



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

FEBRUARY 2025 – ISSUE 2



The Presentation of the Lord



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

V. Rev. Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne

Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis, Proistamenos

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

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(302) 293-1127	Sunday School	Amalea Rassias, Co-Director
(610) 787-0144	GOYA	Vasili Dargakis, President
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(302) 379-2015	Daughters of Penelope	Anthoula Anagnostou, President
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Holy Trinity Website Address: www.holytrinitywilmington.org

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

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



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

Dear beloved parishioners,

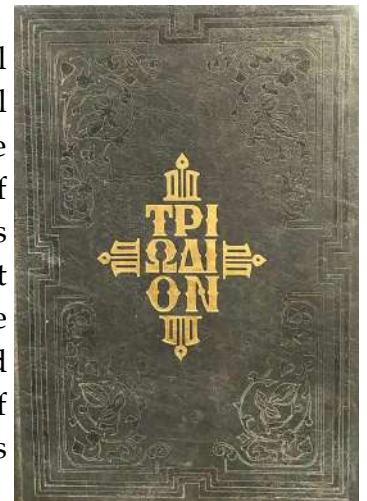
The month of February begins with the commemoration of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple on February 2nd. On the fortieth day after Jesus' birth, His Mother, the Ever-Virgin Mary, brought Him to Jerusalem and presented Him in the Temple, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24;



Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). There was the greatly aged Simeon, a just and devout man, who guided by the Holy Spirit had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. In great awe, he took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, and he confessed that he would close now his eyes joyfully: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." (Luke 2:25-32). Our Holy Orthodox Church has kept to this day this tradition of the churching of the mother and newborn child on the fortieth day and of the reading of blessing prayers of purification.



Moving through February, we come across the beginning of a deeply spiritual and cleansing period which is called "Triodion". Actually, Triodion is a Liturgical Book of our Church, containing the Church services and hymns to be read for the period that precedes Holy Pascha. The entire season that begins on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and concludes on Holy Saturday is named after this book. This year, the four Sundays of the Triodion that are leading us to Great Lent are: a) Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (February 9th), b) Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 16th), c) Judgment or Meatfare Sunday (February 23rd) and d) Forgiveness or Cheesefare Sunday (March 2nd). The Triodion season is a time of preparation and anticipation for the upcoming Great Lent and Easter, by easing us into the Lenten fasting discipline, rules and spirit.



On February 22nd falls the first Saturday of Souls. This is the time when we liturgically and prayerfully remember our loved ones who have departed this life, and it is essential for our Orthodox life and practice. There is a deep theology and teaching concerning the deceased. Basically, as Christians believing in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we understand that those who have left this life are still with us and are part of our Church, until the final day of the second coming of the Lord at the Last Judgment. Every time we offer the Divine Liturgy, we remember them and connect with them, through prayer, commemoration of their names, and the Memorials (mnimosina).

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Every Saturday of the year is dedicated to the commemoration of the deceased. However, the Saturdays of Souls, at the beginning of Great Lent, are designated by our Church to the remembrance of all the dead throughout the ages. We read in the prayer: *“Again we pray for the blessed memory and eternal repose of all pious Orthodox Christians who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection unto life everlasting, emperors, patriarchs, bishops, priests, hieromonks, deacons, monastics, fathers, forebears, grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, spouses, children, siblings, and all our relatives, from the beginning until the end of time; and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.”* In other words, the Church, out of love for man, has directed that: *“a common memorial service be made this day for all pious Orthodox Christians who have reposed from all ages past, so that those who did not have particular memorial services may be included in this common one for all. Also, the Church teaches us that alms should be given to the poor by the departed one’s kinsmen as a memorial for him”* (goarch.org).

At the Memorial Service (Mnimosino), we bring to Church “Kollyva” (boiled wheat mixed with sweets and various seeds). The “Kollyva” have a great symbolism as they express our belief in everlasting life. Jesus said: *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John 12:24). Just as new life rises from the buried kernel of wheat and every other seed, so we believe that the one buried will rise one day to a new life in God, as we demonstrate in the Creed: *“I expect the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen!”*.



My beloved,

As explained above, the noblest form of praying for our departed is commemoration during the Divine Liturgy. In this way the souls of the departed, who have been saved by the Lord, are participating in the eternal heavenly banquet when we receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. As for the memorials, we do not really know to what extent our prayers for the departed bring benefit to them; only God knows in His bountiful mercy. But one thing we are certain of: such prayers do benefit those who pray for the departed. They remind us that we too are going to die one day; they make us more conscientious and vigilant in preparing for that ultimate journey. They help us realize that so much that we tend to focus on is futile. The only thing that really matters is getting to Heaven and being with God.

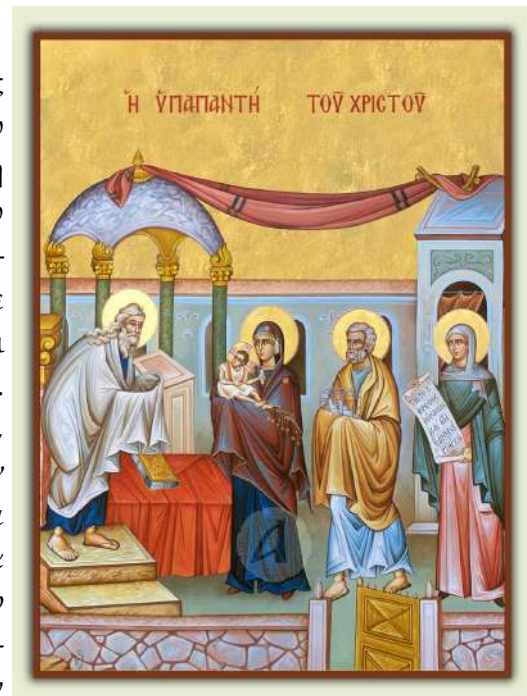
Please remember your loved ones, those you have met and those you have never known, in your prayers and be a part of this year’s days for our deceased, which are the Saturdays of Souls. You may also make this a lesson for the entire family, especially your children and grandchildren, as for how to make the kollyva, why we are making them, and what this is all about. We have a great responsibility to teach the future generations all things that concern our spiritual lives, and our connection with the Orthodox Church and our rich traditions.

May we all have a most productive and constructive Triodion and may the Lord of all spirits remember our loved ones and us in His Heavenly Kingdom, Amen!

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

Αγαπητοί Ενοριίτες,

Ο μήνας Φεβρουάριος ξεκινά με την μεγάλη εορτή της Υπαπαντής του Κυρίου. Όπως διαβάζουμε στο ιερό Ευαγγέλιο του Λουκά, όταν συμπληρώθηκαν σαράντα ημέρες από την γέννηση του Ιησού, η Παναγία με τον Ιωσήφ έφεραν τον Κύριο στο Ναό του Σολομώντα, όπως όριζε ο μωσαϊκός νόμος. Εκεί, τους συνάντησε -κατά παραχώρηση Θεού- ο δίκαιος Συμεών, στον οποίο είχε αποκαλυφθεί από το Άγιο Πνεύμα ότι δεν θα πέθαινε πριν να δει με τα μάτια του Εκείνον, τον βασιλέα του κόσμου, τον Μεσσία. Τότε, ο Συμεών πήρε στα γερασμένα χέρια του τον Χριστό, ευχαρίστησε τον Θεό και είπε: «*τώρα πλέον με απολύεις εμένα τον δούλον σου να φύγω από τον κόσμον αυτόν, Δεσπότα, ειρηνικός και χαρούμενος, σύμφωνα με τον λόγον που μου είπες, διότι είδαν τα μάτια μου τον Χριστόν, ο οποίος θα φέρη την σωτηρίαν, την οποίαν συ έχεις ετοιμάσει, δια να την ίδουν όλοι οι λαοί της γης.* (Λουκά 2:29-31). Επειδή ο Συμεών αξιώθηκε να πιάσει στα χέρια του τον Σωτήρα του κόσμου, ονομάστηκε «Θεοδόχος». Τιμώντας και εμείς αυτή την ιστορική «συνάντηση» στο Ναό του Σολομώντα του Χριστού και της Θεοτόκου με τον Συμεών, τελούμε μέχρι τις μέρες μας τον «σαραντισμό» των βρεφών. Σαράντα ημέρες από την γέννηση κάθε Ορθοδόξου βρέφους, οι γονείς πηγαίνουν στην Εκκλησία και προσφέρουν το παιδί τους στον Θεό. Ο Ιερέας δέχεται το παιδί στην αγκαλιά του, συμβολίζοντας τον δίκαιο Συμεών, και το εισάγει για πρώτη φορά στο Ιερό Ναό ευλογώντας αυτό αλλά και τους γονείς του. Έτσι, ανοίγει ο δρόμος για την βάπτισή του παιδιού και την συμμετοχή του στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας μας.



Προχωρώντας στον Φεβρουάριο, συναντάμε την έναρξη του Τριωδίου, που αποτελεί την προπαρασκευαστική περίοδο τεσσάρων Κυριακών που οδηγούν στην Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Φέτος, το Τριώδιο αρχίζει στις 9 Φεβρουαρίου, με την Κυριακή του Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου, και διαρκεί μέχρι το Μεγάλο Σάββατο. Στην πραγματικότητα, Τριώδιο είναι ένα λειτουργικό βιβλίο της Εκκλησίας μας, το οποίο χρησιμοποιείται κατά το παραπάνω διάστημα που αναφέραμε, και έτσι ολόκληρη η περίοδος έχει λάβει το όνομά της από το βιβλίο αυτό. Γι'αυτό άλλωστε λέμε ότι «άνοιξε το Τριώδιο» εννοώντας ότι άνοιξε το βιβλίο που χρησιμοποιούν οι ψάλτες μας αυτό το διάστημα.

Η περίοδος του Τριωδίου είναι μία βαθιά πνευματική περίοδος που έχει σκοπό να μας προετοιμάσει με νηστεία, προσευχή και μετάνοια ώστε να υποδεχούμε το Άγιο Πάσχα. Για να βιώσουμε πραγματικά και ουσιαστικά το Πάσχα, είναι απαραίτητη η κατάλληλα εσωτερική προετοιμασία. Γι'αυτό και το Τριώδιο ονομάζεται «κατανυκτικό» καθώς αποτελεί για όλους μας μοναδική ευκαιρία και δυνατότητα για πορεία μετανοίας και αλλαγής, ώστε να υποδεχούμε την Αγία Ανάσταση, και κυρίως να δεχθούμε επιτέλους τον Χριστό στη ζωή μας.

Στις 22 Φεβρουαρίου τελούμε το πρώτο Ψυχοσάββατο. Αυτή η ημέρα είναι ιδιαίτερα αγαπητή στους πιστούς, καθώς θυμόμαστε και μνημονεύουμε τους αγαπημένους μας κεκοιμημένους. Η μνημόνευση των νεκρών είναι θεμελιώδης πρακτική στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία μας.

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Σε κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία τους θυμόμαστε και τους μνημονεύουμε στην Αγία Πρόθεση, αφού πιστεύουμε ότι σε κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία ενώνεται η γη με τον ουρανό, οι ζώντες με τους κεκοιμημένους, οι άνθρωποι με τους αγγέλους, και όλα αυτά γίνονται κατά την μετάληψη του Παναγίου Σώματος και Αίματος του Κυρίου. Άλλωστε, πιστεύουμε ακράδαντα στην Ανάσταση του Κυρίου και ως εκ τούτου και στην ανάσταση κάθε ανθρώπου κατά την Δευτέρα Παρουσία του Κυρίου.

Παράλληλα με την Θεία Λειτουργία, έχουμε και τα ιερά μνημόσυνα, τα οποία βέβαια πρέπει να τελούνται μέσα στη Θεία Λειτουργία και όχι ανεξάρτητα. Γνωρίζουμε ακόμα ότι κάθε Σάββατο είναι αφιερωμένο στους κεκοιμημένους. Όμως το Ψυχοσάββατο είναι η κατεξοχήν ημέρα που ανήκει στην προσευχή για τους πεθαμένους μας, όσους γνωρίσαμε και όσους δεν γνωρίσαμε. Είναι μια ευκαιρία που μας δίνει η Εκκλησία μας να ευχαριστήσουμε όλους εκείνους που συνέβαλαν ώστε και εμείς να έρθουμε σε αυτό τον κόσμο, τους προγόνους μας, αλλά και τους φίλους, γνωστούς, εχθρούς, και αδελφούς. Όλους ανεξαιρέτως. Ακόμα και ψυχές που δεν έχουν κανένα να τις μνημονεύσει. Και έτσι παίρνουμε και εμείς έλεος και χάρη από τον Θεό, αλλά και ανακουφίζουμε διά της προσευχής και της Θείας Λειτουργίας τις ψυχές των κεκοιμημένων.

Σε κάθε μνημόσυνο, και βεβαίως στα Ψυχοσάββατα, προσφέρουμε κόλλυβα. Ο λόγος που κάνουμε αυτή την πράξη είναι διότι τα κόλλυβα αποτελούν σύμβολο της ανάστασης των νεκρών, με βάση την Ανάσταση του Χριστού. Ο Κύριος παρομοίασε τον άνθρωπο με το σάρι, το οποίο αν δεν πέσει στη γη να πεθάνει και να σαπίσει, δεν μπορεί να γεννήσει καρπό και νέα ζωή: «ἐὰν μὴ ὁ κόκκος τοῦ σίτου πεσῶν εἰς τὴν γῆν ἀποθάνῃ, αὐτὸς μόνος μένει· ἐὰν δὲ ἀποθάνῃ, πολὺν καρπὸν φέρει.» (Ιω. 12,24). Έτσι, και ο κάθε κεκοιμημένος πιστός, θάβεται στη γη (και δεν καίγεται), αναμένοντας την ημέρα της κοινής Ανάστασης, όταν όλοι οι κεκοιμημένοι θα αναστηθούν και θα λάβουν σώμα άλλης μορφής, ανώτερης από εκείνη που είχαν πριν από την κοίμησή τους και θα ζήσουν αιώνια κοντά στον Χριστό.

Αγαπητοί μου,

Όπως ήδη εξήγησα, τα ιερά μνημόσυνα πρέπει να τελούνται μέσα στη Θεία Λειτουργία. Βασικά, η Θεία Λειτουργία είναι από μόνη της μνημόσυνο για τους κεκοιμημένους μας. Γι'αυτό σας παρακαλώ, να θυμάστε τους αγαπημένους σας που έφυγαν από τον κόσμο αυτό, και να προσεύχεσθε για την ανάπαυσή τους. Να τελείτε τα μνημόσυνά τους, να φέροντε τα ονόματά τους ώστε να μνημονεύονται στην ιερά προσκομιδή και να κάνετε ελεημοσύνες για τις ψυχές τους. Ιδιαίτερα όμως, τα φετινά Ψυχοσάββατα, ας τους θυμηθούμε και ας έρθουμε στην Εκκλησία. Ας φέρουμε κόλλυβα, πρόσφορο και κρασί ώστε να τα προσφέρουμε ως δώρο στη μνήμη τους. Ας θυμηθούμε όλους, παππούδες, γιαγιάδες, προγόνους, γνωστούς, φίλους και εχθρούς, ακόμα και εκείνους που δεν έχουν κανένα να τους θυμηθεί. Ας διδάξουμε στα παιδιά και τα εγγόνια μας πως φτιάχνουμε τα κόλλυβα, τι συμβολίζουν και γιατί είναι σημαντικό να τα προσφέρουμε. Μόνο έτσι θα μάθουν τα παιδιά μας να θυμούνται και να ευχαριστούν τους προγόνους τους και μέσα από αυτή τη διαδικασία να αγαπούν ακόμα περισσότερο. Τέλος, ας ευχαριστήσουμε τον Θεό που μας έδωσε αυτή τη χάρη να επικοινωνούμε μέσα από την Εκκλησία με τους αγαπημένους μας που έφυγαν και να ενωνόμαστε με αυτούς διά της προσευχής και των Μυστηρίων, μέχρι να συναντηθούμε ξανά στην Βασιλεία των Ουρανών.

Σας εύχομαι καλό και ευλογημένο Τριώδιο, ανάπαυση στους αγαπημένους σας και υγεία σε σας και τις οικογένειές σας!

† Χρ. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης

π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης

Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου, Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος



A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

Greetings to all with God's blessings for health and happiness!

I hope everyone had a wonderful time during the holidays. As we enter the month of February, a time often associated with love and warmth, let us remember the enduring love of our Heavenly Father and our Church as we prepare for Lent. We would like to remind everyone of several events that are planned for the upcoming month. Come and join these community events as they create an opportunity for unity and fellowship.

In case you were not able to join our GOYA over the 18th and 19th of January, they hosted another successful basketball tournament with 10 other parishes participating in this annual event. Our Varsity Girls team placed 3rd, our Varsity Boys team placed 2nd, and our Junior Varsity Boys placed 3rd. A great job to all and a special Thank You to the GOYA coaches, advisors, and parents!

There are a few events coming:

- Godparents Sunday on February 2nd
- AHEPA holding their annual Superbowl party in the AHEPA Room on February 9th
- Our youth dance groups will be performing at the annual Metropolis Music Dance Festival on February 15th and 16th
- Greek School Dance on February 22nd

Also, be on the lookout for dates as we begin to prepare for our Annual Greek Festival. Although it is February, June is rapidly approaching and there will be plenty of work to do in order to have another successful year.

On behalf of the entire Parish Council, I want to congratulate the new Parish Council officers; Georgia Halakos (President), Pete Xarhoulakos (1st Vice President), Stacey Pennias (2nd Vice President), George Rassias (Treasurer) and Dena Verikakis (Secretary). We look forward to their leadership as we continue to fulfill our mission to the Church.

Stephanos Karakasidis



On January 19, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of NJ, administers the Oath of Office to the 2025 Parish Council and blesses outgoing member Tom Karas with a plaque for his dedication to our parish throughout the years since 1961.



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and parishioners:

Reflecting on 2024, I'm incredibly grateful for the Lord's blessing and the remarkable achievements of our Philoptochos sisters and parishioners. Father Christoforos' beautiful letter in the January bulletin gave me pause to reflect on how to improve ourselves in 2025. This past year has been one of significant service and generosity. Our accomplishments extend far beyond individual acts; they collectively represent a powerful testament to our shared faith and commitment to our community.

Allow me to highlight some of our most impactful initiatives in just the last four months:

****The Backpack Initiative**** We successfully provided backpacks and essential supplies to 110 students at the Urban Promise School, ensuring they had the tools for a successful

school year.

****Community**** The Ecclesiastical year began with a heartwarming covered dish dinner, fostering fellowship among our members. Philoptochos Sunday celebrated our 90th anniversary where we honored our cherished members, particularly those aged 90 and above. The second annual Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday resulted in a significant donation to breast cancer research, thanks to the generosity of our parish and our Philoptochos chapter.

****Pilgrimage and Outreach**** Our pilgrimage to St. George in the Poconos and the Holy Protection Monastery was a spiritually enriching experience. We also actively participated in the IOCC dinner, and the Ambassador Awards honoring Mrs. Sophia Tarabicos. Our 90th Anniversary Gala was a resounding success, culminating in the Divine Liturgy commemorating this significant milestone and the elevation of our church to cathedral status. We baked and served lunch to His Eminence Apostolos and our parishioners following Divine Liturgy.

****Direct Service**** We delivered 200 breakfasts and lunches to the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, bringing comfort to families during their challenging times. Our annual Bid N Buy attracted over 300 attendees, showcasing fabulous gifts in addition to our culinary talents where we raised funds to be used for our philanthropy. The bake sale of Christmas bread and sweets to our parishioners and the wider Wilmington community was another success enhanced by the sale of delicious Vasilopita made at the Holy Protection Monastery. We gathered the names of our church families for a beautiful Christmas card that was sent to our parishioners. We packaged and delivered sweets and Christmas bread to our homebound parishioners, another heartwarming gesture that is greatly appreciated. We held our annual Christmas breakfast and adopted two families from the Urban Promise School which extended the spirit of giving throughout the holiday season. Together with our youth ministries, we held an extremely successful toy drive and delivered three carloads of toys to the Hope House and the Ronald McDonald House.

****Ongoing Commitment**** Our unwavering commitment to providing and serving meals at the Emmanuel Dining Room continues. We continue to support over 40 charities which are part of our national commitments. In addition, we donated over \$16,000 to special needs locally.

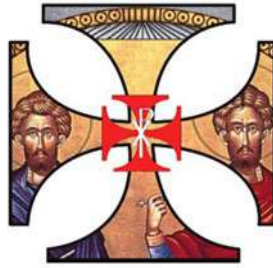
In early January, the horrific fires in California resulted in unimaginable tragedy. The St. Agape Chapter held an emergency meeting and responded quickly with a donation of \$5000.00. We worked with our sisters from the Metropolis and National Philoptochos to provide vital aid.

****Financial Stewardship**** This summary only scratches the surface of our collective efforts. My profound gratitude to the Ladies of Philoptochos and to Father Christoforos for his unwavering support, guidance and love of our chapter. If you are not yet a member of Philoptochos, I encourage you to join our St. Agape chapter and become part of our ongoing mission to serve others and spread the love of Christ. We welcome your participation and your prayers for continued health and blessing for all. I pray the Lord keeps us well to continue in His service to assist those in need.

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.



As we begin our membership drive for 2025, the St. Agape Chapter extends warmest wishes for a joyous and healthy New Year! If you aren't currently a member, we invite you to join our active Philoptochos chapter. If you are currently a member, please remember to update your membership dues.

Our membership offers so much more than simply joining a group; it's about becoming part of a compassionate community dedicated to serving others. You will become the right hand to the Church. We assist in providing vital support to those in need within our parish and wider community offering clothing, feeding the hungry, helping the victims of disaster, and many other essential resources to those less fortunate.

Our chapter is a unique combination of generations, creating a rich blend of experience and fresh perspectives. The wisdom of our more seasoned members complements the ideas of our younger members, fostering a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere, where everyone feels valued and empowered.

We believe in the power of collective action and invite women aged 18 and above to join us in our mission of extending Christ's love and compassion. There are many ways to participate from attending meetings and social events, to contributing your time and talent to our various charitable initiatives. We encourage you to explore the opportunities available and find a way to contribute that suits your interests and availability.

Together let's make this year one of significant impact to build a stronger, more compassionate community through the spirit of sisterhood and shared purpose. We are dedicated to cultivating, preserving, and perpetuating the Orthodox Christian concepts.

Our membership cost is only \$40, which goes a long way to help others. If you are currently a member, please renew your membership dues. Below you will find our contact information. We look forward to hearing from you and becoming a member of our chapter.

With love and blessing,

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne, Father Christoforos Oikonomidis

Dena Verikakis, President, St. Agape Chapter of Philoptochos – dverikakis@yahoo.com

Jessica Marvel, Membership Committee, jessicamarvel@gmail.com

Karen Schillinger, Membership Committee, karschill@aol.com

PHILOPTOCHOS



Philoptochos St. Agape Chapter Registration Form

Philoptochos means “Friend of the Needy” The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is a philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The society was established in 1931 and currently has about 26,000 members in more than 400 active chapters nationwide. Philoptochos is Philanthropy, Fellowship, and Faith in Action. Philoptochos gives you the opportunity to contribute and offer hope to those in need, to promote fellowship in church, and to express your love of humanity through His work. We welcome you to join the ministry.

Yes, I would like to offer my love and service by joining the Philoptochos society in its Philanthropic Efforts:

Please accept my stewardship to be allocated as follows:

National Per Capita (Support National Philoptochos Projects) \$15.00
Metropolis Per Capita (Support Metropolis Philoptochos Projects) \$8.00
My Stewardship to our Local Chapter’s Ministries \$17.00
Other: \$.00
TOTAL: \$.00

Please make checks payable to Philoptochos Society St. Agape Chapter

*****Membership dues are \$ 40.00 starting January 2025, please include your payment along with this form & mail it to Jessica Marvel @ 202 Kirk Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803 and email it to jessicamarvel@gmail.com.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone# _____ Work # _____

E-mail Address: _____ * **Circle** preference of communication*

Please indicate below if you would like to be part on any of the following circle of interest:

- _____ Family & Society / Church Projects
- _____ Ministry Commitments
- _____ New Philanthropic Initiatives
- _____ Spiritual Enrichment
- _____ Fundraising/Special Events
- _____ Membership
- _____ Social Services

Thank you for your support!!!

HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY

Churching's:

Theodoros Roustopoulos, son of Theodore & Natalie, received his 40 Day Blessing on January 12, 2025. We congratulate the family and pray the Lord will bless them as they prepare for baptism.

William Heggan, son of Brandon & Maria, received his 40 Day Blessing on January 25, 2025. We congratulate the family and pray the Lord will bless them as they prepare for baptism.

Chrismation's:

Drew Chollis was Chrismated at Holy Trinity on December 29, 2024. Emmanuel & Evanthea Fournaris acted as sponsors. He received the name Paul Leo. We congratulate him and his sponsors and welcome Drew into the Orthodox faith.

Funerals:

Xanthy Stavropoulos, fell asleep in the Lord on January 4, 2025. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on January 17, 2025. She was pre-deceased by her husband Yianni (2020), but is survived by her children and in-laws, Anastasia (Jim) and Aristide (Raquel), and her grandchildren Jessica, Adriana, Johnny and Dimitri. May her memory be eternal.

Eleni Karablacas, fell asleep in the Lord on January 17, 2025. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on January 24, 2025. She was predeceased by her beloved daughter Virginia. She is survived by her son, Stelios, and many beloved family and friends. May her memory be eternal.

Constantinos Kromedas, fell asleep in the Lord on January 21, 2025. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity on January 27, 2025. He was predeceased by his son, George. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Vasiliki "Vicki"; son, Angelo; daughter, Helene (Georgios); grandchildren, Theodosis (Stephanie), Constantine (Maria), and Alex; and great-grandchildren, Elena and Niko Yiorgo. May his memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Katina Galanakis ~ 40 Days ~ January 12 ~ ~ ~ John Galanakis ~ 15 Years ~ January 12

Themistoklis Michailidis ~ 36 Years ~ January 12 ~ ~ ~ Soutana Michailidou ~ 6 Years ~ January 12

Helen Vounas ~ 1 Year ~ January 12 ~ ~ ~ Ekaterini Chalima ~ 1 Year ~ January 29



The Young @ Heart invites you to join us for our next gathering **Thursday, February 20, 2025 / (NOTE DATE CHANGE!!)** @ 12pm / Our guest speaker will be *Jessica Marvel*.

We meet in the AHAPA Room! We hope to see you all there!

Last month we had an informative talk about our aching joints by Dr. Vivian Giannakakis from Pure Wellness. We also celebrated the beginning of our new year with a Vasilopita!





GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Join us to celebrate this special bond between
Godparents and Godchildren!



Celebrate together during the Divine Liturgy,
receive Holy Communion together,
and attend a special Sunday School lesson
to celebrate this spiritual bond.

Coffee Hour sponsored by Sunday School
immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Community Center.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amalea.Rassias@gmail.com // Hara3@verizon.net

302-654-4446

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 DVYC Youth Ski Trip 1pm Baptism
2 <u>Presentation of our Lord</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Godparent's Sunday	3	4	5 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School 7:30pm HOPE JOY Dance Practice	6 6pm YAL Gathering 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	7 5:00pm HOPE JOY Dance Practice	8
9 <u>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School 1pm Philoptochos Meeting 6pm AHEPA Superbowl Party	10 <u>St Haralambos</u> 9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy	11	12 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	13 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	14 Metropolis of NJ MDF	15 Metropolis of NJ MDF
16 <u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Metropolis of NJ MDF	17	18	19 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	20 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	21	22 <u>Saturday of Souls</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy Greek School Dnnce
23 <u>Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Sunday School Teachers Meeting	24	25 6pm DOP Meeting	26 8am PADUA Hall Use 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	27 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	28	





**On Sunday,
December 22
the Holy Trinity
Sunday School
presented their annual
Christmas Pageant
celebrating the birth
of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.**





ALTAR SERVER RETREAT

Led by His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2 P.M.

**St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
900 S Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403**

[REGISTER HERE!](#)





HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

HOPE and JOY



KOLYVA

Workshop

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th at 5:00 pm
before Salutation Services

Join us as we learn how to make Kolyva and
why as Orthodox Christians we make it.
We will each be preparing our own offering for
the Third Saturday of the Souls.

RSVP to Angie & Tania by Wednesday, March 5th so that we
may have enough ingredients for everyone!
hopejoyhtw@gmail.com



ALTAR GUILD

Hello everyone, we are now anticipating our next Greek Orthodox religious event that will soon be upon us and that is the participation of the 40 days of Lent and Easter. We will be submitting our list of donations that are needed during this time in the March bulletin.

We are in need of donations for:

The Presentation of our Lord on February 2, 2025.

If you are interested in contributing to these contact Joanne Tarabicos (302-239-4950) or Evie Fournaris (302-229-6849) or use the form below.

As always, the Altar Guild is here to serve our parishioners.

Joanne Tarabicos

Evie Fournaris

Please use the form below if you have any requests for the coming year.

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 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

Serving in February

Coffee Hours:

February 2 ~ Sunday School / God-Parent Sunday & the Christou Family

February 9 ~ Daughter's of Penelope

February 16 ~ Philoptochos

February 22 ~ Parish Council



Narthex Duty:

February 2 ~ Group 1

February 9 ~ Group 2

February 16 ~ Group 1

February 22 ~ 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	Savvas Thymakis
Vasilios Dargakis	Demetri Moutsatsos	Alex Tsakumis
Joseph Demourtzidis	Demetri Psaltis	*+Nicholas Turley
Sebastian Dietrich	Nicholas Psaltis	+Paraskevas Verikakis
Johnny Dietrich	George Psihalinos	*+NektariosWiechecki
+Ioannis Gerakios	Gerasimos Psihalinos	+Fotios Wolcott
Alexander Hall	+ Jerry Rassias	+Jack Wolcott
+Angelo Hall	Nicholas Rassias	+Josiah Wolcott
+Demetri Karakasidis	Stamati Roussos	
+Ioannis Karakasidis	+Demetri Thomas	

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

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

January 12th at the Emmanuel Dining Room East

We began a new year of service on Sunday, January 12th with a very generous donation, given anonymously. Through this charity, 135 men, women and children enjoyed a nice warm meal. **Aleka Christou** will sponsor the meal in February again this year, given in loving memory of her husband, **Vasili Christou**. 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 this dining room!

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!



Serving in December!!!

Johanna Laskaris, Vickie Karakasidis & Maria Grigorakakis
Thank you for your service to our surrounding community!



The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee The Triodion Begins

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it

declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the

Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, "Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled."

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

In January the St Stephen's Food Pantry served:

82 First Time Visits
994 Household Visits
744 Children
1705 Adults
2449 Total Individuals



Down a bit from December but it was Christmas

Where do they get their food?

- 1. They purchase food from the Food Bank of Delaware**
- 2. USDA donates**
- 3. Food Rescue comes from Acme in Trolley Square and Sprouts Farmers Market**
- 4. They purchase eggs from Powers Farm and meat from Haas Farms through a grant to support farmers**
- 5. Donations from YOU!!**

In addition to regular donations they are currently in need of Canned Soup, Peanut Butter, Dish Liquid and Laundry Detergent

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy	Drimones, Clara	Joris, Irene	Livaditis, Marisa
Adamopoulos, Sotiere	Drimones, Nicholas	Joseck, Anastasia	Logullo, Desponia & Francis
Agriantonis, Demetrios	Economou, Georgios & Lena	Joseck, John & Taylor	Lomis, Toula
Almasou, Elias & Rasha	Efelis, Michael & Alexandra	Joseck, Xanthy & Fred	MacKewiz, Irene & W. Lee
Amygdalos, Michael & Christine	Efelis, Nicholas & Melanie	Kalaitzoglou, Apostolos & Niki	Malapetsas, Harry
Anagnostou, Anamaria	Evangelatos, Speros	Kalaitzoglou, Stavros	Manolakos, Nicholas & Paula
Anagnostou, Anthoula	Faller, James & Catherine	Kaliakin, Victor & Leeza	Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi
Anastasiades, Litsa	Farella, Robert & Leah	Kamenakis, Efthimia	Mantzavinos, Marianthi
Andrianopoulos, Faith	Favatas, Dionisios & LAura	Kamenakis, Peter & Juli	Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan
Angeletakis, Christos & Christina	Ferentinos, Joan	Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie	Maravelias, James & Diane
Annos, William	Ferrante, Bianca	Kanas, Larry & Alecia	Marcantonis, George & Agnoulia
Apeossos, Spyros	Fisfis, Nicholas & Catheryn	Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga	Marini, Irene
Apostolakis, Nicholas & Irene	Floropoulos, Yianni	Karablacas, Virginia +	Marinis, Aristotelis
Artemiadis, Panagiotis & Spyridoula	Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki	Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni	Marinis, George & Sofia
Arvanitis, Argyrios & Lisa	Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia	Karakasidis, John & Vickie	Marinis, Kalliope
Asimos Sr, George	Fotakos, Lexi	Karakasidis, Stephanos & Evaggelia	Marinis, Louis
Asimos, George & Kristie	Fotakos, Toula	Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki	Markatos, Harry & Susan
Athanasiadis, Fotios & Asmik	Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey	Karapanagiotis, Athanasios	Marvel, Jessica
Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia	Fournakis, Susan	Karas, Theodore & Pamela	Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela
Bacchieri, Stacey	Fournaris, Anna	Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula	Matulas, Apostolis & Dothea
Baker, Stephanie	Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen	Karvounis, Nikolaos & Amanda	Mavridis, Prodromos & Maria
Bambacus, Meropi	Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evie	Kayiaros, Joanna	Mayew, Michael & Charlotte
Barrios, Luis & Dimitra	Fournaris, George & Soula	Kayiaros, Stephen	McManus, Ryan & Theodora
Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia	Frangakis, Christina	Kays, Efigenia	Melissourgos, Xenophon & Akaterini
Boines, Daniel	Galanis, Agnes	Keros, Georgia	Michell, Constantine & Elaine
Bouloukos, Anastasia	Galaris, Rick & Diana	Kessararis, Christos & Eleni	Michell, Theodore & Catherine
Burpulis, Kecia	Gatanis, Theodore	Kimberis, George & Beatriz	Milionis, Constantine
Burpulis, Stamatis	Gatos, Paula	Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy	Mistras, Antonis & Soula
Calliagas, Markella	Geanopolus, Georgiean	Kirifides, Elena	Mitoulis, Constantine & Kristen
Calliagas, Nicholas+ & Katherine	George, Mary	Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen	Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella
Caras, Constantine & Maria	Georgiou, Constantinos	Kirifides, Michael & Kerry	Moriello, Nicholas & Carissa
Caras, Valerie	Gerakios, Nikoletta	Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria	Moutsatsos, George & Alexia
Chahalis, Maria	Gerakios, Sakelaris & Spiridoula	Kirtses, Eugenia	Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra
Chambers, George & Katherine	Gianelos, James & Stacie	Kirtses, Petros & Athy	Napoli, Francis
Charalambides, Dino & Nia	Giannatos, Stavros & Terri	Kledaras, George & Ann	Nicholas, Steve
Chilimidos, Effie	Graham, Catherine	Kledaras, Olympia	Novakis, Louis
Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy	Gray, David & Eugenia	Klezaras, Michael & Kathy	Ohlemacher, Evangeline
Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra	Grevenitis, Dimitrios & Clewell	Klezaras, Nikoletta	Pacienza, Stephanie
Christou, Alecca	Grigorakakis, Maria	Kollias, Basil & Demi	Pagonis, Marcus & Cheryl
Christou, Christos & Evie	Grivas, Christopher & Michelle	Kollias, Georgia	Pandelakis, Denis & Anna
Ciabattoni, Olga	Grivas, Demetrios & Helen+	Kolovos, Dimitrios & Effie	Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne
Coates/Zerefos, George & Evie	Haddadin, Malik & Lina	Koninis, John & Anastasia	Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi
Colborn, Brian & Nicole	Halakos, Demetri & Georgia	Koninis II, John	Papachrysanthou, George & Laura
Constantinou, John & Carol	Halakos, Evangelos & Donna	Kontis, Gus & Cindy	Papanicholas, Evan
Coulaloglou, Michelle	Halakos, Garifalia	Kontis, Maria	Papanicholas, Maria
Courtis, Harry & Sophia	Halakos, Ioannis & Eftihia	Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi	Papettas, Vasilis & Christina
Courtney, Daniel & Condylia	Haldas, George & Beth	Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa	Pappas, Elias & Denise
Coustenis, Katherine	Haldas, Harry	Kostas, John & Gale	Pappas, Elizabeth
Croussouloudis, Despina	Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie	Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani	Pappas, Sandra
Dalianis, John & Vicky	Haldas, Thomas	Kostos, Yianni	Pastis, Jacqueline
Dandolos, Dimitrios & Carol	Haldas-Long, Irene	Koukourdis, Athanasios & Dimitra	Pecorella, Matthew & Stephanie
Dargakis, Minas & Kleo	Hall, George & Michelle	Koutoufaris, Marlene	Pennias, John & Stavroula
Degermentzidis, Elias	Hantzandreou, George & Diane	Kramedas, Matoula	Pennia, Sofia
Degermentzidis, George & Polyxeni	Hantzandreou, Lambrini	Kromedas, Constantinos & Vasiliki	Perna, Kevin & Elpida
Degermentzidis, Yiannys	Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa	Kyranakis, John	Pettaris, George & Stavroula
Demetriou, Anna	Hantzopoulos, George & Amanda	Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett	Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary
Demourtzidis, Eirini	Haralambidis, Maroula	Laskaris, Johanna	Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe
Demourtzidis, Nicholas & Daphne	Hatzis, Katherine	Laws, Brian & Vasiliki	Pierson, Georgia Boines
Diamanty, Thomas & Sue+	Hatzis, Tom & Bing	Lawson, Michael & Victoria	Pispitsos, Pantelis
Diamond, Anthony & Lauren	Heliotis, Alexandra	Lazare, John & Sandra	Pittaoulis, Steve
Diamond, Soula	Hionis, Sophia	Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura	Pittas, John
Diamond, Thomas	Hondry, Steve	Lazopoulos, Jr., John & Christina	Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia
Dickey, Irene	Humphrey, Caroline	Lemper, Diana	Psaltis, John
Dini, C.	Iliadis, Antonios & Vaia	Lempesis, Dimitra	Psaltis, Nicholas
Donald, Bill & Maria	Iliadis, Dimitrios & Constantina	Leounes, Helen	Psaltis, Thomas & Cynthia
Dougher, John & Christina	Issaris, Katherine	Liappis, Nikolaos & Maria	Psihalinos, George & Athina
Doukakis, Helen	Johnson, Margo	Liarakos, George & Ann	Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini

FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Raisis, Irene	Sartin, Nimrah & Deborah	Tsaganos, Alexandra	Vassiliou, Kleoniki
Raisis, Leonidas & Irene	Savopoulos, Despina	Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne	Vassos, Barbara
Raisis, Pauline	Schillinger, Robert & Karen	Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna	Velitskakis, George
Raisis, Spiros	Semos, Joanne	Tsaganos, Peggy	Velitskakis, Steve & Karen
Raisis, William & Emily	Shahwan, Sofy	Tsaganos, Robert	Verikakis, Dena
Rapposelli, Hareklia	Snell, Bryan & Pauline	Tsaganos, Robert & Popi	Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon
Rassias, Dion & Gina	Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis	Tsaganos-McGee, Tina & John	Vice, Elaine
Rassias, George & Amalea	Sparco, Joe & Alexandra	Tsakataras, George	Visvardis, Fotini
Rassias, Jerry D.	Staab, Kristina	Tsakiris, Konstantine	Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Rassias, Peter & Julie	Staikos, Nicholas & Eirini	Tsakumis, George & Julia	Vlamis, Nicholas & Peggy
Regas, Constantinos	Stavropoulos, Xanthy+	Tsakumis, Theodore	Voultsis, Catherine
Regas, Sofia	Stavru, Nicholas & Maria	Tsaldaris, Nicholas & Bonnie	Voultsis, Evangeline & Damien
Rentoulis, Nicholas & Androniki	Stavru, Sophia	Tsavalas, George & Yvonne	Voultsis, Jordana
Richardson, Robert & Stavroula	Stout, Robert & Voula	Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna	Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly
Riga-Crisp, Jason & Ekaterini	Tangalidis, Dimitrios & Maria	Tsionas, Angela	Wilkinson, Suzanne
Rigas, Elias & Potoula	Tarabicos, Christina	Tsionas, Anna	Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Righos, Elaine	Tarabicos, John & Joanne	Tsionas, Evangelos	Xarhoulakos, Peter
Roberts, Scott & Linda	Tarabicos, Sophia	Tsoukalas, Frederiki	Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina
Roussalis, John & Valerie	Tawfik, Emad & Tania	Tsoukalas, Niki	Zerefos, Markos & Eugenia
Roustopoulos, Alexia	Teclerariam, Berhan & Saba	Tsoutsos, Nektarios & Chengmo	Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
Ruhl, David & Athena	Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa	Tsugranes, George & Penny	Zographos, Katherine
Saffos, John & Karla	Theodorakos, Nicholas	Turley, Steve & Akiko	As of December 31, 2024
Saitis, Mary	Thomas, Donald & Effy	Vande Poele, A. David & Anna	(362 families)
Saridakis, Christopher & Penelope	Thomas, Richard & Angela	Vassilatos, Yvonne	

This is the final list of Holy Trinity Stewards for 2024.

Your End-Year Statements were mailed on January 21, 2025.
If you have any questions or concerns about your statement,
please contact the church office.

LOOKING FORWARD...

If you have not made your 2025 pledge, we ask that you
prayerfully consider what your gift will be,
remembering...

*“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



OUR MONTH AT A GLANCE...

- ### RECENT EVENTS
- WE HAD OUR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OVER MLK WEEKEND
 - WE FINISHED OUR BASKETBALL SEASON WITH FINAL GAMES ON 1/12/25
 - WE HAD OUR GOYA DANCE ON 1/18/25

- ### OTHER NOTES
- THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO THE TOURNAMENT AND HELPED SET UP THE DANCE!
 - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GIRLS ON 3RD PLACE IN THE DVYC BASKETBALL LEAGUE AND THE BOYS ON A GREAT SEASON!

- ### UPCOMING ACITIVITES
- MDF - PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS - 3/22/25

- ### REMINDERS
- DANCE PRACTICE EVERY THURSDAY
 - ATTEND CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY



KEEP UP WITH OUR GOYA ON INSTAGRAM!

@AGIATRIASGOYA

Wilmington Basketball Tournament

Holy Trinity Cathedral Family:

Congratulations to our GOYAns and their Advisors for a terrific tournament weekend. Thanks to all those who generously donated items and worked as the Holy Trinity Cathedral Family delivered another superb tournament.

We also congratulate all the participants (and especially our own GOYAns) for their inspired play and note the following winning teams among the eleven (11) participating churches:

Girls A Division

1st Place St. Thomas Cherry Hill

2nd Place St Nicholas Baltimore

3rd Place Holy Trinity Cathedral Wilmington

Boys A Division

1st Place St George Media

2nd Place Holy Trinity Cathedral Wilmington

3rd Place St. Demetrios Baltimore

Boys B Division

1st Place St. Demetrios Upper Darby

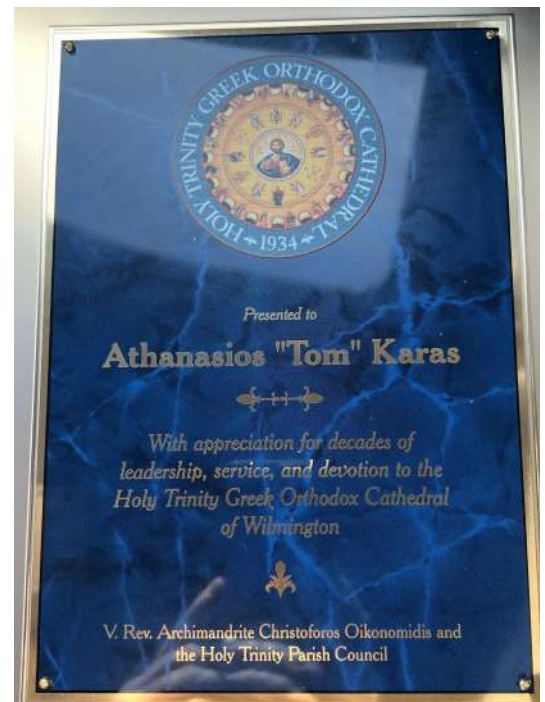
2nd Place St. Katherine Falls Church

3rd Place St. Demetrios Baltimore

Girls B Division

1st Place St George Clifton

2nd Place Ss Constantine & Helen Annapolis



We also recognized Tom Karas on Sunday, February 19, for his past, present and future endeavors with our Holy Trinity Cathedral.

**NOTE:
Pictures of the
Tournament Weekend
will be placed in the
March Bulletin!**



HOPE & JOY

February

newsletter

This January and February we focus on preparing our children for their dance competition at MDF (Music & Dance Festival). We have dance practice every Wednesday, after Greek School, from 7:30 - 8:00 and every Friday, from 5:00 - 6:00. Join us to learn the dances!

Also, join us for our Kolyva Workshop in early March. We will learn the importance of Kolyva and how to prepare it. We will prepare it and have it blessed and used for the third Saturday of the Souls.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 1

DVYC Ski Trip

Camelback Mountain

Feb 15-16

MDF Dance Competition

Philadelphia

Mar 7

Kolyva Workshop

5:00 pm



For more information, contact Angie and Tania at hopejoyhtw@gmail.com



Reception Into the Church by Chrismation

In cases, when a person has already been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they will be received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation.

Adult chrismation is often done during the Divine Liturgy. A candidate for chrismation should select a godparent, who is a member of an Orthodox Church in good standing.



Drew Chollis Chrismation

December 29, 2024 received the name Paul Leo by His Eminence Metropolitan Dionysios of Corinth in honor of the Founder of the Apostolic Church of Corinth. His Sponsors were Manny & Evie Fournaris. Welcome to the family Drew!



40-DAY BLESSINGS OF MOTHER & CHILD

The Rite of Churching

Together with being baptized and chrismated, the new-born child is also "churched." The **rite of churching** imitates the offering of male children to the temple according to the law of the Old Testament, particularly the offering of Christ on the fortieth day after his birth (*Luke 2:22*). Because of this fact, baptism in the Orthodox tradition came to be prescribed for the fortieth day or thereabouts. In the New Testament Church both male and female children are formally presented to God in the Church with special prayers at this time.

Also at this time, once more in imitation of Old Testament practice, the mother of the new-born child is also "churched." Here we have the specific example of the purification ritual of Jesus' mother Mary (*Luke 2:22*). In the Orthodox tradition the churching of the mother is her re-entry into the Assembly of God's people after her participation with God in the holy act of birth and after her separation from the Liturgy during her confinement.

Thus, the mother is blessed to enter once more into communion with the mystery of Christ's Body and Blood in the Divine Liturgy of the Church from which she has been necessarily absent.

The new mother should be churched before the baptism of her infant so that she can be present at the sacramental entrance of her child into the Kingdom of Christ.



40 Day Churching of
Natalie Roustopoulos & Baby Theodoros



On December 20 & 21 our JOY HOPE Youth and our GOYAnS went to visit some of our shut-ins to brighten their Christmas by singing to them! So well received, the GOYAnS led the Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve.
Great Job Holy Trinity Cathedral youth!



Holy Trinity Cathedral Celebrated Vasilopita Sunday, January 12, 2025, where the heads of each Ministry and Organization accepted the first pieces for their membership.





UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

**PRESIDENT DENNIS ASSANIS
AND FIRST LADY ELENI ASSANIS**

CORDIALLY INVITE

THE HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WILMINGTON

THE UDEL HELLENIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

2025 VASILOPITA

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 13 | 6 PM



**PRESIDENT'S SUITE
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
WHITNEY ATHLETIC CENTER**

**RSVP REQUIRED:
[HTTPS://UD.ALUMNIQ.COM/INDEX.CFM/ATTEND/SECRET/EVENT02132025](https://ud.alumniq.com/index.cfm/attend/secret/event02132025)**

H.U.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you graduating from high school in May 2025?

The Hellenic University Club of Wilmington offers four scholarships for graduating high school seniors from our community planning to attend a four-year university. Scholarship proceeds in your name are sent directly to your chosen university and are applied to your tuition.

Visit our website below and apply today!



H.U.C. Wilmington's four named scholarship awards for 2025 are:

The Hellenic University Club of Wilmington Scholarship

The Dr. George and Alice Gatos Scholarship

The Constantine and Georgina Georgiou Scholarship

The Spyros K. Demetriou Scholarship

Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία: Ανατολική/Βυζαντινή

Ο όρος Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία ή Βυζάντιο αναφέρεται στην Ανατολική Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία. Ο όρος Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία επινοήθηκε από τον Γερμανό ιστορικό Ιερώνυμο Γούλφ το 1557, έναν μόλις αιώνα μετά την "Άλωση της Κωνσταντινούπολης", ο οποίος στο έργο του *Corpus Historiae Byzantinae* εισηγήθηκε ένα σύστημα Βυζαντινής ιστοριογραφίας με σκοπό το διαχωρισμό αρχαίας Ρωμαϊκής από τη μεσαιωνική Ελληνική ιστορία.. Η επικράτηση του όρου όμως δεν έλαβε τόπο έως τον 17ο αιώνα όταν Γάλλοι λόγιοι τον εκλαΐκευσαν.

Η γνώμη πολλών ειδικών, για την αλλαγή του ονόματος της σε "Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία", μαρτυρεί μια υποβόσλουσα μακραίωνη έχθρα και υποτίμηση, ίσως και σύμπλεγμα κατωτερότητας. Το πρωτοφανές όνομα "Βυζάντιο", συσχετίζει τη Νέα Ρώμη, την Κωνσταντινούπολη δηλαδή, απλώς με μια αρχαία Ελληνική αποικία του 7ου π.Χ. αιώνα, προκειμένου να αποσυνδέσει το ανατολικό τμήμα από την δυτική αυτοκρατορία, και να περιγράψει με τον τρόπο αυτό, την άλλοτε κραταιά Αυτοκρατορία, που αυτοπροσδιοριζόταν ως μοναδικός κληρονόμος της αυτοκρατορικής Ρώμης. Παρά τις θετικές, αρχικές προσπάθειες κάποιων δυτικών ιστοριογράφων, η μακρά παράδοση αδιαφορίας, έλλειψης κατανόησης και παρεξηγήσεων ανάμεσα στις δύο πλευρές, οδήγησε σε μια νοοτροπία γκετοποίησης της Βυζαντινής ιστοριογραφίας.

Η Ανατολική Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία ξεκίνησε με τα εγκαίνια της Κωνσταντινούπολης την 11ην Μαΐου του 330 μ.Χ. και τελείωσε με την τελική της πτώση, την άλωση από τους Οθωμανούς Τούρκους, την Τρίτη, 29ην Μαΐου του 1453. Σ' αυτούς τους 11 αιώνες τα όριά της άλλαξαν πολλές φορές, αλλά στη μεγαλύτερή της έκταση διοικούσε εδάφη που περιελάμβαναν την Ιταλική χερσόνησο, τα Βαλκάνια, τη Μικρά Ασία, Συρία και Παλαιστίνη, την Αίγυπτο, τη σημερινή Τυνησία καθώς και μικρό τμήμα της Ιβηρικής χερσονήσου.

Από την Ρωμαϊκή αυτοκρατορία που κατελύθη το 476 μ.Χ. γεννήθηκε το "Εκχριστιανισμένο Ρωμαϊκό κράτος της Ανατολής" στο οποίο ο Δυτικός κόσμος οφείλει την διατήρηση του Ελληνικού και Ρωμαϊκού πολιτισμού του και η Ρώμη της σωτηρία της από επιθέσεις βαρβάρων Γερμανικών φυλών. Χρησιμοποιώντας διάφορες πηγές θα προσπαθήσω να περιγράψω στα επόμενα άρθρα μου την ιστορία αυτής της μεγάλης Χριστιανικής αυτοκρατορίας.

Roman Empire: Eastern/Byzantine

The term Byzantine Empire or Byzantium referred in Eastern Roman Empire, a term few people recognize today, even in Greece. The term Byzantine Empire was coined by the German historian Hieronymus Wolf in 1557, just only a century after the "Fall of Constantinople", who in his work *Corpus Historiae Byzantinae* recommended a system of Byzantine historiography to separate the ancient Roman from medieval Greek history. The prevalence of the term did not take place until the 17th century when French scholars made it popular.

The opinion of many experts, with whom I also agree even though I am not an expert, for the change of the name to "Byzantine Empire" indicates a long underlying hatred and degradation, perhaps due to an inferiority complex of the west to that great Hellenistic and Christian empire. By using the name "Byzantium", they conveniently related the New Rome, Constantinople that is, with only the ancient Greek colony Byzas of the 7th BC century, thus disconnecting the eastern part of the Roman Empire. That once mighty Empire identified themselves as the sole heir of imperial Rome. Despite positive initial attempts by some Western historiographers, the long tradition of indifference, incomprehension, and misunderstandings between the two sides led to a culture of isolation and alienation of the Byzantine historiography.

The Eastern Roman Empire began with the foundation of Constantinople, which is known today by its Turkish name Istanbul, which was originated from the Greek words *ES TIN POLIN*, to the city, on 11th May 330 AD and ended with the final fall, the fall of the Queen City to the Ottoman Turks, on Tuesday, 29th May 1453. In these 11 centuries, her limits have been changed several times, but its greatest extent ruled territories included the Italian peninsula, the Balkans, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, modern Tunisia, and small part of the Iberian Peninsula.

From the Roman empire, which was demised in 476 AD, the "Christianized Roman Empire of the East" was born, to whom the West owes the preservation of Greek and Roman civilization, its roots that is, and Rome its salvation from the attacks of barbarous Germanic tribes. In my next articles, using various sources, I will try to present the history of this great Christian empire.



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NEW
VESTMENT

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Contact Angie Karakasidis at akarakasidis@yahoo.com or (610)864-4621 and make a check payable to HOLY TRINITY (Memo: Altar Boy Robes) and send to 808 North Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806.





KITE FLYING

Sunday, March 2nd

**after Church Services
at Rockford Park**

1910 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

It's a tradition to fly kites on CLEAN MONDAY at the start of Lent. We will do the next best thing.... fly kites on Sunday after Divine Liturgy.

Go down to Coffee Hour, grab a snack and head over to Rockford Park. Don't forget to bring your kites!

Everyone is invited!! Kids and Kids at Heart!!

For more information, contact Angie and Tania at hopejoyhtw@gmail.com



On March 5th the Philoptochos
will *host* the first of
6 Lenten Community Meals
that will take place after the
Presanctified Liturgies
each Wednesday Evening @ 6:30pm
during the Lenten Period.

We hope you will join us each week as we gather for
a Lenten meal as the family of God.

The “Main” dish will be provided. Please bring a
friend or family member and your favorite Lenten
dish to share.

Our Hosts:

March 5 ~ Philoptochos

March 12 ~ Daughters of Penelope

March 19 ~ Young @Heart

March 26 ~ Hellenic University Club

April 2 ~ GOYA

April 9 ~ Parish Council



The Saturday of Souls

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

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

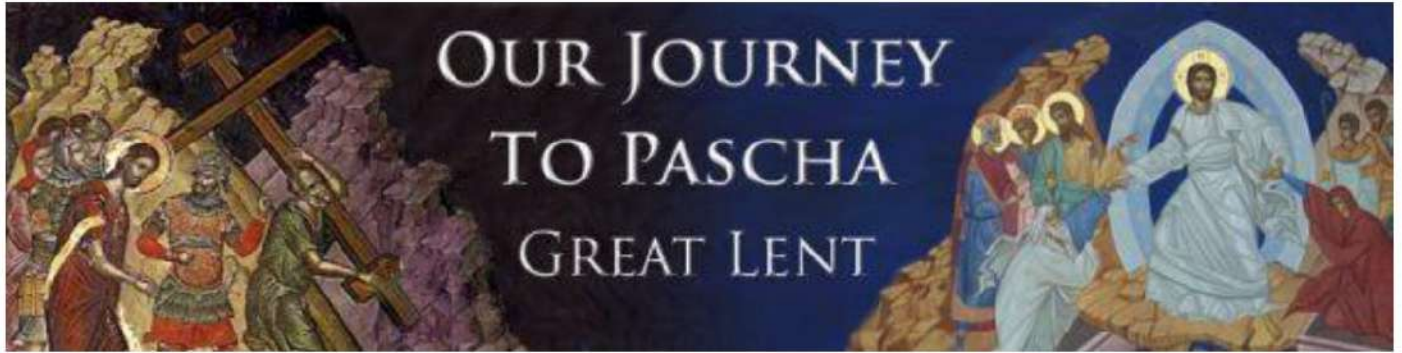
reposed together, it reminds each of us of his own death, and arouses us to repentance.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT 2025

- **Every Sunday:** *Orthros 9:00am and Divine Liturgy 10:00am*
- **Sunday, March 2nd** at 6:30pm: *Vespers Service of Forgiveness*
- **Every Monday,** beginning on *Clean Monday, March 3rd* at 6:00pm:
Great Compline Service, followed by Orthodox Lecture-Discussion
- **Every Wednesday,** beginning *March 5th* at 6:30pm:
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a community meal
- **Every Friday,** beginning *March 7th* at 6:30pm:
The Salutations to the Theotokos

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



SATURDAYS OF SOULS

❖ 1st Saturday of Souls: February 22, 2025

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am

❖ 2nd Saturday of Souls: March 1, 2025

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am

❖ 3rd Saturday of Souls: March 8, 2025

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am



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

ΙΕΡΑ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ

❖ 1^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 22 Φεβρουαρίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ

❖ 2^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 1 Μαρτίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ

❖ 3^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 8 Μαρτίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ



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



**Community Dance sponsored by
Holy Trinity Greek School**

Saturday February 22, 2025

Time 6-10pm

Adults 18 & up \$40

Youth 12-17 \$20

Children 11 & under \$10

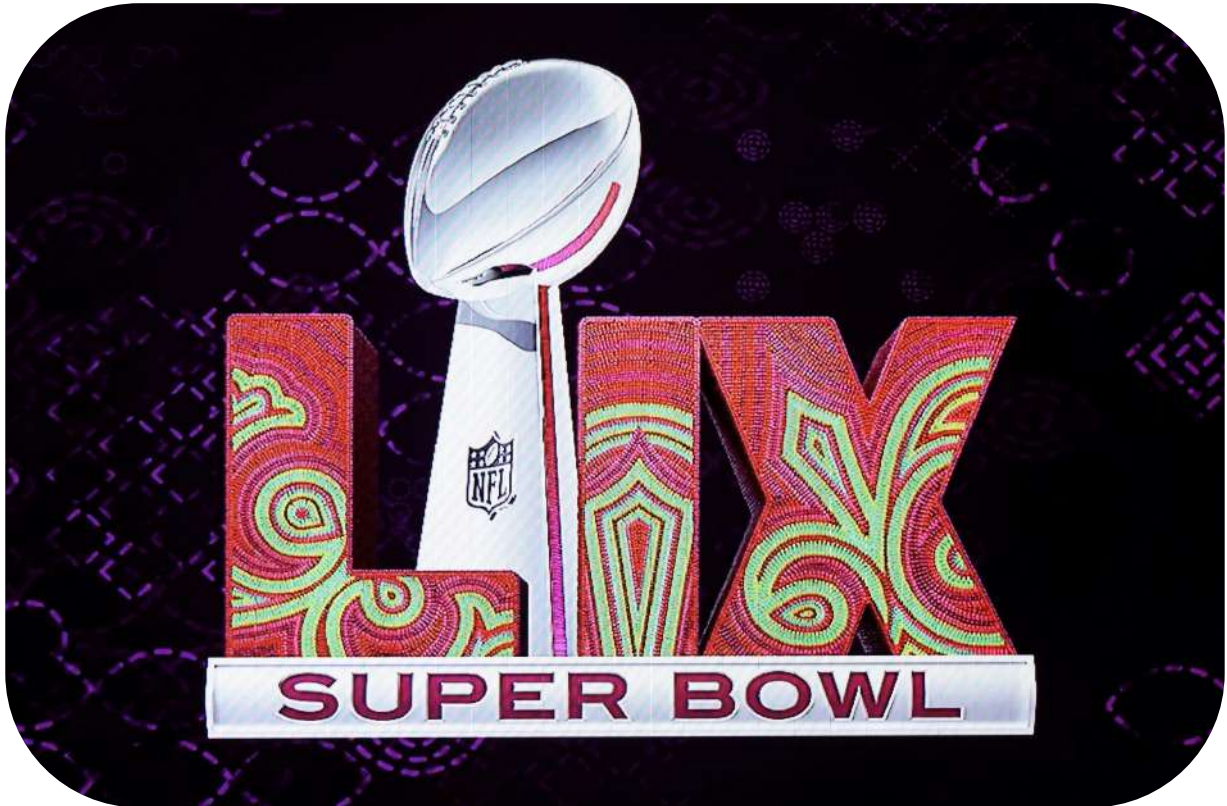
Cash Bar

Reservations call church office
or email vaia.iliadis@gmail.com

Food, fun, dancing, raffle
baskets & more



Order of AHEPA,
Wilmington Chapter #95
invites the Community to join us for



Sunday ~ February 9, 2025 @ 6:00pm

Holy Trinity AHEPA Room

808 N Broom Street, Wilmington, DE

FOOD & FUN for Everyone @ \$25 per person

Kids under 12 ~ FREE

Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 4, 2023

To reserve your tables or spot send email to:

ahepawilm@gmail.com

or call

Michael Kirifides 302.478.3529



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS ~ Please Join Us

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy
Alexopoulos, John & Eleni+
Anastasiades, Litsa
Annos, William & Irene+
Apostolakis, Nicholas & Irene
Arvanitis, Argyrios & Lisa
Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia
Bacchieri, Stacey
Burpulis, Maria
Caras Estate, Christopher+
Caras, Constantine & Maria
Chambers, George & Kathy
Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy
Christou, Vasilis, Alexandra & Family
Colborn, Brian & Nicole
Constantinou, John & Carol
Curtis, Harry & Sophia
Cozamanis, Steve & Annette
Dandolos, Dimitri & Carol
Dargakis, Mike & Kleo
Daughter's of Penelope, Wilmington, DE
Degermentzidis, George & Polyxeni
Demetriou, Spyros+ & Anna
Demourtzidis, Nicholas & Daphne
Diamond, Anthony & Lauren
Doukakis, Helen
Drimones, Clara
Drimones, Nicholas
Drossos, Peter
Dumel, John & Evangeline
Economou, George & Lena
Faller, James & Catherine
Frangakis, John+ & Christine
Galaris, Rick & Diana
Gatos, Paula
Geanopulos, Georgiean
George, Mary
Georgiou, Constantinos
Gotides, Virginia+
Gray, David & Eugenia
Grigorakakis, Maria
Grivas, Christopher & Michelle
Grivas, Demetrios & Helen
Halakos, Demetris, Georgia & Family
Halakos, Evangelos, Donna & Family
Halakos, Ioannis, Effie & Family
Haldas, Harry
Haldas, Michael
Haldas, Thomas
Haldas Long, Irene
Hantzandreou, Theodore+ & Labrini
Haralambidis, Maroula
Haralambidis, Nicholas
Hatzis, Thomas & Bing
Heliotis, Alexandra
Ioannou, John & Dorothy
Issaris, Katherine
Joseck, Anastasia
Joseck, Frederick & Xanthy
Kaliakin, Victor & Elizabeth
Karakasidis, Demetri

Karakasidis, Demetrios & Eleni
Karakasidis, John & Vickie
Karakasidis, Maria
Karakasidis, Stavroula
Karakasidis, Stephanos & Evaggelia
Karakasidis, Yianni
Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki
Karapanagiotis (Karas) Family
Karas, George
Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula
Katsanos & Family, Jack & Stella
Kayiaros & Family, Joanna Michell
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Leounes, Helen
Logothetis, Michael
Logulla, Despiona
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Matulas, Anagnostis, Angela & Family
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Pettaris, George & Stavroula
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Pierson, Georgia
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Poulos, Vasilis
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Terss, Robert+ & Eugenia+
Tsaganos, George+ & Alexandra
Tsaganos, Anthony & Ioanna
Tsaganos/McGee, Tina & John
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Young @ Heart
Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina
Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
Zographos, Nicholas & Katherine
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 this month 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.

Pledge Recognition Tiers

- \$1-999
- \$1,000-2,499
- \$2,500-4,999
- \$5,000-9,999
- \$10,000-19,999
- \$20,000-29,999
- \$30,000-49,999
- \$50,000-99,999
- \$100,000-149,999
- \$150,000 and above

NAME:

Enclosed please find my/our pledge payment for:

\$ _____

We wish to pledge \$ _____ annually for _____ years.

TOTAL PLEDGE: _____ for recognition.

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

All Gifts are greatly appreciated, and all Donors will be recognized on a permanent display in the new facility.

Capital Campaign

To contribute, please send your donation to:



**Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church
ATTN: Capital Campaign
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