

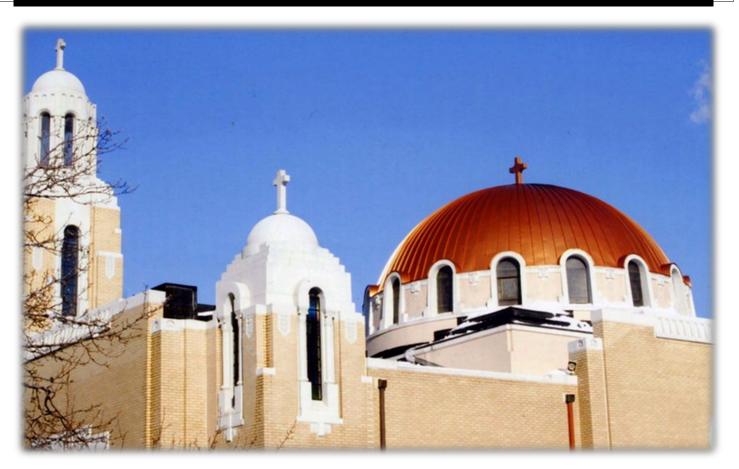


Holy Trinity

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILMINGTON DE



DECEMBER 2024 - ISSUE 12



Happy 90th Anniversary!

MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

808 N BROOM STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806
Phone: 302 654 4446 Fay: 302 654 4204

Phone: 302.654.4446 Fax: 302.654.4204

Email: office@holytrinitywilmington.org Website: holytrinitywilmington.org

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

V. Rev. Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis, Proistamenos

frchristoforosoikon@gmail.com

For <u>pastoral emergencies only</u> – 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

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
(610) 787-0144	GOYA	Vasili Dargakis, 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 ORGANIZA	TIONS

(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

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ



My beloved parishioners of Holy Trinity,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord! The past month of November was filled with God's blessings for our beloved Parish as we celebrated our 90th Anniversary! This was an opportunity for all of us to get together, celebrate our accomplishments, reflect on our constructive past and consider our future. This Anniversary became a uniting force for our community, and we are already moving on to our centennial with even more anticipation and spiritual pride!

The weekend of the 2nd & 3rd of November was beautiful and uplifting <u>indeed</u>. However, the culmination of it was the announcement from our spiritual Father and Chief Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, of the elevation of our Church to the status of a "Cathedral"! That was a generous and thoughtful reward from His Eminence to our Parish for our spiritual contribution and evangelization of Christ's Gospel in the broader area for 90 years! I humbly thank His Eminence for this, and I commend all of you, the dedicated Orthodox faithful of this community, for your love, support, and

contribution throughout the years. Our parish is a historic one, but it is not the age that makes it special. It's you, your ancestors, your children and your future generations. Therefore, I truly believe that this honor should be attributed and dedicated to you all! God bless our Holy Trinity Cathedral!

On a different note, the month of December marks the coming of Jesus Christ's birth -Christmas - and our preparation for this Feast. At the same time, December 1st marks my first year Anniversary as the parish priest of our Cathedral. It is amazing - and scary in a way - to realize how fast time goes. It seems like yesterday when His Eminence assigned me to Holy Trinity, and I am grateful to him for that honor. However, in this past year I feel we have done so much together, and I also feel so greatly embraced by everyone, that I feel as if I have been with you for 5 years!

Well, Christmas is upon us, and many of us are going to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ affected and motivated by secular influences, considering that this is the most stressful season of the year. Although, our main concern is the gift shopping, planning, and traveling, and organizing parties and sumptuous dinners, we often miss the main point of the Feast: that the Son of God became human to save us from our sins and bring us into the



eternal life and joy of His kingdom. And this can only happen through the salvific Sacraments of the Church. The Nativity of Christ is also considered the Feast of love, in the sense that this love springs from the sacrificial love of Christ, who as St. Paul writes: "He loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Overall, our Orthodox Church urges us to prepare for Christmas in ways different from what our society demands. It's not all about presents and purchases and dinners. Instead, it is about growing in the love and compassion of Christ; it is about manifesting the true love for God and neighbor. The Nativity Fast that lasts until December 24th will help us prepare ourselves as best as we can to celebrate the coming of Christ with prayer, fasting, almsgiving, repentance, and reconciliation.

Continued...

My dearly beloved,

I was very young when I first heard from a priest this question: "Will you celebrate this Christmas without Christ?", which has had great effect on me ever since. This was the moment I realized how wrongly we do everything in our lives and in our society. The same question I am posing on all of us today: "Are you planning on celebrating this year's Christmas without Christ?" If yes, please take a moment and reconsider. Christ must come first, and all the rest of our concerns for the holiday are to follow. And certainly, our participation in the Feast of Christmas will be complete when we go to Church on that glorious night of Christmas, to the Divine Liturgy, and partake of the Most-Precious Body and Blood of Him who became human to save the human. I hope to see you all in Church that night!

Merry Christmas to all! May our new-born Lord bless our lives and warm up our hearts!

+ obclow Christof Orkonnicht

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

Αγαπητοί μου Ενορίτες,

Με την Χάρη του Θεού και τις ευλογίες του Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου μας κ. Αποστόλου, εορτάσαμε στις 2 & 3 Νοεμβρίου την επέτειο των 90 ετών της Ενορίας μας. Αυτή η γιορτή αποτέλεσε ευκαιρία να ενωθούμε και να έρθουμε πιο κοντά σαν Κοινότητα, να χαρούμε τις επιτυχίες μας, να θυμηθούμε και να ευχαριστήσουμε τους προγόνους μας που κουράστηκαν ώστε να φτιάξουν και να μας παραδώσουν όλα όσα έχουμε σήμερα, αλλά και να αναλογιστούμε τις ευθύνες που μας αναλογούν όσον αφορά το μέλλον της Ενορίας μας.

Με συγκίνηση και υπερηφάνεια ακούσαμε την ανακοίνωση από τον Σεβ. Μητροπολίτη μας με την οποία μας ανύψωσε σε Καθεδρικό Ναό! Όπως εξήγησε ο Σεβασμιώτατος, αυτή η απόφαση ήρθε ως αποτέλεσμα των κόπων και σκληρής δουλειάς των Ενοριτών μας κατά τα 90 αυτά χρόνια που πέρασαν, χάρη στους οποίους η Αγία Τριάδα έγινε πρότυπο Ορθοδοξίας και Ελληνορθοδόξου Κοινότητας στην ευρύτερη περιοχή. Ευχαριστούμε θερμά και με πολύ σεβασμό τον Σεβ. Μητροπολίτη μας για το δώρο που μας έκανε, αναγνωρίζοντας το έργο της Ενορίας μας και του υποσχόμαστε ότι θα συνεχίσουμε ακόμα περισσότερο να ακτινοβολούμε Χριστό, Ορθοδοξία και Ελλάδα στο Ντέλαγουερ! Θα ήθελα όμως να πω ότι αυτή η αναγνώριση και ανύψωση της ενορίας μας οφείλεται σε όλους εσάς, που αγαπάτε και στηρίζετε την Εκκλησία μας, και την αφιερώνω σε σας και τις οικογένειές σας. Και θέλω να σας ευχαριστήσω για την αγάπη και εμπιστοσύνη που μου έχετε δείξει κατά τον ένα χρόνο που βρίσκομαι κοντά σας και σας υπηρετώ ως ο Ιερέας σας.

Καθώς πλησιάζουν τα Χριστούγεννα, θα κληθούμε από την Εκκλησία μας να εορτάσουμε και πάλι την Ενσάρκωση του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού. Και ενώ ο «κόσμος» και η «κοινωνία» μας θα μας καλούν να γιορτάσουμε τα Χριστούγεννα μόνο κοσμικά, και να συγκεντρωθούμε μόνο στους οικογενειακούς εορτασμούς, στα δώρα, τα τραπέζια, τα λαμπάκια των δέντρων, και τα ταξίδια, θα έρθει η Αγία μας Εκκλησία και θα μας πει να βάλουμε πρώτα τον Χριστό στη ζωή μας αλλά και στην γιορτή των Χριστουγέννων και μετά όλα τα άλλα. Χριστούγεννα «χωρίς Χριστό» είναι άχρηστα (ή καλύτερα ά-χριστα). Μόνο μέσα στην

Εκκλησία μας γιορτάζουμε σωστά Χριστούγεννα. Γι'αυτό το λόγο έχουμε την Νηστεία των Χριστουγέννων, η οποία ενώ δεν είναι τόσο αυστηρή όσο η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, παρόλα αυτά μας προετοιμάζει ώστε μέσω της νηστείας, της προσευχής, της ελεημοσύνης και της μετανοίας, να κάνουμε χώρο στις καρδιές μας ώστε να χωρέσει ο «Αχώρητος» Κύριος και να γεννηθεί μέσα σ'αυτές. Αποκορύφωμα αυτής της προετοιμασίας θα είναι βέβαια η νύχτα των Χριστουγέννων, όταν θα προσκληθούμε να γιορτάσουμε την Θεία Γέννα μέσα στην Εκκλησία, στην Θεία Λειτουργία. Και όταν θα κοινωνήσουμε των Αχράντων Μυστηρίων, εύχομαι εκείνη να είναι η ευλογημένη στιγμή όπου ο Χριστός θα έλθει και θα φωλιάσει μέσα μας, και θα μείνει για πάντα. Λοιπόν...όλοι στην Εκκλησία τα Χριστούγεννα!

Εύχομαι σε όλους σας καλά και ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα! Με υγεία και αγάπη Χριστού στις ψυχές μας. Η Γέννα του Χριστού να γίνει η αιτία να συγχωρήσουμε ο ένας τον άλλο και να ζήσουμε όλοι μαζί αγαπημένοι, υπό την Σκέπη και Ευλογία του Θείου Βρέφους!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

December 2024

Dear Holy Trinity Cathedral Community,

The year has come to a close and it is a great opportunity to reflect on everything that has occurred during the year.

First and foremost, a big congratulations to you all. As mentioned last month, we celebrated a major milestone; 90 years as a parish. This is a huge achievement for our community. Over that weekend, we all came together and reflected on our history, the resilience of our community, and our commitment to the Church and the Greek Culture.



From the everyday volunteer work, keeping our ministries and organizations afloat, helping at the Greek Festival, and the work in our community, your time and talents have cultivated this place that we all call home. You are the backbone of our parish. While you may not hear it, your work and dedication does not go unnoticed. It is because of you, His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos, read the proclamation, which elevated our Church's status to a Cathedral, symbolizing that we are the center of religion and culture. This is a major honor for our parish and one which we all should be proud of.

We have several upcoming great events that benefit the greater community and helps us all get into the Christmas spirit. In addition to the Philoptochos bakesale, wreath sales, and kalanda, we also have:

Hellenic University Club, Holy Trinity, and the Music School of Delaware's "Trios Beethoven and Brahms" Concert on December 8th Breakfast with Santa on December 15th Hellenic University Club's Annual Christmas Dance on December 21st Community Breakfast and Sunday School Christmas Pageant December 22nd

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, Father Christoforos, one of the Parish Council members, or one of the organization heads. Their information can be found in the bulletin. We look forward to everyone's ideas and participation.

Stay safe, blessed, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΛΗ ΠΡΩΤΟΧΡΟΝΙΑ.

Stephanos Karakasidis



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity

St. Agape Chapter





Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and Parishioners:

The precious holiday season is here! It is a joyous time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. It's also time to celebrate with family and friends.

A special thank you to all the Ladies of Philoptochos who assisted with the celebration of our 90th Anniversary. It was a very special weekend, beginning with the Gala at the Waterfall and being honored by His

Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos with the elevation of Holy Trinity to a Cathedral followed the next day with His Eminence celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us.

A heartfelt Happy Anniversary to Father Christophoros! On December 1st, 2023, Father Christophoros attended our Bid N Buy which was his first official day at Holy Trinity. We are blessed to have you!

The IOCC Banquet was well attended by members of our Philoptochos in addition to attending the annual Ambassador Awards where we honored Mrs. Sophia Tarabicos' dedication and hard work for our chapter. AXIA!

Our toy drive is underway and once again we're partnering with the youth ministries to provide toys to children who are hospitalized and for children in homeless shelters.

This year, our chapter will include melomakarona, kourabiedes, and baklava to our bake sale and are opening the opportunity to purchase these delicious sweets to our Wilmington community. It's the perfect gift for family and friends!

The Christopsomo and Vasilopita sale is also continuing. Please be sure to contact Maria Grigorakakis or Popi Papachrysanthou as soon as possible. The order forms are included in this bulletin.

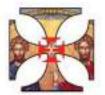
Our annual Christmas Breakfast will be held on Sunday, December 22, in the Community Center. We hope to see you all there. Vasilopita Sunday will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

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.



Ladies Philoptochos Society Saint Agape Chapter Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Wilmington, Delaware Christmas Cookie Sale











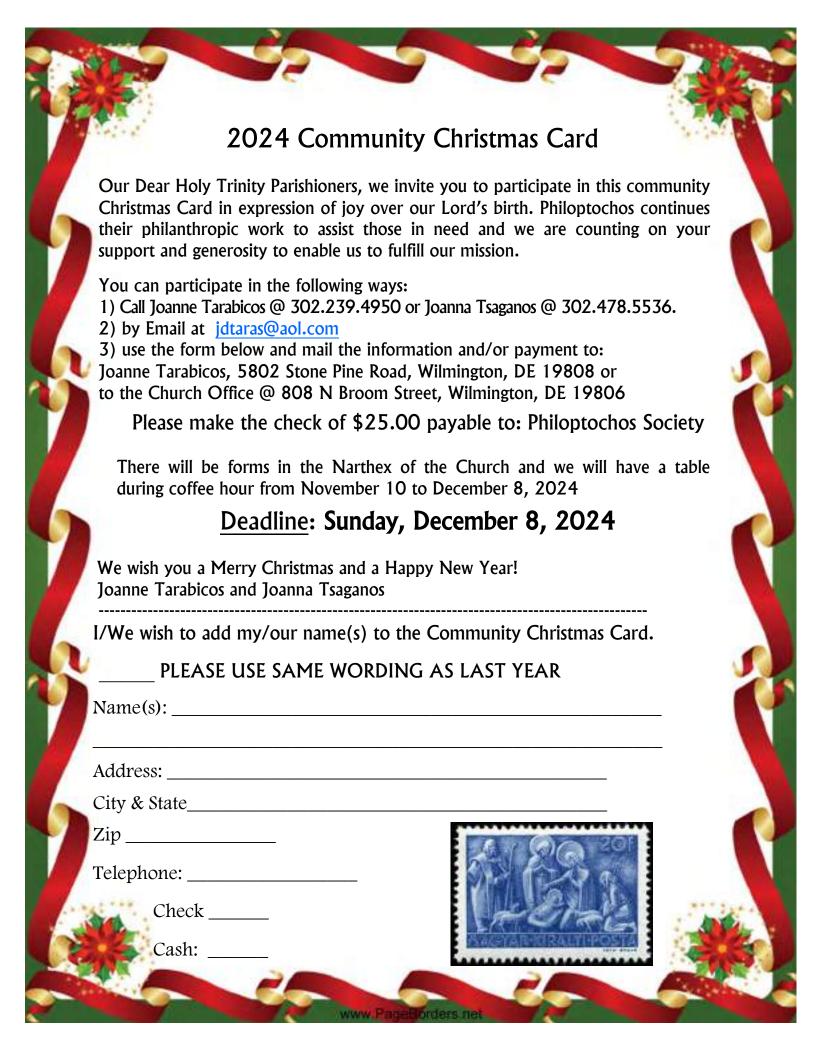
Orders are due by December 5, 2024. Orders can be picked up December 17th & 18th between 3:00-7:00 PM in the church hall Contact: Eleni Karakasidis at (302) 898-6047 with any questions

Name:		Telepl	Telephone #:			
Item	Pieces	Price	Quantity	Total		
Koulourakia	12	S15				
Variety Box	4 Koulourakia 4 Almond 3 Kourambiedes 3 Melomakarona 2 Baklava	\$28				
Baklava	8	S24				

Total Amount Due:

Make checks payable to Philoptochos Society and mail to: Popi Papachrysanthou, 726 Mill Creek Lane

Bear, DE 19701 (302) 290-1717





The Philoptochos Ladies will be baking homemade Christopsomo for the Holidays!! Please use this form for your order. The bread can be picked up during Coffee Hour following Church Services on December 22nd. Call Maria Grigorakakis at 302.584.5239 for your order. Order Deadline is December 13th. Cost: \$18.00

Name:	Phone #:	
# of Breads	Amount enclosed:	

Make checks payable to Philoptochos Society and mail to: Popi Papachrysanthou, 726 Mill Creek Lane, Bear, DE 19701, 302.290.1717





Vasilopita (New Year Sweet Bread) Order Form

The Philoptochos Ladies will be selling delicious Vasilopita from Holy Protection Monastery for your 2025 New Year Celebration!! Please use this form for your order. The bread can be picked up during Coffee Hour following Church Services on December 22nd. Call Maria Grigorakakis at 302.584.5239 for your order. Order Deadline is December 13th. Cost: \$23.00

Name:	Phone #:
# of Breads	Amount enclosed:

Make checks payable to Philoptochos Society and mail to: Popi Papachrysanthou, 726 Mill Creek Lane, Bear, DE 19701, 302.290.1717 HOPE & JOY



DECEMBERNewsletter



Last month, we participated in KidMission where we presented a video skit of the life of Saint Panteleimon. We also prepared 104 peanut butter and jelly sandwich lunches for the homeless shelter in Wilmington, Delaware.



Events in December

Wednesday, Dec. 4th

St. Nicholas event

with Greek School

Friday, Dec. 6th

Dance Practice

Sunday, Dec. 15th

Breakfast with Santa

Friday, Dec. 20th

Dance Practice and

Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Christmas Pageant

KID MISSION 2024







Young @ Heart's Christmas Gathering!

We will be gathering for a Christmas Luncheon

December 12th ~ at 12pm

Walter's Steakhouse (802 N Union Street, Wilmington, DE)

Cost: \$48.50 per person (gratuity included)

Lunch will be Appetizer: Mussels Crostini

CHOOSE ONE MAIN COURSE:

Shrimp Scampi Salmon Orange Roughy

All served w/Rice, Tossed Salad and rolls Fresh Brewed Coffee or Tea Dessert: Strawberry Crisp

Please RSVP by December 1, 2024 to

Dimitra Pappoulis @ 302.753.394l or Sophia Hionis @ 302.893.8850

Please send your check for \$48.50 per person, made payable to Young @ Heart to:

Young @ Heart 808 N Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806



Fun will be had! Good food will be enjoged! Fellowship will take place!

22222222222



Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of our bord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

December 2024

			cccitibet 20			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 14th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School/ Family Worship	Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	3	9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School & HOPE JOY St Nicholas Event	5 6pm Vespers of St Nicholas, Atlantic City, NJ 6:30pm GOYA Dance Practice	6 St Nicholas 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy 5:30pm JOY HOPE Dance practice	7
8 10th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy Sunday School Stewardship Sunday Parish Council Elections 1pm Sights & Sounds Meeting 3PM GOYA DVYC Basketball Games 4pm HUC Concert	9 Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	10	11 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	12 St Spyridon 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 12pm Young @ Heart Christmas Luncheon 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	13	14 12pm Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
15 11th Sunday of Luke St Eleftherios 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy Sunday School Greek School Breakfast with Santa after Divine Liturgy 3PM GOYA DVYC Basketball Games	Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	17 St Daniel & St Dionysios 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 6pm S & S, 7pm DVYC Meeting @ St Demetrios, Upper Darby	18 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School 6:15pm Parish Council Meeting FAST	7pm GOYA Dance practice FAST	20 FAST	21 KALANTA FOR ALL YOUTH 6:30pm HUC Christmas Dinner/Dance FAST
Sunday before the Nativity St Anastasia 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy Sunday School Pageant and Philoptochos Bread Sale & Community Breakfast CHRISTMAS DRIVE ENDS FAST	Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	9am Service of the Royal Hours of the Nativity and Divine Liturgy 8pm Orthros & Liturgy of Christmas	25 Holy Nativity Church Office Closed NO FAST (12/25-1/4)	26	27	28
29 <u>Sunday after the</u> <u>Nativity</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy No Sunday School/ Family Worship	Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	31				

ALTAR GUILD

We are now in the season of Advent in preparation of the Birth of Jesus Christ and the Altar Guild will be decorating the church on December 4th and December 5th at 10AM. If you can, please come to help, there is lots to do. We will be buying potentiates for the church and are asking donations to offset the cost as well as the following Icons for the coming months. They are as follows:



Holy Theophany, January 6th, 2025 John the Baptist, January 7th ,2025 Three Hierarchs, January 30th, 2025

The following donations were received:

October 26th, was given by the Nannas and the James Tarabicos family, in memory of James Tarabicos on his name day.

November 21st, Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple by the Fotakos family celebrating the Birthday of Lexi Fotakos Birthday 11-21 and Gigi Fotakos Name day 11-25, 2024.

December 25th Holy Nativity, by George and Stavroula Pettaris, Happy Holidays to all and continued health to our family.

We thank you for your support and we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas

If you have a special request for a wreath or bouquets please use the form below cost is \$60.00 for an Icon, \$60.00 for two small arrangements and \$125.00 for two Large arrangements.

Please feel free to contact Joanne Tarabicos at 302-239-4950 or

Serving in December

Coffee Hours:

December 1 ~ Hellenic University Club

December 8 ~ Parish Council

December 15 ~ Greek School Breakfast with Santa

December 22 ~ Philoptochos Community Breakfast

December 29 ~ NO COFFEE HOUR (Christmas/New years)

Narthex Duty:

December 1 ~ Group 2

December 8 ~ Group 1

December 15 ~ Group 2

December 21 ~ Group 1

December 29 ~ 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

+Tonsured ~ *Reader All readers are also tonsured



Maximos Charalambides *+Alexandros Lurz Vasilios Dargakis Joseph Demourtzidis Sebastian Dietrich Johnny Dietrich +Ioannis Gerakios

Alexander Hall

+Angelo Hall

+Demetri Karakasidis

+Ioannis Karakasidis

Demetri Moutsatsos Demetri Psaltis Nicholas Psaltis George Psihalinos

...Gerasimos Psihalinos

+ Jerry Rassias Nicholas Rassias Stamati Roussos +Demetri Thomas

Savvas Thymakis Alex Tsakumis

*+Nicholas Turley

+Paraskevas Verikakis

*+NektariosWiechecki

+Fotios Wolcott

+Jack Wolcott

+Josiah Wolcott

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

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





GOYA NEWSLETTER

Holy Trinity Cathedral of Wilmington

Old News...

- GOYA Dance Group Performed @ 90th Anniversary Gala
- Thank you for the great turnout @ our annual GOYAGiving
- DVYC Fall Retreat was a wonderful experience for a lot of our kids, we're looking forward to next year.
- Congrats to our Ambassador Award honorees:
 Eleni Marcantonis(Faith), Vasili Dargakis(Hope), Maria Karakasidis(Love),
 and Theodora Karas(Peace)









Reminders

- GOYA Basketball practice on Mondays
 - Girls at 6:30-7:30
 - Boys at 7:30-8:30
- Dance Practice Thursdays at 7:00pm
- Remember to attend Church and Sunday school every Sunday

New News

- GOYA Christmas Party on December 20th at 6 pm
- Holy Trinity vs. St. Luke on 12/8
 JV @ 3, Girls @ 4, V @ 5
- Holy Trinity vs. Media on 12/15
 JV @ 3, Girls @ 4, V @ 5, G @ 6
- Our Philoptochos Society and Our Youth Ministries are kicking off the annual Christmas toy drive on 11/24. Unwrapped new toys due by 12/20
- · Kalanta on December 21
- Nativity retreat at St. George Cathedral on December 7
- GOYA Dance @ St. George Media on December 29

DVYC Fall Retreat ~ November 8-10



GOYA









GOYAgiving & Meeting November 14, 2024

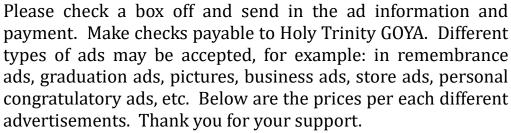




Please help support our Tournament! Place your ad with any GOYAn today!

Goya Ad Book Form

2025 Basketball Tournament January 18 & 19, 2025



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Ads may be sent to office@holytrinitywilmington.org as attachments, or write and submit a message and picture below and give to any GOYAn or send to the Church Office.

On Sunday, November 10 the Greek School students celebrated OXI Day, the National Hellenic Holiday, commemorating the Greek Heroism expressed by the Greek people on October 28, 1940, which reversed the outcome of World War II in Europe. Our students performed and presented a beautiful program instructed by their dedicated teachers, Popi Tsaganos, Eleni Katapodi, Christina Vlastaridou, Nikki Tantalos and Spiridoula Gerakios.



OXI DAY PROGRAM









Holy Trinity Food Pantry THANKGIVNG DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS

Thanks to you, the parishioners of Holy Trinity, our thanksgiving food drive was very successful. Many bags of food were delivered to the Sunday Breakfast Mission. If you contributed to last months food drive then you are responsible for feeding those who are less fortunate than you! This makes our Lord happy - as His word says in Matthew 25:35 -



"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;"

As the year winds down let's take the time to reflect on our blessings and give thanks for the little things we receive each day. To many St Stephen's has been a blessing for families who don't have enough food to put on the table. St. Stephen's three days of emergency food provisions for 800-1000 families, or roughly 2,500 to 3,000 people. St. Stephen's thanks you for being a part of their success in serving the local community.

Especially needed this month:

any food needed to prepare a Christmas Dinner will be greatly appreciated

We thank you all for this wonderful response to this Christian Program of feeding the less fortunate, and we thank our Lord for His many continued blessings.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas!! Evie Fournaris, Tina Ganiaris, Johanna Laskaris, John Lazare, Sandy Nannas, Steve Nicholas and Nikki Tsakataras

November 12th at the Emmanuel Dining Room East

We were so happy to welcome a new sponsor for our day in November! **Fotini Visvardis** donated the meal in loving memory of her husband, **Demitri Visvardis**. Through her generous donation, 142 men, women and children enjoyed a warm meal. We thank the **Karakasidis family** for donating the December 12th meal, as they have for many years now! All are welcome to help serve the dining room that day or at any time!

We sincerely thank all the individuals, families and organizations who generously support the dining room in 2024!

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.

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!
We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

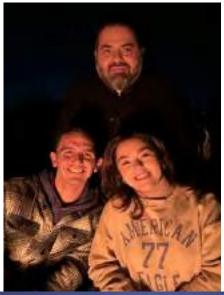
Y.A.L. News (Young Adult League)

On October 24, Holy Trinity's Young Adult League gathered at the Farm on Good Hope for a lovely autumn evening with the sheep and chickens. Once the sun set, we kept warm around the bonfire and roasted s'mores!

In November, we celebrated our church's 90th anniversary and cathedral elevation at the gala and participated in liturgy the following morning. It was a wonderful weekend celebrating and honoring our church.

YAL is a group for all young adults 18 - 35 years old. Married, engaged, single, all are welcome! If you would like to be added to the email list, please email Anna Fournaris fournaris10@gmail.com

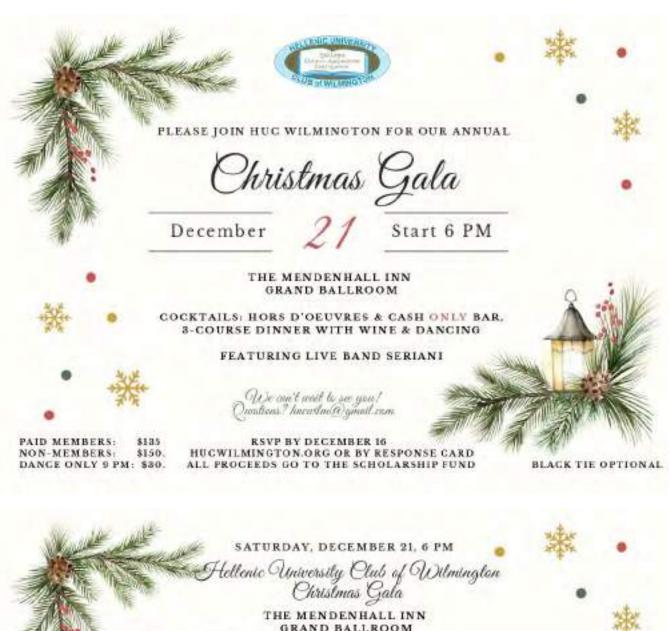




















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Kalaitzoglou, Stavros

Kaliakin, Victor & Leeza

Kamenakis, Efthimia Kamenakis, Peter & Juli Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie Kanas, Larry & Alecia Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga 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 Kays, Efigenia Keros, Georgia Kessaris, Christos & Eleni Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy Kirifides, Elena Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen Kirifides, Michael & Kerry Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria Kirtses, Petros & Athy Kledaras, Olympia Klezaras, Michael & Kathy Klezaras, Nikoletta Kollias, Basil & Demi Kollias, Georgia Kolovos, Dimitrios & Effie Koninis, John & Anastasia Koninis II, John Kontis, Gus & Cindy Kontis, Maria Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa Kostas, John & Gale Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani Kostos, Yianni Koukourdis, Athanasios & Dimitra Kramedas, Matoula Kromedas, Constantinos & Vasiliki Kyranakis, John Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett Laskaris, Johanna Laws, Brian & Vasiliki Lawson, Michael & Victoria Lazare, John & Sandra Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura Lazopoulos, Jr., John & Christina Lempesis, Dimitra Leounes, Helen Liappis, Nikolaos & Maria Liarakos, George & Ann Logullo, Desponia & Francis Lomis, Toula MacKewiz, Irene & W. Lee Malapetsas, Harry Manolakos, Nicholas & Paula 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 Matulas, Apostolis & Dothea Mavridis, Prodromos & Maria McManus, Ryan & Theodora Michell, Constantine & Elaine Michell, Theodore & Catherine Milionis, Constantine Mistras, Antonis & Soula Mitoulis, Constantine & Kristen Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella Moriello, Nicholas & Carissa Moutsatsos, George & Alexia Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra Napoli, Francis Nicholas, Steve Novakis, Louis Ohlemacher, Evangeline Pacienza, Stephanie Pagonis, Marcus & Cheryl Pandelakis, Denis & Anna Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi Papachrysanthou, George & Laura Papanicholas, Evan Papanicholas, Maria Papettas, Vasilis & Christina Pappas, Elias & Denise Pappas, Elizabeth Pappas, Sandra Pastis, Jacqueline Pecorella, Matthew & Stephanie Pennias, John & Stavroula Perna, Kevin & Elpida Pettaris, George & Stavroula Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe Pispitsos, Pantelis Pittaoulis, Steve Pittas, John Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia Psaltis, John Psaltis, Nicholas Psaltis, Thomas & Cynthia Psihalinos, George & Athina Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini Raisis, Irene Raisis, Leonidas & Irene Raisis, Pauline Raisis, Spiros Raisis, William & Emily Rapposelli, Hareklia Rassias, Dion & Gina Rassias, George & Amalea Rassias, Peter & Julie Regas, Constantinos Regas, Sofia Rentoulis, Nicholas & Androniki Richardson, Robert & Stavroula Riga-Crisp, Jason & Ekaterini Rigas, Elias & Potoula Righos, Elaine Roberts, Scott & Linda Roussalis, John & Valerie Roustopoulos, Alexia Ruhl, David & Athena Saffos, John & Karla

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Visvardis, Fotini
Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Vlamis, Nicholas & Peggy
Voultsis, Catherine
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Voultsis, Jordana
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Wilkinson, Suzanne
Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Xarhoulakos, Peter
Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina
Zerefos, Markos & Eugenia
Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
Zographos, Katherine

As of November 21, 2024 (333 families)

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

If you have not submitted your pledge for 2024 there is still time! We will except your pledge for 2024 until January 6, 2025. After that date any pledges received will go towards your 2025 Stewardship. We thank you for your continued support of our Holy Trinity Cathedral!

Sharing
Name
Address
CityStateZip
Your stewardship number:
Your 2023 pledge was:
☐ Please increase my pledge by 10% to:
☐ Please increase my pledge by 20% to:
☐ My 2024 commitment is:
□ \$750.00 (\$62month or \$15/week) □ \$1,000.00 (\$84month or \$20/week) □ \$1,500.00 (\$125month or \$29/week) □ \$5,000.00 (\$415/month or \$96/week) □ \$2,000.00 (\$ponsors a Day of Operations) □# of Days (\$ponsor Multiple Days) (above figures are rounded)
I/We understand that by completing this good faith
estimate, and by pledging my/our Time, Service and
Sharing section of this Stewardship Card, I/We are
committing ourselves to being faithful stewards of Holy
Trinity Greek Orthodox Church for 2024.
SignatureDate
Proportionate Sharing
Our operating budget for 2024 will be \$700,000.

Our operating budget for 2024 will be \$700,000.

We offer you this giving guide to assist you in determining your 2024 pledge. Please use the enclosed envelopes and give according to what God has blessed you.

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED CARD TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

Our Greek Orthodox Community celebrated its 90th Anniversary on the weekend of November 2 & 3, 2024.

On Saturday, November 2nd, we held our 90th Anniversary Gala at "The Waterfall" in Claymont, Delaware, with the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey and almost 400 attendees. We were honored to have with us the US Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, and the Governor of Delaware John Carney, who presented us with an official state proclamation honoring our the 90th anniversary.









During the program, there was a presentation of a wonderful documentary named: "The Enduring Legacy of the Holy Trinity Parish – Celebrating 90 Years", produced by George Rassias and Cosmos Philly, where we all remembered our founding fathers, mothers, and clergy and honored their efforts to establish and grow this parish.





His Eminence, in his Archpastoral Address to the community, thanked everyone who served this historic Church over the past 90 years, and he presented our community with a proclamation by which he officially elevated the parish to the status of a Cathedral, proclaiming the Holy Trinity Church is now officially the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Delaware. The excitement and gratitude of our people upon hearing this announcement was so evident, and we all rejoiced by this high recognition His Eminence offered to our parish.































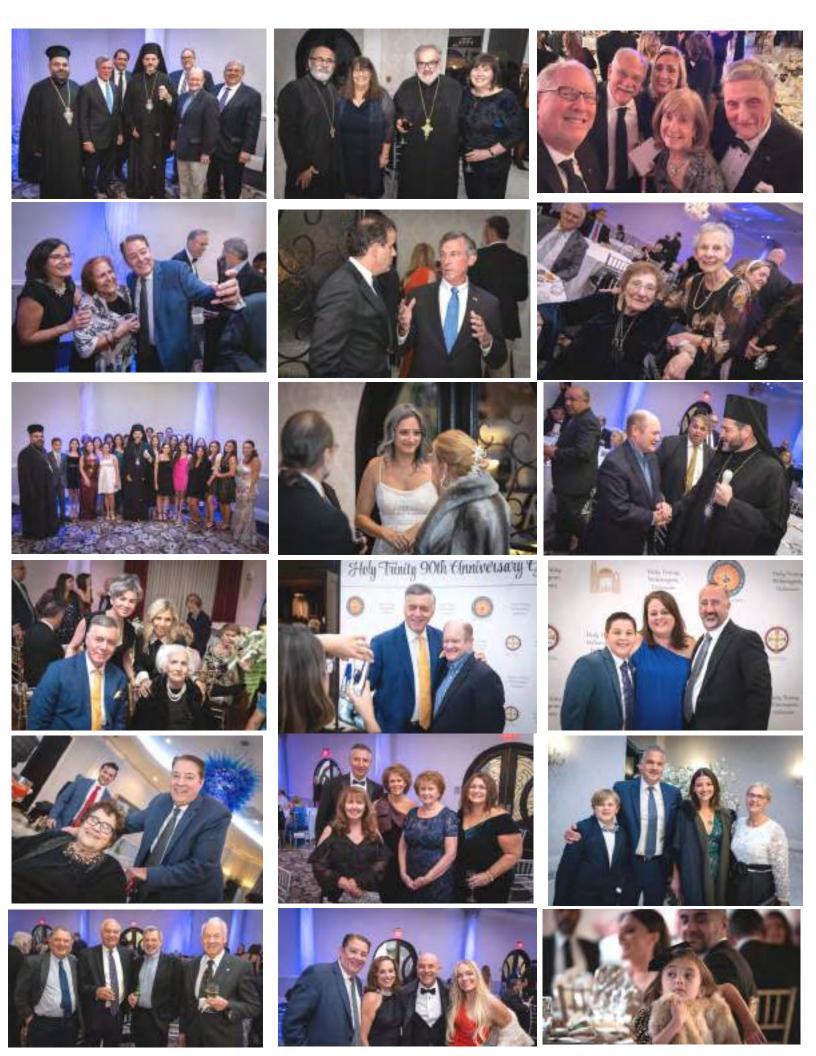












The festive evening concluded with live music and dance by Mylos Entertainment.



Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis' Speech at the Holy Trinity's 90th Gala Saturday, November 2, 2024 – The Waterfall, Claymont, Delaware

Your Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey,

Dear Reverend Fathers,

Esteemed Archons,

Mrs. Eleni Constantinides, President of our Metropolis Philoptochos

Mrs. Alexis Limberakis, Vice President of our Metropolis Philoptochos

Esteemed members of our Parish Council, Philoptochos Society, Youth Ministries and Organizations of our Parish,

Dear parishioners, friends, guests, and beloved children,

It is with tremendous joy and spiritual pride that I welcome all of you to our 90th Anniversary Gala of our beloved Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and Community. Tonight, we have gathered here as one family, to break bread, enjoy the fellowship, celebrate and be merry, but most importantly glorify the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the One Godhead, for the great and holy gift He has granted unto all of us: this blessed and sacred Parish & community of Holy Trinity in Wilmington, Delaware.

1934 – 2024. It seems like a long time! 90 bright years of continuous life and Orthodox presence in the area. As we are going to watch later tonight in the beautiful documentary that we have prepared as a testament to our vivid history -and allow me to thank Cosmosphilly for producing this video, Mr. George Rassias and all our parishioners who were interviewed and those who supplied us with photographical material-, our Parish has been through many changes throughout the years but there is one thing that has not changed: the true faith in God and the devotion of many to our Greek Orthodox tradition and heritage. And these two principals were the force that drove our ancestors to build the Parish and our motivation to continue, 90 years later.

Today, it is our desire and duty to pay homage to the faithful parishioners of Holy Trinity who 90 years ago, driven by their faith and despite the difficulties of that time, they worked hard and sacrificed a lot so that today we have an established Greek Orthodox Church and Parish here in Wilmington, that spreads the Orthodox message of the Gospel and is a welcoming and safe place for everyone.

As the current priest of Holy Trinity, having been entrusted this honor by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, I would like to brotherly and respectfully welcome the past clergy, the former priests of Holy Trinity, who are with us tonight, Fr. Anastasios Bourantas, Fr. Costa Christofis, Fr. Philemon Patitsas. I also thank those who were unable to be with us tonight, Fr. Nastos, Fr. Christofidis, Fr. Papanikolaou, Fr. Rafael, and allow me to respectfully mention those who served Holy Trinity since 1934 and now are in Heaven: Fr. Demetri Messiris, Fr. Miltiadis Kallonas, Fr. Germanos Tzoumanis, Fr. Athenagoras Varaklas, Fr. Nicholas Menides, Fr. George Kalpaxis, Fr. Stamatios Ganiaris, and the ever memorable Fr. Gerasimos D. Rassias, who served the longest. Also, the two Hierarchs that served in our Parish as priests, Fr. Athenagoras Kavadas, Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, and Fr. Germanos Psallidakis, Bishop of Detroit. I humbly bow before all of them, and I thank them for their contribution to the spiritual development of our Parish.

Today, our Holy trinity community is strong and vibrant. Our center of attention is the Liturgical regeneration of the parish. The worship of God and the participation in the Holy Sacraments is our number one priority. The teaching of the Orthodox faith to everyone, but especially to the young generation is imperative. Nevertheless, the Philanthropic action follows. The strong army of ladies that make up the St. Agape Philoptochos are dedicated and ready to help in any need. Our Seniors, the forever "young at heart" enjoy the respect and love of all and share their wisdom and experience with all. Our Terpsichorean Dance Group allows us to preserve and continue our traditions. Our young people, the babies, the children, the young adults, the Greek and Sunday School students, our youth of GOYA, JOY, and HOPE are the jewel of this parish, and our goal is to bring and keep them close to Jesus Christ and close to the church.

Continued...

I would like to thank everyone for everything. Words cannot express my feelings at this moment nor our gratitude to the countless faithful parishioners of Holy Trinity that throughout this blessed journey of 90 years have done so much for our community. May God rest the souls of those who have departed and bless and protect everyone who supports our mission.

In closing, allow me to thank the dedicated members of the parish council and the 90th Anniversary committee for organizing this evening and the various celebrations throughout the year and for everything they do for our beloved Holy Trinity Community. We thank all of you who came tonight to celebrate this milestone with us, and those who became sponsors of this Gala, expressing their commitment to Holy Trinity.



Once again, I am honored to be your parish priest and I am deeply grateful to His Eminence who gave me this opportunity to serve you, lead you to Christ and continue the rich legacy I inherited from my predecessors.

Our vision for the future is to preserve, maintain, and pass on to the next generations our Orthodox Faith and Tradition, and to see our Youth continue this labor and build an even stronger future for our Community.

Με την Χάρη του Θεού, και τις ευχές και την αγάπη του Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου μας Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Αποστόλου, εορτάζουμε σήμερα και αύριο την μεγάλη επέτειο των 90 ετών της Ενορίας μας, 90 ετών Ορθόδοξης μαρτυρίας, Ελληνισμού και Ελληνορθοδόξων παραδόσεων στην Πόλη του Wilmington, αλλά και στην ευρύτερη περιοχή που περιλαμβάνει την Πολιτεία του Delaware, και μέρη της Πεννσυλβάνιας, Νέας Ιερσέης και Μέρυλαντ.

Η σκέψη μας στοέφεται με σεβασμό στους ποωτεογάτες αυτού του ιεοού έργου, οι οποίοι εμπνεόμενοι από πίστη, αγάπη αλλά και δυνατή θέληση θυσίασαν πολλά και δούλεψαν σκληρά ώστε να δημιουργήσουν την Ενορία της Αγίας Τριάδος, η οποία θα έμελλε να γίνει το πνευματικό και κοινωνικό κέντρο και το σημείο αναφοράς όλων των Ελλήνων της περιοχής -και όχι μόνο- για τα επόμενα 90 χρόνια.

Από τότε, πέρασαν πολλά χρόνια. Χρόνια λαμπρά, χρόνια επιτυχιών, πνευματικής χαράς, ενότητας και δημιουργίας. Η Ενορία μας μεγάλωσε και δυνάμωσε. Αυτό μας δίνει χαρά και αισιοδοξία για το μέλλον, αλλά και ευθύνη ώστε να ανταποκριθούμε σε αυτήν την εμπιστοσύνη του κόσμου, και να συνεχίσουμε με όλες μας τις δυνάμεις το έργο διαποίμανσης του ευσεβούς και ωραίου αυτού λαού. Αλλωστε, αυτό είναι και το όραμα του Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου μας κ Αποστόλου, τον οποίο ιδιαιτέρως και ταπεινά ευχαριστώ που μου εμπιστεύθηκε την πνευματική ευθύνη αυτής της Ενορίας και υπόσχομαι -με την ευχή Σας Σεβασμιώτατε- πως μαζί με τους καλούς μου συνεργάτες θα αγωνιστούμε με όλες μας τις δυνάμεις ώστε να συνεχίσουμε αυτό το έργο, να το πολλαπλασιάσουμε και να τα παραδώσουμε στις ερχόμενες γενεές, στα παιδιά μας, που θα συνεχίσουν το έργο μας και θα πάρουν στα χέρια τους το μέλλον της Κοινότητάς μας.

Εύχομαι μέσα από την καρδιά μου χρόνια πολλά στην ευλογημένη Ενορία μας! Χρόνια πολλά στις οικογένειές σας! Υγεία στους γέροντες και προκοπή στα παιδιά μας! Ευχαριστώ ολόθερμα όλους τους συνεργάτες μου για την καθημερινή ανιδιοτελή προσφορά τους και εθελοντική διακονία τους στο έργο της Ενορίας μας. Ευχαριστώ επίσης όλους όσοι βοήθησαν στην επιτυχία των εορτασμών της επετείου μας.

Happy 90th Anniversary Holy Trinity! May God bless us all!

On Sunday, November 3rd, the day began with the celebration

the day began with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, with the participation of past clergy, members of the Metropolis Council and Archons from throughout the Delaware Valley Region of the Metropolis and hundreds of faithful and youth.









What a fitting tribute as Fr. Gerasimos Rassias' grandson and namesake, Jerry Rassias gets tonsured on the 90th Anniversary











His Eminence congratulated all the members of our community and urged and encouraged us to continue the work of the previous generations, who brought the parish to this point, so that the message of the Gospel is spread for generations to come. His Eminence also recognized several senior members of the parish for their service and hard work and blessed them with a silver icon of Jesus Christ. Fr. Christoforos thanked His Eminence for his pastoral love and affection to our parish and for elevating us to a Cathedral and together with the members of the Parish Council he presented His Eminence with a Bishopric gift in remembrance of this historic day.











HIS EMINENCE WITH OUR PAST CLERGY, THE ARCHONS AND SOME OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS 90+







Following the Divine Liturgy our parish offered a festive luncheon to all who came, to honor our 90th anniversary and the Archpastoral visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey.







Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

roclamation

WHEREAS, a group of faithful Greek Orthodox Christians immigrated to the Greater Wilmington, Delaware, over ninety years ago, in search of the American dream, and this group of brave and pious men and women realized the need to provide for the spiritual, sacrament, educational and cultural needs of their families and themselves, and

WHEREAS, these pioneers established the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, in Wilmington, Delaware, and since 1934, the parish has been a stellar example of Christian love and a beacon for the region, and especially a center of Greek Orthodoxy in the State of Delaware, actively practicing the mission of the Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, by teaching the Faith of the Apostles, the Faith of the Eastern Orthodox Fathers, and

WHEREAS, taking in account that the State of Delaware is the only state in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey without a Cathedral parish, the unanimous request that was made by the General Assembly, of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Wilmington, the only parish in the State of Delaware, which was held on April 14, 2024, to be elevated to the status of a Cathedral;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, the Chief Shepherd of the Metropolis of New Jersey, on this 2nd day of the month of November, in the year of our Lord 2024, do hereby proclaim the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, located in Wilmington, Delaware, to be known henceforth as the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Delaware, throughout the ecumene.

I hereby exhort all the faithful of the Metropolis of New Jersey to join me in congratulating our sisters and brothers of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Delaware, and to celebrate this milestone in their glorious history.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of November 2024 and seal of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey to be herein affixed.

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

<u>Special Chanks to our</u> 90th Anniversary Gala Sponsors

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90th Anniversary

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Vasílí & Megan Míchell George & Alexía Moutsatsos Ted & Sandy Nannas Louis Novakis Chrís & Popí Papachrysanthou John & Valerie Roussalis Níck & Alexís Souleles Anthony & Joanne Tsaganos



2024 Metropolis of New Jersey Ambassadors Awards

On November 3, 2024 His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey honored 4 Youth and 4 Adults from our Cathedral for their excellent service to our community at the 14th annual Metropolis Ambassador Awards.

Our Adult Honorees:

Lazarus Kirifides ~ Parish Honoree Sophia Tarabicos ~ Philoptochos Honoree Kleopatra Dargakis ~ Youth Worker Honoree Evangeline "Evita" Guajardo ~ Church Musician Honoree

Our Youth Honorees:

Eleni Marcantonis ~ Ambassador of Faith Vasili Dargakis ~ Ambassador of Hope Theodora Karas ~ Ambassador of Love Maria Karakasidis ~ Ambassador of Peace





On Sunday November 17, 2024

Fr. Christoforos invited our Metropolis Ambassador Award Honorees to be honored during the service. (Pictured below)

Their bios are featured on the next page of this bulletin...





HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΙΑΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΛ



October 24, 2024

Dear beloved Parishioners,

It is with great joy that we announce the elevation of Dr. Lazarus M. Kirifides, B.S. Pharm., D.O., to the distinguished rank of Archon of the Order of St. Andrew of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

This title was bestowed on Dr. Kirifides by the hands of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America last Sunday, October 20, 2024, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of Holy Trinity in Manhattan, NY. This honor recognizes Dr. Kirifides' profound commitment to our Orthodox faith, his exceptional service to our community, and his outstanding contributions in the field of medicine.



Dr. Kirifides, born in New York City to Michael and Maria Protidou Kirifides—immigrants from Greece—has devoted his life to serving others. He graduated from Friends Central School, earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and went on to receive his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

For over 36 years, Dr. Kirifides practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Wilmington, Delaware, delivering more than 3,000 babies and shaping the lives of countless families. He has served in leadership roles at Riverside Hospital, received accolades for his teaching, and was recognized for his 50 years of dedicated service to the medical profession.

An active member of the Orthodox Church and the Hellenic community, Dr. Kirifides has also made significant contributions through his involvement in various organizations, including Leadership 100 and the Hellenic University Club of Wilmington. He has served as a Board member as well as Vice-president and Secretary of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council in Wilmington and was President of the Order of AHEPA Chapter #95.

His guiding philosophy— "If you give to the community your time, talent, and treasure, the community will give back to you"—reflects his deep commitment to God, family, and service.

Axios! Congratulations!

May God grant Dr. Kirifides many years!

In Christ's love,

+ Archim. Christoforos Oikonomidis Parish Priest

day (his stof O kamich

Stephen Karakasidis Parish Council President

2024 Youth Ambassadors Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington, DE



Eleni Marcantonis ~ Ambassador of Faith

Eleni is a Junior at Bayard Rustin High School where she excels in the classroom as well as on the Field Hockey team for the last three years. Outside of class she is a member of Student Council, Environmental Club, and serves as Secretary of Tri-M Music Honors Society, Finance VP of Book Club, and Co-President of A Cappella Club. She plans to attend university to study the sciences in hopes of attending medical school. Of course, her first passion is musical theater where she has starred in roles such as Mother Superior (Sister Act), Maureen (Rent), and Sandy (Spongebob) and is a member of the Uptown Singing group. At church, Eleni has stellar Sunday School attendance and has served as both President and Recording Secretary for GOYA, participates in Greek Dance, Basketball, and Youth Choir, but shines the brightest at Sights and Sounds! She is honored for this recognition of Ambassador of Faith.



Vasili Dargakis ~ Ambassador of Hope

Vasili Dargakis is a 17-year-old senior at Garnet Valley High School and an active member of the Greek Orthodox community. Baptized at St. Sophia Cathedral in Washington, DC, he has been involved with the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) since the 7th grade. Currently, he serves as the President of the Holy Trinity Wilmington GOYA, where he continues to demonstrate his dedication to his faith and community. Looking ahead, he plans to attend college next fall to major in business, aiming to bring his leadership skills into the professional world.



Theodora Karas ~ Ambassador of Love

Theodora is a high school senior, home-schooled in collaboration with Claritas Classical Academy where she schooled in classical studies. Theodora has been a member of Holy Trinity since 2022, since she moved to the area with her family. As a member of Holy Trinity, she participates in Sunday School, GOYA, Basketball and the Dance Group. She also enjoys volunteering at the annual festival. She enjoys the friendships she has forged since joining Holy Trinity. Prior to attending Holy Trinity, Theodora was a member of St. George GOC where she participated in GOYA and dance group. She is a dedicated student who is valued by her peers and tutors. She has helped organize a Bible study at her school to share her Orthodox Christian faith. She dedicates her free time working with her family at their business and on their family farm. After high school, she plans on furthering her studies at the university level with the goal to continue learning about God's world and His plan for her in the world. She plans to remain active within her Church community each Sunday as well as through YAL and Macedonian Dance Group



Maria Karakasidis ~ Ambassador of Peace

Maria is a senior at Unionville High School, set to graduate with the Class of 2024. She has always been a bright and compassionate individual, known for her dedication to both her studies and the people around her. Throughout her time at Smithson Valley, San Antonio and Unionville, Kennett Square Maria excelled academically, especially in science courses, which fueled her passion for the medical field. Her dream is to pursue a career where she can make a difference in people's lives through healthcare, a calling she has felt from a young age. Maria enjoys spending time with her family and friends as well as painting. As her family, we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and her desire to contribute to society in such a meaningful way. We know that her future holds great things.

2024 Adult Honorees Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington, DE



Lazarus Kirifides ~ Parish Honoree

Dr. Kirifides, born in New York City to Michael and Maria Protidou Kirifides, has devoted his life to serving others. He graduated from Friends Central School, earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and went on to receive his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. For over 36 years, he practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Wilmington, DE, delivering more than 3,000 babies and shaping the lives of countless families. He has served in leadership roles at Riverside Hospital, received accolades for his teaching, and was recognized for his 50 years of dedicated service to the medical profession. An active member of the Orthodox Church and the Hellenic community, he has also made significant contributions through his involvement in various organizations, including Leadership 100 and the Hellenic University Club. He has served as a Board member as well as Vice-president and Secretary of the Parish Council and was President of AHEPA Chapter #95. On Oct. 20, 2024 Dr. Kirifides was elevated to the distinguished rank of Archon. His guiding philosophy - "If you give to the community your time, talent, and treasure, the community will give back to you" - reflects his deep commitment to God, family, and service.



Sophia Tarabicos ~ Philoptochos Honoree

Sophia (Liarakos) Tarabicos was born in Wilmington, DE on April 27, 1934, the year the Greek community was incorporated and is one of the oldest living original members. When the community purchased the property at 8th & Broom Streets in Wilmington and Holy Trinity was built, she became a member of the church choir and played the organ. In 1954, she married James Tarabicos and they both served the ministries of the community. James was president of the parish council from 1972 to 1974. Sophia was a Sunday School teacher from 1966-1974. In 1982, she was elected President of the St. Agapi Philoptochos and served until 1984, when she was then appointed to the New Jersey Diocese Philoptochos Board, serving as secretary. In 1988 she formed the parish Terpsichorean Dance Troupe with Presbytera Georgia Rassias. Sophia has three children, Alexandra Nannas (Ted), Larry, and Georgiean Dovellos (Gus), 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren with another one in the way.



Kleopatra Dargakis ~ Youth Worker Honoree

Kleopatra Dargakis grew up in Washington, DC, where she was an active participant in the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Her passion for GOYA continued throughout her youth, and during college, where she volunteered as a GOYA assistant coach. Now a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), she works with individuals with behavioral challenges, dedicating her skills to helping others thrive. In addition to her professional work, she is currently the girls' GOYA basketball coach for Holy Trinity, where she continues to mentor and inspire young athletes. She is married and has three children, balancing her family life with her ongoing commitment to her faith and community.



Evangeline "Evita" Guajardo ~ Church Musician Honoree

Singing has always been a passion of Evangeline's. She was encouraged by both her mother and Yaiyai, who urged her to join the church choir over a decade ago. Though she was initially hesitant due to her limited Greek, she quickly fell in love with liturgical music. Singing in the choir fills her with joy and connects her deeply to the church's rich history. She believes we use our voices to glorify God, and as a youth choir leader, she strives to inspire the same love for this sacred music in the next generation.



A JOURNEY OF FAITH

To Thessaloniki, Mt. Athos and Constantinople Led by His Eminence Apostolos of New Jersey February 21-March 3, 2025: 11 Days / 9 Nights







Thessaloniki & Mt. Athos: See the most important religious sites in Northern Greece. Visit Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki. Attend Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. Demetrios, visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Souroti to venerate the grave of St. Paissios and visit the awe inspiring Meteora Monasteries. Men will depart for the Holy Mountain for two nights and the women will enjoy a visit to Ormylia Monastery and a visit to a museum in Thessaloniki.

Constantinople: Visit the important Greek Orthodox sites: the Ecumenical Patriarchate and St George Cathedral, Agia Sophia, Panagia Vlacherna where the "Te Ypermahou" was first chanted, Chora and Baloukli Monastery - Zoodochos Peghe. Also, visit the Underground Cisterns. Shop at the exciting Grand Bazaar! Enjoy a birthday banquet for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as well as a private audience with the Patriarch (subject to confirmation).

SPACE IS LIMITED and on a FIRST-COME BASIS

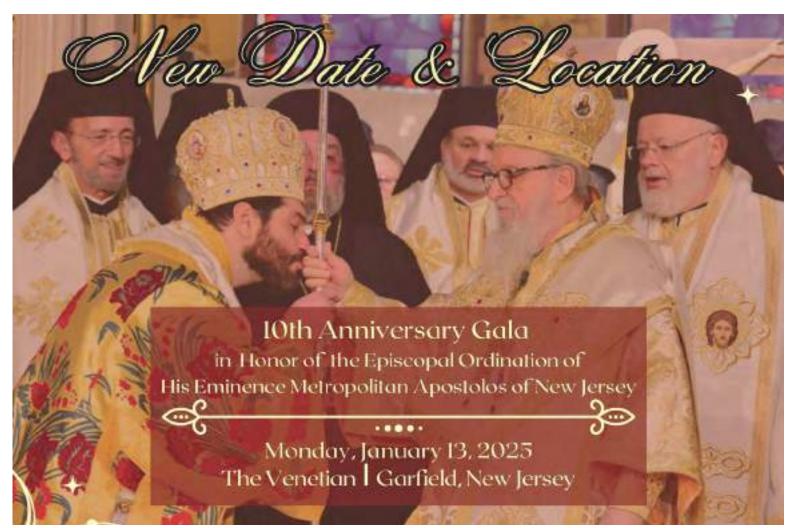
RATE: Per person double occupancy \$4700* & single occupancy \$5635*

*Rates include the air tax/fuel of approximately \$475 which is not guaranteed until ticketing a month prior to departure. Rate above reflects a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made any other way. Due to Aegean Airlines group reservations policy, the air fare between Thessaloniki and Istanbul is not guaranteed and may be subject to fare increases depending on when you make your reservation to join the group. An air supplement may apply.

Deposit of \$800 due by November 20, 2024 or late booking fee of \$50 per person will apply.

YOUR TOUR WILL INCLUDE:

- *Round-trip airfare on Turkish Airlines: EWR / IST / Thessaloniki & IST / EWR & Aegean Airlines: Thessaloniki / ATH / IST
- *Private arrival and departure transfers in a deluxe air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking escort
- *7 1/2 days of private sightseeing for men & 6 days for the women. All entrance fees are included.
- *Women: 6 nts first class hotel in Thessaloniki at the Electra Palace or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes and service fees.
- *Men: 4 nts first class accommodation in Thessaloniki at the Electra Palace or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes and service fees & 2 nts accommodation on the Holy Mountain including meals and transportation on the Holy Mountain & roundtrip private ferries
- *All: 3 nts first class accommodation in Constantinople at the Divan Istanbul Hotel or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes & service fees.
- *I welcome dinner in Thessaloniki, I dinner in Constantinople & a banquet for His. All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- *Private audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (subject to confirmation)









A Christmas Wish From the Daughters of Penelope Xanthus #149

May the joy of His Word And the Light of His way Abide in your heart Throughout the year As it does on Christmas Day

Thank you for supporting our organization. Through your generosity, we can help others.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Holiday set

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Xanthus #149 Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Friends,

We are again providing fresh holiday wreaths for your family, friends and associates.

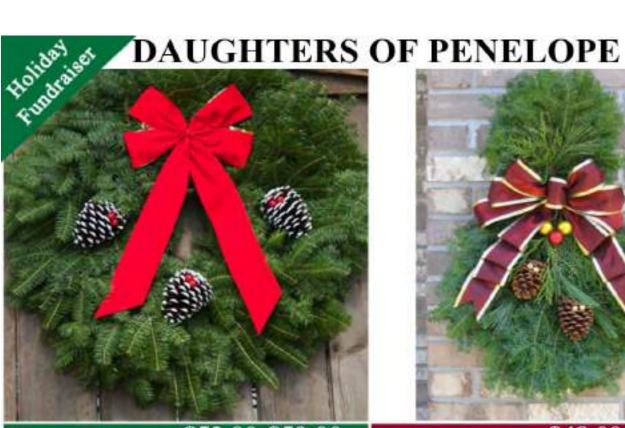
These handcrafted Christmas wreaths and holiday evergreens are delivered fresh to the front door. They are a wonderful gift for someone ... or yourself.

Visit the website at **GiftItForward.com** to see all the options available for purchase. Use the Fundraising Code **DAUGHTDE001** to help us with our efforts. Pre-Order shipping begins the week of November 11. Order early as they tend to run out.

As always, thank you for your support.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

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\$52.00-\$59.00 Classic Wreath

The Classic Wreath is as traditional as Christmas itself—handcrafted with the freshest Minnesota Balsam Fir. This Wreath is beautifully decorated with selected, white tipped cones, festively accented with jingle bells and trimmed with a gold-backed red velveteen bow. Celebrate the holiday season with this traditional symbol of world peace.



\$48.00-\$51.00 Victorian Spray

This unique Holiday decoration is handcrafted using a combination of Balsam Fir, Cedar, and Pine, and is decorated with the same elements as the Victorian Wreath. This Spray is often used in concert with the Victorian Wreath to create a matching Holiday theme for the home or can also be used by itself.



Table Top Christmas Tree

This live table top Christmas tree arrives with seven frosted and glittered pine cones, a star garland accent, an LED Light Set (see page 4), and the perfect northern star tree topper. All trimming arrives with the tree for fun, easy decorating. Each tree comes complete with care instructions.



The Candlelit Centerpiece \$55,00

This seasonal centerpiece, as pictured, is bursting with naturally scented mixed evergreens which stay fresh and moist from the floral foam base. The festive decorations are certain to delight your guests and lend a joyful air to your Holiday Celebrations. Size: Approximately 18" wide.

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Add Your name Here...

We are in the final days of this capital campaign. A letter will be going out to the community for a final push in the next few weeks allowing time for any last minute pledges. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help us finish strong!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE DRIVE

Phase II Building/Elevator Fund Your Capital Campaign pledge will be welcome and appreciated! Please give according to your God-given ability.

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Pledges to Capital Campaign/Building Fund are separate and distinct from annual Stewardship.

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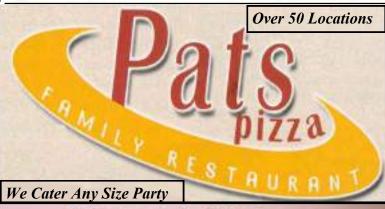
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