

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

SEPTEMBER 2025 - ISSUE 9

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (September 8)



The Universal Elevation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross of Christ (September 14)



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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



My dear beloved parishioners and friends,

Welcome back to all of you, our beloved faithful, from your summer vacations and travels. I pray that your summer months were filled with rest, renewal, and opportunities for family time, while never forgetting the presence of Christ in your lives. Here at our Holy Trinity Cathedral, the summer was quiet in terms of parish activity, but it was also busy in planning and preparing for the new ecclesiastical year. August was especially beautiful, dedicated as always to the Feast of our Panagia, the Mother of our Lord. With reverence and devotion, we gathered together for the Paraklesis or Supplication Services, lifting up our hearts in prayer to the Theotokos. We also celebrated with deep joy and solemnity the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th. This was a moving celebration, observed by many faithful of our parish, and a reminder that the death of the Mother of God is not a cause for mourning but a source of joy and hope since she was taken by her Son into heavenly glory.



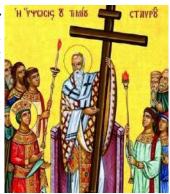
Now, as September arrives, we turn a new page and enter into the new ecclesiastical year. Each year, on September 1st, our Orthodox Church begins her liturgical cycle anew. This date is not an arbitrary choice but is rooted in history, reaching back into the Byzantine era. In the Roman and Byzantine worlds, September marked the beginning of the civil year. It was the time when agricultural life, harvest, and planting cycles renewed. The Church adopted this date and sanctified it, transforming the worldly measure of time into a cycle of salvation and grace. Thus, while the civil calendar may begin in January, for the Church the year of the Lord begins on September 1st. Every new ecclesiastical year is an invitation to renew our spiritual life, to recommit ourselves to the worship of God, and to sanctify the days and months ahead through prayer, participation in the holy services, and the sacraments of the Church.



The new ecclesiastical year begins quickly with the celebration of one of the great feasts of the Theotokos, the Nativity of the Virgin Mary on September 8th. This feast is unique because it proclaims the coming of salvation before the Savior Himself was born. The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the dawning of the mystery of our salvation. From the child Mary, the chosen one of God, would come the Christ, the eternal Word, who in time would take flesh for our salvation. The Church sings on that day, "Your birth, O Theotokos, has brought joy to the whole universe." This is because her birth opened the way for the incarnation of the Lord. The Nativity of the Theotokos teaches us that God prepares salvation patiently, step by step, through holy men and women, through faith, obedience, and trust. We honor her birth as the beginning of our redemption.

Only a few days later, on September 14th, we celebrate another great feast, the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord. This is one of the most solemn days of the entire year. Historically, this feast is connected to the finding of the

True Cross of Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, in the fourth century. The Cross was lifted for all the faithful to venerate in the city of Jerusalem, and from that time, this day has been observed as a universal feast of the Church. The Elevation of the Cross is not only a commemoration of a historical event but a profound reminder of the centrality of the Cross in our lives. The Cross is the throne of Christ, the instrument of His love, the weapon of our salvation, and the hope of eternal life. The Church gives this feast the same weight and gravity as Great and Holy Friday, which is why it is a day of strict fasting. Because this year the feast falls on a Sunday, the fast is somewhat lightened to allow the use of oil, yet the reverence of the day remains undiminished. The solemn procession with the Cross during the Divine Liturgy will invite us all to bow down in worship before the Precious and Life-Giving Wood through which the world has been saved.



Continued...

This September brings to us another unique blessing. From September 15th to 25th, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, our Spiritual Father and the Head of the Orthodox Church throughout the world, will visit the United States of America. His presence among us is always a source of grace and inspiration. More specifically, His All-Holiness will visit our own Sacred Metropolis of New Jersey on Tuesday, September 17th, at the Church of Saint Katherine in Falls Church, Virginia, a Doxology Service will be celebrated at 10 o'clock in the morning. This is a rare opportunity for the faithful of our region to see in person the Ecumenical Patriarch, to receive his blessing, and to feel the presence of the Mother Church of Constantinople. I encourage you to attend this blessed gathering if possible. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly for more information.



We are filled with excitement as we begin this new ecclesiastical year. Our parish is ready and fully committed to welcoming everyone back with the order and love of the Church. We want to provide our motherly and Godly embrace to every person, especially to our children and young people. One of our first gatherings will be our annual parish picnic on **Sunday, September 7th**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. This tradition



brings us together as a family of faith, allowing us to meet, greet, and reconnect after the summer months. It is also the perfect time to register and sign up for our parish ministries, groups, youth activities, and programs. During this same Divine Liturgy, we will also swear in and install the newly elected GOYA board. We congratulate them and ask God to bless them in their service. It is inspiring to see our young people, our teenagers and young adults, offering their time, energy, and love for the service of the Church and others. I encourage all parents to bring their children to the Church, to bring them to God, to allow them to grow up as active members of our Cathedral family.

Our Orthodox Faith Sunday School program will begin with a special blessing on Sunday, September 14th. This ministry is at the heart of our parish life. I thank with all my heart our dedicated catechists who so faithfully prepare and give of their time every Sunday to be with our children. They extend my pastoral work by teaching our young ones the faith of Christ, helping them to build their lives on His truth, and guiding them to love the Lord and His Holy Church.

Another cornerstone of our parish life is our Greek School program, which begins on Wednesday, September 17th. Our experienced and devoted teachers are ready to welcome your children and to open for them the treasures of the Greek language, culture, traditions, and history. This is not only an educational program but a true investment in the future of our children, for through it they learn their roots, their heritage, and their identity, and they gain tools that will serve them for a lifetime.

Our youth ministries are also ready to begin. Our GOYA, JOY, and HOPE advisors are preparing events, activities, and gatherings that will bring joy and fellowship to our children and teens. These ministries are more than social opportunities. They are a way for our youth to experience the love of God, to grow in their faith, and to form friendships that are rooted in Christ and the Church. I encourage all parents to bring their children to participate.

Our Saint Agape Philoptochos continues its beautiful and sacrificial work of philanthropy. This ministry of the Church is an extension of the love of Christ to those who are in need, the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. I warmly invite all the ladies of our Cathedral to join Philoptochos, to contribute their talents and gifts, and to experience the joy of serving others in the name of Christ.

As you can see, our Cathedral is alive with many ministries and opportunities for every member of our community. Whether young or old, whether newly arrived or long established, there is a place for you here. Come and be with us, worship with us, serve with us, and share your Orthodox faith with us. Most of all, bring your children and youth to the Church, for there is no safer place for them than in the House of God. Entrust them to Christ and His Holy Church, and you will never regret it.

I remind you, beloved brothers and sisters, that I am here for you. I am here for every member of our Cathedral family, young or old. I am here to listen, to guide, to bless, and to provide my priestly counsel. Whatever your needs may be, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

May the Lord bless this new ecclesiastical year with His mercy and His grace. May the month of September be for all of you a time of renewal and joy. May God grant success and wisdom to our children as they begin their new school year. May health, happiness, and peace fill your homes and families.

With love in the Lord,

- Archan. Christof. O. Konnide

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest

Αγαπητοί μου Ενορίτες και φίλοι,

Με πολλή χαρά σας καλωσορίζω και πάλι όλους στην οικογένεια της Αγίας Τριάδος, ύστερα από το καλοκαίρι που πέρασε με τις διακοπές, τα ταξίδια και τις οικογενειακές σας στιγμές. Εύχομαι να ξεκουραστήκατε, να ανανεώσατε τις δυνάμεις σας, αλλά πάνω από όλα να μην έλειψε ποτέ από τη ζωή σας η αίσθηση της παρουσίας Του Χριστού!

Για την ενορία μας, το καλοκαίρι υπήρξε ήσυχο αλλά και εξαιρετικά γόνιμο. Ήταν περίοδος προετοιμασίας για τη νέα εκκλησιαστική χρονιά, με σκέψη, προγραμματισμό και οργάνωση των διακονιών μας. Ο Αύγουστος, ως μήνας της Παναγίας, γέμισε τις καρδιές μας με κατάνυξη, προετοιμαζόμενοι για την μεγάλη εορτή. Στις Ιερές Παρακλήσεις υψώσαμε όλοι μαζί τις φωνές μας προς την Μητέρα του Θεού, ζητώντας τη μεσιτεία της. Στις 15 Αυγούστου πανηγυρίσαμε με συγκίνηση και χαρά την Κοίμηση της Θεοτόκου. Και πάλι ακούσαμε το παρήγορο μήνυμα: ο θάνατος για τους φίλους του Χριστού δεν είναι τέλος αλλά πέρασμα στη ζωή. Η Παναγία δεν άφησε τη γη για να χαθεί από τον θάνατο, αλλά για να δοξαστεί στους ουρανούς από τον Υιό της. Έτσι και εμείς καλούμαστε να ζούμε με την ελπίδα ότι η δική μας πορεία οδηγεί στη χαρά της αιώνιας Βασιλείας Του.

Με τον ερχομό του Σεπτεμβρίου ανοίγει ένας νέος πνευματικός κύκλος. Η Εκκλησία μας, την 1η του μηνός, γιορτάζει την αρχή του εκκλησιαστικού έτους. Δεν είναι απλή ημερολογιακή αλλαγή· είναι πρόσκληση σε ανανέωση. Από τα βυζαντινά χρόνια ο Σεπτέμβριος θεωρούνταν ως αρχή του χρόνου, αφού τότε άρχιζαν οι γεωργικές εργασίες και ο κύκλος της ζωής. Η Εκκλησία αγίασε αυτήν την αρχή και την έκανε αφετηρία σωτηρίας. Γι' αυτό κάθε Σεπτέμβριο μας δίδεται η ευκαιρία να κάνουμε μια νέα αρχή: να θέσουμε στόχους πνευματικούς, να ανανεώσουμε τη συμμετοχή μας στις Ακολουθίες, να επαναπροσδιορίσουμε τη σχέση μας με τον Θεό και την Εκκλησία Του.



Οι πρώτες ημέρες του μήνα μας φέρνουν δύο μεγάλες εορτές της Ορθοδοξίας μας. Στις 8 Σεπτεμβρίου πανηγυρίζουμε το Γενέθλιο της Θεοτόκου. Η γέννησή της είναι πρόγευση της σωτηρίας μας. Η Παναγία γεννιέται για να γεννήσει Εκείνον που θα σαρκώσει την αιώνια βουλή του Θεού. Ο ύμνος της Εκκλησίας λέει: «Η γέννησίς σου, Θεοτόκε, χαράν εμήνυσε πάση τη οικουμένη». Και πράγματι, γιατί χωρίς την Παναγία δεν θα υπήρχε η ενανθρώπηση του Λόγου. Η γιορτή αυτή μας διδάσκει ότι ο Θεός εργάζεται διαχρονικά, μέσα από πρόσωπα που Του αφιέρωσαν την καρδιά τους, προετοιμάζοντας με σοφία και υπομονή το σχέδιο της σωτηρίας.

Στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί να υψώσουμε με σεβασμό το Τίμιο Εύλο του Σταυρού. Η εορτή αυτή είναι τόσο σημαντική ώστε η Εκκλησία μας την τιμά με νηστεία εξίσου αυστηρή με τη Μεγάλη Παρασκευή (αν και φέτος επιτρέπεται το λάδι καθώς εορτάζεται ημέρα Κυριακή). Ο Σταυρός δεν είναι απλά ένα ιστορικό μνημείο, αλλά η ζωντανή πραγματικότητα της σωτηρίας μας. Είναι το όπλο της νίκης, η θυσιαστική αγάπη του Χριστού, η ελπίδα μας για την αιώνια ζωή. Κατά τη Θεία Λειτουργία θα βγει ο Σταυρός σε λιτανεία, για να προσκυνήσουμε όλοι και να ανανεώσουμε την πίστη μας στον Εσταυρωμένο και Αναστάντα Κύριο.

Ο μήνας αυτός όμως επιφυλάσσει και μια ακόμη ιδιαίτερη χαρά: την επίσκεψη του Παναγιωτάτου Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες. Από τις 15 ως τις 25 Σεπτεμβρίου θα βρεθεί κοντά μας ο πνευματικός μας Πατέρας, ο Προκαθήμενος της Ορθοδοξίας. Συγκεκριμένα, στις 17 Σεπτεμβρίου θα επισκεφθεί την Ιερά Μητρόπολη Νέας Ιερσέης και θα τελεστεί Δοξολογία στον Ιερό Ναό Αγίας Αικατερίνης στη Βιρτζίνια. Είναι σπάνια ευκαιρία να τον δούμε, να λάβουμε την ευλογία του και να νιώσουμε ζωντανή τη σύνδεσή μας με την Πρωτόθρονη Εκκλησία της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, της Μητρός Εκκλησίας. Σας παροτούνω να παρεμοσθείτε ό



Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, της Μητρός Εκκλησίας. Σας παροτρύνω να παρευρεθείτε όσοι μπορείτε.

Η ενορία μας είναι έτοιμη να ξεκινήσει δυναμικά τη νέα χρονιά. Την Κυριακή 7 Σεπτεμβρίου θα έχουμε το ετήσιο ενοριακό μας πικνίκ, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία. Είναι μια όμορφη παράδοση που μας φέρνει όλους μαζί σαν οικογένεια. Θα είναι επίσης ευκαιρία για εγγραφές στα προγράμματα και στις διακονίες της ενορίας, καθώς και για την ορκωμοσία του νέου συμβουλίου της GOYA. Συγχαίρουμε τα παιδιά μας για την ανάληψη ευθύνης και προσευχόμαστε να τα στηρίζει ο Θεός στη διακονία τους. Είναι ελπιδοφόρο να βλέπουμε τους νέους μας να αγαπούν και να υπηρετούν την Εκκλησία.

Την Κυριακή 14 Σεπτεμβρίου θα ξεκινήσει και το Κατηχητικό μας Σχολείο με την τελετή του Αγιασμού. Ευχαριστούμε από καρδιάς τους κατηχητές μας, οι οποίοι αφιερώνουν με ανιδιοτέλεια χρόνο και αγάπη για να μεταδώσουν στα παιδιά μας την πίστη του Χριστού. Το Κατηχητικό δεν είναι απλώς μάθημα, είναι θεμέλιο ζωής και πορεία προς τη Βασιλεία.

Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο μας θα ξεκινήσει στις 17 Σεπτεμβρίου. Με τις έμπειρες δασκάλες που έχουμε, τα παιδιά μας θα μάθουν όχι μόνο τη γλώσσα αλλά και την ιστορία μας, αλλά και τις παραδόσεις και τον πολιτισμό της πατρίδας. Πρόκειται για πολύτιμο δώρο, γιατί δίνει στα παιδιά μας ρίζες και ταυτότητα, ενώ ταυτόχρονα τα εξοπλίζει με γνώσεις που θα τα ωφελήσουν σε όλη τους τη ζωή.



Οι Οργανώσεις Νεολαίας GOYA, JOY και HOPE ετοιμάζουν συναντήσεις και δραστηριότητες. Δεν είναι απλά κοινωνικές εκδηλώσεις, αλλά τρόποι να ζήσουν οι νέοι μας την αγάπη του Θεού, να αναπτυχθούν στην πίστη και να δημιουργήσουν φιλίες με βάση τον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία. Σας παρακαλώ, γονείς, παππούδες και γιαγιάδες, φέρτε τα παιδιά σας. Η Εκκλησία είναι το πιο ασφαλές και ευλογημένο περιβάλλον για εκείνα.

Η Φιλόπτωχός μας, συνεχίζει με θυσιαστικό ζήλο την προσφορά της. Καλώ όλες τις κυρίες να ενταχθούν σε αυτό το θεάρεστο έργο, για να γευθούν τη χαρά της διακονίας προς τον συνάνθρωπο και την ευλογία του Χριστού.

Αγαπημένοι μου Ενορίτες και φίλοι, η Ενορία μας είναι ζωντανός οργανισμός. Εδώ υπάρχει χώρος για όλους· νέους και ηλικιωμένους, για κάθε ψυχή που αναζητά τον Θεό. Σας καλώ όλους να έρχεστε τακτικά, να συμμετέχετε στις ιερές ακολουθίες, να στηρίζετε τα προγράμματα μας, να προσφέρετε τα χαρίσματά σας. Μα πάνω απ' όλα, φέρτε τα παιδιά σας. Μην τα αφήνετε να μεγαλώνουν μακριά από τον Οίκο του Θεού. Εμπιστευθείτε τα στον Χριστό και στην Εκκλησία Του, και θα δείτε καρπούς αιώνιους.

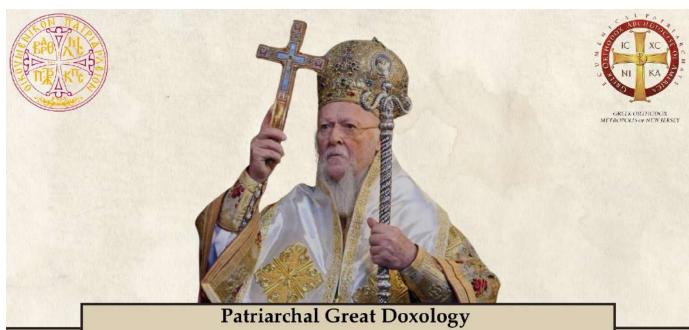
Θέλω να γνωρίζετε πως σας αγαπώ και βρίσκομαι εδώ για όλους σας. Για κάθε ανάγκη σας, για κάθε δυσκολία, για συμβουλή ή ευλογία, είμαι δίπλα σας ως πνευματικός πατέρας και αδελφός. Μη διστάσετε ποτέ να με πλησιάσετε.

Εύχομαι ο Κύριος να ευλογήσει την νέα εκκλησιαστική χρονιά και να μας δίνει ειρήνη και χαρά. Ο Σεπτέμβριος ας είναι μήνας πνευματικής ανανέωσης. Στα παιδιά μας που αρχίζουν τη σχολική χρονιά εύχομαι επιτυχία και δύναμη. Σε όλους εύχομαι υγεία και ευτυχία.



π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου Ιερατικώς Προϊστάμενος

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Welcoming His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I on His Apostolic Visit to the United States Save the Date

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - 10:00 A.M. **Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey** St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Virginia



Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already

advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be. Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

On the blessed occasion of the forthcoming visit of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to the United States, and in particular to our own Holy Metropolis on September 17, we humbly present the following text, which offers both a historical reflection on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a word on its sacred mission today, as well as the profound significance of the venerable person of our Ecumenical Patriarch, who has faithfully shepherded the venerable Ecumenical Throne for thirty-four blessed years.

We, the faithful parishioners of our Cathedral, together with all the devout members of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey, acknowledge ourselves as devoted children of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and we count this sacred bond as a great blessing. It is therefore our sacred duty always to remain steadfast in our devotion to the Mother Church of Constantinople, to labor diligently in every way for the support of her rights, and unceasingly to lift up our prayers for the health and strength of His All-Holiness, our Ecumenical Patriarch.

Fr. Christoforos

The Ecumenical Patriarchate: A Brief note on its history and its role in the world today

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is also known as the Patriarchate of Constantinople or the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople. Its creation goes back to the year 38, the year in which the Church was founded in the ancient city of Byzantium by Saint Andrew, the "First-called among the Apostles".



Located for centuries next to the great and masterful Cathedral of Saint Sophia (and for this reason also called the Great Church), the Patriarchal See was moved to various parts of the city following the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. Since 1601, the headquarters of the Patriarchate have been in the ancient district of the Phanar.

The Patriarchate of Constantinople is the spiritual center of the Orthodox Church. It is seen as the Mother Church by the ancient Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, by the younger autocephalous Churches of Russia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, and Albania, and by the autonomous churches of Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Estonia.



The Patriarch of Constantinople is considered the highest authority of the Orthodox Church. Since the sixth century, he has borne the title of Archbishop of Constantinople, the New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. As "primus" (first) bishop of the Orthodox Church, the Ecumenical Patriarch undertakes various initiatives of Pan-Orthodox character, while coordinating relations between the other Churches of the Orthodox Communion, as well as relations between Orthodoxy as a whole and other Christian Churches or World Religions. Thus, he convokes and presides over councils and Pan-Orthodox meetings; consecrates the Myrrh (chrism) for all Orthodox Churches; grants autocephalous status to local churches which have become mature enough to be elevated to that ecclesiastical rank.

The ecumenicity of the Patriarchate of Constantinople has been ratified by two Ecumenical Councils: the second (Constantinople, 381) and the fourth (Chalcedon, 451). The primatial privileges of the Patriarch of Constantinople were also solemnly reconfirmed by the Council of Trullo in 691. These primatial prerogatives grant the Patriarchate of Constantinople the jurisdiction over all Orthodox Christians who live in countries where there is not a canonical, autonomous or autocephalous, Orthodox jurisdiction.

Other than the Archdiocese of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarchate today comprises four other dioceses in Turkey (Chalcedon, Derci, Princes' Isles, Imbros and Tenedos). In Greece, the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate extends today over the Islands of the Dodecanese, Crete, Mount Athos and, spiritually, over the dioceses of Northern Greece. Moreover, following the recent emigration of Orthodox Christians from their native countries, this jurisdiction extends over various new dioceses created in Western Europe, the Americas, Australia and New Zealand.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has performed a notable missionary task over the centuries, stretching from the conversion of Kievan Russia in the tenth century to the many missionary initiatives undertaken in the Far East during this century.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is one of the most active centers of the modern ecumenical movement. As early as 1902, it took the initiative of inviting all Orthodox Churches to take a stand on the possibility of renewing their contacts with other Christian bodies, including the Church of Rome, the Anglican Church, and other Protestant denominations. As of then, contacts between the Patriarchate of Constantinople and non-Orthodox Churches have become both numerous and frequent. This attitude of openness culminated in the historic Encyclical of 1920 sent by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to all Christian Churches, calling their leaders to establish a closer relationship with each other. The concrete aim of this Encyclical was to promote the cause of Church unity by creating an organism called the I

aim of this Encyclical was to promote the cause of Church unity by creating an organism called the League of the Churches of Christ, modelled after the League of Nations. It is generally recognized that the Encyclical of 1920 constituted one of the major factors that later led to the creation of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

In the last decades, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has promoted in particular the dialogue with the Church of Rome. Thus, today the Patriarchate, among other dialogical initiatives, leads the theological dialogues in progress with the Ancient Oriental Churches, the Church of Rome, the Churches of the Anglican Communion, the Churches of the World Lutheran Federation, the Reformed Churches, as well as with the monotheistic Religions of Judaism and Islam.

Moreover, the Ecumenical Patriarchate is actively engaged in the recent ecological-environmental movement through the promotion of noteworthy Pan-Orthodox and ecumenical initiatives, aiming to sensitize both its own faithful and the world at large to this important issue.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Head Of The Holy Orthodox Church, World Leader For Peace And Reconciliation - Modern Apostle

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a modern apostle of peace and love, is the head of the world's second-largest and oldest Christian faith community. Based in a Moslem country on the fault-line between East and West, Christianity and Islam, the developed and developing worlds, His All Holiness is, by tradition, the 270th successor to an actual apostle of Jesus Christ, St Andrew, the first-called apostle and brother of St. Peter.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has existed in what was known as Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, since the fourth century A.D., when Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople (now Istanbul), a city that he built. His All Holiness Bartholomew has led the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians for 13 years, quietly bringing together major religious leaders and intervening in wars and conflicts, as well as addressing the environmental crisis. His All Holiness has studied for advanced degrees in Rome and Germany and is fluent in seven languages – Greek, Turkish, English, Latin, Italian, French and German.

World Spiritual Leader

Secretary General Kofi Annan has honored His All Holiness at the United Nations and Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton at the White House. In 1997, when welcomed by President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, His All Holiness was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal of the U.S. Congress that had previously been given to President George Washington, and, in recent times, to Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

In December of 2001, within a few months of the tragedy of September 11, His All Holiness organized a major interfaith conference in Brussels, co-sponsored by the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi. The Brussels Declaration restated his long-held belief: "War in the name of religion is war against religion," and that it is the will of God for peace to prevail in the world.

His All Holiness has led major leaders from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam at the conference table to condemn the abuse of religion to justify acts of violence and called for the separation of political from religious activism. He has bridged gaps in understanding around the world. With His Holiness Pope John Paul II, he has made progress toward reconciliation of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

His All Holiness has served as the president of the World Council of Churches, which includes most Protestant and Orthodox Churches, and has met with the World Jewish Congress and visited Israel, where there are many Orthodox Christians.

In the 1990s, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convened a long line of other conferences and interventions to promote peace and interfaith cooperation, addressing crises in Bosnia and Kosovo and bringing together religious leaders from the major faiths and heads of government in Berne, Switzerland and Istanbul where both the Berne Declaration and the Bosphorus Declaration, respectively, also condemned violence in the name of religion.

His All Holiness has traveled to the Muslim countries of Bahrain in 2000 and, in 2002 and 2003, visited Iran, Qatar, Azerbaijan and Libya. His All Holiness also visited Georgia and Armenia at the beginning of 2004. made a historic trip to Cuba, the first of an Ecumenical Patriarch to Latin America.

Also in 2002, His All Holiness met with President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell at the White House and State Department, respectively, where the tireless efforts of His All Holiness on behalf of world peace and cooperation were acknowledged.

On that same trip, His All Holiness awarded former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush the Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award of the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America at a banquet in New York City.

While in New York, His All Holiness officiated at the six-month memorial service for the victims of September 11 at ground zero, at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, and at the site of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, destroyed with the World Trade Towers.

Environmental Leader

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has addressed the environmental crisis of our day through seminars and symposia on the seas, studying the degradation of the Black Sea, the Danube River, and the Adriatic and Baltic Seas.

Known as the "Green Patriarch", the Ecumenical Patriarch's environmental initiatives have been recognized for a decade in Europe and on this side of the Atlantic. Notably, Vice President Al Gore and Scenic Hudson honored him with the international visionary award for environmental achievement at ceremonies in New York City in 2000.

In Europe, the Sophie Foundation of Norway awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the prestigious Sophie Prize for pioneering efforts in linking faith to the environment and the Binding Institute of Liechtenstein for efforts toward the protection of nature. His All Holiness contributed the prize monies to UNICEF for the destitute children of Africa, to the street children of Athens and Istanbul, and organizations supporting ecological activities.

Concerning the environment, His All Holiness has said: "We cannot expect to leave no trace on the environment. However, we must choose either to make it reflect greed and ugliness or to use it in such a way that its beauty shows god's handiwork through ours."

World Church Leader



The head of the Orthodox Church worldwide, the Ecumenical Patriarch, holds the full title Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. When Constantinople became the seat of the Roman Empire, all the principal teachings of Christianity were put down in seven ecumenical councils held in or near the great imperial city, the principal doctrine being the Nicene Creed set down in 325 A.D.

The Orthodox Church is the oldest Christian Church in the world. The one undivided Christian Church split in 1054 A.D. when the Roman Catholic Church separated from the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople.

With the split, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope grew very powerful in the "West" and the teachings of the so-called "Western Church" began to deviate from the basic teachings and practices set down in the great councils.

The Ecumenical Patriarch remained the acknowledged head of the church in the so-called "East", including Greece, the Balkans, Asia Minor, Russia and Eastern Europe, parts of the Middle East and in Asia.

The Ecumenical Patriarch maintained this uninterrupted role even though Constantinople fell to the Muslim Turks in 1453 A.D. and the Great Church of Christ became a "Church in Captivity" for more than 500 years.

With the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the early Twentieth Century, the Ecumenical Patriarch regained some of his freedoms. Meanwhile, millions of Orthodox Christians were to face death and persecution under communist rule in Russia and Eastern Europe. They would come to know freedom only some twenty years ago, in the 1990s.

Today, the Ecumenical Patriarch is acknowledged as the canonical head or spiritual leader of a worldwide Orthodox Church that still holds to the original and basic teachings and practices of undivided Christianity, hence the name "Orthodox", meaning right worship and, by derivation, right thinking.

The Holy Orthodox Church can no longer be said to exist only in the traditional "East", for now it has millions of followers in North and South America, Central America and the Caribbean, as well as in Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

To give canonical expression to this reality, His All Holiness Bartholomew recently changed the composition of the 12-member Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to include six hierarchs from the Churches in countries outside of Constantinople, among them being the United States, Great Britain, Finland and New Zealand.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convened for the first time in modern history the Primates of all the world's Orthodox Churches with the goal of a Pan-Orthodox Synod and a true expression of unity, as well as the first-ever World Clergy-Laity meeting of all Greek Orthodox Churches under his jurisdiction.

Orthodoxy is also growing in Western Europe. The benefits of the canonical, as well as spiritual leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch in the "Diaspora", or overseas Greek Orthodox communities, in these places have been dramatic in manifold ways.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has shown the world that true Church leadership is the spiritual leadership of service, passionate advocacy of peace and justice and human rights, and concern for the environment, for all of God's creation and creatures, for the cosmos.

(source: www.goarch.org)



Bradley & Alexis Neilson & baby Sofia August 10, 2025

40-DAY BLESSINGS



Alexander & Gia Lawson and twin babies Amelia & Sophia August 24, 2025





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.



Brendan & Harriet Gordon & baby Nikolas July 27, 2025



The Feast of the Dormition of our Theotokos at our Cathedral ~ August 15, 2025

Father Christoforos' thoughts on parents, youth, and the healing power of Christ

"At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic, and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."



(Matthew 17:14~23)

Beloved in Christ,

The above Gospel passage is one of the most moving and powerful stories in Scripture. A father, desperate for his son, brings the boy to Christ. This young boy was suffering terribly, cast into fire and water, tormented by forces stronger than himself. The father had already tried to find help elsewhere. He had brought his son to the disciples, but they could not heal him. In his pain, in his helplessness, the father runs to Christ and falls at His feet. And there, before the Lord, his son is healed instantly.

The disciples later ask why they were unable to help. Christ answers with words that echo through the centuries: "Because of your little faith. This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

This is more than a story about faith, prayer, and fasting. It is also a story about parents and their children. The healing took place only because the father did not give up. He did not stay at home. He did not say, "My son is too tired," or "My son is too busy," or "It will get better on its own." No, he picked up his suffering child and carried him to the Lord. His persistence and his love were the bridge that brought his son to Christ, and through Christ to healing and peace.

My brothers and sisters, this message is urgently needed today. We live in a time when our young people, our children, our teenagers, our students, and our young adults are surrounded by challenges greater than any previous generation has known. They face temptations that attack their faith and their souls every single day. There is confusion about identity, immense pressure from peers, addiction to technology, anxieties about the future, and the loneliness that comes from a world that often turns its back on God. These are the "demons" of our time, unseen but powerful, pulling our children toward fire and water, toward danger and despair.

And just like the boy in the Gospel, our young people cannot overcome these struggles on their own. They need help. They need parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers, and most of all, the Church, to bring them to Christ. Parents, your sacred calling is not only to provide food, clothing, and education. Your greatest responsibility is to entrust your children to God. Just as the father in today's Gospel carried his son to the Lord, you too must lead your children to Christ in prayer, in worship, and in the sacraments of the Church.



Think about what this means in practical terms. It means praying for your children by name every single day. It means bringing them to the Divine Liturgy every Sunday, not as an obligation, not as something we check off a list, but as a vital need for the soul. The Liturgy is the place where Christ Himself feeds us with His Body and Blood. How can we say we love our children if we do not bring them to the heavenly banquet where true life is given?

It means teaching them to confess their sins, to prepare for Holy Communion, to fast, and to pray. It means modeling these things in your own life, because children learn more by what they see than by what they hear. If they see you take prayer seriously, if they see you approach the chalice with reverence, if they see you make sacrifices for Christ, they will learn what it means to be a Christian.

Yes, it will not always be easy. Children may protest. Teenagers may resist. Young adults may question. But the father in the Gospel also faced setbacks. The disciples could not help him. He might have been discouraged, but he did not stop. He kept going until he reached Christ Himself. Parents, you must do the same. Even when there is resistance, even when it feels like nothing is working, do not give up. Carry your children in prayer and in patience, and trust that Christ will hear.

To our beloved young people, I say this: you may not always feel like you need Christ. You may think that the Church is old-fashioned, or that you will find answers in other places. But deep down, your heart longs for Him. Only Christ can give you true meaning, real peace, and lasting joy. The world will make promises, but those promises will fade and leave you empty. Christ alone can heal the wounds that the world causes. The Church is not a museum or a school of rules. The Church is a hospital where Christ heals souls, including yours, today.

That is why Sunday Liturgy is not simply a rule or an obligation. It is a lifeline. It is a need as real as food and water. Just as your body cannot survive without nourishment, your soul cannot survive without the Eucharist, without the word of God, without prayer with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our parish offers many opportunities for our young people of every age to grow in Christ. There are ministries, classes, gatherings, and activities, all designed to nurture faith and to create bonds of love and community. But these opportunities only have meaning if they are connected to the worship of the Church. Everything flows from the Divine Liturgy and returns to it.

The Church gives us this Gospel reading twice each year, once in the middle of Great Lent and again now in August, after the fast dedicated to the Mother of God. This is not by accident. It is to remind us that prayer, fasting, and faith are never optional, and that the task of bringing our children to Christ is lifelong.

Notice how the passage ends. Christ tells His disciples about His coming Passion, His death, and His Resurrection. He reminds us that the Christian life is not about comfort but about the Cross and about Resurrection. Parents, if you want your children to rise with Christ, you must also walk with Him to the Cross. You must show them by your example how to trust, how to sacrifice, how to love.

Beloved, let us not despair for our children. Let us not surrender them to the forces of the world. Instead, let us bring them again and again to Christ, who alone can heal them. Let us renew in our own lives the holy practices of prayer, fasting, and faith, so that we hand down not just words, but living faith.

And so, I urge you, dear parents: never stop praying for your children. Never stop bringing them to the services of the Church. Even if they stray or resist, your prayers remain powerful. Your faith matters. Your perseverance will bear fruit. And to our young people: never forget that you are loved. You are loved by your parents, by your parish, and most of all, by Christ Himself. He knows your struggles. He hears your questions. He walks with you even when you do not see Him.

The father in the Gospel story found healing for his son because he never gave up, and because he placed his trust in Christ. Let us imitate his faith and his persistence. Let us carry our children, our families, and our community to the Lord. For with Him, nothing is impossible, and in Him, all things are made new.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

September 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the new Ecclesiastical Year on September 1st, I wish you a year filled with faith, health, and blessings. The Church, begins the liturgical cycle not in January but in September, reminding us that every new beginning is an opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ and our beloved Cathedral.

As we move into this new year, let us embrace the call to grow deeper in our faith and to serve one another with love and fellowship. We also look forward to gathering together at our Welcome Back Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 7, a wonderful time to reconnect after the summer. Soon after, we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, a reminder of the role of the Cross in our lives. We hope that you attend this beautiful Liturgy.



We have numerous events planned with our Philoptochos, Youth ministries, Young at Heart, Altar Guild, and more! Your participation will enhance the growth and strength of our Cathedral.

I wish you and your families a blessed Ecclesiastical New Year.

In Christ's Service Georgia Halakos

HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY August 2025

Newborn 40-day Blessings

Nikolas Jonathan Gordon, son of Brendan & Harriet Gordon, received his 40 day Church blessing on July 27, 2025.

Sofia Neilson, daughter of Bradley & Alexis Neilson, received her 40 day Church blessing on August 10, 2025.

Amelia Marie Lawson, daughter of Alexander & Gia Lawson, granddaughter of Michael & Victoria Lawson, received her 40 day Church blessing on August 24, 2025.

Sophia Alexandra Lawson, daughter of Alexander & Gia Lawson, granddaughter of Michael & Victoria Lawson, received her 40 day Church blessing on August 24, 2025.

We congratulate the families and pray the Lord will bless them as they prepare for baptism. Funerals

Andrew Tsaldaris fell asleep in the Lord on August 19, 2025. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity on August 26. He is survived by his devoted brother, Nick Tsaldaris, and his wife Bonnie; his nephew Nick Jr., who adored him; his partner of 45 years, Theresa Menefee, and daughter Morgan Menefee; as well as many cousins. May his memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Maria Constantinou ~ 1 Year ~ August 10

Soula Diamond ~ 40 Days ~ August 17

Nichoals Calliagas ~ 1 Year ~ August 17

Haralambos Marcantonis ~ 7 Years ~ August 17

Maria Christova ~ 40 Days ~ August 31

OLY TRINITY

Sunday, September 7, 2025

immediately after worship Fellowship, Food & Fun for Everyone

Fellowship, Food & Fun for Everyone

There will be...

FUN 38 **FUN** ध more !!FUN!!



Sign up for...

Sunday School 8

Greek School

8 all

Youth Ministries

WE NEED YOUR HELP....

The following items are needed for the church's Welcome Back Picnic. If you are able to donate an item, please call the church office to let us know. If you cannot donate an item but can contribute towards the cost of an item, please send a check to the church office and mark "picnic" in the memo line As always, any donation made to the church is tax deductible and will be included on your quarterly statement.

Thank you for your continued support!

Hamburgers

Rolls

Salads

Hotdogs

Fruit

Desserts

Water Bottles

Condiments

Soda / Juice



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity

St. Agape Chapter

Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and Parishioners:



I hope this message finds you refreshed and rejuvenated following your summer vacations.

The Ladies of Philoptochos were delighted to host the luncheon following the celebration of the Dormition of our Lady Theotokos. It was a joy to see our Cathedral filled with so many of our devoted parishioners and a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed dishes and desserts. As a result of your generosity, the hall was filled with conversations and laughter.

It was also a joy to participate in the coffee hour following Divine Liturgy honoring our young adults as the embark on their college journeys. We extend our blessings to each of them, wishing them well as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives. We pray for their continued growth and success.

The following week, the spirit of giving continued, in collaboration with the GOYA, JOY/HOPE ministries, and our parishioners we gathered to pack the backpacks for 115 students at the Urban Promise School to ensure they receive the essential school supplies necessary for a successful academic year.

Looking ahead, our first meeting will be a covered dish meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:00pm in the Community Hall. I hope to see you all there. On September 20, 2025, at 10:00am we'll gather once again in the Community Hall to pack breakfast and lunches for delivery to Ronald McDonald House. I will share more details as these dates approach.

Thank you, once again, for your compassionate contributions to Philoptochos and your dedication to our Chapter and our Cathedral.

With profound gratitude, In Christ's Service, Dena Verikakis



Philoptochos & Youth Ministries gather to pack backpacks ~ August 21~ more pics to come!!

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.



ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR / September 1

Reading

For the maintenance of their armed forces, the Roman emperors decreed that their subjects in every district should be taxed every year. This same decree was reissued every fifteen years, since the Roman soldiers were obliged to serve for fifteen years. At the end of each fifteen-year period, an assessment was made of what economic changes had taken place, and a new tax was decreed, which was to be paid over the span of the fifteen years. This imperial decree, which was issued before the season of winter, was named Indictio, that is, Definiton, or Order. This name was adopted by the emperors in Constantinople also. At other times, the latter also used the term Epinemisis, that is, Distribution (Dianome). It is commonly held that Saint Constantine the Great introduced the Indiction decrees in A.D. 312, after he beheld the sign of the Cross in heaven and vanquished Maxentius and was proclaimed Emperor in the West. Some, however (and this seems more likely), ascribe the institution of the Indiction to Augustus Caesar, three years before the birth of Christ. Those who hold this view offer as proof the papal bull issued in A.D. 781 which is dated thus: Anno IV, Indictionis LIII -that is, the fourth year of the fifty-third Indiction. From this, we can deduce the aforementioned year (3 B.C.) by multiplying the fifty-two complete Indictions by the number of

years in each (15), and adding the three years of the fifty-third Indiction.

There are three types of Indictions: 1) That which was introduced in the West, and which is called Imperial, or Caesarean, or Constantinian, and which begins on the 24th of September; 2) The so-called Papal Indiction, which begins on the 1st of January; and 3) The Constantinopolitan, which was adopted by the Patriarchs of that city after the fall of the Eastern Empire in 1453. This Indiction is indicated in their own hand on the decrees they issue, without the numeration of the fifteen years. This Indiction begins on the 1st of September and is observed with special ceremony in the Church. Since the completion of each year takes place, as it were, with the harvest and gathering of the crops into storehouses, and we begin anew from henceforth the sowing of seed in the earth for the production of future crops, September is considered the beginning of the New Year. The Church also keeps festival this day, beseeching God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. The Holy Scriptures (Lev. 23:24-5 and Num. 29:1-2) also testify that the people of Israel celebrated the feast of the Blowing of the Trumpets on this day, offering hymns of thanksgiving. In addition to all the aforesaid, on this feast we also commemorate our Saviour's entry into the synagogue in Nazareth, where He was given the book of the Prophet Esaias to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for which cause He hath anointed Me..." (Luke 4:16-30).

It should be noted that to the present day, the Church has always celebrated the beginning of the New Year on September 1. This was the custom in Constantinople until its fall in 1453 and in Russia until the reign of Peter I. September 1 is still festively celebrated as the New Year at the Patriarchate of Constantinople; among the Jews also the New Year, although reckoned according to a moveable calendar, usually falls in September. The service of the Menaion for January 1 is for our Lord's Circumcision and for the memorial of Saint Basil the Great, without any mention of its being the beginning of a new year.

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.

Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery Apolytikion courtesy of Narthex Press / Kontakion courtesy of Narthex Press

Adult Bible Study

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

- ♦ To read the greatest story ever told, the story of Jesus Christ.
- ♦ To find moral and spiritual guidance for your life.
- ♦ To learn God's way of forgiveness and eternal life.
- ♦ To build lasting moral values for your children.
- ♦ To read the stories of courageous women and men of faith.
- ♦ To discover God's everlasting love.
- ♦ To build a storehouse of knowledge of Christian faith.
- ♦ To discover God's principles of marriage and family life.

- ♦ To build hope for the future.
- ◆ To gain strength to face life's difficulties with faith and trust in God.
- ◆ To meet God personally through Jesus Christ.
- ♦ To develop habits of daily worship.
- ♦ To become a teacher of Christian faith in your parish.
- ◆ To grow intellectually, spiritually, and morally.
- ♦ To be able to encourage and help others grow in faith.

The Adult Bible Study is set to resume September 17th. WATCH WEEKLY BULLETINS FOR START DATES/TIMES

Wednesday Afternoons @ 12:00pm led by John Lazare For further information you may call John at (302) 239-6140

Please join us for the continued study of God's Holy Word.

ST. AGAPE PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTER HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

invite you to their annual

Bid & Buy

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

\$35 Entrance and Dinner

PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY!

For Reservations contact:
Dena Verikakis at 484.433.3896
Angie Karakasidis at 610.864.4621 or
akarakasidis@yahoo.com



Accepting Venmo for entrance sales



808 North Broom Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19806



Grand Raffle

LOUIS VUITTON HANDBAG



Louis Vuitton
Loop Hobo Handbag
(small pouch included)
\$3,250 value

DRAWING AT ANNUAL BID AND BUY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025

To purchase a raffle, contact:
Dena Verikakis at 484.433.3896
Angie Karakasidis at 610.864.4621 or
akarakasidis@yahoo.com

Accepting Venmo



Winner need not be present to win.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday School Directors: Amalea Rassias 302.293.1127 & Maroula Haralambidis 609. 634.5339

2025-2026 Sunday School Calendar

2025

			<u>2025</u>
	Sept 7	No Sunday School	Welcome Back / Registration Sunday
	Sept 14	Sunday School	First Day of Classes / Agiasmos
	Sept 21	Sunday School	
	Sept 28	Sunday School	
	Oct 5	Sunday School	
	Oct 12	Sunday School	Sunday School Teachers Meeting
	Oct 19	Sunday School	Surau Sonooi Touchers Wooding
	Oct 26	Sunday School	Thanksgiving/Canned Food Drive Begins
	Nov 2	Sunday School	Thunksgiving Cumed 1 ood Diive Degins
	Nov 9	Sunday School	
	Nov 16	Sunday School	
	Nov 23	Sunday School	Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends; Christmas Sock Drive Begins
	Nov 27 (T	-	Thanksgiving Thanksgiving
	Nov 27 (1 Nov 30		Thanksgiving Weekend
	Dec 7	No Sunday School Sunday School	Thanksgiving weekend
		2	Droglefact with Santa (Grank Sahaal)
	Dec 14	Sunday School	Breakfast with Santa (Greek School) Vouth Christmas Property Communican Breakfast, Christmas Drive Ends
	Dec 21	Sunday School	Youth Christmas Pageant, Communion Breakfast, Christmas Drive Ends
	Dec 28	No Sunday School	Christmas Nativity Break
			2026
	Jan 4	No Sunday Sahaal	Christmas Nativity/Thanhany Brook
		No Sunday School	Christmas Nativity/ Theophany Break
	Jan 6 (Tue		Theophany Verilarita Sunday
	Jan 11	Sunday School	Vasilopita Sunday
	Jan 17 (Sa		HTW Basketball Tournament
	Jan 18	Sunday School	HTW Basketball Tournament
	Jan 25	Sunday School	C. 1
	Feb 1	Sunday School	Godparents' Sunday, Sunday School Coffee Hour
	Feb 8	Sunday School	
	Feb 15	Sunday School	F
	Feb 22	Sunday School	Forgiveness Sunday
	Feb 23 (M		Great Lent Begins
	Feb 27 (F		St. John Chrysostom Parish Level Oratorical Festival (7 th -12 th)
	Mar 1	Sunday School	Sunday of Orthodoxy, Procession with Icons
	Mar 8	Sunday School	
	Mar 15	Sunday School	Veneration of the Cross, Procession (students remain in Church)
	Mar 22	Sunday School	agent of the state
	Mar 29	Sunday School	SS Elementary Oratorical Festival (PreK-6 th)
	Apr 4 (Sa		Saturday of Lazarus, Community Palm Folding
	Apr 5	Sunday School	Palm Sunday
	Apr 10 (F	· ·	Holy Friday Youth Retreat
	Apr 12	No Sunday School	Pascha
	Apr 19	Sunday School	
	Apr 26	Sunday School	
	May 3	Sunday School	
	May 10	Sunday School	Mother's Day
	May 17	Sunday School	Sunday School Graduation, Awards Sunday
l			

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School Registration is September 7th. Religious education classes will begin September 14th. If your child misses registration, please complete this form and bring to the Religious Education office.

Children are placed in our Religious Education classes according to the grade they will be attending in public/private school. Pre-School students must be three years old and Kindergarten students must be five years old by September 1, 2025.

The Agiasmos service (blessing the children and teachers) will be held on September 14th.

************	********************	*****		
REGISTRATION FORM				
Student's Name	Birthdate:			
Student Baptismal Name:				
Address				
Student Home Phone & Cell Ph	one			
Family E-mail Address				
Student's Email Address				
Grade attending in Regular Sch	ool			
Parents' Names				
Parent Cell Phone				
	*********************	*****		
SUN	DAY SCHOOL USE ONLY			
Grade in Sunday School				
Added to Sunday School Direct	ory			

GREEK SCHOOL



Pre K - 6th grade Ellinomatheia A1,A2, B1



*Seal of Biliteracy

Adult Classes Beginners & Advanced



Classes are from September through May Tuition \$550 / year



For more information: please contact
Popi Tsaganos
(302) 598-3561
Kallitsaganos@gmail.com



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Holy Trinity Greek School

302)654-4446



School Registration Form

Student's Name :	Email Address
Grade :	Home Address :
Name of Parents :	Student's age
Date of Birth :	Contact Number

Classes are on Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm
Tuition 1st Child \$550
2nd child \$350, 3rd child \$250
Teen /Adult Class \$450/\$550 TBD with Books

Open House is 9/17 @5:30-6:30pm Class preK-6, Teen 7th Grade & up Adult Beginners & Advanced

pre K -6 th grade	
Teen Class 7 th +& up	
Adult Class	

Holy Trinity's YAL / Young Adult League



Holy Trinity Young Adult League had their first meeting of the year on August 18th at the church.

We had a lovely time catching up on our summer plans! Father Christoforos lead us through an insightful discussion that we always appreciate!

Our next events are Thursday, October 16th and Friday, November 28th! More details to follow!



*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 or have any questions, please email Anna Fournaris @ fournaris10@gmail.com



On Sunday, August 17th, our Holy Trinity Cathedral family gathered to bid farewell to our graduates as they prepare to begin their new academic year, with some of them moving away from home for the first time. Following a special blessing in the Church, a reception was held in their honor, complete with a celebratory cake.

We are especially proud of our High School graduates:

Katherine Adamopoulos,
Sofia Belitsas,
Vasili Dargakis,
Maria Karakasidis,
Irene Kirifides,
Christina Pennia,
Alexandros Tsakumis,
Ludo Nektarios Wiechecki,
& Theodora Karas.

May God bless and guide them in their studies, keep them strong in faith, and grant them every success in this new chapter of their lives!



Stewardship is believing in Church and wanting to support and keep her mission alive by donating your time, talents and financial support. Stewardship is a simple, equitable, and Christian way by which each parishioner (individual or family) determines their contributions for the support of the Church, proportionate to their abilities.

- A parishioner is an individual 18 years of age or older, or a family
- We currently have 400 families as stewards, but the actual number of families and potential parishioners is much higher
- If all our stewards gave \$40 per week, our operational needs would be met
- · We should not financially rely on "rain or shine" Greek Festival
- Based on our 2025 Budget, we need the amount of \$2,000 a day to operate and keep our doors open.

We will give parishioners the opportunity to "Sponsor a Day" @ \$2,000 per day. Anyone who sponsors one or more days will be listed in the bulletin as a Cathedral Day Sponsor. All other stewards will be listed as Cathedral Stewards.

Please commit to helping us continue the mission of our Orthodox Church and Community, as we have been doing for 90 years now!

Your needed stewardship/donation can be made as follows:

- In person: at the parish office
- Mailed to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 808 N. Broom St. Wilmington, DE. 19806
- Online: https://holytrinitywilmington.org





For any question or more information please call the church office at: (302) 654-4446 or email us: office@holytrinitywilmington.org

2025 HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL SPONSORS OF ONE DAY OR MORE

Asimos, George & Kristie Caras, Constantine & Maria Colborn, Brian & Nicole Constantinou, John & Carol Demourtzidis, Nichoals & Daphne Faller, James & Catherine Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evanthea Galaris, Rick & Diana Gray, David & Eugenia

Grivas, Christopher & Michelle Halakos, Angelos & Donna Halakos, Demetris & Georgia Halakos, Ioannis & Effie Kayiaros, Stephen Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen Kirifides, Michael & Kerry Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria

Kollias, Basil & Demi Lazare, John & Sandra Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi Marvel, Jessica Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela Michell, Constantine & Elaine Michell. Theodore & Catherine Mistras, Antonis & Soula Moutsatsos, George & Alexia

Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra Psaltis, Tom & Cindy Raisis, Leonidas & Irene Rassias, Dion & Gina Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis Turley, Steve & Akiko Vassilatos, Yvonne Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Al-Annouf, Nabil & Rabia Batah Fleming, Elizabeth Alexopoulos, Demetri & Lauren Alexopoulos, John Almasou, Elias & Rasha Anagnostou, Anamaria Anagnostou, Anthoula Anastassiades, (Aglaia) Litsa Andrianopoulos, Faith Angeletakis, Christos & Christina Asimos SR, George Athanasiadis, Fotios & Asmik Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia+ Bacchieri, Stacev Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia Blazakis, Chris & Kia Bouloukos, Harry & Anastasia Calliagas, Katherine Calliagas, Markella Chahalis, Maria Chambers, George & Katherine Charalambides, Dino & Nia Chilimidos, Effie Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy Chollis, Drew Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra Christou, Alecca Christou, Christos & Evie Coates, George & Evie Constantinou, Elizabeth Constantinou, George Constantinou, Georgeia Constantinou, Stephen Constantinou, Virginia Coulaloglou, Michelle Courtis, Harry & Sophia Coustenis, Katherine Creedon, Patrick & Mary Beth Dalianis, John & Vicky Dargakis, Mike & Kleo Demetriou, Anna Diamanty, Thomas Diamond, Anthony & Lauren Diamond, John Diamond, Soula Diamond, Thomas Dickey, Irene Dougher, John & Christina Doukakis, Helen Drimones, Clara Drimones, Nicholas

Dumel, John+ & Evangeline

Fernandes, Jordan & Evanthia

Fessaras, Costas & Anna

Fisfis, Nicholas & Cathryn

Ferentinos, Joan

Floropoulos, Yiannis Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey Fournaris, Anna Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen Fournaris, George & Soula Frangakis, Christine Galanis, Agnes Gatanis, Theodore Gatos, Paula Geanopoulos, Georgiean George, Mary Georgiou, Constantinos Gerakios, Michael Gerakios, Nikoletta Gerakios, Sakelaris & Spiridoula Gianelos, Eleni Gianelos, James & Stacie Giannakakis, Vivian Giannatos, Stavros & Terrie Gordan, Brendan & Harriet Graham, Catherine Grigorakakis, Maria Guajardo, Evangelina Guardascione, Louis & Shelly Halakos, Garifalia Haldas, George & Beth Haldas, Harry Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie Haldas, Thomas Haldas-Long, Irene Hall, George & Michelle Hantzandreou, George & Diane Hantzandreou, Lambrini Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa Hatzis, Katherine Hatzis, Tom & Bing Heggan, Brandon & Maria Heliotis, Alexandra Hinte, Jr., Forrest Hionis, Sophia Humphrey, Caroline Issaris, Katherine Jacobs, Joseph & Alexandra Joris, Irene Joseck, Anastasia Joseck, John & Taylor Joseck, Xanthy & Fred Kaliakin, Victor & Elizabeth Kamenakis, Peter & Juli Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie

Kanas, Larry & Alicia

Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga

Karablacas, Stelios Karagiannis, Peter Karahalias, Stratton Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni Karakasidis, John & Vickie Karakasidis, Stephanos & Evaggelia Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki Karapanagiotis, Athanasios Karas, Theodore & Pamela Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula Karvounis, Nikolaos & Amanda Kaviaros, Joanna Kirifides, Eleni Kirifides, Lazarus V Kirtses, Petros & Athy Klezaras, Michael & Kathy Klezaras III, Michael Klezaras, Nikoletta Kollias, Georgia Koninis II, John Koninis, John & Anastasia Kontis, Gus & Cindy Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa Kostas, John & Gale Kostas, Lvnn Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani Kostos, Yianni Kotanidis, Christos & Maria Kotanidis, Roula Kramedas, Matoula Kyranakis, John Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett Laskaris, Johanna Lawson, Alexander & Gia Lawson, Michael & Victoria Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura Lazopoulos, John & Christina Lempesis, Dimitra Lengel, Robert & Maria Liarakos, George+ & Ann Logullo, Desponia & Francis Lomis, Toula Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan Maravelias, James & Diane Marcantonis, George & Agnoula Marini, Irene Marinis, Kalliope Markatos, Harry & Susan Marusiodis, Kalliope McCloskey, Brian & Anna Milionis, Constantine Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella Moriello, Carissa & Nicholas

Napoli, Frances

Nicholas, John & Emily Nicholas, Steve Novakis, Louis Ohlemacher, Evangline Pacienza, Stephanie Pagonis, Marcus & Cheryl Pandelakis, Denis & Anna Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi Papachrysanthou, George & Laura Papanicholas, Evan Papanicholas, Maria Papettas, Vasilis & Christina Pappas, Elizabeth Pappoulis, Demetra Pastis, Jaqueline Pettaris, George & Stavroula Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe Pierson, Vetta & Charles Pispitsos, Pantelis Pittaoulis, Steve Pittas, John Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia Psaltis, Nikolaos Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini Raisis, Irene Raisis, Pauline Raisis, Spiros Raisis, William & Emily Rapposelli, Hareklia Rassias, George & Amalea Rentoulis, Niko & Androniki Riga, Jason & Ekaterini Righos, Elaine Roussalis, John & Valerie Roustopoulos, Alexia Roustopoulos, Theodoros & Natalie Saitis, Mary Sarmousakis, Marika Savopoulos, Despina Schillinger, Robert & Karen Shahwan, Sofy Spence, Jason & Sunday Staab, Kristina Stevens, Richard & Penny Stout, Robert & Voula Tarabicos, Christina Tarabicos, John & Joanne Tarabicos, Sophia Tawfik, Emad & Soultana Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa Theodorakos, Nicholas & Katherine Thomas, Richard & Angela Tiniakos, Gregory & Elaine

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Tsaganos, Alexandra Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna Tsaganos, Robert & Popi Tsaganos, Robert Tsakataras, George Tsakiris, Konstantine Tsakumis, George & Julia Tsakumis, Theodore Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna

Tsionas, Angela Tsoukalas, Frederiki Tsoukalas, Niki Tsugranes, George & Penny Vande Poele, David & Anna Vassiliou, Kleoniki Velitskakis, Steve & Karen Verikakis, Dena Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon Vice, Elaine

Visvardis, Fotini Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth Vlamis, Nicholas & Peggy Vlastaridis, Theodoros & Sofia Voultsis, Catherine Voultsis, Evangeline & Damien Voultsis, Jordana Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly Wilkinson, Suzanne Xarhoulakos, Peter

Namo

Zaloga, Paul & Joann Zerefos, Yianni & Lauren Zerefos, Markos & Eugenia Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine

AS OF August 25, 2025 (291 Families)

If you have not yet given towards your 2025 Stewardship

you can do so at any time.

There are several ways you can give...

You can:

- 1) Bring cash or check and put it in the offering tray as it is passed in church.
- 2) Send a check in the mail or stop by the office any time during the week (M - F 9a-4p)
- 3) Give on line via our website (www.holytrintywilmington.org - hit the donate button and follow the prompts)
- 1) Use the QR Code below and it will take you directly to the website donation page.

We thank you for your generous offerings and remind you that...

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7



TVAITIC					
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☐ Please increa	se my pledg	e by 20% to:_			
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Annual Income	2%	5%	10% Biblical		
\$15,000	\$6	\$14	\$28		
\$25,000	\$10	\$24	\$48		
\$35,000	\$13	\$34	\$68		
\$45,000	\$17	\$43	\$86		
\$65,000	\$25	\$64	\$128		
\$100,000	\$38	\$96	\$192		

SHARING

Adult Greek Dance Work



HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Suggested Donation:

\$50

All proceeds go towards new costumes for our GOYA

Bring your Sneakers and BYOB!

- September 18 (7-9 pm)
- Holy Trinity Cathedral Gymnasium
- Taught by Agnoula Marcantonis and Senior Dancers

18

SEP

• RSVP by Sunday, 9/14 to amarcantonis@hotmail.com



Questions? - Dance Requests?

Bringing a Large Group? - Just Reach Out!

Spots are Limited!

welcome back goyans!

Hello everyone,

My name is Anastasia Thomas, and I am honored to serve as this year's GOYA President. Together with the executive board:

Vice President: Eleni Marcantonis

Treasurer: George Psihalinos

Corresponding Secretary:

Anna Psihalinos

Recording Secretary: Sia Dargakis

Historian: Katerina Marcantonis



We'd like to extend a warm welcome back to all of our ministries, and especially to our fellow GOYAns.

upcoming events

- Sunday 9/7 Welcome back picnic and GOYA board swearing in
- Monday 9/8 Basketball practice: Girls @6:30 & Boys @7:30
- Sunday 9/14 Sunday school begins
- Thursday 9/18 7-9PM GOYA dance group hosts a dance workshop for adults
- Thursday 9/25 at 7PM First dance practice
- Sunday 9/28 First DVYC GOYA basketball games



The Young at Heart invites you to our 1st gathering on September 11, 2025 at 12pm.

Dear Parishioners and Young at Heart Members, As the summer is coming to an end I hope you had a great time.

Our first meeting is September 11th and we will be remembering those who lost their lives on that day with a special prayer from Father Christoforos. We all will remember that fateful day 21 years ago, it is etched in our memory as a true tragedy that we will never forget.

The Young at Heart meets the 2nd Thursday of the month enjoying fellowship, a delicious lunch, (prepared by our president, Demetra) and guest speakers. We are also open to ideas and suggestions on trips or functions that we can attend. Dues are \$25.00 to cover the cost of the luncheons throughout the year. It is a great way to spend a Thursday afternoon, so if you are interested come and join us on September 11th in the AHEPA room.

Thank You, Demetra Pappoulis

ALTAR GUILD

We had the Paraklesis services during the Month of August and donations from Anna Tsionas, Sofia Regas and the Altar Guild maintained the decoration of the Icon during that period. Other donations are as follows:

August 6th, Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Manny & Evie Fournaris: For the continued health of our family.

August 15th, Dormition of the Theotokos: Anthony & Lauren Diamond: Health and happiness for our family.

Upcoming feasts in our church, donations needed for:

September 14th, The Elevation of the Cross November 21st, Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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

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	



The Greater Philadelphia Committee of IOCC invites you to the

14TH ANNUAL BANQUET TO BENEFIT IOCC

Sunday, October 26, 2025

3:30pm Hors d'Oeuvres & Silent Auction • 5:00pm Dinner & Program

Come and learn about IOCC's programs around the world and how your support makes a difference in places like Ethiopia, Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and the US.

Adelphia Restaurant, Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom

1750 Clements Bridge Rd., Deptford, NJ 08096

To reserve your place and for sponsorships, see your parish rep or visit

iocc.org/philadelphia

Or make checks out to IOCC and mail to IOCC | 110 West Road, Suite 360 | Baltimore, MD 21204

Tickets: \$85 per person

Questions? E-mail Theodora Veronis at TVeronis@iocc.org



Friend (\$250) - includes 2 guests

The following sponsorship oppor	rtunities are available:
Grand Benefactor (\$5,000+) - includes 10 guests	Sponsor (\$500) - includes

Benefactor (\$1,000) - includes 6 guests

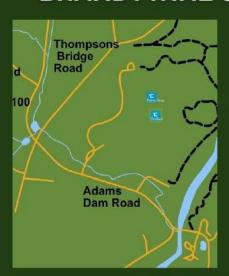
Great Benefactor (\$2,000) - includes 8 guests

Sponsorships received by Oct. 17 will be recognized in the program.



WELCOME BACK PICNIC IN THE PAR

BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK PAVILLION



Entrance on Adams Dam Rd. Follow signs to pavillion. Parking Passes provided there.

SATURDAY

STARTS AT 13 SEPTEMBER 2025 NOON

COST: MEMBERS \$30. NON-MEMBERS. \$35 SENIORS 75+: \$20. CHILDREN: 5-17: \$15 KIDS 4 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

GREEK PICNIC FOOD, BEVERAGES, MUSIC, KEFI

REGISTER AT:



hucwilmington.org

SHORT WALK FROM PARKING, REST ROOMS NEARBY



The Hellenistic Era

Beginning in 336 BC with the conquests of Alexander the Great and ending in 31 BC. Greece marked achievements in science, mathematics, astrology, architecture, biology, philosophy, politics and civic responsibility, religion, the arts and culture. Infrastructure developed, trade flourished and the Hellenic culture was shared, from the eastern Mediterranean to the Near East, India, and China. This epoch witnessed the discoveries of Aristotle, Euclid, Epicurus, Diogenes and Archimedes, and the creation of art celebrating the dynamic human form evoking awe, human emotion, revelation and delight. Since the Hellenistic period, Greek culture has become a part of humanity's shared heritage.

A Cultural & Historical Overview by Dr. Costas Fountzoulas

Sunday October 12, 2025 1:00 p.m.

AHEPA Room, 808 N. Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806



culture, let him be called Hellene."

Isocrates, 4th Century B.C



Sponsorship Opportunities

Tournament Sponsor
Includes foursome, tee/green sign, Company name/logo on banner at Reception, Cook Out & Hole.
BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR
GOLD SPONSOR
HOLE SPONSOR\$275 Company name/logo on tee or green sign.

Sponsor/Company Name

Sponsor deadline September 5, 2025

Golfer Registration

Golf Foursome \$1100 (\$275 per golfer)

Player Name	
Player Name	
Player Name	
Player Name	

Golfer Deadline : September 12, 2025

PRIZES & CONTESTS:

Longest Drive
Putting Contest
Closest to the Pin
Prizes will be awarded to the 1st Place Finishers
Tournament Format—Scramble

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

Holy Trinity 808 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 Or Email to: office@holytrinitywilmington.org



Concord Country Club

1601 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 610-459-2200 / www.concordclub.org

Απόσπασμα από τον Πάντα Επίκαιρο Επιτάφιο του Περικλέους

Δρ. Κώστας Γ. Φούντζουλας

Η οικονομική κατάσταση των Ελλήνων τα τελευταία δέκα χρόνια, και ειδικά εφέτος με την πανδημία που έχει επηρεάσει το σημαντικό για την χώρα τουριστικό εισόδημα έχει επιδεινωθεί πολύ. Όμως παρά την οικονομική οι Έλληνες και Ελληνίδες δείχνουν έναν δυσχέρεια θαυμάσιο χαρακτήρα και μία συμπεριφέρονται πολιτισμένα. Δεν υπάργει πανικός και δεν παρατηρούνται ακρότητες όπως περμεναν πολλοί ξένοι να συμβή, και ειδικά οι Β. Ευρωπαίοι. Ατενίζοντας την Ακρόπολη των Αθηνών από μακρυά, εκεί όπου περπάτησαν οι δημιουργοί του Δυτικού πολιτισμού μας, κατάλαβα ότι η ιστορία μας και δεινά μας δια μέσου των αιώνων, είναι οι κύριες αιτίες της πολιτισμένης συμπεριφοράς μας. Το φαγητό είναι νοσιτμώτατο και το Ελληνικό τοπίο συναρπαστικό. Βλέποντας αυτό το δημιούργημα της χρυσής εποχής του Περικλέους, που παραμένει όρθιο παρά τις λεηλασίες και καταστροφές, μου ήλθε στον νού ο περίφημος και διαχρονικός Επιτάφιος του Περικλέους.

Ο περίφημος Επιτάφιος του Περικλέους αναγράφεται στην «Ιστορία του Πελοποννησιακού Πολέμου» του Θουκυδίδη. Η ομιλία εκφωνήθηκε από τον Περικλή, έναν επιφανή Αθηναίο πολιτικό, στο τέλος του πρώτου έτους του Πελοποννησιακού Πολέμου (431-404 π.Χ.) ως μέρος της ετήσιας δημόσιας κηδείας τψβ νεκρών του πολέμου.

37. Έχουμε λοιπόν πολίτευμα που δεν αντιγράφει τους νόμους των άλλων, αλλά πολύ περισσότερο είμαστε εμείς παράδειγμα σε μερικούς, παρά μιμητές τους. Και ονομάζεται το πολίτευμά μας δημοκρατία, επειδή η εξουσία δε βρίσκεται στα χέρια των ολιγαρχικών, αλλά του δήμου. Και μπροστά στους νόμους, ως προς τις ιδιωτικές τους διαφορές, όλοι οι πολίτες έχουν τα ίδια δικαιώματα, ενώ για την προσωπική τους ανάδειζη, καταπώς ξεχωρίζει ο καθένας σε κάτι προτιμάται στα δημόσια αξιώματα, όχι τόσο για τη σειρά του, όσο περισσότερο για την προσωπική του ικανότητα· ούτε πάλι κάποιος, εξαιτίας της φτώχειας του, και ενώ μπορεί να κάνει κάτι καλό στην πόλη, εμποδίζεται από την ασημότητα της κοινωνικής του θέσης. Τις σχέσεις μας με την πολιτεία τις διέπει η ελευθερία, αλλά και στις καθημερινές μας ενασχολήσεις είμαστε απαλλαγμένοι από την καγυποψία μεταξύ μας, δίγως να αγανακτούμε με τον γείτονά μας, αν κάνει κάτι που τον ευχαριστεί, ούτε παίρνουμε απέναντί του το ύφος του πειραγμένου, πράγμα που μπορεί βέβαια να μην τον βλάπτει, σίγουρα όμως τον στενοχωρεί. Και ενώ στις ιδιωτικές μας σχέσεις δεν ενοχλούμε ο ένας τον άλλο, στη δημόσια ζωή δεν παρανομούμε πολύ περισσότερο από εσωτερικό σεβασμό, υπακούοντας σε αυτούς που κάθε φορά διοικούν την πόλη και στους νόμους, ιδιαίτερα σε εκείνους από αυτούς που ισχύουν για την προστασία των αδικημένων και σε όσους, παρότι άγραφοι, προκαλούν αναμφισβήτητη ντροπή (στους παραβάτες).

Excerpt from Always Timely Pericles' Epitaph (Funeral Oration)

Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

The economic situation of the Greeks in the last ten years, and especially this year with the ongoing pandemic that has affected the important for the economy tourist income has deteriorated a lot. Despite the economic difficulties the Greeks, men and women, show a wonderful nature and civilized behavior. Up-to -date, there is no panic and there is no increase of the as many foreigners, especially the Europeans, were anticipating occurring. The food is as tasty as ever and the Greek landscape is breathtaking. Overlooking the Acropolis of Athens from afar, where the creators of our Western civilization walked once, I understood that our history and suffering through the eons are the main cause of the civilized behavior. Seeing this creation of Pericles Golden Age which remains upright despite the looting and destruction through then eons, the famous and timeless Epitaph of Pericles, came to my mind.

Pericles' Funeral Oration is a famous speech from Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War". The speech was delivered by Pericles, an eminent Athenian politician, at the end of the first year of the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC) as a part of the annual public funeral for the war dead.

37. Our constitution does not copy the laws of neighboring states; we are rather a pattern to others than imitators ourselves. Its administration favors the many instead of the few; this is why it is called a democracy. If we look to the laws, they afford equal justice to all in their private differences; if to social standing, advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with merit; nor again does poverty bar the way, if a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by the obscurity of his condition. The freedom which we enjoy in our government extends also to our ordinary life. There, far from exercising a jealous surveillance over each other, we do not feel called upon to be angry with our neighbor for doing what he likes, or even to indulge in those injurious looks which cannot fail to be offensive, although they inflict no positive penalty. But all this ease in our private relations does not make us lawless as citizens. Against this fear is our chief safeguard, teaching us to obey the magistrates and the laws, particularly such as regard the protection of the injured, whether they are actually on the statute book, or belong to that code which, although unwritten, cannot be broken without acknowledged disgrace.

August at the Emmanuel Dining Room

We *sincerely* thank **The Daughters of Penelope** for sponsoring our lunchtime meal in August! Through their charity, everyone enjoyed a nice warm meal. We look forward to serving again on September 12th with **Paulette Alexandridis** sponsoring the meal, as she has for many years now. All are welcome to help serve the dining room that day or at any time!

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

PLEASE NOTE... The 3rd and Walnut St. dining room is closed. All meals are now being served at the 2nd and Jackson St. dining room until future notice

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!

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give; not reluctantly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



3,121 Men, women, and children served in July which is approximately 400 more than in June. The need for food in our Wilmington community is greater than ever! With your support we can help put food on the table for a family or elderly person. We can make this work! Buying just ONE additional can of soup or box or rice when at the grocery store WILL make a difference.

For more information about the program please visit the website at

saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

Blessings to all and thank you in advance for your generous support!

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

Serving in September

Coffee Hours:

September 7 ~ The Parish Council hosts the Annual Church Picnic

September 14 ~ The Altar Guild and the Family of Voula Manis

September 21 ~ Philoptochos

September 28 ~ Hellenic University Club

Narthex Duty:

September 7 ~ Group 2

September 14 ~ Group 1

September 21 ~ Group 2

September 28 ~ Group 1





Prosforon Offeror's



We are looking to update our Prosfora Offeror List.

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

ACOLYTES

+Tonsured ∼ *Reader All readers are also tonsured



Maximos Charalambides Vasilios Dargakis Joseph Demourtzidis Sebastian Dietrich Johnny Dietrich

+Ioannis Gerakios Alexander Hall

+Angelo Hall

+Demetri Karakasidis

+Ioannis Karakasidis

*+Alexandros Lurz
Demetri Moutsatsos
Demetri Psaltis
Nicholas Psaltis
George Psihalinos

Gerasimos Psihalinos + Jerry Rassias Nicholas Rassias

Stamati Roussos +Demetri Thomas Savvas Thymakis Alex Tsakumis

*+Nicholas Turley

+Paraskevas Verikakis

*+NektariosWiechecki

+Fotios Wolcott

+Jack Wolcott

+Josiah Wolcott

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

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

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Agiasmos Labor Day Church Office Closed	7pm AHEPA Exec Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday before the Holy Cross 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy GOYA Oath of Office Annual Welcome Back Picnic & Ministry Sign-ups GOYA Meeting	8 Nativity of Theotokos 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	9 6pm Philoptochos Meeting/Covered Dish (5:30pm Executive Board) 7pm AHEPA Meeting	10	11 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	12 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room	13 12pm HUC Welcome Back @ Brandywine St Park
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School Agiasmos Philoptochos to pass a tray for Hellenic College Holy Cross	Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	6pm Vespers at St Sophia, Jeffersonville, PA	Patriarchal Visit at St. Katherine, Falls Church, VA 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School 1st DAY	7pm GOYA Dance Workshop	7pm HOPE JOY Welcome Back Family Night	10am Philoptochos Service Project for Ronald McDonald House 12:30pm Baptism
21 Sunday after the Holy Cross 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School Philoptochos Sunday / Artoklasia HOPE/JOY Lemonade Stand Fund Raiser	22 17th Annual Golf Tournament 7pm DVYC Basketball Coaches Meeting	6:00pm DOP Meeting 7pm DVYC Meeting, Annunciation, Elkins Park	24 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School (Agiasmos – In Church)	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	5pm Wedding Rehearsal	27
28 1st Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School 1pm Wedding DVYC BBALL Begins	Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	30 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room				

We would like to thank the following parishioners who have donated \$500 or more to defray the cost of the new

HVAC System

for the Community Center and Classrooms...

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy Altar Guild Anagnostou, Anthoula & Anamaria Annos, William Artemiadis, Panagiotis & Spyridoula Arvanitis, Lisa & Argyrios Asimos, George & Kristi Asimos Sr., George Caras, Constantine & Maria Chambers, George & Kathy Christou, Aleka Ciabattoni, Olga Colborn, Brian & Nicole Constantinou, John & Carol Coulaloglou, Michele Dandolos, Demetri & Carol Dargakis, Minas & Kleo Demetriou, Anna Diamond, Anthony & Lauren Diamond, Thomas Dini, C & O Dougher, John & Christina Doukakis, Helen Drimones, Nicholas & Clara Economou, George & Elena Faller, Jim & Katherine Floropoulos, Yiannis Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey Fournaris, Anna Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen Fournaris, Manny & Evie Frangakis, Christine Galaris, Rick & Diane Gatos, Paula Geanopulos, Georgiean George, Mary

Grav, Eugenia & David Grivas, Christopher & Michelle Halakos, Demetris & Georgia Halakos, Yianni & Effie Halakos, Angelos & Donna Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie Hall, George & Michelle **Hellenic University Club** Iliadis, Dimitri & Tina Joseck, Anastasia Joseck, Fred & Xanthy Kaliakin, Victor & Leeza Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga Karakasidis, John & Vickie Karakasidis, Steve & Angie Karas, Theodore & Pam Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula Kayiaros, Joanna Kirifides, Alex & Kathy Kirifides, Lazarus & Helen Kirifides, Michael & Kerry Kirifides, Vasil & Rita Klezaras, Michael & Kathy Kollias, Basil & Demi Kolovos, Demetri & Effie Koninis, John & Anastasia Laletas, Ernest & Barbara Lawson, Michael & Vickie Lazare, John & Sandra Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura Lomis, Toula Maravelias, Jim & Diane Marini, Irene Markatos, Harry & Susan Marvel, Jessica Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela Melissourgos, Xenofon & Aikaterini

Michell, Theodore & Catherine Mistras, Antonis & Soula Moutsatsos, George & Alexia Nannas, Ted & Sandy Papachrysanthou, Christos & Popi Papettas, Vasilis & Christina Pennia, John & Stacey Pettaris, George & Stavroula **Philoptochos Society** Psaltis, John Psaltis, Tom & Cindy Raisis, Leo & Irene Rassias, Dion & Gina Rassias, George & Amalea Ruhl, David & Athena Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis Stout, Robert & Voula Tarabicos, John & Joanne Tawfik, Emad & Soultana Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanna Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanne Tsaganos, Robert & Popi Tsakataras, George Tsakumis, George & Julie Tsionas, Anna Turley, Steve & Akiko Vande Poele, David & Anna Vassilatos, Yvonne Velitskakis, Steve & Karen Verikakis & Family, Dena Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth **Yiannos Foundation, Peter & Stella** Wolcott, Joe & Para Zerefos, Demetri & Tina

We would like to thank the following parishioners who have made a donation to help defray the cost of the new HVAC System...

Anastassiades, Aglaia Chollis, Drew Heliotis, Alexandra Hinte, Jr., Forrest Humphrey, Caroline

Gianelos, James & Stacey

Issaris, Katherine Kollias, Georgia Loftus, Eliza Pappoulis, Dimitra Schillinger, Robert & Karen

Michell, Constantine & Elaine

Shahwan, Sofy Skoutelas, Panos Tarabicos, Sophia Tawfik, Emmanouela Wolcott-Neff, DeDe

Thank you for answering the call!!

If you have not sent in your donation yet...

There is still time to donate - see the letter on the previous page!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

Major Benefactor (\$750,000)

Christopher Caras Estate

Level 10 (\$200,000+) Christopher & Michelle Grivas

Level 9 (\$100,000+)

The Halakos Family
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The Kirifides Family
Philoptochos Society Wilmington, DE

Level 8 (\$50,000 ~ \$99,999)

Christos & Nancy Adamopoulos Constantine & Maria Caras Leo & Irene Raisis Konstantinos & Foula Tsionas & Family

Level 7 (\$20,000 ~ \$49,999)

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David & Anna Vande Poele

Steve & Karen Velitskakis

Socrates & Ruth Visvardis

Demetri & Constantina Zerefos

LEVEL 2 (\$500~\$999)

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PLEASE NOTE: We are in the final days of this capital campaign.

Please see the page to the left for the sponsorship levels. Please let us know if you are at the appropriate level as to your pledge given in the past few years. Please call the office if you feel there is anything wrong or if you want to increase your pledge before the final plaque is made for display. A letter will be going out to the community for a final push, allowing time for any last minute pledges. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help us finish strong!

Please note - this is for the PHASE II Addition / ELEVATOR Fund drive only and does not reflect recent giving to the new HVAC system.



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 12 22 122 1		
\$1,000-2,499	Enclosed please find my/our pledge payment for:		
\$2,500-4,999			
\$5,000-9,999	\$		
\$10,000-19,999			
\$20,000-29,999			
\$30,000-49,999	We wish to pledge \$	annually for years	
\$50,000-99,999			
\$100,000-149,999			
\$150,000 and above	TOTAL PLEDGE:	for recognition	

NAME:

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.



To contribute, please send your donation to:

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ATTN: Capital Campaign
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