



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

JANUARY 2025 – ISSUE 1



**The Epiphany of our Lord,
Great God, and Savior Jesus Christ
January 6**



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

808 N BROOM STREET

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806

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

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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

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(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 ORGANIZATIONS

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

Holy Trinity Website Address: www.holytrinitywilmington.org

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

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



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

"Let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God"

Dear beloved parishioners,
Happy and Blessed New Year!

As we are entering the new year 2025, we are grateful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all His precious gifts, *"for all things we know and do not know, for blessings manifest and hidden that have been bestowed on us"* and for the great gift of time. Time is given to us to manage our lives, but it really belongs to God. The only thing that is ours to do is to use time wisely, respectfully, in His service, and with one intention: to draw closer to God and save our souls. At the same time, the changing of a calendar year gives us the opportunity or responsibility to look back, consider our wrongdoings and failures, correct things, plan the future and become better humans for God, for our families and for our society. This is called personal accountability as Orthodox Christians and citizens of this earth.

In our days, we know that the biggest problem the people of this world have is **stress** that often leads to **distress**. Stress is a human reaction to either physical or emotional challenges in life. A great feeling of tension is created that keeps us from functioning normally and reasonably and can contribute to health problems and various psychological disorders, including anxiety and depression. Undoubtedly, the people who are further away from Christ and His Church are more susceptible to being stressed, sometimes uncontrollably. And unfortunately, some of us forget to turn to God for help when we need Him the most.

Jesus Christ assured us: *"Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"* (Matthew 6:32-34). He knows who we are and what we need, much better than we do. Rather, He wants us to seek Him first and His Kingdom and He will take care of everything else. He wants us to visit Him at His house which is the Church, participate in the Holy Sacraments, receive His Most Immaculate Body and Blood frequently, prepare ourselves by repenting and confessing our sins, serving others and trusting Him and His will. This is exactly what we repeat and offer as a prayer at every Divine Liturgy when we sing: *"Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God"*. We affirm that our whole life belongs to God, and we entrust our lives to Him.

My dear parishioners,

Another year will be unfolding before us. Another great opportunity to start fresh and anew. Another chance to make things right. Another occasion to glorify God for everything He has given to us and to pledge ourselves completely to Him. It is vital and essential to realize that God must be our priority in life. That we are His and the more we trust Him the more He will take care of us. Our only stress must be how to find the right path that will bring us into the Kingdom of God. And this right path will be found only through the Orthodox Church and our full participation in the spiritual life of our Church.

The year 2024 was a very important one for our Greek Orthodox Cathedral Community and a milestone in our history, as we celebrated our 90th Anniversary. This year-long celebration united our parish and gave us many reasons to feel proud and blessed for everything we have received from our ancestors but also consider our many responsibilities for the future of our parish. I am grateful to Holy Trinity for all of you and I am very proud of our youth. Our children are exceptional, and they guarantee the continuation of our parish's legacy and history into a brighter future!

Happy New Year Holy Trinity Cathedral family! May the Blessing and Grace of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

«Εαυτούς και αλλήλους και πάσαν την ζωήν ημών Χριστώ τω Θεώ παραθώμεθα»

Αγαπητοί μου Ενορίτες,

Σε κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία και Ιερή Ακολουθία της Εκκλησίας μας προσευχόμαστε στον Θεό και του δίνουμε μια υπόσχεση: ότι θα εμπιστευθούμε απόλυτα τους εαυτούς μας και ολόκληρη τη ζωή μας στον Χριστό. Αυτή την προσευχή την λέμε και την επαναλαμβάνουμε συνεχώς, αλλά τις περισσότερες φορές δεν καταλαβαίνουμε τι λέμε. Αν πράγματι πιστεύαμε ότι ολόκληρος ο εαυτός μας ανήκει στον Θεό και το θέλημά Του, τότε σίγουρα θα ήμασταν διαφορετικοί σαν άνθρωποι και Χριστιανοί.

Καθώς εισερχόμαστε στο νέο έτος 2025, καλούμαστε και πάλι να αναλογιστούμε τις ευθύνες μας και να διορθώσουμε τα λάθη του παρελθόντος. Παράλληλα, οφείλουμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Πανάγαθο Θεό για όλα όσα μας έχει χαρίσει, για ευεργεσίες που γνωρίζουμε αλλά και για αυτές που δεν γνωρίζουμε, για την υγεία μας, για την οικογένειά μας, για τις επιτυχίες μας, ακόμα και για τις αποτυχίες μας και τις δοκιμασίες μας.

Όπως πολύ καλά γνωρίζουμε, η σημερινή κοινωνία και οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι πάσχουν από την σύγχρονη ασθένεια που ονομάζεται «άγχος». Το άγχος προκαλείται μεν από πολλούς παράγοντες, αλλά αν το δούμε από πνευματική οπτική γωνιά, όταν έχουμε άγχος (σε ακραία βέβαια όρια) σημαίνει ότι δεν πιστεύουμε σωστά στον Θεό. Όπως έλεγε και ο Άγιος Παΐσιος: «Το άγχος είναι του διαβόλου. Όταν βλέπετε άγχος, να ξέρετε ότι εκεί έχει βάλει την ουρά του το ταγκαλάκι (ο διάβολος). Όταν νιώθουμε στον αγώνα μας άγχος, να ξέρουμε ότι δεν κινούμαστε στον χώρο του Θεού. Ο Θεός δεν είναι τύρραννος να μας πνίγει. [...] Ο Χριστός όλο αγάπη, καλωσύνη και παρηγοριά είναι και ποτέ δεν πνίγει, αλλά έχει άφθονο πνευματικό οξυγόνο, θεία παρηγοριά».

Ο Χριστός μας διδάσκει και μας παρακαλεί να τον τοποθετήσουμε στο κέντρο της ζωής μας, στο κέντρο της οικογενείας μας, στο κέντρο των αποφάσεών μας. **Χωρίς Χριστό, η ζωή μας είναι γεμάτη άγχος και αγωνία.** Όταν όμως έχουμε τον Χριστό, τότε θα μπορέσουμε να αντιμετωπίσουμε τα πάντα, με μεγαλύτερη ευκολία και υπομονή. Ο Χριστός δεν μας υπόσχεται ότι θα μας βοηθήσει με μαγικό τρόπο, αλλά ότι θα μας βοηθήσει να τα καταφέρουμε, και να ξεπεράσουμε οποιοδήποτε και αν είναι το πρόβλημα. Αρκεί να ακουμπήσουμε τα προβλήματά μας, το άγχος μας, τις αγωνίες μας, το μέλλον των παιδιών μας, το άυριο ολόκληρο στα πόδια του Θεού και να Του έχουμε επιστοσύνη. Όπως μας διαβεβαιώνει στο Ευαγγέλιο «αν ζητείτε εμένα και την Βασιλεία μου, τότε θα σας δώσω όλα όσα χρειάζεστε!» (Ματθ. 6, 33).

Αγαπητοί μου αδελφοί και Ενορίτες,

Καθώς ξεκινούμε τη νέα χρονιά, και όλοι έχουμε όνειρα, ελπίδες και προσδοκίες, ας υποσχεθούμε στον Θεό ότι θα Τον βάλουμε στην ζωή μας ως προτεραιότητα. «**Πρώτα ο Θεός!**» να λέμε συνέχεια. Να καταλάβουμε ότι ζωή μας είναι στα χέρια Του. Να ερχόμαστε τακτικά στην Εκκλησία, να μεταλαμβάνουμε το Τίμιο και Πανάγιο Σώμα και Αίμα Του, και να γεμίσουμε την ζωή μας και το σπίτι μας με Χριστό. Να διδάξουμε στα παιδιά μας, που δυστυχώς ζούν σε μία κοινωνία εχθρική ως προς την πίστη στον Θεό, ότι μόνο με την βοήθεια και την Χάρη Του μπορούν να πετύχουν στη ζωή τους. Και εμείς να γίνουμε παράδειγμα πίστης και εμπιστοσύνης στον Θεό για τα παιδιά μας.

Μέσα από την καρδιά μου εύχομαι και προσεύχομαι να είστε όλοι καλά και να εορτάσετε με υγεία και χαρά τις Άγιες Εορτές αλλά και κάθε ημέρα του Θεού. Ο Πανάγιος Τριαδικός Θεός να δίνει δύναμη και ελπίδα σε όλους και να ευλογεί την Ελληνορθόδοξη Κοινότητά μας. Το 2024 ήταν πολύ ιδιαίτερο και όμορφο καθώς γιορτάσαμε τα 90 χρόνια της Ενορίας μας. Εύχομαι να γιορτάσουμε και τα 100! Ο Θεός να ευλογεί τα παιδιά μας, τους νέους μας, τους γέροντές μας και τον καθένα και καθεμιά ξεχωριστά. Καλή και ευλογημένη νέα χρονιά!



π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης

Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου, Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

**ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟΣ Ο
ΚΑΙΝΟΥΠΙΟΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΣ!**

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

As we bid farewell to 2024 and prepare to welcome the blessings of the New Year, we extend to you our warmest wishes for a joyous and healthy 2025. May the light of Christ guide your steps, fill your hearts with peace, and illuminate your path with love and prosperity.

Looking Back:

This past year was filled with both challenges and triumphs, moments of sorrow and bursts of joy. We witnessed the strength of our community as we came together and celebrated our 90-years as a parish. This was a monumental and wonderful occasion where we bore witness to our church being elevated to a Cathedral! But let us not forget all of the other wonderful events held by our organizations and ministries from comedy night, Greek School dance, Festival, AHEPA convention, HUC lectures, Bid and Buy (just to name a few) as well as our charitable events such as Toy Drive, bagged lunches for the shelters, etc.

As we start this year, let's carry forward the spirit of collaboration, compassion, and hope. I am proud of what we've accomplished together, and I am confident that 2025 will be a year of even greater growth and success for our community.

Remember:

- **Regular Services:** Continue to attend our regular services throughout the month, seeking spiritual guidance and strengthening your connection with God and our community.
- **Community Outreach:** Volunteer your time and talents to various church activities and initiatives, making a positive impact on the lives of others.
- **Prayer:** Keep our church family in your prayers and remember to pray for those facing challenges and in need of God's grace.

As always, I encourage all of you to stay engaged, share your thoughts, and get involved in the exciting work ahead. Your feedback and participation are invaluable as we create a community that is inclusive, supportive, and resilient. Please feel free to reach out to myself, to one of the Parish Council members, Father Christoforos, or one of the organization heads. Their information can be found in the bulletin.

May the New Year be filled with an abundance of blessings, both spiritual and material. Let us walk together in faith, hope, and love, embodying the teachings of our Lord.

Stephanos Karakasidis

On December 8, 2024 the Parish Council Elections were held and five (5) members were elected to serve a three (3) year term. They are:

Anamaria Anagnostou, Stacey Pennia, Leo Rasis, Peter Xarhoulakos & Dena Verikakis

We welcome them to the Parish Council and we thank the out-going council members, Costas Fountzoulas, Tom Karas, and George Tsakataras for their love and dedication to our Holy Trinity Parish. The New Parish Council will take the Oath of Office on January 12.





Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and Parishioners:

Happy New Year!! I pray that everyone had a happy holiday season!

As I reflect on 2024, the Ladies of Philoptochos celebrated many firsts. Our Bid N Buy hosted 300 guests, the first for our Cathedral. Your support, along with our sister chapters from the tri-state area, made this event a huge success. Our Chairpersons, Angie Karakasidis and Madeline Pshalinos are to be commended for their hard work and dedication in reaching this achievement. We thank everyone who contributed their time and effort in setting up the hall and for their assistance the evening of the event. Thank you to Father Christoforos for his constant support and advice. The event ran smoothly because of assistance from our GOYAn's and the help from our JOY/HOPE ministries. They are always enthusiastic about assisting us when we ask. What can I say about the food! Eleni Karakasidis and the "kitchen crew" made the most delicious meal I have ever had at a Bid N Buy. As a result of our success, we can extend our philanthropic donations to the many in need.

We held our first bake sale in December, which we extended to our Wilmington Community. The baked goods included many of the traditional Greek Christmas sweets and we were pleasantly surprised at the number of orders we received. Thanks to Eleni Karakasidis and Georgia Halakos for agreeing to Chair the sale. In addition, our Christmas bread (Christopsomo) and Vasilopita orders also were increased. Thank you to Popi Papachrysanthou and Maria Grigorakakis for all their efforts.

The Community Breakfast chaired by Vickie Karakasidis included French toast, hash browns and fruit salad for the enjoyment by all.

In the coming months we'll be hosting a Zumba night! Please look for more information. We will also be selling Loukoumades in February and for the first time we'll be making Fasolada on the Sunday of Orthodoxy in March. Watch your emails for more information in the coming weeks and months.

We wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year!

In Christ's Service,
Dena Verikakis



Vasilopita (St. Basil Bread)

*Cutting of the Vasilopita Breads
sponsored by Philoptochos*

Sunday, January 12, 2025

A tray will be passed and donations
will be accepted to benefit
St. Basil's Academy ~ Garrison, NY



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.

Philoptochos holds Annual Bud N Buy ~ November 22

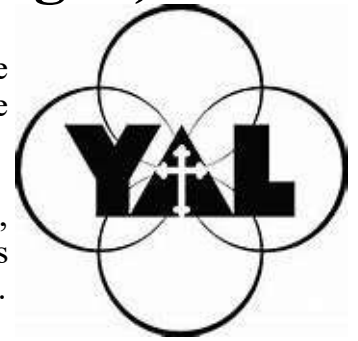






Y.A.L. News (Young Adult League)

After Thanksgiving, Holy Trinity's Young Adult League gathered at the church to participate in the small compline service and socialize in the community hall. We shared discussions, food, and played basketball.



We have been supporting other YAL groups and their events in the area, including St. George Media, St. Luke Broomall, just to name a few. It is very encouraging to see the continued growth with YAL in our Metropolis.

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

Our next gathering will be in January 2025... more info to come.

We would like to wish the
Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox
Cathedral Community
a blessed Christmas
and a
healthy New Year!





THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST (January 6)

Apolytikion in the First Tone

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

Reading:

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.



SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, BAPTIST, & FORERUNNER (January 7)

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

The Jordan accepted Your presence in the flesh and reversed its course in fear. John, fulfilling the spiritual ministry, fell back in awe. The ranks of Angels, seeing You in the flesh, baptized in the river, were amazed, and all who were in darkness were filled with light, praising You who appeared and enlightened all.

Reading:

Today we celebrate the Synaxis in honour of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rest from labour. Fish allowed



SAVE THE DATE!

GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, February 2, 2024

Invite your Godparents or Godchildren to Church
to honor this special bond!

Worship together at Divine Liturgy and
Reconfirmation Service, receive Holy Communion
together, to celebrate this spiritual bond!

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>Circumcision of our Lord / St Basil the Great</u> <u>9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</u>	2 6pm Metropolis of NJ Vasilopita @ Metropolis Headquarters, Westfield, NJ 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	3 <u>9am Service of the Great Hours of the Epiphany</u>	4 11am DVYC Quarter Finals @ Holy Trinity
5 <u>Forefeast of Theophany</u> <u>Blessing of the Waters</u> <u>9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</u> NO Sunday School/Family Worship STRICT FAST	6 <u>Holy Theophany</u> <u>Great Blessing of Waters</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	7 <u>St John the Baptist</u> <u>9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</u>	8 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	9 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	10 5:30pm HOPE JOY & Prosfora Workshop	11 11am Philoptochos Meeting
12 <u>Sunday after Theophany</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Vasilopita Sunday Parish Council Oath of Office 12pm Serving at Emmanuel Dining Room	13 5:30pm His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos 10th Anniversary Banquet Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	14	15 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	16 <u>6pm Vespers of St Anthony @Vineland, NJ</u> 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	17 <u>St Anthony</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy PREP for: GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT	18 GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT (7pm-11pm Dance)
19 <u>12th Sunday of Luke</u> 9:00am Hierarchal Orthros /Divine Liturgy Family Worship GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT	20 Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	21 6:30pm Philoptochos Painting with a Twist	22 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	23 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	24 5:30pm HOPE JOY	25 <u>St. Gregory the Theologian</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy
26 <u>15th Sunday of Luke</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School HUC Speaker for Letters Day 4pm Greek Letters Day Celebration @ St Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA	27 Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	28 6pm DOP Meeting 6pm S& S, 7pm DVYC Meeting @ St Thomas, Cherry Hill, NJ	29 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	30 <u>Three Hierarchs</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Rooms 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	31	

ALTAR GUILD

Welcome "2025" and the Altar Guild wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

A few donations were given to help with the expense of decorating the church for Christmas. Every year we try to enhance and refresh our decorations and the contributions help to offset this cost as well as the buying of the poinsettia and garland. They are as follows:

Steve, Karen and George Velitskakis: for the continued good health of our family

George & Stavroula Pettaris: Happy holidays to all and continued good health for our family

Daughters of Penelope

December 25th: Flower arrangements from **Anna Tsionas:** In loving memory of my beloved husband and dear parents, Forever in our hearts

January 7th: **George and Stavroula Pettaris:** In memory of our father John and Happy name day to our son Yianni.

Donation needed for January 30th ~ The Three Hierarchs.

Lastly I would to thank all the members who decorated the church for the Holidays:

Evie Fournaris, Diana Galaris, Kristie Asimos, Sophia Hionis and Joanne Tarabicos

We wish all of our Parishioners a very healthy year and thank you for the continued support.

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

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 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 January

Coffee Hours:

January 8 ~ Young @ Heart

January 12 ~ The Parish Council

January 19 ~ GOYA TOURNAMENT

January 26 ~ AHEPA Greek Letters Day Breakfast



Narthex Duty:

January 8 ~ Group 1

January 12 ~ Group 2

January 19 ~ Group 2

January 26 ~ 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



The Young @ Heart wishes everyone a
HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Our next gathering is
Thursday, January 9, 2025
@ 12pm

We hope to see you all there!

On December 12 the Young @ Heart held their annual
Christmas Luncheon at Walter's Steakhouse!
We enjoyed a great meal thanks to parishioner John
Constantinou and had lots of fun and fellowship!



2025 THEOPHANY BLESSINGS

Father Christoforos would love to come and bless your home or business so that he will have the opportunity to personally connect with you.

If you would like to have your home or business blessed, please call the church office, or fill out the form below and send it to the church office. Please do not assign a specific date. Father will contact you ahead of time to finalize the date.

The Blessing of homes and businesses is an ancient tradition in our Orthodox Church emanating from the Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters. Fr. Christoforos blesses homes throughout the year so he can minister to us as our Spiritual Father.

In fact, as Orthodox Christians we bless everything with Holy Water. (e.g. cars, gardens, new beginnings; our places of worship, work, play, socializing and fellowshiping together and by extension all of the created world.) Holy Water, which is imbued with the Divine Energies of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is used to bless every aspect of our lives. By blessing we sanctify, beautify, and dedicate all things for the good and the beautiful. We receive a special blessing from God, which enables us to see all of creation in a redeemed way, and discover that all things can be used for the purpose of union with God..

What should you expect in terms of the House Blessing?

Father will offer a short prayer service in front of your home altar and then proceed through the home sprinkling it with holy water, while chanting the Hymn of Theophany. (Baptism of Christ)

What should you have ready?

Have a table ready and accessible with an icon of Christ or Panagia and your Bible. You should have a candle, charcoal and incense.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME NUMBER (required): _____

CELL NUMBER: (required): _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO

WEEKDAYS:	YES	NO
SATURDAYS:	YES	NO
MORNING:	YES	NO
EVENING:	YES	NO

COMMENTS: _____

December 12th at the Emmanuel Dining Room East

We sincerely thank the **Karakasidis family** for sponsoring our meal in December, as they have for many years now, helping to close out another great year of service! We look forward to a new host and sponsor for our first meal in the new year on January 12th. 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 Happy & Healthy New Year!

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

Happy New Year!

We hope this message finds you and your family in good health!

In November the St Stephen's Food Pantry served:

***1,100 household visits
781 children
1868 adults
2,649 total individuals***

As we start the new year let's keep the momentum going!

Especially needed this month is:

***Soup, baby food, toilet paper, shampoo, bath soap or body wash,
Dish liquid and laundry detergent***

***We greatly appreciate all that you're doing as a church community.
Every little bit helps !***

We wish you all a Happy New Year!!

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



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ



November 25, 2024

Dear beloved Stewards of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

I greet you in the name of our Lord, and I pray that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year! As I reflect upon the year that has passed, I am thankful for you and your family, here at our Church. We recently celebrated our 90th Anniversary, which became for all of us a source of joy, unity and spiritual pride in the work that we, together, have accomplished all these bright years.

As we are drawing near the end of 2024, I write to you in the name of your longstanding love for our Church, to personally appeal to you to support our Stewardship drive. Your generous contributions, donations and most importantly your presence have very tangible benefits, and they are critical for our community, to support and maintain our parish's ministries, operating expenses and offer as many programs as possible for all ages.

Enclosed you will find a Stewardship Pledge Card and information about the kind act of giving Stewardship. Please examine them closely and make a prayerful decision according to your financial strength and your willingness to help our parish grow.

Please check your records, and if you have not fully paid your commitment for 2024, could you soon fulfill it. **Sunday, December 8th** has been designated as Stewardship Sunday to inaugurate the new year. If you are ready, please bring with you the 2025 Stewardship Pledge Card that day or you can always mail it to the Church office.

- The Christian work of our Cathedral is made possible only through your support.
- Our ministries can be sustained only by your generous love and contributions.
- Your commitment to Stewardship is vital for everything we do.
- **Feel free** to come to Holy Trinity to worship and pray with us!
- **Feel safe** to bring your children to our Church, to become part of our community!

I am here for you and your family. I would love to speak with you and of course meet you and your family in person if we have not done so already! You may reach me at 856-246-2756. I am looking forward to seeing/meeting you on Sunday, December 8th!

With love in Christ and gratitude to you,

Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis
Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Presiding Priest

FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Raisis, Spiros
Raisis, William & Emily
Rapposelli, Hareklia
Rassias, Dion & Gina
Rassias, George & Amalea
Rassias, Jerry D.
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
Saitis, Mary
Saridakis, Christopher & Penelope
Sartin, Nimrah & Deborah
Savopoulos, Despina

Schillinger, Robert & Karen
Semos, Joanne
Shahwan, Sofy
Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis
Sparco, Joe & Alexandra
Staab, Kristina
Staikos, Nicholas & Eirini
Stavropoulos, Xanthy
Stavru, Nicholas & Maria
Stavru, Sophia
Stout, Robert & Voula
Tangalidis, Dimitrios & Maria
Tarabicos, Christina
Tarabicos, John & Joanne
Tarabicos, Sophia
Tawfik, Emad & Tania
Teclerariam, Berhan & Saba
Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa
Theodorakos, Nicholas
Thomas, Donald & Effy
Thomas, Richard & Angela
Tsaganos, Alexandra
Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne

Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna
Tsaganos, Peggy
Tsaganos, Robert
Tsaganos, Robert & Popi
Tsaganos-McGee, Tina & John
Tsakataras, George
Tsakiris, Konstantine
Tsakumis, George & Julia
Tsakumis, Theodore
Tsaldaris, Nicholas & Bonnie
Tsavalas, George & Yvonne
Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna
TSIONAS, Angela
TSIONAS, Anna
TSIONAS, Evagelos
Tsoukalas, Frederiki
Tsoukalas, Niki
Tsoutsos, Nektarios & Chengmo
Tsugranes, George & Penny
Turley, Steve & Akiko
Vande Poele, A. David & Anna
Vassiliou, Kleoniki
Vassos, Barbara

Velitskakis, George
Velitskakis, Steve & Karen
Verikakis, Dena
Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon
Vice, Elaine
Visvardis, Fotini
Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Vlami, Nicholas & Peggy
Voultis, Catherine
Voultis, Evangeline & Damien
Voultis, Jordana
Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly
Wilkinson, Suzanne
Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Xarhoulakos, Peter
Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina
Zerefos, Markos & Eugenia
Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
Zographos, Katherine

**As of December 21, 2024
(356 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!

A final list of stewards will be posted
in the February Bulletin.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

December 4, 2024

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolis Council, Beloved Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,

Dedicated Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Society,

Devout Faithful of the Greek Orthodox Communities of the Sacred Metropolis of New Jersey

Dear beloved Clergy and Faithful,

It is with much joy and enthusiasm that we are pleased to share with you all of the information for the upcoming 10th Anniversary Gala in Honor of the Ten-Year Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, which will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025, at *The Venetian* in Garfield, New Jersey.

Enclosed with this letter please find the informative Gala Flyer for the ticket sales, as well as the details for the various levels of Sponsorships for this highly anticipated event. Please know that all proceeds from the 10th Anniversary Gala, as per the wishes of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos, will be designated to assisting with the sacred Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

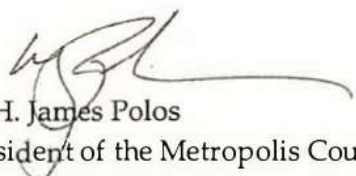
Please know that for Group/parish tickets, parishes are asked to collect the money from their parishioners for the ticket sales, fill out the enclosed Table Seating Form, and send one check for all the parish's tickets to the Metropolis (the same way that we do for the Honoree/Ambassador Banquets).

Additionally, please find enclosed the 10th Anniversary Gala Sponsorship Form. All Sponsorship forms are to be completed and sent together with payment to the Metropolis Headquarters, marked *Attn: 10th Anniversary Sponsorship*.

All checks are to be made payable to the "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey – Ministry," with "10th Anniversary Gala" in the memo line. For additional information please contact the Metropolis at 908-301-0500 or email 10thAnniversarynj@gmail.com

Please know that all tickets must be purchased and all sponsorships submitted to the Metropolis by **Friday, January 3, 2025**. We thank you in advance with your assistance and participation in this auspicious occasion and we wish all of you a most blessed and Merry Christmas.

+Archim. Philotheos Tomczewski!
+ Archim. Philotheos Tomczewski
Vicar of Northern New Jersey
Co-Chairman of the 10th Anniversary Banquet


Archon H. James Polos
Vice-President of the Metropolis Council &
Chairman of the 10th Anniversary Banquet



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of New Jersey

10th Anniversary Gala
in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of
His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Monday, January 13, 2025
5:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour
6:30 P.M. Dinner

The Venetian
546 River Drive, Garfield, NJ 07026

Tickets.....\$160.00 per person

For more information contact the Metropolis at
908-301-0500 or Email 10thAnniversaryNJ@gmail.com

For Sponsorships, please complete and submit the
Sponsorship Form

All ticket purchases and sponsorships are due by January 3, 2025

Sponsorship Program Levels of Support

Sponsor.....	\$1,250
2 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Supporter.....	\$2,500
4 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Patron.....	\$5,000
6 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Benefactor.....	\$10,000
10 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Grand Benefactor.....	\$20,000
10 Tickets for Dinner, Full Program Insert	

All net proceeds from sponsorships and tickets for the 10th Anniversary Gala
will be restricted to solely benefit the Sacred Ministries of the Metropolis of New Jersey

New Date & Location



10th Anniversary Gala
in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

.....
Monday, January 13, 2025
The Venetian | Garfield, New Jersey



SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, & JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Apolytikion in the First Tone

The three most great luminaries of the Three-Sun Divinity have illumined all of the world with the rays of doctrines divine and true; they are the sweetly-flowing rivers of wisdom, who with godly knowledge have watered all creation in clear and mighty streams: The great and sacred Basil, and the Theologian, wise Gregory, together with the renowned John, the famed Chrysostom of golden speech. Let us all who love their divinely-wise words come together, honouring them with hymns; for ceaselessly they offer entreaty for us to the Trinity.

Kontakion in the Second Tone

Receive, O Lord, the Sacred Heralds who preached God, the pinnacle of Teachers, unto the enjoyment of Your riches and rest. You have received their labors and their suffering as being above and beyond all fruitful offering. For You alone glorify Your Saints.

Reading:

This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred Basil, while others preferred Gregory, and yet others preferred John Chrysostom, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor, they revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty. Saint John of Euchaita (celebrated Oct. 5) is also the composer of the Canon to the Guardian Angel, the Protector of a Man's Life. In his old age, he retired from his episcopal see and again took up the monastic life in a monastery in Constantinople. He reposed during the reign of the aforementioned Emperor Alexis Comnenus (1081-1118).

On December 8, the Hellenic University Club, along with the Parish Council, sponsored a concert at The Music School of Delaware featuring Barbara Govatos, Cynthia Raim and Robert Martain.

It was a wonderful event and all who attended enjoyed Trios by Beethoven & Brahms



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!



hucwilmington.org

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

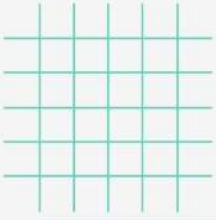
The Hellenic University Club of Wilmington Scholarship

The Dr. George and Alice Gatos Scholarship

The Constantine and Georgina Georgiou Scholarship

The Spyros K. Demetriou Scholarship

GOYA Newsletter



Old News

- GOYA Christmas Party and Kalanda trip to local nursing homes happened on 12/21 with a great turnout!
- Thank you to everyone in our parish family that helped make the Toy Drive with the Philoptocos Society a success! We delivered two carloads to the Ronald Mcdonald house and the Hope House.
- Our November clothing drive was also very well received. Thank you for all of your generous donations!



Upcoming Events

- Basketball Tourney 2025 LOADING!
- January 18 & 19
- Sign up for assisting (for 1 hour or 1 day)
- Place an ad to cheer on our team!
- His Eminence Bishop Apostolos will join us celebrating the Divine Liturgy 1/19
- Saturday 2/1 DVYC Youth Ski Trip
- MDF 2/14, 15, & 16

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

Goya Ad Book Form



2025 Basketball Tournament January 18 & 19, 2025

Please check a box off and send in the ad information and payment. Make checks payable to Holy Trinity GOYA. Different types of ads may be accepted, for example: in remembrance ads, graduation ads, pictures, business ads, store ads, personal congratulatory ads, etc. Below are the prices per each different advertisements. Thank you for your support.

- Back Cover (full page): \$175
- Front Inside Cover (full page): \$175
- Back Inside Cover (full page): \$175
- Half-Page: B&W: \$50, COLOR: \$65
- Full-Page: B&W: \$100, COLOR: \$115

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.

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2025

HOPE & JOY newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope 2025 is filled with lots of fun, exciting adventures, and the happiest moments ever! Keep smiling and spreading your wonderful smiles everywhere you go!

In December, we finished the year by spreading Christmas cheer. We were able to sing Kalanda at a nursing home, followed by a wonderful Christmas party. And as every year, we learned about Saint Nicholas and had him fill our shoes with treats. Here are some pictures of our celebrations:



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, Jan. 10

Dance Practice & Prosforo Workshop

Friday, Jan. 24

Dance Practice

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



On Wednesday December 4, 2024
the Greek School
partnered with
HOPE / JOY
hosted a St Nicholas Event
that included a lesson about the
Feast of St Nicholas, decorating
the tree outside in the lobby and
enjoyed food and fellowship!







The Greek School Celebrates Breakfast with Santa December 15, 2024



Έθιμα: Τα Κάλαντα των Χριστουγέννων
Δρ. Κώστας Γ. Φούντζουλας

Η λέξη Κάλαντα προέρχεται από την Λατινική λέξη *Calendae* (Καλένδαι), που σημαίνει “Πρωτομηνιές.” Στην Ανατολική Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία, γνωστή και ως Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία, συνήθιζαν να εορτάζουν τις Καλένδες του Ιανουαρίου με ιδιαίτερη λαμπρότητα, οι οποίες, σε μεγάλο βαθμό, εσχετίζοντο με αρχαιοελληνικά έθιμα. Οι “Καλένδαι” του Ιανουαρίου ονομάζονταν Πυανέσια, ονομασία προερχόμενη από τον μήνα Πυανεψώνα (15 Οκτωβρίου με 15 Νοεμβρίου). Στην αρχαία Ελλάδα, κατά τη διάρκεια των Διονυσιακών εορτών, τα παιδιά επισκέπτονταν τα σπίτια, κρατώντας στο χέρι ένα κλαδί δάφνης ή ελιάς, τυλιγμένο με πρόβειο μαλλί, την “Ερεσιώνη”, και τραγουδούσαν τα κάλαντα. Τα παιδιά τότε, όπως και σήμερα πήγαιναν στα σπίτια και έλεγαν διάφορα άσματα για να πάρουν φιλοδώρημα.

Τα Χριστουγεννιάτικα κάλαντα στην πραγματικότητα είναι Πρωτοχρονιάτικα γιατί μέχρι τον 4ο αιώνα Μ.Χ. η 25η του Δεκεμβρίου εορτάζονταν ως αρχή του νέου έτους. Κατά μία παράδοση, η συνήθεια να ψάλλονται τα κάλαντα των Χριστουγέννων διεσώθηκε από τον Άγιο Φραγκίσκο. Μάλιστα λένε, πώς όταν οι χωρικοί τον επισκεύθηκαν στην Χριστουγεννιάτικη σκηνή του αυτός τους εξήτησε να τραγουδήσουν τα κάλαντα.

Παλαιότερα τα παιδιά έψαλλαν τα κάλαντα το βράδυ της παραμονής των Χριστουγέννων, της Πρωτοχρονιάς και των Φώτων, κρατώντας μία μαγκούρα ή ένα ραβδί για να προστατευθούν από τα άγρια σκυλιά. Τα τελευταία χρόνια τα παιδιά ψάλλουν τα κάλαντα το πρωί της παραμονής των τριών μεγάλων αυτών εορτών, ξεκινώντας συνήθως από τις 5 η ώρα το πρωί. Ενώ παλαιότερα τα παιδιά κρατούσαν ένα караβάκι όταν έψαλλαν τα κάλαντα, τώρα κρατούν ένα χαλύβδινο τρίγωνο, που κτυπούν ρυθμικά καθ’ όσον ψάλλουν τα κάλαντα για να κρατούν τον ρυθμό. Κατά την αρχαία εορτή των “Ανθεστηρίων” ο ερχομός του Διονύσου παρίστατο επίσης με ένα ομοίωμα караβιού. Τα παλιά τα χρόνια, με την μεγάλη φτώχεια, μιας και τα χρήματα ήταν σπάνια, το πιο συνηθισμένο φιλοδώρημα των παιδιών ήταν τα “Κόλιντρα”; δηλαδή μικρές κουλούρες από σιτάρι ή κριθάρι. Τα έθιμά μας πηγαίνουν πολλούς αιώνες πίσω!

**ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2025!!**

Customs: Kalanda or Christmas Carols*
Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

The word “Kalanda” is derived from the Latin word “Calendae”, meaning “The first day of the month.” In the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as Byzantine Empire, they used to observe the Calendae of January in a particular magnificent way that, to a great extent, were related to ancient Hellenic customs. The “Calendae” of January were called “Pianepsia”, name derived from the month “Pianepsiona” (15 October to 15 November). In ancient Greece, during the Dionysian festivities, the kids were visiting the houses and they were singing the kalanda holding in their hand a laurel or an olive branch, wrapped up in sheep wool, which was called “Eresioni.” The kids then, as now, were singing various songs (caroling) at the houses for a tip.

However, the Christmas Kalanda were New Year’s Kalanda, because until the 4th century A.D. the 25th of December was considered the beginning of the New Year. According to a legend, the custom of singing the Kalanda (Caroling) of Christmas was preserved by Saint Francis. In particular, it is said that when some peasants visited his tent during Christmas he asked them to carol.

In the past, the kids used to carol during the evening of the Christmas Eve, New Year’s Day and Epiphany (Phota), holding a cane or a stick in order to protect themselves from the wild dogs of the neighborhood. Nowadays, the kids sing the Kalanda during the morning of the eve of these three great feasts of Christianity, by visiting the houses as early as 5:00 o’clock in the morning. Whereas in the past the kids were holding a small effigy of a ship when they were caroling, now they usually are holding a small steel triangle, which they are beating rhythmically inasmuch as singing carols to keep the pace. During the ancient Greek feast of “Anthestiria” (Flower Festival), the arrival of god Dionysos was also portrayed by an effigy of a small ship. In the not so distant past, at the times of the great poverty, since money was scarce, the most common tip of the children were “Kolintra”, that is small spiral loaves of wheat or barley. Our customs go back many eons!

* Carol: Derived from the Latin *choraules*, which is derived from the Greek *choraules*, “a flute player who accompanied the choral dance.”

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!!**

HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY

Churching's:

Dionysia Karvounis, daughter of Nikolaos & Amanda, received her 40 Day Blessing on December 22, 2024. We congratulate the family and pray the Lord will bless them as they prepare for baptism.

Crew John Raisis, son of William & Emily, received his 40 Day Blessing on December 22, 2024. We congratulate the family and pray the Lord will bless them as they prepare for baptism.

Chrismation's:

Richard Thomas was Chrismated at Holy Trinity on October 13, 2024. Josiah & Paraskevi Wolcott acted as sponsors. We congratulate him and his sponsors and welcome Rich into the Orthodox faith.

Baptisms:

Mateo Diaz, son of Bianca Ferrante, was baptized at Holy Trinity on November 16, 2024. Robert & Kalliope Tsaganos acted as sponsors. We congratulate him and his sponsors and welcome Mateo into the Orthodox faith.

Weddings:

Michael Efelis & Alexandra Shipley, were united in marriage on October 19, 2024. The sponsor was Nicholas Efelis We congratulate the newly united in Christ and pray our Lord will bless them always.

Funerals:

Virginia Karablacas, fell asleep in the Lord on November 5, 2024. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on November 13, 2024. She is survived by her mother, Eleni and her brother, Stelios, her Goddaughters, Alexandra and Olivia, and many beloved family and friends. May her memory be eternal.

Margaret Riggins, fell asleep in the Lord on November 23, 2024. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on December 2, 2024. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, William. She is survived by her four sons, William, James, Gregory and George, and six grandsons and one great-granddaughter, who will always remember her warmth, kindness and boundless love. May her memory be eternal.

Helen Grivas, fell asleep in the Lord on November 30, 2024. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on December 2, 2024. She is survived husband Demetrios Grivas, two sons and their wives, Christopher & Michelle, Dean & Alicia, and her grandchildren Gina, Christopher, Demetri and Athena. May her memory be eternal.

Katina Galanakis, fell asleep in the Lord on December 1, 2024. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on December 9, 2024. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, John and her daughter Betty. She is survived by her sister Barbara, her daughters Ouarnia (Michael), and Julie (Bill); her grandchildren, Tina (Juan Carlos), John (Athina), Pella (Andreas), Theo (Elizabeth), and Yianni; her great-grandchildren Lia (Joey), Sophia, PJ and Michael and a great-great grandson Luka. May her memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Sultana Diamanty ~ 40 Day ~ October 13
Aikaterini Melissourgos ~ 40 Day ~ November 24
Elaine Papantinas ~ 10 Years ~ December 8
Demosthenes George ~ 20 Years ~ December 8
Virginia Karablacas ~ 40 Day ~ December 8
Fr. Christoforos' Family ~ Annual ~ December 15
Haralambos Bouloukos ~ 3 Years ~ December 15
Vasiliki Vlahos ~ 2 Years ~ December 15
Vasilis Parras ~ 45 Years ~ December 22
John Lazopoulos Sr. ~ 23 Years ~ December 22
Katina Lazopoulos ~ 19 Years ~ December 22
Helen Grivas ~ 40 Day ~ December 29
Margaret Riggins ~ 40 Day ~ December 29



His Eminence Metropolitan Dionysios of Corinth (Greece), offered the memorial for our beloved Virginia Karablacas and spoke to the faithful.



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Annos, William & Irene+
Apostolakis, Nicholas & Irene
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Bacchieri, Stacey
Burpulis, Maria
Caras Estate, Christopher+
Caras, Constantine & Maria
Chambers, George & Kathy
Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy
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Cozamanis, Steve & Annette
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Haldas, Michael
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Issaris, Katherine
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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
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Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula
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Rigas, Elias & Potoula
Riggins, Margaret
Righos, George+ & Elaine
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Roussalis, John & Valerie
Ruhl, David & Athena
Schillinger, Robert & Karen
Skidas, Eoanna
Snell, Bryan & Pauline
Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis
Staikos, Nicholas & Eirini
Stavropoulos, John+ & Xanthy
Stevens, Richard & Penny
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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!



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