμές χρειάζεται να στρέψουμε την προσοχή μας και σε άλλα πράγματα. Αλλά είχε κατά νου την προσευχή ως έναν εννοούμενο προσανατολισμό, μία κρυμμένη διάσταση ή ένα ιδανικό, που διαπερνά όλα όσα κάνουμε. Όπως παρατηρεί ο άγιος Ισαάκ ο Σύρος, οι άγιοι ακόμη και όταν κοιμούνται δεν παύουν να προσεύχονται, γιατί το Αγιο Πνεύμα προσεύχεται πάντοτε μαζί τους. Αυτό, όντως, είναι εκείνο που πραγματικά χρειάζεται ο κόσμος: όχι απλά ανθρώπους που λένε πότε πότε προσευχές, αλλά ανθρώπους που είναι οι ίδιοι μια διαρκής προσευχή, ζωντανές φλόγες προσευχής. Τέτοιοι άνθρωποι μεταμορφώνουν τον κόσμο. Όπως έλεγε κι ο άγιος Ιωάννης της Κρονστάνδης, «Η προσευχή είναι μία κατάσταση συνεχούς ευγνωμοσύνης». (Public Orthodoxy, Μητροπολίτου Κάλλιστου Γουέαρ, 2020)

Αυτές τις αγίες ημέρες της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής η Εκκλησία μας θα μας δώσει πολλές πνευματικές ευκαιρίες μέσα από τις ιερές Ακολουθίες. Την Καθαρά Δευτέρα, 18 Μαρτίου, και κάθε Δευτέρα, θα τελούμε το Μεγάλο Απόδειπνο στις 6 το απόγευμα και θα ακολουθεί πνευματική ομιλία. Από την Τετάρτη 20 Μαρτίου και κάθε Τετάρτη στις 6.30 το απόγευμα θα τελούμε την όμορφη και κατανυκτική Λειτουργία των Προηγιασμένων Δώρων και θα ακολουθεί νηστίσιο γεύμα. Από την Παρασκευή 22 Μαρτίου και κάθε Παρασκευή θα τελούμε τους Χαιρετισμούς της Παναγίας μας στις 6.30 το απόγευμα. Τα Σάββατα 9, 16 και 23 Μαρτίου έχουμε τα Ψυχοσάββατα, όπου τελούμε μνημόσυνα και θυμόμαστε τους αγαπημένους μας που είναι στον ουρανό. Και φυσικά κάθε Κυριακή συμμετέχουμε στην Θεία Λειτουργία.

Είμαστε ευλογημένοι αγαπητοί μου που έχουμε την Αγία μας Μητέρα, την Εκκλησία, η οποία μας αγαπά και ενδιαφέρεται για την πνευματική μας προκοπή και καλλιέργεια. Ας μην χάσουμε λοιπόν την ευκαιρία και τα δώρα που μας δίνει ο Θεός αυτή την περίοδο της Σαρακοστής. Ας προσπαθήσουμε να ζήσουμε -ο καθένας σύμφωνα με τις δυνάμεις του- την πνευματικότητα που μας χαρίζει η Σαρακοστή, με την ευλογημένη νηστεία, την αγάπη στο συνάνθρωπο και την συμμετοχή μας στις ιερές Ακολουθίες. Μόνο έτσι θα καταλάβουμε καλύτερα και θα νιώσουμε έτοιμοι να υποδεχθούμε το Πάσχα, ένα αληθινό και διαφορετικό Πάσχα από κάθε άλλη χρονιά.

Καλή και ευλογημένη Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή αγαπητοί μου!



π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης
Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου
Ιερατικώς Προϊστάμενος

SATURDAYS OF SOULS

❖ 1st Saturday of Souls: March 9

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am

❖ 2nd Saturday of Souls: March 16

Orthros 8.45 am & Divine Liturgy 9.30 am

❖ 3rd Saturday of Souls: March 23

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am



we will offer special prayers for our beloved deceased of our Parish and elsewhere. It is a tradition that you prepare a dish of boiled wheat (kollyva), symbol of eternal life, and bring it to the Church with a list of names of the deceased.

ΙΕΡΑ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ

❖ 1^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 9 Μαρτίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ

❖ 2^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 16 Μαρτίου

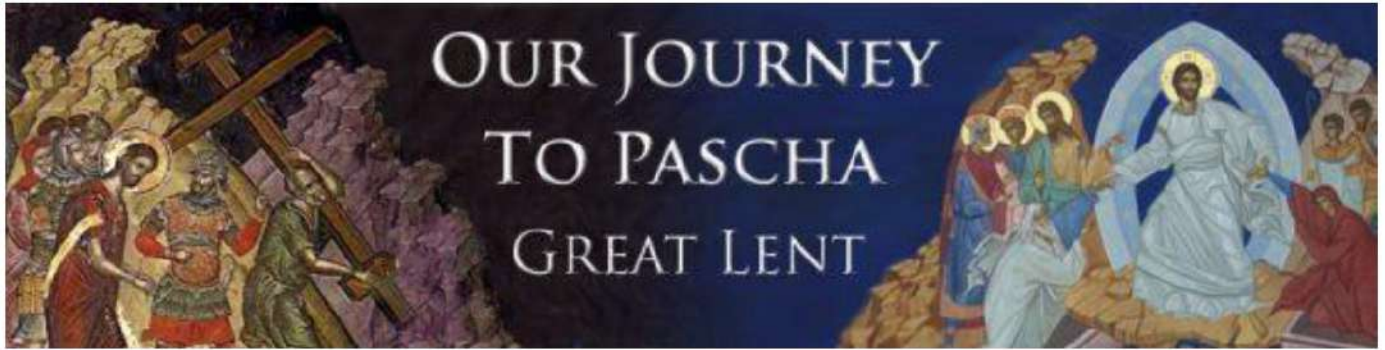
Όρθρος 8.45 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.30 πμ

❖ 3^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 23 Μαρτίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ



Θα τελέσουμε ιερά μνημόσυνα για την ανάπαυση των αγαπημένων μας αδελφών, συγγενών και φίλων. Υπάρχει η παράδοση να φέρνουμε κόλλυβα στην Θ. Λειτουργία, που συμβολίζει τον θάνατο και την ανάσταση των νεκρών, μαζί με τα ονόματα των κεκοιμημένων.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT 2024

- **Every Sunday**: Orthros 9:00am and Divine Liturgy 10:00am
- **Every Monday**, beginning on Clean Monday, March 18th at 6:00pm:
Great Compline Service, followed by Orthodox Lecture-Discussion
- **Every Wednesday**, beginning March 20th at 6:30pm:
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a community meal.
- **Every Friday**, beginning March 22nd at 6:30pm:
The Salutations to the Theotokos
- **Sunday, March 17th** at 6:30pm: Vespers Service of Forgiveness
- **Sunday, March 31st** at 4pm: Pan Orthodox Lenten Vespers Service

Don't miss those spiritual opportunities that our Holy Mother Church and our Parish is giving you!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

March 2024

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

Greetings to all and ΚΑΛΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗ!

On March 18th, we embark on the period of Great Lent. For the next seven weeks, we have the ability to reflect on our own lives and the life of Christ. Marking the start of Lent, is the custom of flying kites. This is known as Καθαρά Δευτέρα or Clean Monday. Our youth will be honoring this tradition on March 17th, where they will fly kites at Rockford Park after Church services. All members of the community are invited to join them.

Congratulations to our GOYAns on another successful tournament; especially to our girls' team, who **WON THE TOURNAMENT** in an exciting win over Egg Harbor! This event could not occur without their hard work and without the support from all the parents, advisors, and coaches. His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey and Archdeacon Konstantinos came to partake in this event and celebrate Liturgy with the parish and all the GOYAns.

A few upcoming events are on the calendar that we do not want to miss out on:

- March 2nd: Our YAL (Young Adult League) is hosting a comedy night in the Community Center, starring our own, Aliko Rasis and Rachel Samples.
- March 15th: Greek School Dance in our Community Center: A community event not to be missed!!!
- March 16th: Metropolis' "Walking with Christ" Fundraiser to provide financial assistance to seminary students.
- March 24th: Greek School Program for Greek Independence Day
- March 25th: Greek Independence Day - **ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ!!!**
- April 7th: Greek Independence Day Parade in Philadelphia starting at 2pm – details to follow

In case you haven't had a chance, do not forget to submit your Stewardship Pledge cards to the Church Office (or drop them off in the Narthex on Sundays). Your annual pledge supports everything we do and is used on all aspects of our worship, outreach, community life, and ministries. Your pledge will help us meet our yearly goal!

As always, if you have any thoughts and/or ideas for the benefit of the parish community (whether it impacts one person or hundreds), please feel free to reach out to myself, to one of the Parish Council members, Father Christoforos, or one of the organization heads. Their information can be found in the bulletin. We look forward to everyone's ideas and participation.

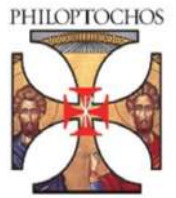
Stephanos Karakasidis

March 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 6pm YAL Comedy Taverna Night |
| 3 <u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School | 4 | 5 Metropolis | 6 Clergy Retreat - Williamsburg, VA 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School & Dance 5:45pm 90th Anniversary meeting 6pm BBall Practice FAST | 7 | 8 5:30pm HOPE JOY Dance Practice FAST | 9 <u>1st Saturday of Souls</u> Orthros 9:00am /Divine Liturgy 9:45am |
| 10 <u>Judgement Sunday</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School (Dairy permitted all week) 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting | 11 | 12 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 6:30pm Parish Council meeting | 13 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School & Dance 5:45pm 90th Anniversary meeting 6pm BBall Practice FAST | 14 | 15 5:30pm HOPE JOY Family Night FAST | 16 <u>2nd Saturday of Souls</u> Orthros 8:45am /Divine Liturgy 9:30am 11:00am “Walking with Christ” Luncheon - St. Luke Broomall, PA |
| 17 <u>Forgiveness Sunday</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School 1pm HOPE JOY Kite Flying 6:30pm Vespers Service of Forgiveness | 18 Clean Monday <u>Great Lent Begins</u> 12pm Young @ Heart Lenten Luncheon Gathering 6pm Great Compline followed by Orthodox discussion STRICT FAST | 19 FAST | 20 12pm Bible Study 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy & Community Meal (Y@ Heart) 5:30pm Greek School FAST | 21 FAST | 22 <u>6:30pm</u> 1st Salutations to the Theotokos Parish Level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival following Salutations FAST | 23 <u>3rd Saturday of Souls</u> Orthros 9:00am /Divine Liturgy 9:45am FAST |
| 24 <u>Sunday of Orthodoxy</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Procession with Icons GREEK SCHOOL Independence Day Program following D.L. 6pm Vespers @ Annunciation, Elkins Park or Philadelphia FAST | 25 <u>Annunciation & Greek Independence Day</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy 6pm Great Vespers followed by Orthodox discussion | 26 6:30pm DOP Meeting FAST | 27 12pm Bible Study 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy & Community Meal (HUC) 5:30pm Greek School FAST | 28 FAST | 29 <u>6:30pm</u> <u>2nd Salutations to the Theotokos</u> FAST | 30 12pm Philoptochos Serving at Emmanuel Dining Room FAST |
| 31 <u>St Gregory Palamas</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School 4pm PanOrthodox Vespers FAST | | | <div> Dates and Times are subject to change Please refer to your weekly bulletin </div> | | | |



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Dearest Ladies of Philoptochos and Parishioners:

Spring is on its way!

Our February calendar was filled with many activities. We held a Loukoumades sale on Godparents Sunday which was a huge success. A heartfelt thanks to Anamaria Anagnostou, Nikoletta Klezaras, Athena Rochonchou, Popi Papachrysanthou, Jessica Marvel, Sophia Hionas, Maria Grigorakakis, Vicky Karakasidis, and George Rassias.

A special thanks to everyone who helped with baking and all the preparations for the Three Hierarchs Celebration, which was a well-attended successful event. We're so proud of our youth who, in addition to their presentations, assisted in the serving and clean-up.

The Membership Tea, which is on February 24, has had a wonderful response. I hope to update you in the next bulletin.

We're currently preparing for the Walking with Christ Benefit Luncheon for Seminarians which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 11:00am at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall. Our Chapter will be a sponsor in addition to providing baskets for a raffle and donating food. We look forward to seeing you all there. If you haven't registered for the luncheon and need assistance, please feel free to contact me.

On March 30, The Philoptochos Chapter of St. Luke in Broomall will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event from 1-3pm. There will be two meal packaging shifts: 1-2 and 2-3pm. The goal is to package 15,000 meals. Our chapter will be attending and assisting in addition to providing a donation to Rise Against Hunger.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, following Divine Liturgy. I look forward to seeing you all there. If you haven't become a Philoptochos member, we warmly invite you to become a member and enjoy fellowship in addition to assisting those in need.

I wish you all a blessed Great Lenten period.

In Christ's Service,

Dena Verikakis



Kollyva for Memorials

The Philoptochos Society will prepare the tray of Kollyva for any family of our community. The cost of \$125 includes the Prosforon, oil and wine. Please allow at least a week and call the church office 654-4446 and Susie will contact the Philoptochos. Your donation of \$125 (less cost), will help Philoptochos Charities.



Pascha 2024



ST. AGAPE CHAPTER LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Sweet Easter Bread (TSOUREKI)

Orders are being taken now.

Pick up your bread from 4:00-5:00 pm on Thursday, April 25 & Friday, April 26,
or on Palm Sunday during Coffee Hour
at the Hellenic Community Center.

Bread Freezes Very Well

For more information please contact: Sophia Hionis @ 302-893-8850

Please reserve _____ Bread(s) at \$25.00 (large) or \$17.00 (Small)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Make your checks payable to: Philoptochos Society and send to:

Sophia Hionis

122 Duncan Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803



The Ladies of Philoptochos
are hosting the

Palm Sunday Community Lunch
Sunday, April 28, 2024

Cost for lunch: \$25

Bakaliaro & Skordalia (Cod & Trimmings)

Proceeds to benefit Philoptochos Charities

For large family reservations call the church office.

We will pack your lunch TO-GO

Call Madeline Psihalinos @ 856.275.3207





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΕΕΗΣ

February 5, 2024

To the Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy,
Distinguished Members of the Metropolis Council, Beloved Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood,
Dedicated Members of the Parish Organizations, and
Devoted Orthodox Faithful of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved in the Lord,

It is with great joy and much excitement that I announce to you the creation of a new ministry of our Sacred Metropolis of New Jersey entitled *Walking With Christ*. This most important ministry is being offered solely for the benefit of our beloved Seminarians and Masters of Divinity Candidates studying at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Working together with the beloved and most dedicated women of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Society, we will be offering beautiful events throughout our sacred Metropolis, in which all of the proceeds will be utilized in order to offer our future Clergymen and future lay leaders valuable financial assistance while they continue their studies at our beloved "Scholi."

It is therefore with much pride that I inform all of you that the **First Walking with Christ Seminarian Benefit Luncheon** will be taking place on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, Pennsylvania beginning at 11:00am. Please know that tickets are now available for purchase at a cost of \$125.00 per person and may be purchased by following the link on the accompanying flyer. In addition, there are also various levels of Sponsorship Opportunities available for yourselves, your parishes, your Philoptochos Chapter, parish organization or your beloved parishioners to make a much-appreciated contribution to this most worthwhile cause to benefit the future of our Orthodox Church and the future of our sacred Metropolis.

For questions or more information please contact the event co-chairman, the V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski at frphilotheos@nj.goarch.org or at 908-301-0500.

Thanking you in advance for your love and support for our seminarians and praying that our loving Lord continues to bless you with every good and perfect gift from above, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings

Met. Apostolos of NJ

† APOSTOLOS

Metropolitan of New Jersey



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



WALKING WITH CHRIST

First Seminarian Benefit Luncheon



St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N Malin Rd, Broomall, PA 19008

March 16th

11 A.M.

2024



Follow the QR code for Ticket Sales and Event
Sponsorships. All Proceeds Will Benefit the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Seminarians and Masters of Divinity Students



KITE FLYING

SUNDAY **DAY** MARCH 17TH

IT IS A TRADITION TO FLY KITES ON CLEAN MONDAY AT THE START OF LENT. WE WILL DO THE NEXT BEST THING-- FLY KITES ON SUNDAY AFTER DIVINE LITURGY..

GO DOWN TO COFFEE HOUR, GRAB A SNACK AND HEAD OVER TO ROCKFORD PARK. DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR KITES! EVERYONE IS INVITED!!! KIDS AND KIDS AT HEART!

for more information email Angie at akarakasidis@yahoo.com

ROCKFORD PARK
1910 ROCKLAND ROAD, WILMINGTON, DE 19803

HOPE & JOY MARCH NEWSLETTER



DELAWARE VALLEY JOY CHILDREN
AT "BIBLE BOWL" AT ST. SOPHIA,
JEFFERSONVILLE, PA

LAST MONTH, OUR
KIDS MADE 130
SANDWICHES AND
SNACKS THAT
WERE DONATED TO
THE HOMELESS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 8th Dance Practice
March 17th Kite Flying
April 7th Greek Parade



If you would like to be added to our email list for all
Hope & Joy events or for more information, please
contact Angie at akarakasidis@yahoo.com

ALTAR GUILD

GREAT LENT OF EASTER AND RESURRECTION

Our Lenten season will begin on Monday, March 18th . As we enter into this season of self-denial and renewal, we also think about the Lily ~ the flower that we most associate with Easter. By the Saturday evening Resurrection Service, lilies are beautifying our entire Church with their royal display and fragrance.

Flowers are seen in wreaths made for special services: the icon of the Theotokos is adorned for five Friday evening services of the Salutations, Palm Sunday evening (wreath of the Nymphios). Along with flowers on Holy Thursday evening, a wreath of red roses will adorn the Holy Cross. The lilies will be placed for the Resurrection Service on May 4 and for Holy Pascha on May 5.

ALL Dedications for Easter will be published in the Bulletin after Pascha.

If you have a special request for a wreath or bouquets, please use the form below. The cost is \$50.00 for two small arrangements and \$100.00 for two large arrangements.

Please feel free to contact Joanne Tarabicos at 302-239-4950 or Evie Fournaris at 302-475-5035 or use the form below.

Name _____

Dedication _____

RESERVED DATE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MAY WE PRINT IT IN THE BULLETIN: YES _____ NO _____

Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Holy Trinity Altar Guild".

Mail to: Stacy Koninis, 2602 Brightwell Drive, Wilmington, DE. 19810



PASCHAL ITEMS NEEDED for 2024

We will start accepting donations on Tuesday, March 19th

The following items are needed during **Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha**. If you would like to donate, please contact Joanne Tarabicos (302.239.4950), Evie Fournaris (302.229.6849), or Stacy Koninis (302.475.1236) as soon as possible. Donations will be accepted on a ***first come, first serve basis***. In the event that the item you would like to donate has already been donated, please consider either another item or a general donation towards the list. Donations will be acknowledged in the Monthly Bulletin after Pascha. Thank you for your support.

| | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Theotokos Icon Flowers 1 st Salutation (Large) | March 22 | \$75.00 |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Flowers | March 24 | \$50.00 |
| Annunciation Icon Flowers | March 25 | \$50.00 |
| Theotokos Icon Flowers 2 nd Salutation (Large) | March 29 | \$75.00 |
| St. Gregory Palamas Icon Flowers | March 31 | \$50.00 |
| Theotokos Icon Flowers 3 rd Salutation (Large) | April 05 | \$75.00 |
| Veneration of Holy Cross Icon Flowers | April 07 | \$50.00 |
| Daffodils for 3 rd Sunday of Lent | April 07 | \$100.00 |
| Theotokos Icon Flowers 4 th Salutation (Large) | April 12 | \$75.00 |
| Sunday of St. John Climacus | April 14 | \$50.00 |
| Akathyst Hymn | April 20 | \$50.00 |
| St. Mary of Egypt | April 21 | \$50.00 |
| Saturday of Lazarus Icon Flowers | April 27 | \$50.00 |
| Palm Sunday Icon Flowers | April 28 | \$50.00 |
| Palms for Palm Sunday | April 28 | \$150.00 |
| Palm Sunday Holy Doors Arrangements | April 28 | \$100.00 |
| Nymphios Icon Flowers | April 29 | \$50.00 |
| Last Supper Icon Flowers | May 02 | \$50.00 |
| Crucifixion Icon Flowers | May 02 | \$50.00 |
| Wreath on the Cross | May 02 | \$100.00 |
| Wreath at base of Cross | May 02 | \$40.00 |
| Wreath at base of Cross | May 02 | \$40.00 |
| Wreath at base of Cross | May 02 | \$40.00 |
| Wreath of Extreme Humility | May 02 | \$50.00 |
| Apokathelosis Icon Flowers | May 03 | \$50.00 |
| Resurrection Icon Flowers | May 04 | \$50.00 |
| Myrrh bearers Icon Flowers | May 04 | \$50.00 |
| Rose Petals for Holy Saturday | May 04 | \$75.00 |
| Rose Petals for Holy Saturday (2) | May 04 | \$75.00 |
| Levaro Icon Flowers | May 04 | \$125.00 |
| Holy Pascha Holy Doors Arrangements | May 04 | \$125.00 |
| Lilies for Pascha | May 04 | \$25 per plant |





Save the Date

Friday March 15, 2024 @ 7-11pm

808 N. Broom Street Wilmington, De

Apokriatiko Carnivale
Community Dance Sponsored by
Holy Trinity Greek School

Come support our Greek School

Food, music, dancing & raffles

For reservations call:

Vaia Iliadis (215) 796-1057

Madeline Psihalinos (856) 275-3207

Church Office (302) 654-4446

HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY

Funerals:

Anna Giannatos, wife of Gerasimos "Gerry" Giannatos of blessed memory, fell asleep in the Lord on February 17. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on February 26. She is survived by her sons, Stavros (Teresa) and Christian, and her sister, Virginia Savopoulos. May her memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Vasilios "Bill" Christou ~ 3 Year ~ February 11

Nikolaos Tsiouplis ~ 2 Year ~ February 11

Mary Parras ~ 2 Year ~ February 25

Serving in March

Coffee Hours:

March 3 ~ Altar Guild

March 10 ~ Hellenic University Club

March 17~ **The Families of John Burpulis & Tim Papanicolas in Loving Memory w/GOYA**

March 24 ~ **Greek School—Greek Independence Day Program**

March 31 ~ Daughters of Penelope



Narthex Duty:

March 3 ~ Group 1

March 10 ~ Group 2

March 17 ~ Group 1

March 24 ~ Group 2

March 31 ~ Group 1



Prosforon Offeror's



We are looking to update our Prosfora Offeror List.

If you would like to become a regular Prosfora Offeror, please contact the church office to be added to our list. You can offer prosfora for any service by bringing it in before the service starts. If you do not bake but would like to donate towards the purchase of prosfora that we presently buy from the Holy Protection Monastery, please send \$8 for each prosfora you would like to donate. (mark the memo on your check accordingly)

ACOLYTES

+Tonsured ~ *Reader



| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Maximos Charalambides | +Ioannis Karakasidis | +Demetri Thomas |
| Vasilios Dargakis | *+Alexandros Lurz | Savvas Thymakis |
| Joseph Demourtzidis | Demetri Moutsatsos | Alex Tsakumis |
| Sebastian Dietrich | Demetri Psaltis | *+Nicholas Turley |
| Johnny Dietrich | Nicholas Psaltis | +Paraskevas Verikakis |
| +Ioannis Gerakios | George Psihalinos | *+NektariosWiechecki |
| Alexander Hall | ...Gerasimos Psihalinos | +Fotios Wolcott |
| +Angelo Hall | Nicholas Rassias | +Jack Wolcott |
| +Demetri Karakasidis | Stamati Roussos | +Josiah Wolcott |

All readers are also tonsured

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

Alexandros Matthews ~~~ Josiah Wolcott ~~~ Markos Zerefos



The Saturday of Souls

Through the Apostolic Constitutions (Book VIII, ch. 42), the Church of Christ has received the custom to make commemorations for the departed on the third, ninth, and fortieth days after their repose. Since many throughout the ages, because of an untimely death in a faraway place, or other adverse circumstances, have died without being deemed worthy of the appointed memorial services, the divine Fathers, being so moved in their love for man, have decreed that a common memorial be made this day for all pious Orthodox Christians who have reposed from all ages past, so that those who did not have particular memorial services may be included in this common one for all. Also, the Church of Christ teaches us that alms should be given to the poor by the departed one's kinsmen as a memorial for him.

Besides this, since we make commemoration tomorrow of the Second Coming of Christ, and since the reposed have neither been judged, nor have received their complete recompense (Acts 17:31; II Peter 2:9; Heb. 11:39-40), the Church rightly commemorates the souls today, and trusting in the boundless mercy of God, she prays Him to have mercy on sinners. Furthermore, since the commemoration is for all the reposed together, it reminds each of us of his own death, and arouses us to repentance.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Only Creator who out of the depths of wisdom lovingly govern all things and upon all bestow what is accordingly best for them, give rest to the souls of Your servants, for they have placed their hope in You, our Author and Maker and God.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Give rest, O Christ, among the Saints to the souls of Your servants, where there is no pain, no sorrow, no grieving, but life everlasting.

Reading courtesy of Narthex Press / Apolytikion courtesy of Narthex Press
Kontakion courtesy of Narthex Press / Icon courtesy of St. Isaac's Skete

2024 Stewardship

If you have not made your pledge for 2024, please do so as soon as you are able. If you need a stewardship card, please call the church office @ 302.654.4446.

For Further Reflection...

Are you a contributing member of the Body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His Body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the Body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The Biblical motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you." In II Corinthians 8 and 9 he teaches clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity.

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP,

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

www.stewardship.goarch.org | stewardship@goarch.org

Lenten Words of Wisdom

A life of fasting, properly understood as general self-limitation and abstinence, to the annual practice of which the Church always calls us with the Great Lent, is really that bearing of the cross and self-crucifixion which is required of us by our calling as Christians. And anyone who stubbornly resists this, wanting to live a carefree, happy, and free life, is concerned for sensual pleasures and avoids sorrow and suffering that person is not a Christian. Bearing one's cross is the natural way of every true Christian, without which there is no Christianity.

Archbishop Averky of Syracuse (of Blessed Memory)

Abba Isidore said, "If you fast regularly, do not be inflated with pride; if you think highly of yourself because of it, then you had better eat meat. It is better for a man to eat meat than to be inflated with pride and glorify himself." The Desert Fathers

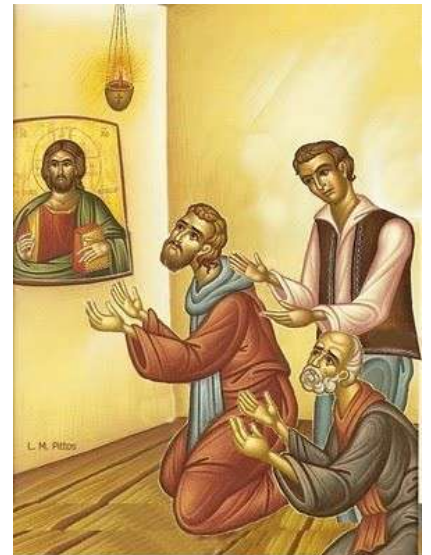


An old man was asked, 'How can I find God?' He said, 'In fasting, in watching, in labors, in devotion, and, above all, in discernment. I tell you, many have injured their bodies without discernment and have gone away from us having achieved nothing. Our mouths smell bad through fasting, we know the Scriptures by heart, we recite all the Psalms of David, but we have not that which God seeks: charity and humility.' The Desert Fathers

Beware of limiting the good of fasting to mere abstinence from meats. Real fasting is alienation from evil. 'Loose the bands of wickedness.' Forgive your neighbor the mischief he has done you. Forgive him his trespasses against you. Do not 'fast for strife and debate.' You do not devour flesh, but you devour your brother. You abstain from wine, but you indulge in outrages. You wait for evening before you take food, but you spend the day in the law courts. Woe to those who are 'drunken, but not with wine.' Anger is the intoxication of the soul, and makes it out of its wits like wine. St. Basil, in his homilies on the Holy Spirit

Eat simply, and stop before satiety. What do I mean by this? First eating simply means that one's food preparation should not be of the normal, non-fasting type: sumptuous, fattened, and designed to entice the palate. This only reinforces one's love for food. This does not mean that one's preparation should result in food that is repugnant. Rather it means that it should not inflame one's desire for more, nor incite one (e.g. overly spicy or rich tasting recipes). It should be such that it is simple, meager, and life-sustaining. It is still permissible for the food to be interesting and pleasant to eat (after all it is not a sin to enjoy food in moderation)." Anonymous letter to a new convert,

<http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/phil6.htm>





HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILMINGTON, DE



90th Anniversary

GOYA NEWS!

MARCH 2024

Thank You!

THANK YOU TO FATHER
CHRISTOFOROS, ALL OF THE
PARISHIONERS, AND ALL OF
THE PARENTS WHO HELPED
MAKE OUR TOURNAMENT
WEEKEND A SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
VARSITY GIRLS' TEAM ON
THEIR 1ST PLACE WIN! WE
LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT
YEAR!

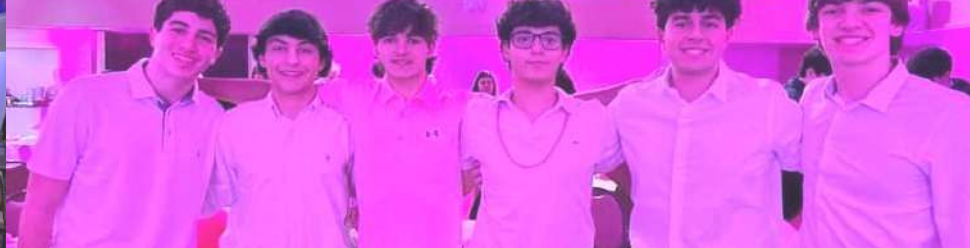
Upcoming Events

- ★ SIGHTS AND SOUNDS
REHEARSALS (SEE SCHEDULE)
- ★ LENT BEGINS
MONDAY, MARCH 18TH
- ★ PARISH ORATORICAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 22
- ★ GOYA LENTEN MEAL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD
- ★ SIGHTS AND SOUNDS
SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH





GOYA DANCE



GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2024







**Congrats to our Girls Team for taking 1st Place!!
We are the Champions!!!**



Awaiting the arrival of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey



State Senator Spiros Mantzavinos presents His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos with a proclamation from the State of Delaware





90th Anniversary

**Fr. Christoforos
presents a gift to
His Eminence
Metropolitan
Apostolos
of New Jersey
on his first visit to
Holy Trinity since
his Enthronement.**



**GOYA
Co-Presidents
present an icon
to
His Eminence
Metropolitan
Apostolos
of New Jersey
on his first visit
to
Holy Trinity
since his
Enthronement.**







The Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of
Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley
Cordially invite you to attend

**ELEFThERIA
MEDAL &
DIGNITARIES
DINNER**



SATURDAY

APRIL 6, 2024 | AT 5:00 PM

ELEFThERIA MEDAL RECIPIENT
ANTHONY LIMBERAKIS, MD
*National Commander of the Order of
St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of
the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

GRAND MARSHAL
PHILIP CHRISTOPHER
*President of the International Coordinating
Committee-Justice for Cyprus, President of
the Pancyprrian Association of America*

DINNER: \$100 | STUDENTS: \$50

Adelphia

1750 CLEMENTS BRIDGE RD, DEPTFORD, NJ 08096



PHILADELPHIA GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

SUNDAY

APRIL | 7 | 2024

10:00 AM | DOXOLOGY

SAINT GEORGE CATHEDRAL | 256 SOUTH 8TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

1:00 PM | FORMATION

BEN FRANKLIN PARKWAY & 22ND STREET

2:00 PM | STEP-OFF / PARADE

22ND & THE PARKWAY MARCHING TOWARDS CITY HALL

ELEFThERIA MEDAL RECIPIENT

ANTHONY LIMBERAKIS, MD

*National Commander of
the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle,
Archons of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate*

GRAND MARSHAL

PHILIP CHRISTOPHER

*President of the International Coordinating
Committee-Justice for Cyprus,
President of the Pancyprrian
Association of America*





Annunciation of the Theotokos / March 25

Reading:

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High,

answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most high overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

MARCH 25TH, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Of all the solemn days in Orthodoxy the day of March 25 is one not only of religious significance but of political significance as well, allowing the Greek Orthodox to commemorate God's message to Mary and the independence of Greece on the same day.

The expression, "For God and Country," has real meaning for the Greek Orthodox on the 25th day of March, a day on which he can celebrate two events without diminishing either one for the obvious reason that devotion and patriotism have the same emotional root — love. If Christianity could be compressed into a single word, that word would be love. The same holds true for patriotism.

Uppermost in the true Greek's mind on March 25, however, is Mary, chosen from all the women in the world to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. When the angel Gabriel brought the momentous message from God this day, the gentle Mary must have felt a solemn pride, but at the same time a disquieting apprehension at the prospect of this awesome responsibility. Assured by the Archangel, Mary's answer was a simple: "Let it be according to the will of God," and the rest is glorious history.

The world of Mary of two thousand years ago is envisioned as one in which life was simple and free of the complexities that plague the modern world, but in that age of self-sufficiency there were problems which would be insurmountable today. The mother of that day was all things to her family, and it can safely be said that when the Archangel Gabriel departed, the prospective Mother of God must have for several moments felt terribly alone. Everyone knows about the nativity and the mission of Jesus Christ, but the details of the days, months and years in between are known but to Mary and to God.

The political importance of March 25 is fully realized only when the suffering of four centuries is called to mind. In 1458 the Ottoman hordes overran all of Greece and most of the Balkans and held hostage a people whose culture dated back more than two thousand years, and who gave more to the world than it could ever receive in return, and it seems that the world just stood by while the cradle of democracy and Christianity was being defiled by a scourge that would have undone a less hardy breed.

Hopelessly outnumbered, Greece endured nearly four hundred years of brutal oppression, but the spirit of its people knew not a single moment's weakness. The fires of rebellion that the Turks thought they had snuffed out, but which had smoldered in Hellenic hearts for almost 400 years, were kindled into a conflagration on March 25th, 1821, not by a bemedalled general but by a man of the cloth, Bishop Germanos of Patras, Greece, who chose the day of the Annunciation knowing God would be on the side of the Greeks.

The good bishop held the Cross of Jesus Christ aloft on the 25th day of March 1821, and proclaimed freedom for all Greek Orthodox Christians. It was a motion seconded by every Greek in the country. In addition to engaging in a war for independence, the Greeks were actually waging a holy war because it was not only Greek against Turk but Christian against Muslim, and the subsequent Greek victory was a triumph of Christianity.



[Holy Monastery of Axion Estin
Melbourne, Australia](#)



Sunday LECTURE

March 17

After church coffee hour



Greek Education in the U.S. : Bridging the Past Empowering the Future



Dr. Fevronia K. Soumakis will speak on the current state of Greek American educational institutions in the United States. Drawing upon her 2020 book, *Educating Greek Americans: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Pathways*, she will highlight the role played by the Greek Orthodox Church, community organizations, and secular institutions, in shaping the discourse on Greek American education. One key theme is the importance of education as a means of preserving and promoting Greek ethnic, religious, and linguistic identity, a long-standing tradition among Greek immigrants in the United States, dating back to the early twentieth century.

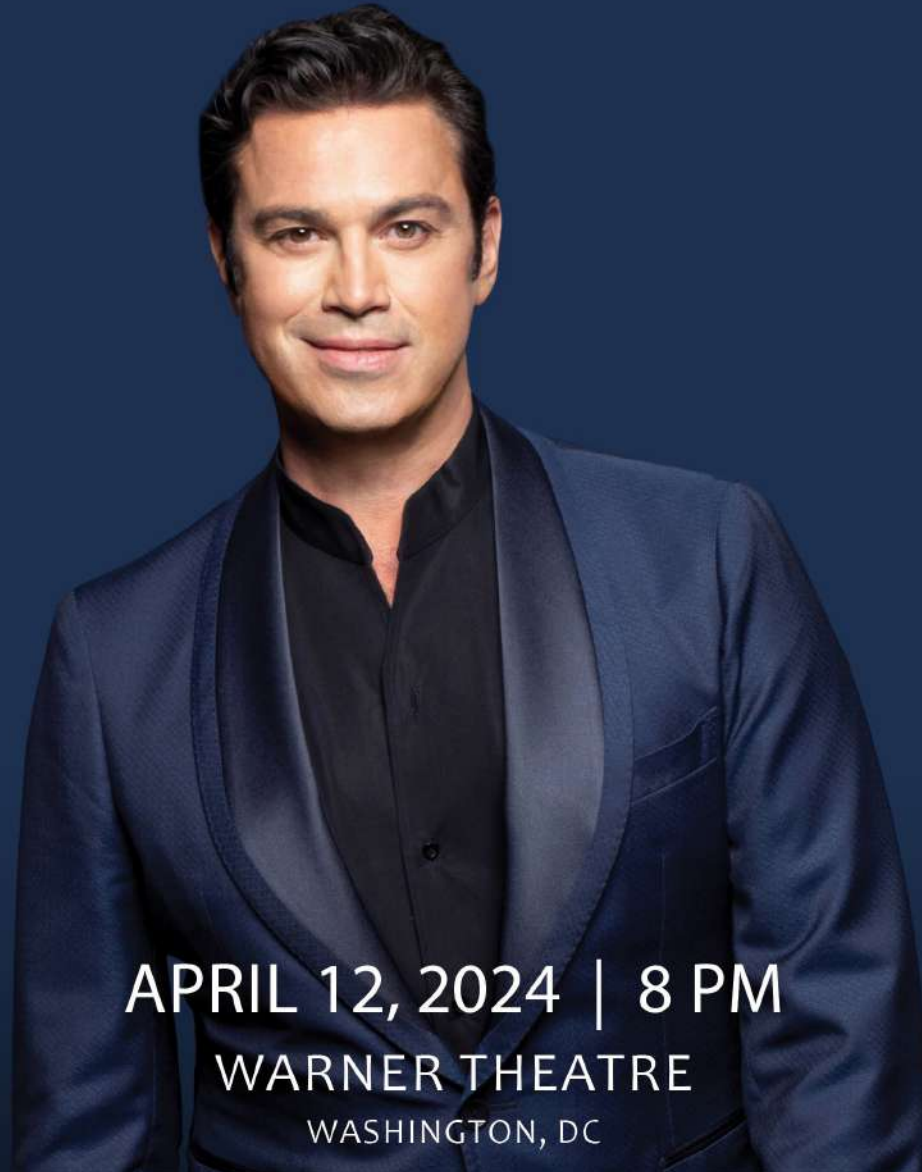
Dr. Soumakis holds a PhD in History and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and teaches at Queens College, The City University of New York. In 2023, her work appeared in *The Greek Revolution and the Greek Diaspora in the United States* and in 2021, in *Redirecting Ethnic Singularity: Italian Americans & Greek Americans in Conversation*.

hucwilmington.org

MARIO FRANGOULIS

IN CONCERT

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE



APRIL 12, 2024 | 8 PM

WARNER THEATRE

WASHINGTON, DC



SPECIAL GUEST: THERESA CARLOMAGNO
THE WARNER THEATRE STUDIO ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR: STATHIS SOULIS

TICKETS AT [TICKETMASTER.COM](https://www.ticketmaster.com)



**202nd 1 Anniversary of the 25th of March, 1821 Greek
Independence Day**

Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

The struggle of the enslaved Greeks against their ruthless rulers, the Ottoman Turks, officially started on the 25th of March 1821 in the monastery of Hagia Lavra, Kalavryta. Germanos, the bishop of Paleon Patron, raised the banner of the revolution and blessed the arms of the captains of the revolting Greeks. The beginning of the revolution coincided with one of the holiest days for Orthodox Christians, the Annunciation of the Theotokos. Unofficially though, the revolution of the Hellenes against the Ottoman Turks started one day after the fall of Constantinople on the 29th of May 1453, and continues until today. However, about 20 actual unsuccessful uprisings took place before the 1821 revolution that managed to liberate about 25% of the Hellenes residing in the Ottoman empire.

The culturally superior Hellenic world, as represented by the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as Byzantine Empire, in 1453, fell to the nomadic Asian Turk, and further failed to civilize and assimilate this new conqueror as it had previously done with the Romans. The Moslem Turk adopted the material part of the Byzantines but not its Hellenic intellectual and cultural heritage. Under penalty of death, no Turk could be Christianized but many Christians, for their survival, converted to Islam. Thus, the probability that many of today's Turks are descended from the Greeks is high.

During the 400 years of Ottoman occupation

- complete lack of schooling resulted in illiterate, superstitious and ignorant Hellenes (especially in their culture, history and language). Interestingly, the same Turkish policy continues today with the Kurds!
- systematic abduction of Christian children forming the infamous and cruel Janissaries, faithful only to Sultan
- moderate religious freedom was granted to those minorities who accepted the Sultan as their despotic leader and paid their taxes
- churches were turned into mosques and icons were destroyed (usually by poking out the eyes of the depicted saints, as it is happening in the conquered north part of Cyprus today, at the end of the 20th century).

However, the Hellenes living in the occupied Hellas reacted to the oppression, lack of education and freedom by

- continuous uprisings against their Ottoman overlords (kleftes and armatoloi were a continuous headache for the Turks)
- obtaining elementary education in the Hidden Schools (for reading and writing only), formed and covertly operated by the church (at the same time the Europeans, through the discovery of Hellenic classics, began the renaissance, after many centuries of darkness)
- always being reminded of their glorious past and the contribution of their ancestors to the world by the surrounding ruins of ancient temples, theaters and

- stadia; thus keeping their historical identity alive
- becoming successful international ship owners and merchants (Turks were not very successful as sea merchants, thus bringing the European ideas of democracy and freedom back to the enslaved Hellenes and at the same time informing the Europeans of their struggle (AGON) for independence and human dignity--the contributions of the fleet of Spetses, Hydra and Chios were of extreme importance to the success of the revolution.

The struggle of the Hellenes for independence was coordinated from abroad. The Hellenes of Diaspora were the strategic and financial brains behind the revolution (Secret Society of Friends [Filiki Eteria], Sacred Band [Ieros Lohos], Ypsilandis, Koraes, Kapodistrias and many others raised the interest of the European and American intellectuals and Phil-Hellenes (Lord Byron, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, and Daniel Webster to name a few)

The Hellenes of mainland Hellas formed military groups and carried out most of the burden of the fighting against the Ottoman Turks in Hellas; Kolokotronis, Karaiskakis, Papaflessas, Androutsos, Botsaris, Bouboulina, and Miaoulis were some of the heroes and military leaders suffered most of the consequences of their revolution against the Turks (burning of Chios and Psara) proved to the enslaved peoples of the Balkans (Aeolian peninsula) that the Ottoman army was not invincible through their determination and self-sacrifice (Souli, Alamana, Messologi, Maniaki) they achieved significant victories over the Turks, thus liberating within 2 years Attica, Peloponnese and Sterea Ellas, which comprised in 1823 the first free Hellenic State forced the allied victory at the battle of Navarino, 1828, thus accelerating the demise of the Ottoman Empire.

The Holy Alliance, comprised of Austria, Russia, England, France, and Germany, tried to put an end to the revolution. The revolting Hellenes had been characterized, mainly by the Austrians, as agitators or terrorists using today's language. However, their fight for independence inspired many Europeans Phil-Hellenes, who gave their life for their righteous struggle. It is worth mentioning that there were Phil-Hellenes from every European nation except Austria and Czarist Russia (however, the ***Ieros Lohos (Sacred Band)*** was formed in Russia).

The struggle of the Hellenes for Independence eventually resulted in the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the liberation of the enslaved **Balkans (Haemus Peninsula)** from the Ottoman yoke--it is also worth mentioning that the only people in the Balkans who fought against the Ottoman Turks were the Hellenes, something never forgotten by the contemporary Turks, and the creation of the contemporary Hellas State, an oasis of peace, democracy and stability, not only in the Balkans but in the Eastern Mediterranean as well. ***Even today, Turkey considers Hellas as "A land under temporary Greek occupation"!***

LONG LIVE THE 25TH OF MARCH 1821 !!!

Ο αγώνας των σκλαβωμένων Ελλήνων εναντίον των σκληρών και ανελέητων Οθωμανών Τούρκων, άρχισε επίσημα την 25^η Μαρτίου στην Μονή της Αγίας Λαύρας στα Καλάβρυτα. Ο επίσκοπος Παλαιών Πατρών Γερμανός ύψωσε το λάβαρο της επανάστασης και ευλόγησε τα όπλα των καπεταναίων των επαναστατημένων Ελλήνων. Η έναρξη της επανάστασης συνέπεσε με τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτόκου, μία από τις ιερότερες ημέρες της Ορθοδοξίας. Όμως η επανάσταση των Ελλήνων ή ο ξεσηκωμός του Γένους, όπως αλλιώς είναι γνωστή, είχε αρχίσει την επόμενη ημέρα από της πτώσεως της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, 29 Μαΐου 1453, και συνεχίζεται μέχρι τις ημέρες μας. Συγκεκριμένα περίπου 20 αποτυχημένες προσπάθειες προηγήθηκαν της επανάστασης της 25^{ης} Μαρτίου του 1821. Μέσα στα επόμενα 7 χρόνια το 25% των σκλαβωμένων Ελλήνων είχε απελευθερωθεί.

Η πτώση της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως το 1453 εσήμανε το τέλος της Ανατολικής Ρωμαϊκής Αυτοκρατορίας, γνωστή ως Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία, και την αντικατάστασή της υπό της βαρβάρου και απολιτίστου Οθωμανικής αυτοκρατορίας. Πολλοί Χριστιανοί για να σώσουν το κεφάλι τους και να προστατέουν της οικογένειες τους εξισλαμίστηκαν (όπως συνέβη με τους Μουσουλμάνους της Βοσνίας).

Κατά την διάρκεια των 400 χρόνων Οθωμανικής κατοχής

- **η παντελής έλλειψις εκπαιδύσεως** εδημιούργησε Έλληνες προληπτικούς και αμόρφωτους, επιλήσμονες της γλώσσας των και της ιστορίας των. Η ίδια πολιτική εφαρμόζεται σήμερα στους Κούρδους!
- **συστηματική απαγωγή των αρσενικών παιδιών των Χριστιανικών πληθυσμών** (παιδομάζωμα), τα οποία εχρησιμοποιήθηκαν δια τον σχηματισμό των απανθρώπων Γενιτσάρων, πιστών μόνο στον Σουλτάνο
- **περιορισμένη θρησκευτική ελευθερία** είχε δοθεί μόνο στις μειονότητες που είχαν αποδεχθεί τον Σουλτάνο σαν αρχηγό τους και πλήρωναν τους φόρους τους
- **εκκλησίες** μετετράπηκαν σε **μουσουλμανικά τεμένη (τζαμιά)** και **εικόνες** κατεστρέφοντο (συνήθως τους αφαιρούντο τα μάτια, όπως συμβαίνει εξ' άλλου και σήμερα στο κατεχόμενο, τμήμα της Κύπρου)

Η αντίσταση των σκλαβωμένων Ελλήνων στην καταπίεση, έλλειψη εκπαιδύσεως και ελευθερίας χαρακτηρίζεται

- **από τις συνεχείς εξεγέρσεις** εναντίον των Τούρκων (Κλέφτες και οι Αρματωλοί)
- **από την μάθηση στοιχειώδους αναγνώσεως και γραφής στα Κρυφά Σχολεία** (σε αντιδιαστολή οι υπόλοιποι Ευρωπαίοι δια μέσου της ανακαλύψεως των δημιουργημάτων των αρχαίων Ελλήνων είχαν αρχίσει την αναγέννησή τους μετα απο έναν πολύχρονο Μεσαίωνα)
- από την **υπενθύμηση** του ενδόξου παρελθόντος των και της **συνεισφοράς** των προγόνων των στον κόσμο μέσω των ερειπίων των αρχαίων ναών και θεάτρων, **διατηρώντας έτσι την εθνική ταυτότητα τους ζωντανή**
- **απο την επιτυχία τους ως εφοπλιστών και εμπόρων** (οικονομικοί τομείς όπου οι Τούρκοι δεν είχαν επιτύχει), μεταφέροντας κατ' αυτόν τον τρόπο στην Ελλάδα

- τις Ευρωπαϊκές ιδέες για δημοκρατία και ελευθερία και ταυτοχρόνως μεταφέροντας τον αγώνα των Ελλήνων για
- ανεξαρτησία και ανθρώπινη αξιοπρέπεια στους Ευρωπαίους—η συνεισφορά των εμπορικών στόλων των Σπετσών, Ύδρας και Χίου ήταν αποφασιστικής σπουδαιότητας στην επιτυχή έκβαση της επανάστασης

Ο αγώνας των Ελλήνων για ανεξαρτησία συντονίζετο από το εξωτερικό. Οι Έλληνες της Διασποράς

- **ήταν οι στρατηγικοί σχεδιαστές και οικονομικοί παράγοντες** της επανάστασης (Φιλική Εταιρεία, Ιερός Λόχος, Υψηλάντης, Κοραΐς, Καποδίστριας και πολλοί άλλοι)
- **προκάλεσαν το ενδιαφέρον των Ευρωπαίων και Αμερικανών Διανοουμένων και Φιλελλήνων** (Λόρδος Βύρων, Δρ. Σαμουήλ Χάουη και Δανιήλ Γουέσπερ κ.α.)
- **Οι σκλαβωμένοι Έλληνες της κυρίως Ελλάδος** εσημάτισαν **επαναστατικά στρατιωτικά σώματα** και εσήκωσαν το μεγαλύτερο βάρος της εξεγέρσεως εναντίον των Οθωμανών Τούρκων. Κολοκοτρώνης, Καραϊσκάκης, Παπφλέσσας, Ανδρούτσος, Μπότσαρης, Μπουμπουλίνα και Μιαούλης είναι ονόματα μερικών ηρώων και στρατιωτικών ηγετών του αγώνα
- **υπέφεραν τις περισσότερες συνέπειες του αγώνα τους** (καταστροφή των Ψαρών και της Χίου)
- **απέδειξαν στους σκλαβωμένους κατοίκους της Χερσονήσου του Αίμου (Βαλκάνια)** ότι ο πολυάριθμος Οθωμανικός στρατός δεν ήταν ανίκητος
- **κατέφεραν με την αυτοθυσία τους και τον ηρωισμό τους** (Σούλι, Μανιάκι, Αλαμάνο, Μεσολόγγι) σημαντικές νίκες κατα των Τούρκων, απελευθερώνοντας έτσι μέσα σε 2 χρόνια την Αττική, Πελοπόννησο και Στερεά Ελλάδα, τα οποία απετέλεσαν το 1823 το πρώτο ελεύθερο Ελληνικό κράτος
- **ανάγκασαν τους συμμάχους να νικήσουν τον Τουρκικό στόλο στο Ναβαρίνο το 1828**, επιταχύνοντας έτσι την πτώση της Οθωμανικής αυτοκρατορίας. Οι Έλληνες είχαν χαρακτηριστεί από τους Αυστριακούς ιδιαίτερα σαν επαναστάτες ή τρομοκράτες με τα σημερινά δεδομένα. Παρ' όλα ταύτα ο αγώνας τους ενέπνευσε πολλούς Φιλέλληνες, οι οποίοι έδωσαν την ζωή τους για τον δίκαιο αγώνα τους. Αξιοσημείωτο είναι ότι υπήρχαν Φιλέλληνες απ'όλη την Ευρώπη πλην της Αυστρίας και της Τσαρικής Ρωσίας

Ο αγώνας των Ελλήνων δια Ανεξαρτησία τελικώς επέφερε την πτώση της Οθωμανικής Αυτοκρατορίας

- τη **απελευθέρωση των σκλαβωμένων Βαλκανίων (Χερσονήσος του Αίμου)** απο τον Οθωμανικό ζυγό—Οι Έλληνες ήταν οι μόνοι που επολέμησαν τους Οθωμανούς Τούρκους στα Βαλκάνια, κάτι που οι Τούρκοι δεν ελυσμόνησαν ποτέ, και
- την **δημιουργία του συγγρόνου Ελληνικού Κράτους**, το οποίο είναι μιά όασις ειρήνης, δημοκρατίας και σταθερότητας, όχι μόνο στα Βαλκάνια αλλά και στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της Ανατολικής Μεσογείου. **Ακόμη και Σήμερα, η Τουρκία εξακολουθεί να θεωρεί την Ελλάδα ως «Εδάφη υπο προσωρινή Ελληνική κατοχή».**

ΖΗΤΩ Η 25^Η ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ 1821!!!

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

A heartfelt **"Thank you"** to the Ladies Philoptochos for their generous donation of diapers to St. Stephens Food Pantry located at 1300 N. Broom St.



***Did you know that
1 in 10 adults and 1 in 7 children face hunger in Delaware?***



Donated food items come from:
Food Bank of Delaware
Acme
Sprouts
Chesapeake Gold Farms
Hagley Museum
Local Churches

As Spring Break and Summer approaches they are in need of young volunteers. If you have a Junior or Senior in high school looking for community hours please consider St. Stephens. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-12pm and Wednesday 5-7pm Applications are in the Food Pantry mailbox located outside the church office.

***We sincerely thank you for your continued support over the years!
You are making a difference!***

Evie Fournaris, Tina Ganiaris, Johanna Laskaris, John Lazare,
Sandy Nannas, Steve Nicholas, and Nikki Tsakataras

March 12th at the Emmanuel Dining Room East

We *sincerely* thank **Aleka Christou** for very generously sponsoring the meal in February again this year, given in loving memory of her husband **Vasili Christou**. 142 women, men and children enjoyed a nice warm meal. We look forward to a new host and sponsor for the meal on March 12th!
All are welcome to help serve on the 12th of every month or at any time!

***We sincerely thank all the individuals, families and organizations
who generously supported this dining room in 2023.
Thank you for helping to serve the needy!***

Various groups and individuals from our church donate the food to sponsor the luncheon meal at the 3rd and Walnut St location on the 12th of every month. This dining room will be closed on Sundays as of November 2023.

Any Sunday meal that falls on the 12th will now be served at the 2nd and Jackson Street dining room.

***If you, your family or organization would like to provide a meal, contact
Nikkie Tsakataras at 302-655-2252 or Tina Ganiaris at 302-367-6758
for more information. Thank you!***



Our next gathering is
Monday, March 18 @ 12pm

We will gather for our annual

Lenten Luncheon

This will take the place of our normal gathering time.

We hope to see you all there

On March 20th the Young @ Heart
will *host* the first of
6 Lenten Community Meals
that will take place after the
Presanctified Liturgies
each Wednesday Evening @ 8:00 pm
during the Lenten Period.

We hope you will join us each week as we
gather for a Lenten meal as the family of God.
The “Main” dish will be provided. Please bring
a friend or family member and your favorite
Lenten dish to share.

Our Hosts:

March 20 ~ The Young @ Heart

March 27 ~ Hellenic University Club

April 03 ~ GOYA

April 10 ~ Philoptochos

April 17 ~ Daughters of Penelope

April 24 ~ JOY HOPE



1941-1943 Community Photo Identifier

(see pictures on next page!)

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Eugenia Laizin Terrs | 36 | George Mandas |
| 2 | Alex Laskaris | 37 | |
| 3 | Georgia Ganoudis Xedus | 38 | Katherine Demetriou Galaris |
| 4 | | 39 | Mary Vassilopoulos George |
| 5 | Valentina Sotirellis Cucuzella | 40 | Helen Giannakoulis |
| 6 | George Manolakis | 41 | |
| 7 | | 42 | |
| 8 | | 43 | |
| 9 | | 44 | Alice Vergos |
| 10 | Nick Valko | 45 | Matina Laskaris Burlotos |
| 11 | Zoe Joannides Zambetis | 46 | Georgia Laskaris Gousetis |
| 12 | Evelyn Liarakos Mitsos | 47 | |
| 13 | | 48 | |
| 14 | Mary Constantinou Baer | 49 | |
| 15 | Etsa Haldas Stuart | 50 | Stella Petroutsas |
| 16 | Archimandrite Athenagoras Varaklas | 51 | Athena Gotides Frangia |
| 17 | | 52 | Alice Couvas Gatos |
| 18 | Ann Lazopoulos Keffala | 53 | Mary Lazopoulos Chirigas |
| 19 | Aphrodite Petroutsas | 54 | |
| 20 | | 55 | Bobby Manolakis |
| 21 | Evelyn Haldas Govatos | 56 | James Mandas |
| 22 | Mary Couvas | 57 | Mary Sitaras Magiros |
| 23 | | 58 | Venetia Giannakoulis |
| 24 | | 59 | Sophia Liarakos Tarabicos |
| 25 | | 60 | Bill Vassos |
| 26 | | 61 | Tom Laskaris |
| 27 | | 62 | Diane Manolakis Frangia |
| 28 | Julia Haldas | 63 | Helen Laskaris Danchulis |
| 29 | | 64 | Nick Haldas |
| 30 | Martha Brown Fanos | 65 | Harry Haldas |
| 31 | | 66 | |
| 32 | Tina Cooper Evlom | 67 | |
| 33 | Stella Cooper | 68 | |
| 34 | Irene Sitaras Platos | 69 | |
| 35 | Olympia Ludeman Ganoudis | 70 | Helen Liacouras Doukakis |
| | | 71 | |

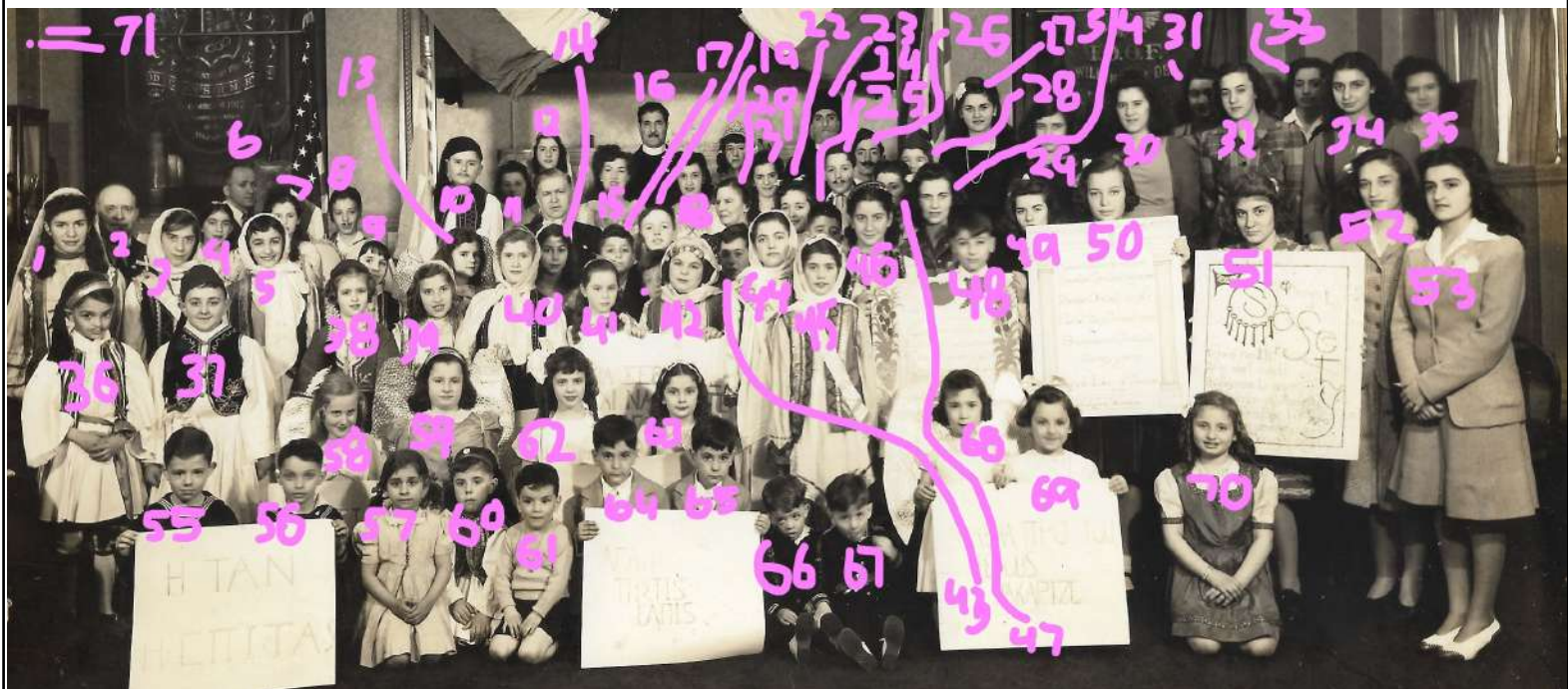
A History of the Wilmington Greek Community



Can you identify those not listed on the previous page?
Look closely—it may be you, your sister, brother or even your mom or dad!!
Give this photo to Yiayia or Pappou ~ we'll bet they know who's who...

If you know any of the people in this photo - please let us know!

Email Mike Klezaras at
theklez@hotmail.com



Y. A. L. Young Adult League



Holy Trinity's Young Adult League met again to enjoy service and meal together! We discussed upcoming events and learned more about each other. Our next gathering is **Friday March 1st** to prepare for the comedy show. Following events will be on the first Thursday of every month unless told otherwise.



Pray for our College Students...

Stella Adamopoulos
Georgia Angeletakis
Sophia Angeletakis
Ethan Bodine
Phillip Colborn
Bella Demetriou
Nikos Demetriou
Anna Fournaris
Dino Fournaris
Gigi Fotakos
Samuel Gattuso

Anna Paisley Gray
Johnny Gray
Dia Halakos
Stavroula Karakasidis
Corinne Kanas
Alexandra Koninis
Christophoros Kontomaris
Paraskevi Kontomaris
Alexander Lurz
Alexandra Mavridis
Constantine Moutsatsos

Sofia Pennia
Anastasia Rigas
Zoe Rigas
Theodore Tsakumis
Richard Turley

If your name is missing from this list,
please call the church office to offer it...

Διάφορα

Δρ. Κώστας Γ. Φούντζουλας

Μονή Αγίας Αικατερίνης του Όρους Σινά

Το Ελληνορθόδοξο μοναστήρι του θεοβράδιστου Όρους Σινά βρίσκεται ακριβώς στο σημείο όπου ο Θεός εμφανίστηκε στον Μωυσή στον Φλεγόμενο Θάμνο, κάτω από το Όρος του Δεκάλογου. Κατά την πρόνοια του Θεού, σε αυτόν τον χώρο είναι και τα ιερά λείψανα της Αγίας Αικατερίνης. Πρόκειται για το αρχαιότερο συνεχώς κατοικούμενο Χριστιανικό μοναστήρι, με ιστορία που μπορεί να ανιχνευθεί πάνω από δεκαεπτά αιώνες. Το μοναστήρι προϋπήρχε των διαιρέσεων του χριστιανικού κόσμου, οι απαρχές του εκτείνονται μέχρι την ύστερη αρχαιότητα.

Το μοναστήρι δεν καταστράφηκε ποτέ σε όλη του την ιστορία, και έτσι μπορεί να ειπωθεί ότι διατήρησε ανέπαφα τις χαρακτηριστικές ιδιότητες της ελληνικής και ρωμαϊκής κληρονομιάς του. Μέλη άλλων χριστιανικών ομολογιών έχουν τιμήσει το μοναστήρι, προσερχόμενοι ως προσκυνητές στον ιερό αυτό τόπο. Όμως από τις απαρχές του, οι χριστιανοί κάτοικοι του Σινά ανήκαν στον ελληνόφωνο κόσμο και μέχρι σήμερα.

Η παλαιότερη περιγραφή αναφέρεται στο Μοναστήρι της Παναγίας, γιατί η αποκάλυψη του Θεού στον Φλεγόμενο Θάμνο θεωρήθηκε ως ένας τύπος της Παναγίας και της Ενανθρωπήσεως. Το μοναστήρι είναι επίσης ιδιαίτερα αφιερωμένο στους αγίους προφήτες Μωυσή και Ηλία, που ήρθαν και οι δύο σε αυτό το βουνό, και που και οι δύο μίλησαν με τον Χριστό στη Μεταμόρφωση. Πιο πρόσφατα, ήταν γνωστό ως Μονή της Αγίας Αικατερίνης. Αυτό παραμένει το όνομά του σήμερα, αν και το μοναστήρι δεν έχει χάσει τα παλαιότερα αφιερώματα του.

Το μοναστήρι μπορεί να θεωρηθεί ως μια πραγματική Κιβωτός για τους πνευματικούς του θησαυρούς. Αυτά περιλαμβάνουν τα χειρόγραφα και τα πρώιμα έντυπα βιβλία που σώζονται στη βιβλιοθήκη του Σινά, η οποία τιμάται σε όλο τον κόσμο για την αρχαιότητα και τη σημασία των τόμων της. Περιλαμβάνει επίσης τις μοναστηριακές εικόνες, οι οποίες περιλαμβάνουν τη σημαντικότερη συλλογή προεικονοκλαστικών εικόνων, και εικόνες με τη μεγαλύτερη ομορφιά και σημασία που χρονολογούνται από την εποχή της δυναστείας των Κομνηνών.

Το μοναστήρι τιμάται από άρχοντες σε όλη την ιστορία του. Σε αυτούς περιλαμβάνονται η αυτοκράτειρα Ελένη, ο αυτοκράτορας Ιουστινιανός, ο Μωάμεθ ο ιδρυτής του Ισλάμ, ο Σουλτάνος Σελίμ Α΄, η αυτοκράτειρα Αικατερίνη της Ρωσίας και ο Ναπολέων Βοναπάρτης. Οι σύγχρονοι αρχηγοί κρατών συνέχισαν να δείχνουν το ενδιαφέρον τους για το μοναστήρι. Η Ιερά Μονή Σινά γιορτάζεται σε όλο τον κόσμο για την πνευματική και πολιτιστική της ακτινοβολία. Έχει σεβαστεί όχι μόνο από τους Χριστιανούς, αλλά και από Μουσουλμάνους και Εβραίους. Έχει πρόσφατα καταχωρηθεί από την UNESCO ως Μνημείο Παγκόσμιας Κληρονομιάς, τόσο για την πολιτιστική όσο και για τη γραφική του σημασία.

Οι μοναχοί του Σινά, από τα πρώτα χρόνια μέχρι σήμερα, διατηρούν αφοσίωση τόσο στην προσευχή όσο και στην υποστήριξη προσκυνητών και επισκεπτών. Ζουν ειρηνικά με τον ιθαγενή Βεδουίνο. Διατηρούν την αρχαία πνευματική κληρονομιά του Σινά, μια κληρονομιά που εκτείνεται από τη παραλαβή του Νόμου, μέσω ολόκληρης της Παλαιάς και της Καινής Διαθήκης, μέχρι το πλήθος των αγίων των οποίων η μνήμη έχει διαφυλαχτεί ευλαβικά στο Σινά – πάνω απ' όλα, μέχρι την Παναγία Θεοτόκο, στους προφήτες Μωυσή και Ηλία και στην Αγία Αικατερίνη.

Various

Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

Saint Catherine Monastery, of Sinai Mount

The Greek Orthodox monastery of the God-trodden Mount Sinai is located at the very place where God appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush, beneath the Mount of the Decalogue. In the providence of God, it is at this site also that the holy relics of Saint Catherine are enshrined. This is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery, with a history that can be traced back over seventeen centuries. The monastery predates the divisions of the Christian world, its origins extending to late antiquity.

The monastery has never been destroyed in all its history, and thus it can be said to have preserved intact the distinctive qualities of its Greek and Roman heritage. Members of other Christian confessions have honored the monastery, coming as pilgrims to this holy place. But from its beginnings, the Christian inhabitants of Sinai belonged to the Greek speaking world, and it has remained so to this day.

The earliest description refers to the Monastery of the Holy Virgin, for the revelation of God at the Burning Bush was seen as a type of the Virgin Mary and the Incarnation. The monastery is also especially dedicated to the holy prophets Moses and Elias, who both came to this mountain, and who both spoke with Christ at the Transfiguration. More recently, it has been known as Saint Catherine's Monastery. This remains its name today, though the monastery has not lost its earlier dedications.

The monastery can be thought of as a veritable Ark for its spiritual treasures. These include the manuscripts and early printed books preserved in the Sinai library, which is celebrated throughout the world for the antiquity and importance of its volumes. It also includes the monastery icons, which include the most important collection of pre-iconoclastic panel icons, and icons of the greatest beauty and significance dating from the time of the Commene dynasty.

The monastery has been honored by rulers throughout its history. These include the Empress Helena, the Emperor Justinian, Mohammed the Founder of Islam, Sultan Selim I, the Empress Catherine of Russia, and Napoleon Bonaparte. Contemporary heads of state have continued to show their interest in the monastery. The Holy Monastery of Sinai has been celebrated throughout the world for its spiritual and cultural radiance. It has been revered not only by Christians, but also by Moslems and Jews. It has recently been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, both for its cultural and for its scenic significance.

The monks of Sinai, from earliest times until the present day, maintain a dedication both to prayer and to the support of pilgrims and visitors. They live at peace with the native Bedouin. They maintain the ancient spiritual heritage of Sinai, a heritage that extends from the giving of the Law, through the whole of the Old and New Testaments, to the multitude of saints whose memory has been enshrined at Sinai – above all, to the All-holy Theotokos, to the holy prophets Moses and Elias, and to Saint Catherine.

<https://www.sinaimonastery.com/index.php/en/>

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