



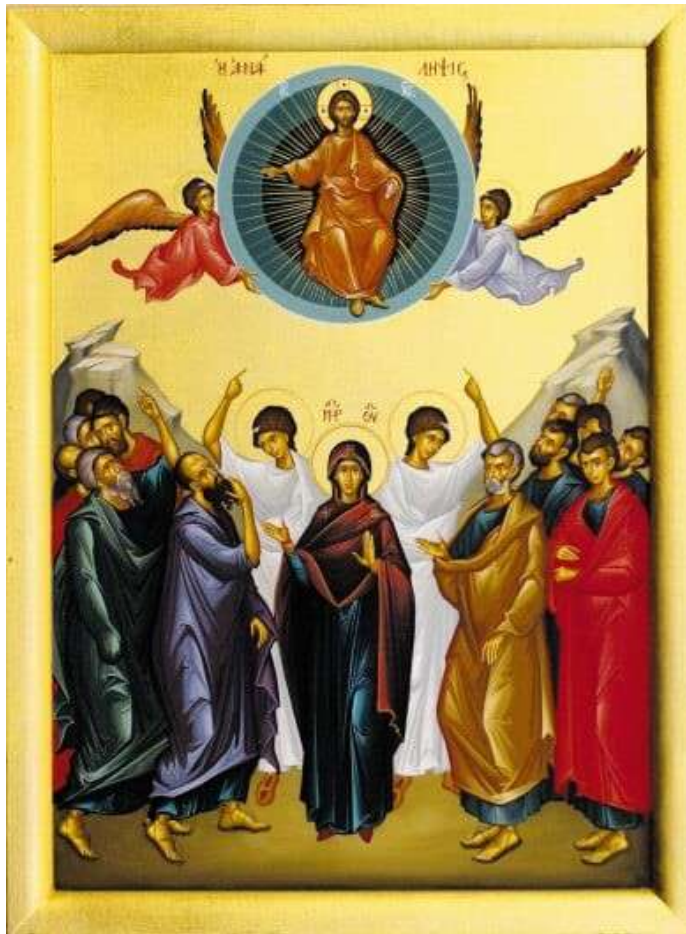
# Holy Trinity

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
WILMINGTON DE



**JUNE/JULY 2024 – ISSUE 6/7**

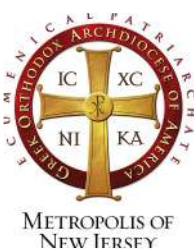
*90th Anniversary*



**Holy Ascension**



**Holy Pentecost**



**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**808 N BROOM STREET**

**WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806**

Phone: 302.654.4446 Fax: 302.654.4204

Email: [office@holytrinitywilmington.org](mailto:office@holytrinitywilmington.org) Website: [holytrinitywilmington.org](http://holytrinitywilmington.org)

## **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**

Stephanos Karakasidis, President - (302) 383-0476

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

(610) 358-8830	Nicholas Demourtzidis	Tom Karas	(302) 438-7121
(302) 562-3414	Anna Fournaris	Alexia Moutsatsos	(302) 654-5611
(302) 475-5035	Emmanuel Fournaris	Tom Psaltis	(302) 981-9352
(302) 633-1112	Costas Fountzoulas	George Tsakataras	(302) 521-7300
(302) 379-4335	Georgia Halakos	Paraskevi Wolcott	(302) 654-4446

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(494) 433-3896	Philoptochos	Dena Verikakis, President
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(302) 293-1127	Sunday School	Amalea Rassias, Co-Director
(484) 995-4414	GOYA	Eleni Marcantonis, Co-President
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(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

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(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](http://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



90th Anniversary

*"Father, ruler over all, and Logos and Spirit, O Nature divine, in three Hypostases united, transcending essence and divinity, in You have we been baptized; we praise and bless and worship You, unto all the ages" (8th ode of the Resurrection)*



My beloved parishioners, Christ is Risen!

As we enter the month of June, we still find ourselves bathed in the bright and clear light of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. On June 13<sup>th</sup> we are completing the liturgical cycle of 40 days since Easter, by celebrating the Divine Ascension of Christ into Heaven. Fr. George Florovsky, a prominent theologian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, writes: *"in the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection....and with Christ, man's nature ascends also"*. The ascension of Christ signifies human's first entry into the divine glorification and dignity, for which he was originally created, and the reunion of man with God, as He deified the human nature that he took on at His birth, by taking His body to heaven.

Only a few moments before His Ascension, the Lord gave a promise to His disciples, that they would receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, the Feast we are celebrating on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our Parish and Community is uniquely blessed to be named after the Holy and Undivided Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Our entire Orthodox Faith is founded on the truth of the Trinity. We are brought into the Church and baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in accordance with our Lord's Great Commission: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28,19). The center of our spiritual lives, the Divine Liturgy, begins with the glorification of the Holy Trinity: *"Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*. Everything we do or say within the church context is based on the Trinity: we make the sign of the Cross three times, we make three prostrations, we offer hymns in a thrice form, etc. All in all, this number-based veneration that we use in our daily spiritual life has penetrated our practice, as it derives from the ultimate veneration of the Three Persons of God. However, we do not worship three Gods, but One in three hypostases; the Three Persons are one in essence but inseparable, one undivided Being, one substance. The Three Persons are undivided, but distinct, yet co-equal, co-eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and benevolent.

It is understandable that it is hard for the human logic and the rational way of thinking that we follow to comprehend all of the above, and beyond the above. However, the paramount truth of the Trinity is rather a mystery that requires faith to be revealed to us. We can never understand any of this, if we try to explain it by logic. Our mind -as creatures- is too small to contain the fulness of the truth and existence of the Creator. Only through faith, and certainly through our participation in the sacramental life of our Church, God will reveal Himself to us, and He will help us understand the doctrine of the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving, and Undivided Trinity. I believe that the following troparion from the Vespers of the Feast of the Holy Spirit can help us reflect on the Truth of the Holy Trinity: *"Come, all people, let us worship the one God in three hypostases: the Son in the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Father, outside of time, begat the Son, co-eternal and sharing the throne, and the Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified with the Son. One power, one essence, one Godhead, which we all worship and we say: **Holy God**, You created all things through the Son by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit. **Holy Mighty**, through You we came to know the Father and the Holy Spirit came to the world. **Holy Immortal**, the Comforter Spirit, You proceed from the Father and rest in the Son. O Holy Trinity, glory to You!"*.

Continued...

*Continued...*

My dear beloved parishioners and friends, we are so blessed and honored as a community to bear the name of the Holy Trinity. We proudly bear the name of our Triune God who will save us if we follow His will. At the same time, this is also a responsibility; we must always try to glorify His Holy Name, through our actions, our decisions, our life, not only on a personal level, but as a Greek Orthodox Parish and Community as well. On Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. It is a most auspicious and sacred day in the ecclesiastical year and in the lives of every Orthodox faithful. Please come to the Divine Liturgy that day, regardless of the sirens of the "summer", that tell us it is not necessary to be in Church every Sunday, now that the temperatures are high...Come and stay for Vespers that day, following the Divine Liturgy in the morning. This is when we kneel and the priest offers the wonderful prayers of Pentecost, as we are receiving the Divine Grace of the Holy Spirit, like the Apostles did on the day of Pentecost. Also, the day after Pentecost, Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, on that day our Parish celebrates its nameday. I know it is a "busy" Monday for many, but if you have the chance, please come to the Divine Liturgy and Worship with us on that great Feast.

Well, the summer is upon us! This is the perfect time to relax, however not from Church..., and to renew ourselves in anticipation of the rapidly upcoming Fall and Winter. Nevertheless, the month of June is a very busy one for our Parish, as it begins with our Greek Festival and ends with the nameday celebration of our Church. Our Festival will bring us together and will give us the opportunity to serve our visitors and exhibit our deep traditions, history, and food! I am looking forward to seeing you there and I would like to thank the countless volunteers of our Parish who work hard every year to ensure that our Festival will be successful, and our guests will have a great time.

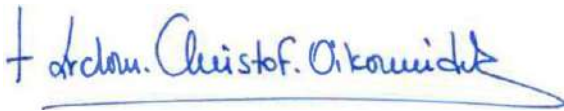
My next message to you through the monthly bulletin will be in August. I want to thank our beloved Susie Kelleher, who so faithfully and tirelessly offers her services to our Parish for over two decades and chairs this monthly bulletin - among the other million responsibilities she has! May God bless her and her family!

I also kindly remind you of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2024. More information will follow.

May you all have a blessed, restful, and productive summer, and please remember that our Church operates regularly in the summer...!!!

The Grace of the Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you!

With love in the Risen Lord,



Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne  
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

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Αγαπητοί μου Ενορίτες, Χριστός Ανέστη!

Ο μήνας Ιούνιος σηματοδοτεί την αρχή του καλοκαιριού και μας δίνει την αίσθηση της ξεκούρασης και χαλάρωσης από τους τρελούς ρυθμούς του υπόλοιπου χρόνου. Βέβαια, τον φετινό Ιούνιο έχουμε την ευλογία να συνεχίζουμε να εορτάζουμε την Ανάσταση του Χριστού, καθώς εορτάσαμε το Πάσχα πολύ αργά φέτος. Μέχρι τις 12 του Ιουνίου θα ψάλλουμε πανηγυρικά το «Χριστός Ανέστη» και θα διατρανώνουμε την αλήθεια της Αναστάσεως, η οποία διαπερνά την ύπαρξή μας και μας χαρακτηρίζει ως Ορθοδόξους Χριστιανούς.

Στις 13 Ιουνίου εορτάζουμε την Θεία Ανάληψη, το γεγονός δηλαδή της «εν σώματι» μεταφοράς του Κυρίου μας στους Ουρανούς και την ενθρόνισή Του στα δεξιά του Πατέρα Του. Η εορτή της Αναλήψεως επισφραγίζει και συμπληρώνει την εορτή της Αναστάσεως, είναι δηλαδή η συνέχιση και η ολοκλήρωση του σχεδίου του Θεού για την σωτηρία του ανθρώπου. Η Ανάληψη του Χριστού σημαίνει ότι ο ουρανός δέχθηκε την πεσμένη από την αμαρτία ανθρώπινη φύση, σημαίνει ότι ο άνθρωπος ξανακέρδισε την θέση που είχε στον Παράδεισο. Αυτή όμως η θέση στον Παράδεισο δεν θα μας δοθεί μαγικά, αλλά με πολύ αγώνα και προσπάθεια. Ο Χριστός μας άνοιξε την πόρτα του Παραδείσου. Σε εμάς απομένει να εργαστούμε ώστε να διαβούμε αυτή την πόρτα της σωτηρίας.

Κατά την Ανάληψη, ο Κύριος έδωσε μία υπόσχεση, ότι θα στείλει στον κόσμο τον Παράκλητο, το Πνεύμα της Αληθείας, το Πανάγιο Πνεύμα. Αυτό λοιπόν εορτάζουμε την ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής: την κάθοδο του Παναγίου Πνεύματος στους Αποστόλους και την αρχή του σωτηριώδους έργου της Εκκλησίας στον κόσμο. Από την ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής έχουμε συνεχή και αδιάκοπη την παρουσία και την χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος εντός της Εκκλησίας.

Η Ενορία μας έχει την μεγάλη ευλογία να φέρει το όνομα της Αγίας Τριάδος. Ενώ οι περισσότερες Εκκλησίες έχουν το όνομα κάποιου Αγίου ή Αγίας, ή κάποιας εορτής, η δική μας Εκκλησία τιμά το Όνομα του Παναγίου Τριαδικού Θεού. Εμείς, οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, πιστεύουμε όχι αφηρημένα σε κάποια ανώτερη δύναμη όπως λένε μερικοί, αλλά πιστεύουμε στον Τριαδικό Θεό, τον Πατέρα, τον Υιό και το Άγιο Πνεύμα, Τριάδα ομοούσιο και αχώριστο. Δεν πιστεύουμε σε τρεις Θεούς αλλά σε Ένα Θεό «έν τρισί προσώποις». Ο μακαριστός Μητροπολίτης Γόρτυνος Ιερεμίας γράφει για το δόγμα της Αγίας Τριάδος:

**Α.** Ο Θεός είναι τρία Πρόσωπα, αλλά ενωμένα στην μία θεία Ουσία. Είναι ομοούσια. Η, για να το πούμε διαφορετικά, ο Θεός είναι ένας στην Ουσία, αλλά είναι Τρισυπόστατος, είναι δηλαδή τρία τα Πρόσωπα της θεότητας.

**Β.** Τα τρία θεία Πρόσωπα, ο Πατήρ, ο Υιός και το Άγιο Πνεύμα, αν και είναι ομοούσια και έχουν τις ίδιες θείες ιδιότητες, όμως έχουν και προσωπικά ιδιώματα. Τα ιδιώματα αυτά δεν είναι κοινά και των τριών Προσώπων, γιαντό τα λέμε «ακοινοποίητα» ιδιώματα· ο Πατέρας είναι αγέννητος· ο Υιός γεννάται από τον Πατέρα και το Άγιο Πνεύμα εκπορεύεται από τον Πατέρα. Οι άγιοι Πατέρες καλούν την Αγία Τριάδα Μονάδα εν Τριάδι, μια Τρισυπόστατη Ενότητα. Η Εκκλησία προσευχομένη στην Αγία Τριάδα κατά την λατρεία την επικαλείται στον ενικό και όχι στον πληθυντικό αριθμό, λόγω της μιάς θείας Ουσίας. Για παράδειγμα: «Ότι Σε (και όχι «Υμάς») αινοῦσι πάσαι αι δυνάμεις των ουρανών και Σοί (και όχι «Υμίν») την δόξαν αναπέμπουσι, τω Πατρί και τω Υιῷ και τω Αγίῳ Πνεύματι, νυν και αεί και εις τους αιώνας των αιώνων».

Θα μπορούσαμε να γράψουμε πολλά για το δόγμα της Αγίας Τριάδος. Είναι αλήθεια ότι κάθε άνθρωπος που σκέπτεται μόνο με την λογική, αδυνατεί να κατανοήσει το Τριαδικό δόγμα. Σκεπτόμενος με τα ανθρώπινα μέτρα, δεν μπορεί να συνειδητοποιήσει τα μεγαλεία της πίστεώς μας. Γι' αυτό έχουμε χιλιάδες αιρέσεις που μας ταλαιπωρούν, ακριβώς γιατί οι άνθρωποι προσπαθούν να εξηγήσουν τον Θεό με τα δικά τους δεδομένα, με το μικρό και πεπερασμένο νου τους. Πρέπει λοιπόν να αφήσουμε τη σκέψη και τη διάνοιά μας να γεμίσει με την Χάρη του Θεού, και να τον παρακαλούμε συνέχεια να φωτίζει το μυαλό μας ώστε να σκεφτόμαστε όχι ως άνθρωποι αυτού του κόσμου αλλά ως παιδιά του Θεού. Για να το πετύχουμε αυτό χρειάζεται να έχουμε πίστη, ταπείνωση και Μυστηριακή ζωή. Πίστη, ώστε να αναγνωρίσουμε την ύπαρξη και το μεγαλείο του Θεού. Ταπείνωση ώστε να ελκύσουμε την Χάρη του Θεού, αναγνωρίζοντας ότι είμαστε απλά δημιουργήματα του Θεού που έχουμε ανάγκη από τον Θείο φωτισμό, και Μυστηριακή Ζωή, δηλαδή τακτική συμμετοχή στα Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας και στη Θεία Ευχαριστία, μέσα από τα οποία ο Θεός μας «αποκαλύπτεται».

Αγαπητοί μου, έφτασε το καλοκαίρι. Είναι καιρός να ξεκουραστούμε λίγο και να ανανεωθούμε ώστε να συνεχίσουμε τον αγώνα της ζωής. Αυτή η ξεκούραση όμως δεν σημαίνει ότι διακόπτουμε και την συμμετοχή μας στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας. Τα ανθρώπινα προβλήματα δεν σταματούν χειμώνα-καλοκαίρι, και μόνο με την βοήθεια του Θεού που παίρνουμε μέσα στην Εκκλησία μπορούμε να τα αντιμετωπίσουμε. Θυμηθείτε ότι ο διάβολος δεν κάνει διακοπές. Δουλεύει ασταμάτητα και καθημερινά, ιδιαίτερα το καλοκαίρι, ώστε να μας παραπλανήσει και να χάσουμε το δρόμο μας. Γι' αυτό, όπου και αν είμαστε το καλοκαίρι, όπου και αν κάνουμε διακοπές, ας μην ξεχάσουμε τις Κυριακές να πάμε στην Εκκλησία.

Επίσης σας παρακαλώ πολύ να έλθετε όλοι στην Θεία Λειτουργία την Κυριακή της Πεντηκοστής, 23 Ιουνίου, και όσοι μπορείτε την Δευτέρα του Αγίου Πνεύματος, 24 Ιουνίου, που γιορτάζει και η Εκκλησία μας. Ελάτε να λάβετε την Χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος κατά την διάρκεια του Εσπερινού της Γονυκλισίας που τελείται την Κυριακή της Πεντηκοστής αμέσως μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία, όπου γονατίζουμε και ο Ιερέας διαβάσει τις ευχές της Πεντηκοστής.

Εύχομαι μέσα από την καρδιά μου χρόνια πολλά στην ευλογημένη Ενορία μας και καλό καλοκαίρι σε όλους! Καλή επιτυχία στο Φεστιβάλ μας και θερμές ευχαριστίες στους πολλούς εθελοντές και βοηθούς, που θυσιάζουν πολύτιμο χρόνο ώστε να βοηθήσουν και να προσφέρουν. Ο Τριαδικός Θεός να τους ευλογεί!

Το επόμενο μηνιαίο Δελτίο (Bulletin) θα εκδοθεί τον Αύγουστο. Μέχρι τότε θα τα λέμε στην Εκκλησία και στις πολλές δραστηριότητες και εκδηλώσεις που έχει η Ενορία μας.



π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης  
Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου  
Ιερατικώς Προϊστάμενος

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Holy Trinity Community,  
XPONIA ΠΟΛΛΑ!



We hope that this letter finds you well and in good health!

JUNE IS HERE; the start of summer!! Most kids are finishing up their school year. Others have graduated and are planning the next stages in life, whether it is going off to college or getting ready for that first job. No matter the path, these milestones are celebratory achievements. On behalf of the community, I would like to congratulate all our graduates from both high school and college. ΚΑΙ ΕΙΣ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΑ!

Our parish looks forward to the start of summer for two main reasons. The first is our annual Greek Festival (June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>). And the second is the celebration of our Church's Nameday (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) where the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. It is only befitting that these celebrations coincide.

In addition, we have been and are continuing on improving the facilities and grounds of our parish. From upgrading the lighting in the classrooms to LED lights to improving the state of the landscaping, a great deal of projects are underway. We hope to have a great more completed by summer's end.

The festival is the biggest fundraiser we have as a parish (besides your Stewardship pledge) and we need everyone's help to make this a success. Let us know when you can volunteer for a few hours by contacting the Church Office, one of the booth heads, or via the Sign-up Genius (sent via email).

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.

ΚΑΛΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ!!

Stephanos Karakasidis

## June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 FESTIVAL SET UP 12:30pm Baptism
2 <u>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy	3 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL	4 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL	5 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL  FAST	6 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL	7 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL  FAST	8 11am-11pm GREEK FESTIVAL
9 <u>Sunday of the Blind Man</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy	10	11	12 12pm Serving at Emmanuel Dining Room FAST	13 7pm DVYC Meeting @St Luke's Broomall	14  FAST	15 DVYC YOUTH Beach Blast 12.30pm Baptism 2pm Baptism
16 <u>Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy		18  6:30pm PC Meeting	19  FAST	20	21  FAST	22 <u>Saturday of Souls</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy AHEPA CONVENTION
23 <u>Holy Pentecost</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy AHEPA CONVENTION	24 <u>Feast Day of the Holy Spirit/ Nativity of John the Baptist</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25 6:30pm Daughter's of Penelope Meeting	26	27	28	29 <u>St Peter &amp; Paul</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 12pm Baptism
30 <u>Synaxis of the Holy Apostles</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room					<b>Dates and Times are subject to change Please refer to your weekly bulletin</b>	

## July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Clergy-Laity Conference, San Diego, CA</b>	2	3 FAST	4 Happy Independence Day <b>Church Office Closed</b>	5 <b>Church Office Closed</b> FAST	6
7 <u>2nd Sunday of Matthew</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy	8	9	10 FAST	11	12 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room FAST	13
14 <u>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy	15	16	17 FAST	18	19 FAST	20 <u>St Elias</u> 9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy
21 <u>4th Sunday of Matthew</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy	22	23	24 FAST	25	26 FAST	27 <b>SS. Paraskevi &amp; Panteleimon</b> 9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy
28 <u>5th Sunday of Matthew</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy	29	30 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Rooms	31 FAST			



## Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and Parishioners:

Summer is just around the corner and we're all looking forward to vacations and a time to catch our breath but before we leave for vacation, we're all looking forward to our Annual Festival. A heartfelt thank you to all the ladies who have helped with the preparations and volunteered their time to help during the week of the festival.

A special thank you to Mrs. Xanthi Stavropoulos who provided the donation for the Emmanuel Dining Room for the month of May in memory of her late husband. May his memory be eternal.

As a result of the Bid N Buy in December Philoptochos made a substantial donation to the Ypseni Monastery in Rhodes to assist them in rebuilding the nun's quarters whose roofs were burned because of the wildfires in Greece last year. Please take a moment to read the beautiful thank you letter we received from the monastery. We've provided a Greek translation as well.

We need your help! We will be starting the "Operation Classroom" initiative along with our sister chapters in the New Jersey Metropolis. This initiative will be assisting underserved students and teachers in their classrooms. Our chapter will begin the "Pack the Back" drive, providing children with backpacks filled with pencils, crayons, paper, glue and other items. We hope that the assistance provided to the students will further motivate them with their schoolwork. **If you would be kind enough to assist us, a donation of a backpack would be greatly appreciated.** Philoptochos will fill the backpacks with supplies and deliver them towards the end of August. You can drop a backpack off at the church office during the day. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please note that the Metropolis Philoptochos of New Jersey offers scholarships for high school students based on merit. Please log onto [njphiloptochos.org](http://njphiloptochos.org) for more information. The deadline is June 15.

We wish you a healthy, happy summer filled with memories and relaxation.  
In Christ's Service,  
Dena Verikakis

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### 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.



ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΡΟΔΟΥ  
ΙΕΡΑ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΙΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΙΑΚΗ ΜΟΝΗ  
ΚΟΙΜΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΥΨΟΥΣ  
ΥΨΕΝΗΣ  
851 09 ΛΑΡΔΟΣ ΡΟΔΟΥ

Σεβαστέ π. Χριστόφορε,  
Αξιότιμε κ. Πρόεδρε του Φιλόπτωχου Ταμείου της Εκκλησίας της  
Αγίας Τριάδος,  
Αξιότιμα μέλη της Εκκλησιαστικής Επιτροπής,  
Αγαπητό ποίμνιο,

Πέρασαν επτά μήνες από την καταστρεπτική πυρκαγιά της 22ας Ιουλίου 2023 έπληξε με σφοδρότητα το μοναστήρι μας. Ευχαριστούμε και δοξάζουμε τον Τριαδικό Θεό και την Παναγία μας για την προστασία Τους, καθότι θα μπορούσαν να είχαν καεί τα πάντα στο πέρασμα της φωτιάς.

Η προσφορά όλων ήταν σημαντική και συγκινητική τόσο στην προσπάθεια για το σβήσιμο της φωτιάς όσο και στη συνέχεια για να βοηθηθεί το έργο αποκατάστασης της Μονής από τις ζημιές. Στην προσπάθειά μας όμως προστρέξατε με προθυμία να βοηθήσετε και όλοι Εσείς μηδενίζοντας τις αποστάσεις και αισθανόμαστε βαθιά την υποχρέωση να σας ευχαριστήσουμε θερμά από καρδιάς. Εκφράζουμε λοιπόν με την παρούσα μοναστηριακή μας επιστολή την ευγνωμοσύνη μας για την ανιδιοτελή προσφορά του ποσού των \$5.000 διαμέσου του Φιλόπτωχου Ταμείου της Εκκλησίας «Αγία Αγάπη». Μεταφέρουμε δε τις ιδιαίτερες ευχαριστίες μας προς τον Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη Νέας Υερσέης που ευλόγησε την πρωτοβουλία σας και την πρόεδρο κ. Κωνσταντίνα Βερικάκη για το συντονισμό και τη διενέργεια του εράνου.

Ευχόμαστε ο Κυβερνήτης πάσης της κτίσεως Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός και η Παναγία η Υψηνή, με τις πρεσβείες του προστάτου της Μονής μας Οσίου Μελετίου, να σας ανταποδίδουν πλουσιοπάροχα τη χάρη Τους, δωρίζοντας υγεία και κάθε ευλογία στη ζωή και τα έργα σας. Σεβαστέ μας π. Χριστόφορε, ταπεινώς σας παρακαλούμε να εύχεσθε υπέρ της αδελφότητος μας

Μετά της εν Χριστώ αγάπης και πολλών ευχαριστιών,

Ἡ Καθηγουμένη

Μαριάμ Μοναχή

καὶ αἱ σὺν ἑμοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφαί.

Rhodes, February 26, 2024

V. Rev. Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis  
Esteemed President and Members of the Philoptochos Society,  
Esteemed Members of the Parish Council,  
Beloved parishioners,

It has been seven months since the devastating fire that occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 2023, which has severely impacted our Monastery. We thank and glorify God and our Panagia for their protection, as they saved us from a total damage that the fire could have brought at its passing.

Everyone's support and contribution were very important and moving, in their efforts to blow out the fire and also to help with the reparation of the damage that occurred by the fire. In our efforts to fix everything, you all have earnestly and willingly become a great assistance, eliminating the distance, and we deeply feel the commitment to warmly thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Therefore, by this Monastic Letter we are expressing our gratitude for your selfless contribution in the amount of \$5,000 through the St. Agape Philoptochos Society of your Parish. We are also conveying our special thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, who blessed your initiative, as well as the President Mrs. Constandena Verikakis for the arrangement and coordination of this fundraiser.

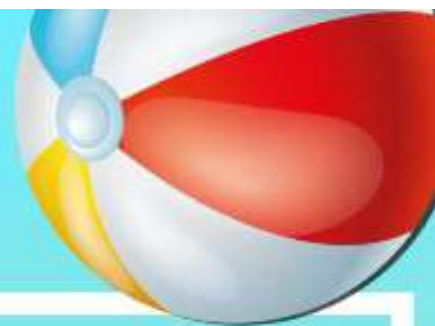
We pray that the Governor of all creation, our Lord Jesus Christ and Panagia "Ipseni", with the intercessions of the patron of our Monastery Saint Meletios, reward you richly with their grace, bringing also health and blessings into your lives and labors. Dear reverend Father Christoforos, we humbly ask you to pray for our monastic sisterhood.

In Christ's love and with thankfulness,

The Abbess Mariam, And the Sisters of the Monastery

# HOPE & JOY

## newsletter



# CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Summer is here and it starts with our Greek Festival!*

*Come join us, and dance with us! Here is a 'silly' picture of us preparing for our dance performance.*



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**JUNE 3 - 8: GREEK FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 9: ZOO TRIP TO PLUMPTON PARK ZOO**

**JUNE 15: DVYC YOUTH BEACH BLAST IN WILDWOOD, NJ**



For more information and to be added to our email list, please contact Angie at [akarakasidis@yahoo.com](mailto:akarakasidis@yahoo.com)



# **Holy Trinity**

## **HOPE & JOY**

### **FIELD TRIP TO THE**

# **ZOO**

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH**

Meet at the Zoo after Divine  
Liturgy for an afternoon  
with your Church Family.

Plumpton Park Zoo  
1416 Telegraph Road  
Rising Sun, Maryland

\$20 Adults  
\$15 Children under 12  
Bring your own lunch,  
or purchase lunch there

RSVP to Angie  
[akarakasidis@yahoo.com](mailto:akarakasidis@yahoo.com)



## ALTAR GUILD

Christos Anesti!

This is always a busy time for the Altar guild with adornment of the Icons, palms, flowers and helping to decorate the Kouvokion, as well as members of our parish, who assisted on Holy Friday morning.

We wish to thank all our members who devoted their time and effort during Lent, Holy Week and Easter; They are as follows: Sophia Hionis, Stacy Koninis, Evie Fournaris, Lauren Diamond, Diana Galaris, Dimitra Pappoulis, Helen Kirifidis, Joanne Tarabicos and Steve Nicholas.

A special thanks to Steve who has the vision to guide us in decorating the church. We would be at a loss without your input and direction.

We also wish to thank Father Christoforos who was our inspiration throughout the Lenten season.

The following Icons are happening in the next months:

June 13, Holy Ascension

June 23, Holy Pentecost

August 15, Dormition of the Theotokos

Icon donations are \$50.00, please use the form below if you wish to donate.

Joanne Tarabicos and Evie Fournaris

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  
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# ALTAR GUILD

Christos Anesti !

What a glorious time celebrating Lent and the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ on Easter. This is the list of all the wonderful parishioners who donated flowers for the Icon, palms ,palm trees and lilies.

March 22, First Salutation to the Theotokos: Eleni, Stelios & Virginia Karablacas, Prayers for our family and in memory of our departed loved ones

March 24, Sunday of Orthodoxy: Evie & John Koninis

March 25, Annunciation of the Theotokos: Anna Demetriou, for the health of our family

March 29, Second Salutations to the Theotokos: Kathy & Mike Klezaras , In loving memory of our family.

March 31, Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas: Helen Doukakis, In loving memory of my husband Harry, my parents Spiro & Androniki Liacouras & brother Peter.

April 5, Third Salutations to the Theotokos: Eleni ,Stelios, & Virginia Karablacas, prayers for the health of our family & in memory of our departed loved ones.

April 7, Sunday of the Holy Cross: Eleni, Stelios, & Virginia Karablacas , prayers for the health of our family & in memory of our departed loved ones.

April 7, Veneration of the Holy Cross, daffodils: Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Kolovos, in loving memory of Efthimios Tsionas.

April 12, Fourth Salutations: Anna Demetriou ,for the health of our family.

April 14, Sunday of St. John Climacus: Tom & Magdaline Psihalinos, wishing health & happiness for our family.

April 20, Akathis Hymn: Xanthy & Fred Joseck, In memory of Maria & Eleftherios Gavrilis.

April 21, St. Mary of Egypt: Anonymous

April 27, Lazarus Saturday: John & Sandy Lazare, for my parents Lazarus & Fihomeni

April 28, Palm Sunday Icon: Despiona Logullo, good health for my brothers Chris & Jim

April 28, Palms for Palm Sunday: John & Vicky Dalianis, for our parents

April 28, Sago palms for Palm Sunday, anonymous

April 28, Palm trees for Palm Sunday: Angela Matulas, Foula Tsionas & Georgia Halakos, In loving memory of Gus Tsionas.

April 28, Royal door Arrangements: Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Kolovos, in loving memory of Efthimios Tsionas.

April 28, Nymphios: The Klezaras/Lurz family, In loving memory of our Family.

May 1, Last Supper Icon: Anonymous

May 2, Wreath on cross: Nick & Kathy Calliagas & Family, In memory of Costa Calliagas.

May 2, Three Wreaths at the base of the cross: Anna Tsionas , in memory of my husband Efthimios & my parents Fani & Apostolos.

May 2, Two Wreaths at the base of the cross: Anamaria & Anthoula Anagnostou, in memory of our parents Peter & Mary Anagnostou.

May 2, Icon of Extreme Humility: Klezaras/ Lurz family, in loving memory of our family.

May 2, Crucifixion Icon: Anna Demetriou, for the health of our family.

May 3, Apokathelosis Icon: Anastasia Bouloukos, in loving memory of my husband Harry Bouloukos.

May 4, Myrrhbearers Icon: George & Stavroula Pettaris, in memory of our parents Michael & Evanthia and Joannis & Sotizia.

May 4, Rose petals for Holy Saturday , Steve & Karen Velitskakis, for the continued good health of our family & an anonymous donor.

May 4, Levaro Icon flowers: Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Grivas, wishing health & happiness to all.

May 5, Resurrection Icon flowers: Voula Stout, in memory of Georgia & Constantinos Anastasakos.

May 5, Holy Pascha flower arrangements: Anna Tsionas, in memory of my husband Efthimios & my parents Fani & Apostolos.

May 5, Garland above the Royal doors: Costas & Maria Caras, in loving memory of our parents and grandparents Alexandra & William Michell and Vasiliki & George Caras.

## Lilies:

Elizabeth Pappas, celebrating Pascha for our family and remembering our parents Philip & Pauline.

Lilies and supplies for Easter: Christina & John Lazopoulos Jr, In memory of our parents.

Once again we thank everyone for their donations;

Joanne Tarabicos and Evie Fournaris

## Πουθενά και παντού

Ο ήλιος έκανε την αέναη περιστροφή του γύρω από την γη και φθάσαμε πάλι στο Καλοκαίρι και ετοιμάζω τις βαλίτσες μου και σχεδιάζω που και πως θα περάσω τον λίγο χρόνο στην Ελλάδα. Όμως τα τελευταία χρόνια κάτι βασανίζει το μυαλό μου. Προσπαθώ να καταλάβω αν πράγματι ανήκω στην χώρα που άφησα πίσω ή αν την μοιράζομαι και κατά πόσο με την νέα μου χώρα όπου μετανάστευσα νέος.

Αυτό που μου λείπει περισσότερο στην Αμερική είναι η γειτονιά όπου μεγάλωσα, όπου μοιραζόμουν την καθημερινότητα μου με τους γείτονες, σε καλές και κακές στιγμές, τις χαρές και τις λύπες μας. Όπου όλοι γιορτάζαμε τις ίδιες γιορτές, χαιρετούσαμε και ανταγωνιζόμασταν ό ένας τον άλλον, με ειλικρίνια, ψευτιά και ενίοτε με εντάσεις ακόμη και για μικροπράγματα και μιλούσαμε την ίδια γλώσσα.

Πανδαμάτω χρόνος! Εκείνη η γειτονιά που αφήσαμε πίσω δεν υπάρχει πλέον. Αγαπημένοι γείτονες και φίλοι έφυγαν για πάντα. Νέοι γείτονες που δεν γνωρίζεις αναπλήρωσαν το κενό. Αισθάνεσαι ότι ο τόπος σου δεν είναι όπως το άφησες, είσαι λίγο ξένος.

Στην Αμερική δεν υπάρχει τέτοια γειτονιά. Όχι γιατί οι γείτονές μας είναι διαφορετικοί ή κακοί άνθρωποι, αλλά γιατί είναι από όλα τα μέρη το κόσμου χωρίς κοινές συνήθειες και εμπειρίες με τις δικές σου.

Στην Ελλάδα με γωρίζουν όλοι σαν τον Αμερικάνο, παρά με το όνομα μου. Είμαι μέλος της σύγχρονης αυτοκρατορίας που όλοι θαυμάζουν αλλά και μισούν ταυτόχρονα! Εδώ είμαι ο Έλληνας που κουβαλά στους ώμους του μια τεράστια ιστορία, την βάση του σύγχρονου δυτικού πολιτισμού, που προκαλεί τον θαυμασμό, το δέος, αλλά δυσαρέσκεια, και ζήλεια, μέχρι ερωτηματικά αν έχουμε σχέση με τους προγόνους μας.

Έχω αρχίσει να μαθαίνω να ζώ με αυτή την πραγματικότητα. Στην Ελλάδα προσπαθώ να μην επιτίρομαι για τις επιτυχίες μου και την οικονομική άνεση που μας προσφέρει απλόχερα η πλούσια αυτοκρατορία μας, αν και δεν κρύβονται, για να μην προκαλέσω κανέναν. Όλοι μισούν και δικαίως την αλαζονεία. Οι φίλοι και συγγενείς μου στην Ελλάδα μου προσφέρουν το ανεκτίμητο δώρο της μοιρασιάς των στιγμών της νιότης που περάσαμε μαζί. Τα αισθήματα αγάπης είναι αμοιβαία.

Στην Αμερική προσπαθώ να διαφημίζω όπου βρεθώ την σημαντική και αναμφισβήτητη συνεισφορά των προγόνων μου στην αυτοκρατορία μας, όπως και την δική μας σύγχρονη συνεισφορά στο γίνεσθαι της.

Ανήκω πουθενά και παντού ταυτόχρονα! Είμαι πολίτης του κόσμου, ένας Έλληνας που για αιώνες ταξίδευε και δημιουργούσε πολιτισμό! Αμφότερες οι χώρες μου έδωσαν το εν ζειν! Είμαι ευγνώμων και στις δύο!

"πλέον ἐπὶ οἶνοπα πόντον ἐπ' ἄλλοθρόους ἀνθρώπους" [Πλέοντας στην θάλασσα με το κρασώπο (μπλαβι) γρώμα σε ανθρώπους αλλόγλωσσους]. (Οδύσσεια (1.178-1.220)).

## Nowhere and everywhere

The sun made its perpetual rotation around the earth, and the Summer is ante portas again and I am packing my bags and planning where and how I will spend the little time in Greece. But in recent years something has been tormenting my mind. I am trying to understand if I really belong to the country I left behind or if I share it and to what extent with my new country where I immigrated to as a young lad.

What I most miss in America is the neighborhood where I grew up, where I shared my daily life with the neighbors, in good and bad times, our joys and sorrows. Where we all celebrated the same holidays, greeted, and competed with each other, with honesty, lies and sometimes tensions even over small things and above all spoke the same language.

Alas, All-tamer time! That neighborhood we left behind no longer exists. Beloved neighbors and friends have gone forever. New neighbors you don't know fill the void. You feel that your place is not as you left it, you are a bit of an outsider.

There is no such neighborhood in America. Not because our neighbors are different, or bad people, but because they come from all over the world without common habits and experiences with yours.

In Greece, everyone calls me American, rather than by my name. I am a member of the contemporary empire that everyone admires and hates at the same time! Here I am the Greek who carries on his shoulders a huge and unique history, the basis of the contemporary Western civilization, which causes admiration, awe, jealousy, even displeasure to the point of questioning whether we are related to our glorious ancestors.

I'm starting to learn to live with this reality. In Greece, I try not to brag about my successes and the financial comfort that our rich empire generously offers us, although it is obvious, so as not to provoke anyone. Everyone hates arrogance and rightly so. My friends and relatives in Greece offer me the priceless gift of sharing the sweet moments of our youth we spent together. The feelings of love are mutual.

In America I try to advertise wherever I am the significant and undeniable contribution of my ancestors to our empire, as well as our own modern contribution to its making.

I belong nowhere and everywhere at the same time! I am a citizen of the world, a Hellene who traveled and created civilization for centuries! Both countries gave me the well being! I am grateful and thank both!

"Sailing in the sea with the wine-colored (blue) color to people of foreign languages". (Odyssey (1.178-1.220))

Join us in congratulating our scholarship winners for 2024:

**The Hellenic University Club of Wilmington Scholarship**  
Aristomenes Angeletakis, University of Delaware, Cybersecurity

**The Constantine & Georgina Georgiou Scholarship**  
Demetrios Moutsatsos, Franklin & Marshall, Business & French

**The Dr. George & Alice Gatos Scholarship**  
Katherine Pappas, Shenandoah University, Economics & Business

and announcing our newest addition

**The Spyros K. Demetriou Scholarship**  
Christina Rigas, Fordham University, Finance & Alt Investments



**Thursday, April 18 the UD Symphony Orchestra performed Greek & American Compositions in the Community Center.**





CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA



# Camp Good Shepherd

## Experience the Best Week of Your Summer!



### CGS: MARYLAND

June 16-22, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Wo-Me-To

1200 Knopp Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Registration Fee: \$600 (Early Bird Discount until  
May 1, then \$675)



### CGS: NEW JERSEY

June 23-29, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Linwood MacDonald

1 Flatbrook Rd, Sandyston, NJ 07826

Registration Fee: \$625



### CGS: VIRGINIA (2 SESSIONS)

Week 1: July 7-15 (Completed 5th Grade - 8th Grade)

Week 2: July 14-20 (Completed 9th Grade - 12th Grade)

Camp Piankatank

1586 Stampers Bay Rd Box 455, Hartfield, VA 23071

Registration Fee: \$500

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**



[HTTP://APP.CAMPDOC.COM/REGISTER/CGSN](http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn)

MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.NJGOARCH.ORG/CAMP-GOOD-SHEPHERD](https://www.njgoarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)



# HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY

## Baptisms:

**Anna Haddadin**, daughter of Malik & Lena, was baptized in our Church on May 11. Her sponsor was Tala Haddadin. We congratulate her and her sponsor and welcome Anna into the Orthodox faith.

## Memorials:

**Antzoulis "Angelos" Alexandratos ~ 40 Day ~ May 19**

**Efthimios Tsionas ~ 1 Year ~ May 19**

**Ekaterini Yiantsos ~ 1 Year ~ May 19**

**Nickolas Zographos ~ 5 Year ~ May 26**

**An Artoclasia was offered on May 6 for the Feast Day of St George,  
by George & Stavroula Pettaris, in honor of his Name Day,  
and for the health and well-being of their family.**

**An Artoclasia was offered on May 9 for the Feast Day of St Christoforos,  
by the Prish, in honor of Fr. Christoforos' Name Day,  
and for the health and well-being of his family.**

**An Artoclasia was offered on May 21 for the Feast Day of Sts Constantine & Helen,  
by Constantine & Vasiliki Kromedas, in honor of his Name Day,  
and for the health and well-being of their family.**



## The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

(Feast Day: June 24)

### Reading:

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness

and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "Yah is gracious."

### Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

O Prophet and Forerunner of the presence of Christ, we who fervently honor you cannot worthily praise you. For by your revered and glorious birth the barrenness of your mother and the muteness of your father were unbound, and the incarnation of the Son of God is proclaimed to the world.

### Kontakion in the Third Tone

She that once was barren doth today bring forth Christ's Forerunner, John, the culmination and the crown of all the Prophets. For when he, in River Jordan, laid his hand on Him Whom the Prophets preached aforetime, he was revealed as God the Word's fore-chosen Prophet, His mighty preacher, and His Forerunner in grace.



*90th Anniversary*

## A History of the Wilmington Greek Community/Memories

After World War I, many Greek immigrants and their families had settled in Wilmington, DE. Early businesses were, New York Restaurant, Presto Restaurant, Delaware Lunch, Govatos Candy Co., Kramedas Produce and Lazopoulos Liquor Co.

In 1934, the Greek Orthodox Community was chartered. The first parish council comprised of Charles Tarabicos, Dr. George Boines, Elefterios Lazopoulos, Louis Liarakos, John Govatos, Gregory Kramedas, Andrew Spiliadis, and Jack Cozamanis.

In 1939, the property at 808 N Broom Street was purchased from the T. Coleman duPont Estate and fund raising began for the building of the proposed church.

In 1940, Jack Cozamanis was hired as the Greek School teacher and classes were held on the second floor of the Law Building at 9<sup>th</sup> and Market Street, future site of Woolworth's. On the Broom Street property, the automobile and stable building was remodeled to be used as a temporary church and community center. The kitchen was used for Greek School classes. There was a pool on the property which was used for a short time. The Philoptochos Society and Order of AHEPA would sponsor dances and events in order to raise funds for the building of the church.

On November 11, 1951. The first liturgy was held in the new church. Its name was chosen as Holy Trinity after a church in the village of Charles Tarabicos.

The caretaker's house was converted into the residence of our parish priest, Father Stamatis Ganiaris and his family. It was demolished in 1973 and the north parking lot was completed.

In 1972, Father Stamatis Ganiaris and parish council President James Tarabicos, with members of the Parish Council, met with Bishop Silas to present the plans to implement the Fair Share program to replace the dues system of the Parish. Permission was granted for the year 1972 as the Pilot Program of the Archdiocese. In October 1972, Archbishop Iakovos endorsed the program at the Clergy-Laity Congress and it was unanimously passed to launch the program on the national level. The Wilmington Community of Holy Trinity became the first community to do so in the nation.

In 1973, Parish Council President James Tarabicos appointed Dr. James Kakavas as chairman of the finance committee and Dr. Dimitri Staikos as the chairman of the building committee for the construction of the Hellenic Community Center. Ground was broken in 1976 and it was completed and dedicated in 1978.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sophia L. Tarabicos



**Sophia Celebrates 90th Birthday @ Holy Trinity  
Hronia Polla!!**

# *Serving in June & July*

## **Coffee Hours:**

Ministry Coffee Hours will resume in September  
If your family would like to sponsor a coffee hour during the summer months, please contact the church office.



## **Narthex Duty:**

June 4 ~ Group 2  
June 11 ~ Group 1  
June 18 ~ Group 2  
June 25 ~ Group 1  
June 30 ~ Group 2

## **Narthex Duty:**

July 7 ~ Group 1  
July 14 ~ Group 2  
July 21 ~ Group 1  
July 28 ~ Group 2



## **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**



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

**+Tonsured ~ \*Reader**  
**All readers are also tonsured**

## **ALTAR ASSISTANTS**

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

## ***Congratulations ~ 2024 Graduates ~ We are very proud of you!!***

### **High School:**

**Aristomenes Angeletakis**, son of Christos & Christina, is graduating from Appoquinimink High School. He will be attending the University of Delaware and majoring in cybersecurity, immersing himself in the intricacies of digital defense and data protection. He has been accepted to work at the National Security Administration while he attends college. With the incredible opportunity to work at the NSA, his future aspirations revolve around contributing his skills and knowledge to serve in the government, safeguarding critical information and upholding national security.

**Demetrios Belitsas**, son of Athanasios & Antonia, is graduating from Woodstown Highschool. He has committed to going to Montclair University in the Fall. He will major in TV and Film.

**Dionysios Christoforatos**, son of Demetri & Dimitra, is graduating from Clearview Regional High School in Mullica Hill, NJ. While at Clearview, Dionysi was involved in a myriad of activities and clubs including National Honor Society, First Tech Challenge Robotics, Technology Students Association, and 4H STEM with Lockheed Martin. He has been accepted to the accelerated Bio-Dental program at Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He wishes to pursue a career in family dentistry upon his graduation.

**Georgia Alexia Colborn**, daughter of Brian & Nicole, is graduating with Honors from the Charter School of Wilmington. She will attend Auburn University in the Fall where she will major in Apparel Design and Production Management. Georgia will also be a member of Auburn's Division 1 Swimming and Diving Team. War Eagle!

**Dionyssios Rigas Crisp**, son of Jason & Ekaterini, is graduating from the International Baccalaureate Program of the Dickinson School, Wilmington with Honors. He will be attending Mechanical Engineering at the University of Delaware.

**Nikoleta Dougherty**, daughter of Eleni Katapodi, is graduating from Odyssey Charter School and plans to attend Del Tech in the Fall.

**Phoebe Elizabeth Gray**, daughter of David & Eugenia, is graduating from Tower Hill school. Phoebe is a National Merit commended student. She was the captain of the Tower Hill swim team with all state honors. She is a Hugh O'Brien youth leadership award winner, and also won a Legacy Award Scholarship from the Elks National Foundation. She has committed to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with plans to major in psychology.

**Demetri Moutsatsos**, son of George & Alexia, is graduating from Tower Hill School and attending Franklin and Marshall College to study business and economics.

**Katherine Nicole Pappas**, daughter of Elias & Denise, is graduating from Padua Academy. Katherine is continuing her education at Shenandoah University in Virginia where she will be studying business and playing soccer.

**Christina Rigas**, daughter of Elias & Potoula, is graduating from Saint Mark's High School and will be attending Fordham University in Fall. She will be pursuing a degree in Finance from the Gabelli School of Business.

**Nicholas Turley**, son of Steve & Akiko, is graduating from Delaware Valley Classical School with Honors. He will be attending the University of Delaware for International Studies. He will participate in the World Scholars program and will spend his first semester in Greece in the fall.

***Congratulations ~ 2024 Graduates ~ We are very proud of you!!***

**College:**

**Rafaela Dougherty**, daughter of Eleni Katapodi, is graduating from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in biology and plans to get a job in this field.

**Anna Paisley Gray**, daughter of David & Eugenia, is a four-year varsity rower for Cornell University women's crew, and is graduating from Cornell University with a BSE (bachelor of science and engineering) in the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering and will pursue a career in that field.

**Constantine G. Fournaris**, son of George & Soula, is graduating from the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware with a B.S. degree in Accounting, with a Trust Management minor. He will be attending Widener University, Delaware Law School in the fall.

**Katherine Mantzavinos**, daughter of Spiros & Megan, is graduating from the University of Delaware with a BFA.

**Mariko Turley**, daughter of Steve & Akiko, is graduating from University of Delaware with a BS in Health Sciences. She will be attending Thomas Jefferson University for graduate study in Occupational Therapy.



# God Bless our Graduates!!

## Sunday School / High School / College



On Sunday, May 19 we recognized our High School and College Graduates and had our Annual Sunday School Promotion and presented gifts to those graduating!

We also recognized Nikki Tsakataras who taught Sunday School at Holy Trinity for 50+ years!! May God Bless the work of her hands!



# FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AS OF MAY 22, 2024 (243 FAMILIES)

Adamopoulos, Sotiere  
 Agrianonis, Demetrios  
 Almasou, Elias & Rasha  
 Anagnostou, Anamaria  
 Anagnostou, Anthoula  
 Anastasiades, Litsa  
 Andrianopoulos, Faith  
 Angeletakis, Christos & Christina  
 Artemiadis, Panagiotis & Spyridoula  
 Asimos SR, George  
 Asimos, George & Kristie  
 Athanasiadis, Fotios & Asmik  
 Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia  
 Bacchieri, Stacey  
 Baker, Stephanie  
 Bambacus, Meropi  
 Barrios, Luis & Dimitra  
 Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia  
 Bouloukos, Anastasia  
 Burpulis, Kecia  
 Calliagas, Markella  
 Calliagas, Nicholas & Katherine  
 Caras, Constantine & Maria  
 Chahalais, Maria  
 Chambers, George & Katherine  
 Charalambides, Dino & Nia  
 Chilimidos, Effie  
 Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy  
 Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra  
 Christou, Alecca  
 Christou, Christos & Evie  
 Ciabattini, Olga  
 Colborn, Brian & Nicole  
 Constantinou, John & Carol  
 Coulaloglou, Michelle  
 Courtis, Harry & Sophia  
 Courtney, Daniel & Condylia  
 Coustenis, Katherine  
 Dalianis, John & Vicky  
 Dargakis, Minas & Kleo  
 Degermentzidis, Elias  
 Demetriou, Anna  
 Diamanty, Thomas & Sue  
 Diamond, Anthony & Lauren  
 Diamond, Thomas  
 Dickey, Irene  
 Doukakis, Helen  
 Drimones, Clara  
 Drimones, Nicholas  
 Evangelatos, Speros  
 Faller, James & Catherine  
 Farella, Robert & Leah  
 Ferentinos, Joan  
 Fisfis, Nicholas & Catheryn  
 Floropoulos, Yianni  
 Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki  
 Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia  
 Fotakos, Lexi  
 Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey  
 Fournakis, Susan  
 Fournaris, Anna  
 Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evie  
 Fournaris, George & Soula  
 Galanis, Agnes  
 Galaris, Rick & Diana  
 Gatanis, Theodore  
 Gatos, Paula  
 Geanopoulos, Georgiean

George, Mary  
 Gerakios, Nikolettta  
 Gerakios, Sakelaris & Spiridoula  
 Gianelos, James & Stacie  
 Giannatos, Stavros & Terri  
 Graham, Catherine  
 Gray, David & Eugenia  
 Grigorakakis, Maria  
 Grivas, Christopher & Michelle  
 Haddadin, Malik & Lina  
 Haldas, George & Beth  
 Haldas, Harry  
 Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie  
 Haldas, Thomas  
 Haldas-Long, Irene  
 Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa  
 Haralambidis, Maroula  
 Hatzis, Tom & Bing  
 Heliotis, Alexandra  
 Hionis, Sophia  
 Humphrey, Caroline  
 Iliadis, Antonios  
 Iliadis, Dimitrios & Constantina  
 Issaris, Katherine  
 Joris, Irene  
 Joseck, Anastasia  
 Joseck, Xanthy & Fred  
 Kamenakis, Efthimia  
 Kamenakis, Peter & Juli  
 Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie  
 Karablacas, Virginia  
 Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni  
 Karakasidis, John & Vickie  
 Karakasidis, Stephanos & Evaggelia  
 Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki  
 Karapanagiotis, Athanasios  
 Karas, Theodore & Pamela  
 Karvounis, Nikolaos & Amanda  
 Kayiaros, Joanna  
 Kayiaros, Stephen  
 Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy  
 Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen  
 Kirifides, Michael & Kerry  
 Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria  
 Kirtsos, Petros & Athy  
 Klezaras, Michael & Kathy  
 Kollias, Basil & Demi  
 Kollias, Georgia  
 Koninis, John & Anastasia  
 Koninis II, John & Evdokia  
 Kontis, Gus & Cindy  
 Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi  
 Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa  
 Kostas, John & Gale  
 Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani  
 Kostos, Yianni  
 Kromedas, Constantinos & Vasiliki  
 Kyranakis, John  
 Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett  
 Laskaris, Johanna  
 Lawson, Michael & Victoria  
 Lazare, John & Sandra  
 Lazopoulos, Jr., John & Christina  
 Lempesis, Dimitra  
 Liarakos, George & Ann  
 Logullo, Desponia & Francis  
 Lomis, Toulia  
 MacKewiz, Irene & W. Lee

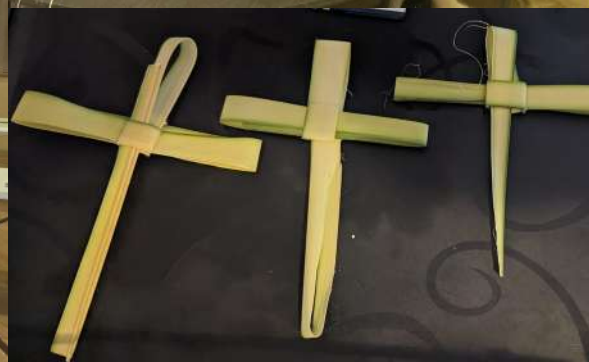
Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi  
 Mantzavinos, Marianthi  
 Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan  
 Maravelias, James & Diane  
 Marcantonis, George & Agnoula  
 Marini, Irene  
 Marinis, Kalliope  
 Markatos, Harry & Susan  
 Marvel, Jessica  
 Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela  
 Mavridis, Prodromos & Maria  
 McManus, Ryan & Theodora  
 Michell, Constantine & Elaine  
 Michell, Theodore & Catherine  
 Mistras, Antonis & Soula  
 Mitoulis, Constantine & Kristen  
 Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella  
 Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra  
 Napoli, Francis  
 Nicholas, Steve  
 Novakis, Louis  
 Ohlemacher, Evangline  
 Pacienza, Stephanie  
 Pandelakis, Denis & Anna  
 Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne  
 Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi  
 Papanicholas, Evan  
 Papanicholas, Maria  
 Papettas, Vasilis & Christina  
 Pappas, Elias  
 Pappas, Elizabeth  
 Pastis, Jaqueline  
 Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary  
 Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe  
 Pispitsos, Pantelis  
 Pittaoulis, Steve  
 Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia  
 Psaltis, John  
 Psaltis, Nicholas  
 Psaltis, Thomas & Cynthia  
 Psihalinos, George & Athina  
 Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini  
 Rasis, Irene  
 Rasis, Leonidas & Irene  
 Rasis, Pauline  
 Rasis, Spiros  
 Rasis, William & Emily  
 Rapposelli, Hareklia  
 Rassias, Dion & Gina  
 Rassias, George & Amalea  
 Regas, Constantinos  
 Regas, Sofia  
 Rentoulis, Nicholas & Androniki  
 Riga-Crisp, Jason & Ekaterini  
 Righos, Elaine  
 Roberts, Scott & Linda  
 Roussalis, John & Valerie  
 Saffos, John & Karla  
 Saitis, Mary  
 Savopoulos, Despina  
 Schillinger, Robert & Karen  
 Semos, Joanne  
 Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis  
 Staab, Kristina  
 Stavropoulos, Xanthy  
 Stavru, Nicholas & Maria  
 Stout, Robert & Voula  
 Tarabicos, Christina

Tarabicos, John & Joanne  
 Tarabicos, Sophia  
 Tawfik, Emad & Tania  
 Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa  
 Tsaganos, Alexandra  
 Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne  
 Tsaganos, Peggy  
 Tsaganos, Robert & Popi  
 Tsakataras, George  
 Tsakumis, George & Julia  
 Tsakumis, Theodore  
 Tsaldaris, Nicholas & Bonnie  
 Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna  
 Tsionas, Angela  
 Tsionas, Anna  
 Tsionas, Evagelos  
 Tsoukalas, Frederiki  
 Tsoukalas, Niki  
 Tsoutsos, Nektarios & Chengmo  
 Tsugranes, George & Penny  
 Turley, Steve & Akiko  
 Vassiliou, Kleoniki  
 Velitskakis, George  
 Velitskakis, Steve & Karen  
 Verikakis, Dena  
 Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon  
 Vice, Elaine  
 Visvardis, Fotini  
 Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth  
 Vlamis, Peggy  
 Voultsis, Catherine  
 Voultsis, Evangeline  
 Voultsis, Jordana  
 Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly  
 Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi  
 Xarhoulakos, Peter  
 Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina  
 Zerefos, Markos & Eugenia  
 Zicarelli, Louis & Catherine

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**Remember this:**  
*"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

On Saturday of Lazarus ,  
after worship,  
the congregation prepared for  
Palm Sunday



# Holy Friday Youth Retreat



On Holy Friday we had our annual Sunday School Youth Retreat. The GOYAn's helped prepare the candles for Holy Friday Service & prepared for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday Morning!

# How does the Epitaphio get adorned...



The Philoptochos and the Altar Guild take the flowers below...

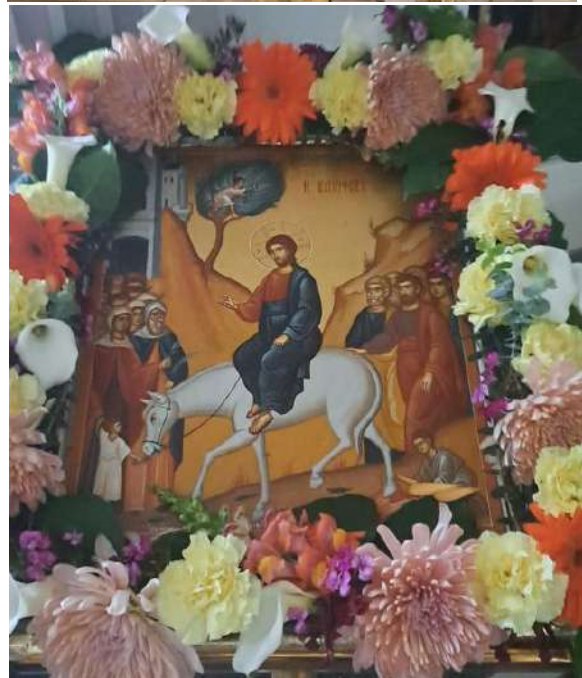
And turn it into this...



**As is our tradition the GOYAns wrap the Red Eggs for Pashca —  
with a little help from their friends!!  
Then they enjoy their own Anastasi Meal on Resurrection Saturday!**



# Celebrating Palm Sunday

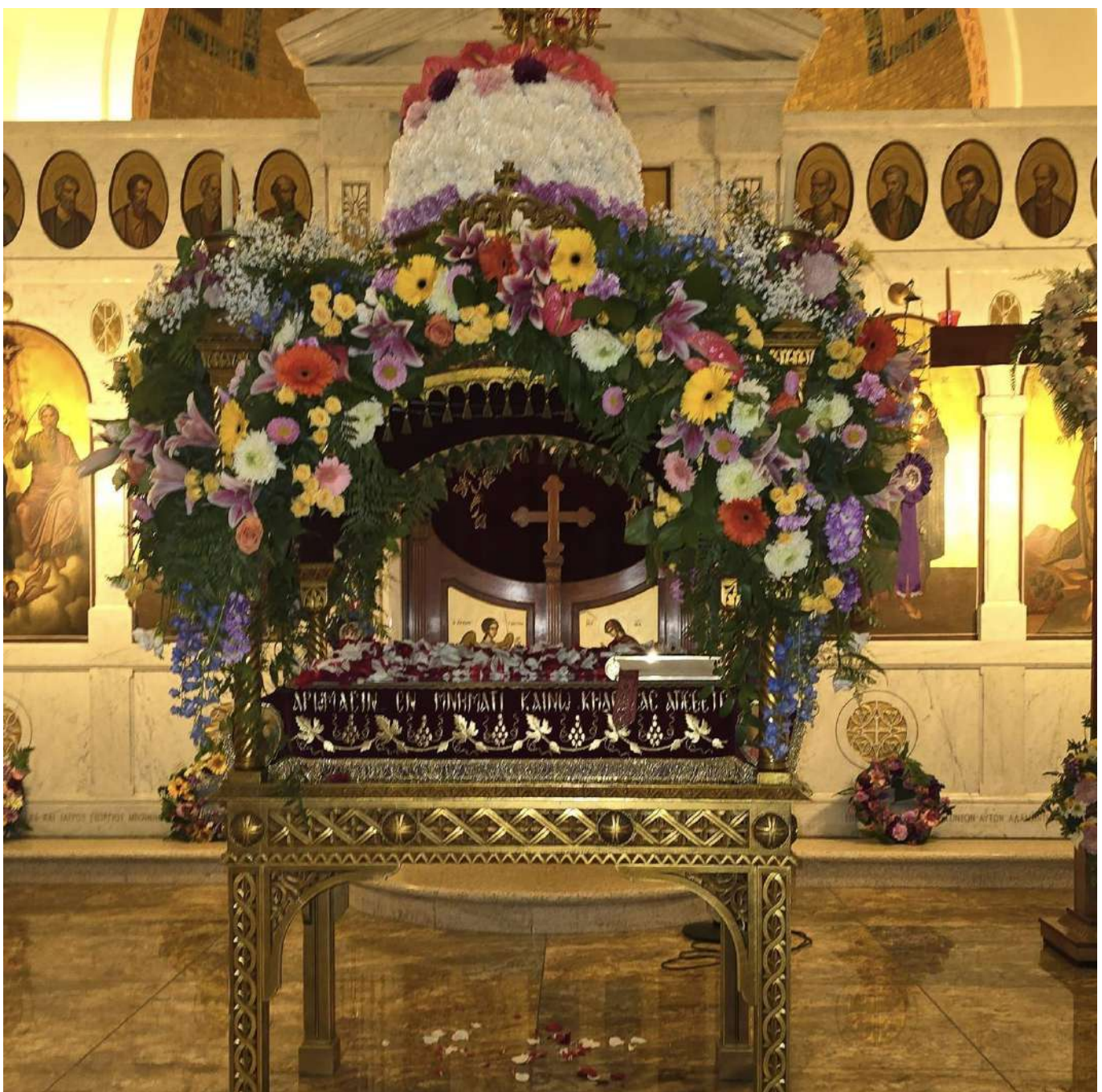


# Holy Friday



# Celebrating the Resurrection!





*We hope to see everyone  
at the Festival June 3-8  
The Young at Heart  
wishes everyone a safe and  
Happy Summer!*

# FESTIVAL 2024

Our Festival is right around the corner and, as always, we need your help to pull off this monumental task! Please call your booth chair today and volunteer your time, talent and treasure to your booth and to our parish!

**GREEK FESTIVAL—Monday, June 3 - Saturday, June 8**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR FINAL PREP & SET UP!**

**CALL THE OFFICE FOR TIMES 302.654.4446**

**Please come and HELP!! ~~ NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

**WE WILL TRAIN YOU!!! ~~ Bring a friend!**

<u>Work Station or Booth</u>	<u>Booth Chairs</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Church Tours	Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis	(302) 654-4446
~~~~~		
Inside Dining Room	Peter Xarhoulakos	(302) 562-5151
	Tom Psaltis	(302) 981-9352
~~~~~		
Outdoor Take-out booth	Demitris, Yanni, & Evangelos Halakos	(302) 379-1833
~~~~~		
Gyro booth	George Rassias	(610) 322-3200
	Demetri Karakasidis	(302) 898-6049
~~~~~		
Souvlaki booth	John Kostas	(302) 764-7278
	Emanuel Fournaris	(302) 475-5035
	George Fournaris	(302) 426-9195
~~~~~		
Calamari/FF/ Spanakopita booth	Chris Sarmousakis	(302) 427-2362
~~~~~		
Loukoumades booth	Anamaria & Anthoula Anagnostou	(302) 998-9284
~~~~~		
Pastries - Hall balcony	Ladies of Philoptochos	(302) 654-4446
~~~~~		
Pastries - outdoor booth	Marika Sarmousakis	(302) 656-2206
~~~~~		
Bars	Louis Novakis	(610) 358-3544
	Mike Kirifides	(302) 897-9429
~~~~~		
Money room	Steven Karakasidis (PC President)	(302) 383-0476
	Tom Karas- HTC Assist Treasurer	(302) 438-7121
~~~~~		
Outdoor Soda booth	GOYA	(302) 654-4446
~~~~~		
Kitchen	Demitris Halakos	(302) 379-1833
~~~~~		

**PLEASE OFFER YOUR HELP!!**

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

**OR CALL the Office 654~4446**



## May 12th at the Emmanuel Dining Room East

135 women, men and children enjoyed a nice warm meal on Mothers Day, thanks to the very generous donation by Evie and Emmanuel Fournaris!

They have sponsored the meal in May for many years now! *Thank you!!*

We look forward to new sponsors for the meals in June and July!

*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 support this dining room. Thank you for your help serving 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. 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!*

## Holy Trinity Food Pantry

***In April 762 Children & 1631 adults were served  
First time visitors totaled over 100.***



**St. Stephen's partners with Lutheran Community Services to distribute food. The LCS food pantry is the largest volume Lutheran food pantry in Delaware. It provides three days of emergency food provisions for 800 to 1000 families each month, 2500 to 3000 people.**

**Every little bit helps and we thank you for all your generous donations each week.**

With summer vacations coming the pantry will be looking for volunteers to fill in. And if your high school children are looking for community hours this would be a great opportunity for them. Applications are available in Food Pantry mailbox or you can email Johanna Laskaris at [jlask40752@gmail.com](mailto:jlask40752@gmail.com) for more information.

***We pray for all to have a safe and happy summer!***

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



On Bright Thursday, May 9th, we celebrated Fr. Christoforos' first Nameday at our Parish. A luncheon reception was held after the service and was hosted by the Young @ Heart, Philoptochos, and YAL! **Hronia Polla Father!**



## Holy Trinity's Young Adult League (YAL)

On Good Friday, the men of YAL proudly participated in the evening service by carrying the Epitaphios in the procession around the church! We greatly appreciate your participation!

After Pascha, on May 9th, we celebrated Fr. Christoforos' name day with the Divine Liturgy and a reception prepared by YAL, Young at Heart, and Philoptochos. We enjoyed brunch with the many visiting priests and sang happy name day to Fr. Christoforos!

On May 23, YAL is gathering at the farm for a backyard bash! lots of games, food, music. Also, this will be the second year YAL is running the coffee booth at the Greek festival! If you are interested in volunteering please, contact Anna Fournaris.

We look forward to having more events! Please contact Anna Fournaris [fournaris10@gmail.com](mailto:fournaris10@gmail.com) for more information.

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90th Anniversary

AHEPA #95 and  
DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE #149  
DINNER DANCE

Saturday, June 22, 2024

\$90.00 | Cash Bar

6 pm | Cocktails • 7 pm | Dinner • 9 pm Dance

*Purchase Dance Only Tickets \$40.00*

Live Music by Neo Kyma

Contact Anamaria For  
Reservations:

[AnamariaAnagnostou@gmail.com](mailto:AnamariaAnagnostou@gmail.com)

302.379.2016



Pay By Check:

Ahepa 95

c/o Chris Adamopoulos

209 Fulling Drive  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

OR

Paypal: [ahewawilm@gmail.com](mailto:ahewawilm@gmail.com)

Doubletree by Hilton  
4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803  
302-478-6000 | [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

**AHEPA #95  
DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE #149  
PRESENT**



**FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024**

doors open 7:30p.m.

**\$60.00 | CASH BAR | LIGHT SNACKS**

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON  
4727 CONCORD PIKE, WILMINGTON, DE 19803  
302-478-6000 [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)**

For Reservations / Information Contact Anamaria Anagnostou at  
[AnamariaAnagnostou@gmail.com](mailto:AnamariaAnagnostou@gmail.com) or 302.379.2016

# HOLY PENTECOST

## **Introduction**

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

## **Historical Background**

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13). Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

## **Icon of the Feast**

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great event. The movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it. The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the



Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church. Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul, who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ.

In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship. However, the figure carries in his hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles. The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.

### **Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost**

This great Feast of the Church is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom on the Sunday that is the fiftieth day after the celebration of Pascha. The Liturgy is conducted on the day of the Feast, and is preceded the evening before by a Great Vespers service and on the morning of the Feast by the Matins service. On the day of the Feast a Vespers service is conducted that includes the kneeling prayers. These prayers mark the beginning of the practice of kneeling during the Liturgy at the time when the holy gifts of bread and wine are consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. The practice of kneeling has been suspended during the Paschal season. On the Monday following the Feast, the Divine Liturgy is conducted in commemoration of the All-holy and Life-creating and All-powerful Spirit, Who is God, and One of the Trinity, and of one honor and one essence and one glory with the Father and the Son (From the Synaxarion of the Feast).

### **Prayer of the Holy Spirit**

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

### **Hymns of the Feast**

#### **Apolytikion (Plagal Tone Four)**

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fisherman all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them, drawing all the world into Your net. O Loving One, glory be to You.

#### **Kontakion (Plagal Tone Four)**

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men at Babel, He divided the nations. When He dispensed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

*Source: <https://www.goarch.org/pentecost>*

## **FEAST OF OUR PARISH**

### **SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, JUNE 23, 2024**

Orthros 9 am

Divine Liturgy 10am

Followed by the Kneeling Vespers

### **MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, JUNE 24, 2024**

Orthros 9 am

Divine Liturgy 10am

*A reception will follow hosted by our Philoptochos*



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*More information to follow!*