



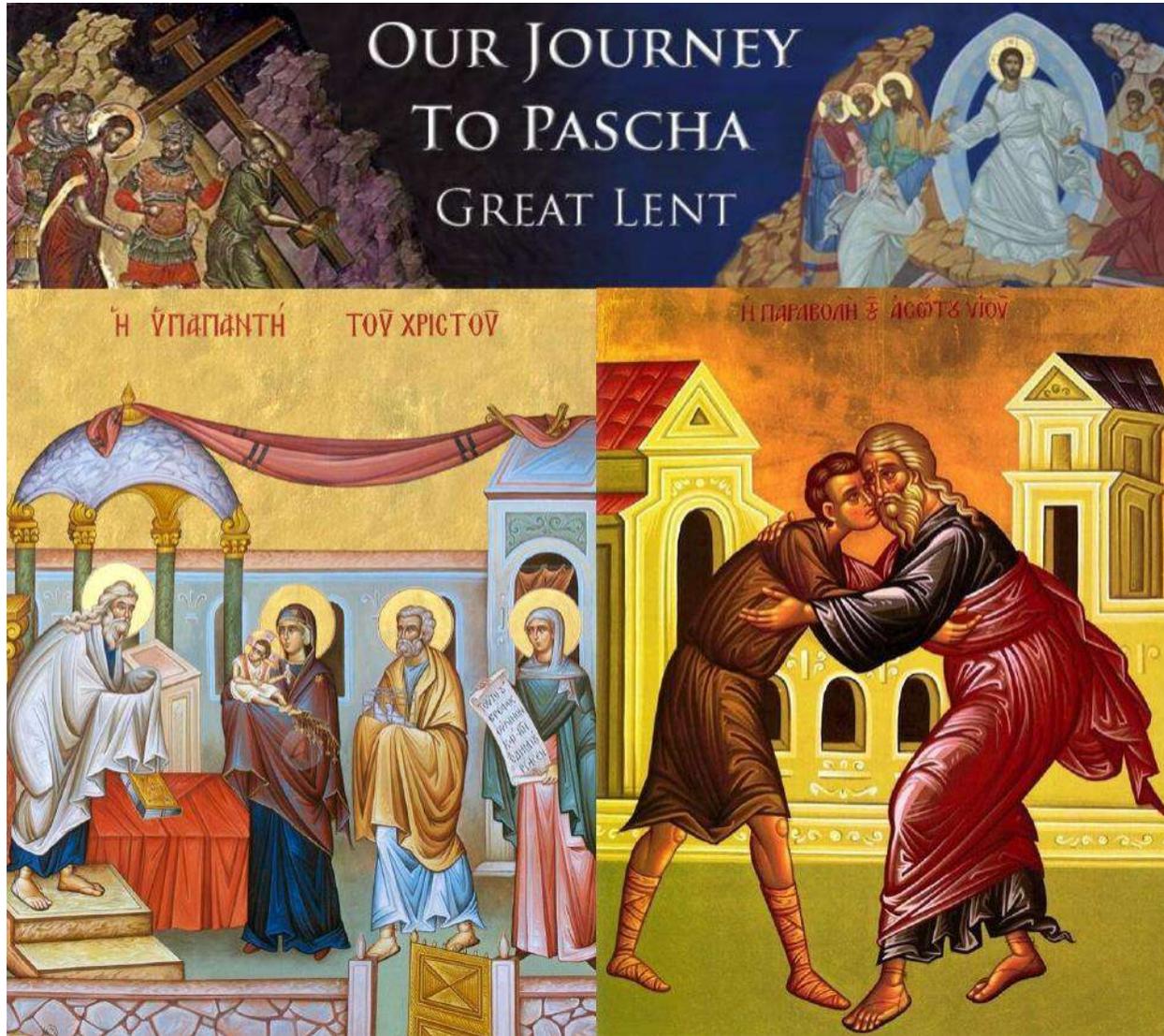
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

FEBRUARY 2026 – ISSUE 2



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 ΚΑΘΕΛΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

February 2026

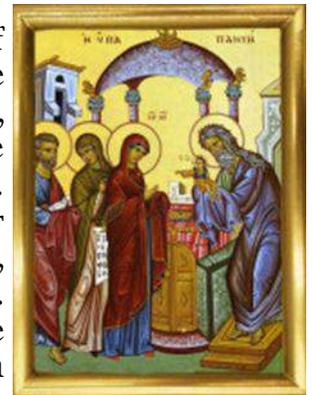
My dear beloved parishioners and friends of our Holy Trinity Cathedral,

As we enter the month of February, we find ourselves still in the heart of winter. The days are short, the nights are long, and the freezing temperatures often keep us indoors, moving slowly and cautiously through our daily routines. Nature itself seems to be resting, waiting patiently for renewal and rebirth. Yet, in the midst of this cold and quiet season, the Church offers us a profound and radiant gift. Holy and Great Lent begins early this year, coming like a gentle but powerful warmth that penetrates the cold of winter and, more importantly, the cold that can sometimes settle in our hearts. This sacred period invites us to reorient our spiritual life, to reassess our goals, and to remember who we are and why we live as Orthodox Christians. While the world around us may appear dormant, the Church calls us to awaken spiritually, to turn inward with honesty and humility, and to begin again with hope and purpose.



The journey toward Great Lent begins even earlier with the opening of the Triodion on Sunday, February 1st. The Triodion is not simply a liturgical book but a spiritual roadmap that prepares our souls to enter the arena of repentance. Through its hymns, readings, and themes, the Triodion gradually leads us from self-awareness to humility, from complacency to repentance, and from pride to sincere prayer. The Sundays of the Triodion are carefully arranged to teach us essential spiritual lessons. We learn from the humility of the Publican, the danger of judging others in the parable of the Pharisee, the pain of separation from God through the Prodigal Son, the responsibility we bear toward one another on the Sunday of the Last Judgment, and finally, the healing power of forgiveness on Forgiveness Sunday. This preparatory period is an act of love by the Church, helping us to approach Great Lent not abruptly or superficially, but with understanding, readiness, and a willing heart.

At the very beginning of this sacred month, we also celebrate the great feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple on February 2nd. This feast reveals the humility of Christ, who submits to the Law, and the obedience of the Theotokos, who brings her Son to the Temple as an offering to God. Panagia stands at the center of this feast as the living Temple who carries the Creator in her arms. Through her obedience, trust, and total offering to God, she becomes a model for every Christian life. She teaches us what it means to place our lives, our children, and our future into God's hands. This feast is not distant from our daily experience. Every time parents bring a newborn child into the Church to be blessed by the priest, we relive and commemorate this sacred moment. We offer our children back to God, acknowledging that life itself is a gift from Him and that the Church is the place where this life is nurtured, protected, and sanctified. Panagia remains not only the Mother of Christ but also the loving Mother of us all, guiding us gently toward her Son.



Holy and Great Lent begins on February 23, and with it, the Church invites us into a period of repentance, reflection, and action. ***Repentance in the Orthodox understanding is not simply feeling sorry for our sins, but a change of mind and heart,*** a turning away from what separates us from God and a turning toward His love. The holy fathers remind us that repentance is not a moment but a way of life. During Lent, we are given a concentrated time to examine ourselves honestly, to recognize our weaknesses, and to struggle with sincerity and courage. Reflection allows us to slow down and ask important questions about our priorities, our relationships, and our spiritual direction. Action then follows, as we seek to align our lives with the Gospel through concrete efforts of prayer, fasting, forgiveness, and love.

Continued...

Fasting is a central element of Great Lent, yet it is often misunderstood. According to the holy Orthodox fathers, fasting is not merely a change in diet, nor is it an end in itself. True fasting involves the whole person. Saint Basil the Great teaches that fasting is futile if we abstain from food but continue to devour one another through anger, gossip, and pride. Fasting trains us in self-control and humility. It reveals our attachments and teaches us dependence on God rather than on comfort. When practiced with discernment, fasting softens the heart, sharpens the mind, and opens space within us for prayer and compassion. It becomes a tool of healing, not a burden, when it is united with repentance, almsgiving, and love for others.

Great Lent also calls us to action beyond ourselves. The fathers emphasize that genuine repentance naturally leads to love expressed through mercy. When we fast, we are reminded of those who hunger. When we simplify our lives, we are encouraged to share with those in need. ***Lent challenges us to forgive those who have hurt us, to seek reconciliation, and to heal broken relationships.*** In this way, Lent becomes a living witness of the Gospel, transforming not only our inner life but also the life of our families, our parish, and our community.

In this spiritual struggle to which our mother Church invites us, we are not alone. God never calls us to a battle without providing strength and support. The Church surrounds us with the beauty of her services, the richness of her hymns, and above all, the life-giving grace of the holy sacraments. The frequent partaking of the precious Body and Blood of Christ strengthens us, heals us, and gives us the endurance to continue the journey. ***Holy Communion is not a reward for the perfect but medicine for the struggling.*** Through it, Christ Himself dwells within us, renewing our strength and reminding us that victory belongs to Him.

During Great Lent, the Church offers many opportunities for prayer and worship through the Great Compline, the Presanctified Liturgies, the Salutations to the Theotokos, and other sacred services outlined in our parish program. These services are not obligations but invitations to step more deeply into the life of the Church. They shape our hearts, teach us how to pray, and unite us as one body in Christ. We also commemorate the Saturdays of Souls, remembering our departed loved ones and affirming our faith in the resurrection and the unbreakable bond of love in Christ.



As we conclude, we give thanks to God for His infinite and unconditional love. He continually grants us opportunities to repent and to return to Him, and Holy and Great Lent is one of the greatest of these gifts. Let us welcome this year's Lent with joy and anticipation, not with fear or discouragement. Let us try our best, knowing that God honors sincere effort more than perfection. May we fast with humility, increase our prayer, participate more fully in the Divine Services, and ***prepare ourselves so that this year's Pascha may be truly Orthodox, filled with love, reconciliation, and renewed faith.*** I wish you all health and every blessing. Remember that in this spiritual struggle, we are not alone. We have God, His holy Church, the sacraments, and one another. Please know that I am always here for you, ready to help and support you with any spiritual need or concern. May this blessed journey lead us all to the radiant joy of the Resurrection.

With love in the Lord,

**Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest**

Αγαπητοί μου ενορίτες και φίλοι του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού,

Καθώς εισερχόμαστε στον μήνα Φεβρουάριο, βρισκόμαστε ακόμη στην καρδιά του χειμώνα. Οι ημέρες είναι σύντομες, οι νύχτες μεγάλες και οι χαμηλές θερμοκρασίες συχνά μας κρατούν κλεισμένους στα σπίτια μας, με πιο αργούς ρυθμούς ζωής. Η φύση μοιάζει να έχει σταματήσει, να αναμένει την ανανέωση και την αναγέννηση. Μέσα όμως σε αυτή τη χειμωνιάτικη σιωπή, η Εκκλησία μας προσφέρει ένα λαμπρό και ζωοποιό δώρο. Η Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή αρχίζει νωρίς φέτος και έρχεται σαν μια πνευματική ζεστασιά που διαλύει όχι μόνο το κρύο του καιρού αλλά και την ψυχρότητα που συχνά φωλιάζει στις καρδιές μας. Αυτή η ευλογημένη περίοδος μάς καλεί να επαναπροσδιορίσουμε την πνευματική μας ζωή, να θέσουμε εκ νέου τους στόχους μας και να θυμηθούμε ποιοι είμαστε και προς τα πού πορευόμαστε ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί.

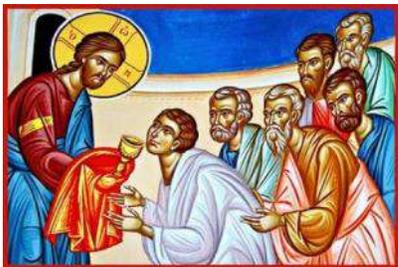
Η πορεία προς τη Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή ξεκινά με την έναρξη του Τριωδίου την Κυριακή 1^η Φεβρουαρίου. Το Τριώδιο δεν είναι απλώς ένα λειτουργικό βιβλίο αλλά μια πνευματική πορεία προετοιμασίας. Μέσα από τους ύμνους και τα αναγνώσματα των Κυριακών του, η Εκκλησία μας οδηγεί σταδιακά στην αυτογνωσία και στη μετάνοια. Η ταπείνωση του Τελώνη, η αποφυγή της κατάκρισης του Φαρισαίου, η επιστροφή του Ασώτου Υιού, η ευθύνη μας απέναντι στον πλησίον κατά την Κυριακή της Κρίσεως και η δύναμη της συγχώρησης πριν την είσοδο στη νηστεία αποτελούν σταθμούς αυτής της πορείας. Το Τριώδιο μάς διδάσκει ότι η πνευματική ζωή απαιτεί προετοιμασία, υπομονή και ειλικρινή διάθεση αλλαγής.



Στις αρχές του μήνα εορτάζουμε επίσης την Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου, στις 2 Φεβρουαρίου. Ο Χριστός προσφέρεται στον Ναό και η Παναγία στέκεται στο κέντρο αυτής της εορτής ως η Μητέρα που υπακούει στο θέλημα του Θεού και προσφέρει το πολυτιμότερο δώρο της. **Η Θεοτόκος γίνεται για όλους μας παράδειγμα εμπιστοσύνης και ολοκληρωτικής προσφοράς.** Στην εορτή αυτή βλέπουμε και τον δικό μας δρόμο. Κάθε φορά που φέρνουμε ένα νεογέννητο παιδί στην Εκκλησία για να ευλογηθεί από τον ιερέα, ζούμε ξανά αυτό το γεγονός. Προσφέρουμε το παιδί μας στον Θεό, αναγνωρίζοντας ότι η ζωή είναι δώρο Του και ότι η Εκκλησία είναι ο χώρος όπου αυτή η ζωή αγιάζεται και προστατεύεται. Η Παναγία παραμένει η στοργική Μητέρα όλων μας και μας οδηγεί πάντοτε προς τον Υιό της.

Η Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή αρχίζει στις 23 Φεβρουαρίου και αποτελεί περίοδο μετανοίας, περισυλλογής και έμπρακτης αλλαγής. **Η μετάνοια στην Ορθόδοξη παράδοση δεν είναι απλώς μια συναισθηματική λύπη αλλά βαθιά αλλαγή νοοτροπίας και τρόπου ζωής.** Οι άγιοι Πατέρες μάς υπενθυμίζουν ότι η μετάνοια είναι διαρκής στάση ζωής. Κατά τη διάρκεια της Τεσσαρακοστής καλούμαστε να εξετάσουμε τον εαυτό μας με ειλικρίνεια, να αναγνωρίσουμε τις αδυναμίες μας και να αγωνιστούμε με ταπείνωση και ελπίδα.

Η νηστεία κατέχει κεντρική θέση σε αυτή την περίοδο. Δεν είναι απλώς διατροφικός κανόνας αλλά πνευματικό μέσο. Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας τονίζουν ότι η αληθινή νηστεία αφορά ολόκληρο τον άνθρωπο. Η αποχή από ορισμένες τροφές πρέπει να συνοδεύεται από αποχή από την κακία, τον θυμό και την κατάκριση. Η νηστεία μας εκπαιδεύει στην εγκράτεια, μαλακώνει την καρδιά και ανοίγει χώρο για προσευχή και αγάπη. Όταν συνδυάζεται με ελεημοσύνη και συγχώρηση, γίνεται πηγή θεραπείας και εσωτερικής ελευθερίας.



Σε αυτόν τον πνευματικό αγώνα δεν είμαστε μόνοι. Η μητέρα Εκκλησία μάς στηρίζει με την ομορφιά των ιερών ακολουθιών και με τη χάρη των Αγίων Μυστηρίων. Η συχνή συμμετοχή στο Σώμα και το Αίμα του Χριστού μάς ενδυναμώνει και μας δίνει τη δύναμη να συνεχίσουμε. **Η Θεία Κοινωνία είναι φάρμακο αθανασίας και πηγή ζωής.** Οι κατανοητικές ακολουθίες της περιόδου, όπως οι Προηγιασμένες Θείες Λειτουργίες, οι Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτόκου και τα μνημόσυνα των Σαββάτων των Ψυχών, μας καλούν σε βαθύτερη συμμετοχή στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας και σε προσευχή για ζώντες και κεκοιμημένους.

Κλείνοντας, ευχαριστούμε τον Θεό για την άπειρη και ανιδιοτελή αγάπη Του. Μας προσφέρει συνεχώς ευκαιρίες μετανοίας και επιστροφής, και η Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι μία από τις μεγαλύτερες ευλογίες Του. Ας υποδεχθούμε αυτή την περίοδο με χαρά και προσδοκία. Ας προσπαθήσουμε με ειλικρίνεια, αυξάνοντας την προσευχή μας, τη νηστεία μας και τη συμμετοχή μας στις ιερές ακολουθίες, ώστε το φετινό Πάσχα να είναι αληθινά Ορθόδοξο, γεμάτο αγάπη, συγχώρηση και συμπιλώση. Σας εύχομαι υγεία και κάθε ευλογία. Να θυμάστε ότι σε αυτόν τον αγώνα δεν είμαστε μόνοι. Έχουμε τον Θεό, την Εκκλησία, τα ιερά Μυστήρια και ο ένας τον άλλον. Και εγώ βρίσκομαι πάντοτε δίπλα σας, έτοιμος να σας στηρίξω σε κάθε πνευματική ανάγκη.

Join us on Sunday, February 22, at 6.30 pm for the Vespers of Forgiveness, as we prepare our hearts for Pure Monday and the beginning of Holy and Great Lent. What a beautiful and meaningful way to begin this sacred season.

π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης

Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου, Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: A Midweek Meeting with Christ During Great Lent

Great Lent is a sacred journey, a spiritual pilgrimage that calls every Christian to walk intentionally toward the joy of Pascha. It is a time set apart not only for fasting from food but for fasting from sin, for prayer, for self-examination, and for deepening our communion with God and one another. It is a season when the Church invites us to step back from the distractions of daily life, to look inward at our hearts, and to turn outward in love and service. Along this journey, one of the Church's most beautiful and profound gifts is the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**, celebrated at our Cathedral every Wednesday evening. This Liturgy is not merely a service. It is an encounter with Christ Himself, a spiritual strengthening in the middle of our Lenten path. Each Wednesday becomes an opportunity to pause, to reflect, and to draw near to God in a way that sustains us through the challenges of the Fast.



Many faithful may not fully understand why this Liturgy is unique. Unlike the Divine Liturgy celebrated on Sundays, the Presanctified Liturgy does not include the consecration of the Holy Gifts. During Great Lent, the Church refrains from celebrating the full Eucharist on weekdays because the Divine Liturgy is always a celebration of the Resurrection. Sundays, the Lord's Day, remain radiant with this joy and glory. Weekdays, however, are meant to be a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual struggle. The absence of consecration is not a limitation but a profound theological lesson. Lent is a time for preparation, longing, and heightened awareness of our dependence on God's mercy. In this way, the service teaches us that spiritual growth often requires patience and attentiveness, a readiness to wait for God's timing and presence in our lives.



The Church also understands our human weakness. She knows that fasting without nourishment, spiritual and physical, would leave us discouraged. For this reason, the faithful are not deprived of the Body and Blood of Christ. Instead, the Holy Gifts consecrated on the previous Sunday are reverently distributed during the Presanctified Liturgy. These Gifts are offered precisely to strengthen the faithful, giving courage and spiritual sustenance as we continue our Lenten struggle. In this way, the Presanctified Liturgy shows us that Lent is not a season of absence but of preparation for a more profound encounter with Christ. Receiving these Gifts reminds us that the Fast is not an empty exercise but a journey toward life in Christ and communion with His Body and Blood.

The service is celebrated in the evening, after the fatigue and work of the day. Its timing is deeply intentional. As the light of day fades, we enter the Church carrying both the physical hunger of our fast and the spiritual hunger of our hearts. The Presanctified Liturgy transforms this hunger into prayer, turning our desire for earthly nourishment into a longing for divine communion. It begins with Vespers, the evening service, with psalms, incense, and scripture readings that guide us toward humility, repentance, and hope. The atmosphere is quiet, subdued, and reflective, drawing the faithful into a spiritual stillness where Christ can speak to the soul and where we can recognize our need for His mercy.

At the heart of the service is the solemn procession of the Holy Gifts, accompanied by the hymn: **"Now the powers of heaven invisibly worship with us."** In this moment, the Church proclaims that Christ Himself comes to meet His people, offering His Body and Blood to strengthen us. There is no triumphal fanfare, no celebratory exclamations. Instead, there is silence, reverence, and awe. This contrast teaches us a central lesson of Lent. Christ meets us in our weariness, our longing, and our repentance. He comes not to entertain but to heal, not to fill us with fleeting excitement but to strengthen us for the spiritual journey that lies ahead.

The Presanctified Liturgy is also profoundly communal. We fast together, pray together, kneel together, and receive together. Lent is never meant to be an individual endeavor. It is the journey of the Church as a body, moving slowly and deliberately toward Pascha. Participating in this service reminds us that we are not alone. We walk alongside one another, supported by prayer, encouraged by the example of the saints, and strengthened by the Eucharist. Each week, the faithful gather in hope and humility, offering their lives to God and receiving in return the grace that sustains them for the rest of the week.



This service is an invitation to all members of the parish. Whether you have fasted perfectly or struggled in your observance, whether you are seasoned in the spiritual life or newly beginning, Christ calls you to receive Him. Come on Wednesday evening to stand, to kneel, to pray, and to be nourished by His Body and Blood. Bring your fatigue, your worries, your heartaches, and your joys, and allow Christ to meet you in a tangible and life-giving way. Every Wednesday becomes a moment to reorient our lives toward God and to embrace the grace that He freely gives.



Practical Note: Before receiving Holy Communion, the Church invites all the faithful to prepare through prayer, fasting, and, when needed, participation in the sacrament of confession. Confession is a gift that restores our relationship with God and one another. Even a brief moment of sincere repentance and self-examination opens the heart to receive Christ more fully. The evening of the Presanctified Liturgy is therefore an ideal opportunity to strengthen our spiritual lives and to encounter God anew.

Come, then, every Wednesday evening during Great Lent. Receive the gifts of Christ. Renew your heart and soul. Let the Church guide you in fasting, prayer, and repentance, and discover in the quiet of the evening the strength and joy that only He can give.

Great Lent: A Journey with the Fathers



Great Lent is the most sacred season of the Church year. It begins with Clean Monday and leads us through forty days of fasting, prayer, and repentance, preparing our hearts for Holy Week and the joyous celebration of Pascha. The Church Fathers teach us that Great Lent is not merely about abstaining from food but about transforming the soul, disciplining the passions, and drawing closer to God.

Saint John Chrysostom writes:

“Fasting is the soul’s gymnasium. It restrains the passions, strengthens the spirit, and purifies the heart. Do not think that fasting is only abstaining from food. It is also refraining from anger, envy, and every evil word. If you fast with love, your fast will be pleasing to God.” (Homily on Fasting, PG 49:134)

Fasting, then, is both external and internal. It is a training of the body that shapes the soul, teaching self-control, humility, and vigilance over our thoughts and words. The Fathers call fasting a medicine for the soul, a way to heal the wounds caused by sin and to restore harmony between body and spirit.

Fasting must always be accompanied by prayer and almsgiving. Saint Basil the Great writes:

“Almsgiving is the crown of fasting. He who fasts without mercy in his heart has gained nothing. The one who gives to the poor walks with Christ. The bread you withhold from your mouth is not yours; it is for your brother. If you give it, you honor God Himself.” (Homilies on Fasting, Homily 2, PG 31:153)

True fasting cannot exist in isolation; it must be united with love for others. Acts of charity perfect our fast, and through generosity we participate in the work of Christ in the world. Feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, and assisting the poor sanctify both our hearts and our daily lives.

Saint Gregory the Theologian emphasizes the unity of fasting, prayer, and repentance:

“Repentance and prayer are the twin pillars of fasting. If one prays without fasting, it is weak. If one fasts without prayer, it is empty. But when fasting, prayer, and charity come together, they are a strong defense against sin.” (Oration 39: On Fasting, PG 36:1030)

Great Lent is not simply about refraining from certain foods. It is a holistic transformation, a time to turn from sin and embrace virtue and holiness. The Fathers remind us that our inner disposition matters more than outward appearances. A humble heart, full of love for God and neighbor, is what gives value to our fasts and prayers.

Saint John Chrysostom further instructs:

“The aim of fasting is not to burden the body, but to raise the soul. We must empty ourselves of pride, self-love, and worldly desires. If we do this, then our prayers will be heard, and our hearts filled with grace.” (Homily 7 on Fasting, PG 49:126)

Lent calls us to examine our lives honestly, acknowledge our weaknesses, and seek God's mercy with humility. Every small effort to resist temptation, forgive, or show patience is pleasing to God. Our struggles, rather than being failures, become opportunities to grow in virtue when offered to Him with love.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem stresses generosity and prayer during Lent:

"During this season, let no one close their hand from the poor. Let the needy find in you both bread and a heart full of love. Give with gladness, pray with fervor, and your fast will be perfect in the eyes of God." (Catechetical Lecture 22: On Fasting)

Lent is a time when our actions must reflect our inner transformation. The fast is not simply about what we abstain from; it is about what we give: our time, our love, our concern for others, and our devotion to God. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we imitate the life of Christ and grow closer to Him.

Families have a special role in this holy season. Children can learn prayers, help prepare fasting meals, and participate in acts of charity. Saint John Chrysostom reminds us:

"Do not neglect your children, but teach them to walk in the ways of the Lord. Even small acts done in love are precious in God's sight." (Homily 37 on Ephesians, PG 62:463)

By including the young in Lent, families strengthen the household as a domestic Church. Children learn habits of prayer, generosity, and self-discipline that will guide them throughout their lives. Preparing together for Pascha creates joyful memories while passing on the faith to the next generation.

Saint John Climacus writes in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*:

"Do not grow discouraged if at first you find fasting and prayer difficult. Begin with small steps, and God will strengthen your resolve. The struggle itself is a prayer, and every effort offered in love is pleasing to God." (Step 1: PG 88:25)

Lent is not a test of perfection but an invitation to deepen our relationship with God. Every prayer, every moment of self-denial, every act of kindness is a seed planted in the heart that will bear fruit in spiritual growth.

Saint John Chrysostom also encourages us to approach Lent personally and sincerely:

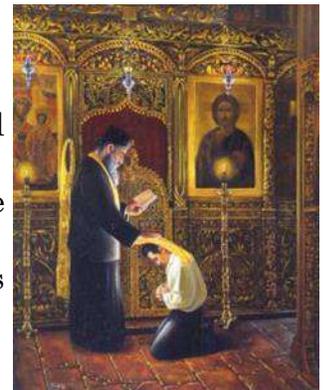
"Do not judge your progress by others. Each soul walks its own path. What matters is the sincere effort to turn away from sin and embrace God's love." (Homily 18 on Matthew, PG 57:374)

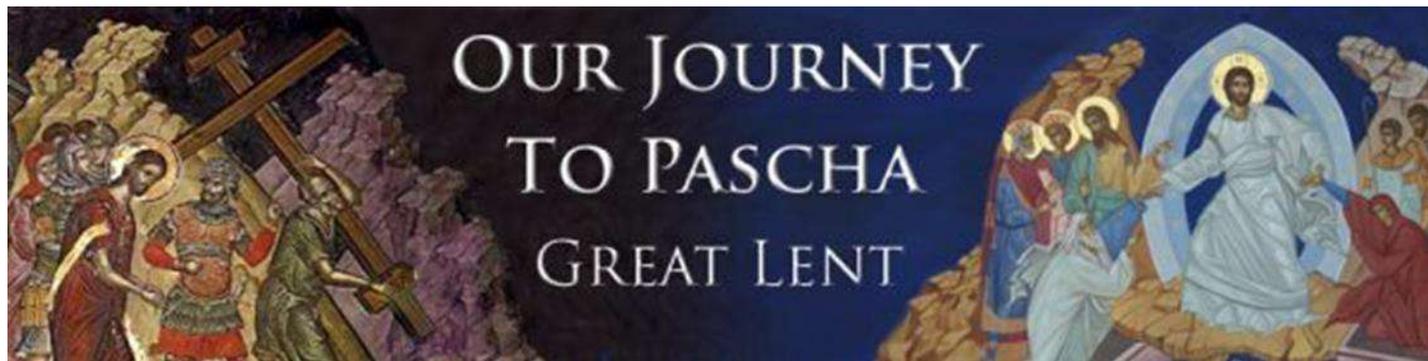
God's mercy is limitless. Our weaknesses are not obstacles but opportunities to seek His grace, and every humble effort is accepted and blessed by Him.

Practical Guidance for Great Lent:

- Set aside time for personal prayer daily. Attend weekday services and the Presanctified Liturgy if possible.
- Observe the traditional fast from meat, dairy, and other foods, while also fasting from anger, gossip, and selfish habits.
- Give to those in need and perform acts of kindness. Even small gestures have great spiritual value.
- Prepare for confession, opening your heart to God's forgiveness and the healing power of reconciliation.

Great Lent is a time of renewal, transformation, and preparation. The Fathers teach us that fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are gifts, not burdens. By embracing this holy season, we imitate Christ, grow in virtue, and prepare to celebrate the Resurrection with joy. May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth, family unity, and love for neighbor, a season in which we draw near to God, purify our hearts, and experience His grace in abundance.





“Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat.”
(From the Lenten Triodion)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT 2026

Every Sunday: Orthros 9:00am and Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Sunday, February 22nd at 6:30pm: Vespers Service of Forgiveness

Every Monday, beginning on Clean Monday, February 23rd at 6pm:

Great Compline Service, followed by Orthodox Lecture-Discussion

Every Wednesday, beginning February 25th at 6:30pm:

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a community meal

Every Friday, beginning February 27th at 6:30pm:

The Salutations to the Theotokos

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



The Saturdays of Souls: Faith, Memory, and Love That Transcends Death

Within the sacred life of the Orthodox Church, the Saturdays of Souls hold a unique and deeply moving place. They are days set aside not only for remembrance, but for hope, prayer, and love that reaches beyond the boundaries of time and death. Rooted in the faith of the Church and preserved through centuries of lived tradition, these Saturdays teach us who we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

The Church commemorates the departed on Saturdays because Saturday is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ rested in the tomb. It is the day between the sorrow of the Cross and the joy of the Resurrection. In this silence, the Church lifts up her prayers for all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, proclaiming that death is not the end of human existence. As Saint John Chrysostom reminds us, *“Not in vain was this law established by the Apostles, that in the dread mysteries remembrance should be made of the departed. They knew that much benefit comes to them from this.”*

Orthodox teaching understands death not as annihilation, but as a passage. The soul lives on, awaiting the resurrection of the body and the final reunion of all in Christ. Our prayers for the departed are not expressions of despair but acts of faith in the mercy of God and in the communion of saints. Love does not end at the grave. As Saint Mark of Ephesus affirms, the prayers of the Church offer comfort and spiritual benefit to those who have departed this life, because in Christ we remain united, living and departed alike.

The Saturdays of Souls are placed intentionally before and during Great Lent. As we prepare for the journey toward Pascha, the Church invites us to remember our mortality and to turn our hearts toward repentance, humility, and compassion. Remembering the dead helps us place our priorities in proper order. It teaches us to live more attentively, to forgive more readily, and to trust more deeply in God’s promise of eternal life.

At the heart of these commemorations is the offering of kollyva, the boiled wheat brought to church with the names of the departed. This simple dish carries profound theological meaning. Our Lord Himself explains it: *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John 12:24). The wheat that is buried and then transformed becomes a living symbol of death and resurrection. When we offer kollyva, we proclaim our belief that those who have died in Christ will rise again, and that life is stronger than death.

The Saturdays of Souls are not only an expression of Orthodox belief; they are also a beautiful and sacred tradition that we are called to keep, preserve, and pass on to future generations. In a world that often avoids the topic of death or treats it with fear, the Church teaches us to approach it with faith, love, and hope. This tradition connects generations, linking grandparents and grandchildren, ancestors and descendants, in one continuous story of faith.

There is something profoundly moving, and even joyful, about involving our children and grandchildren in the preparation of kollyva. When young hands help boil the wheat, stir the ingredients, decorate the dish, and lovingly write the names of those who came before them, something sacred takes place. Children learn that they are part of something larger than themselves. They learn that their grandparents, great-grandparents, and ancestors are not forgotten, but remembered and honored in prayer. They learn to be grateful to those who made their lives possible and to recognize that love continues beyond death.

At the same time, this act teaches children something equally important: that one day, just as they pray for those who came before them, others will pray for them. In this way, the Saturdays of Souls teach continuity, responsibility, and hope. What begins as a meaningful family activity becomes a lesson in theology, memory, and love. And yes, it is also a beautiful and fun experience for children, one that gently and naturally forms their hearts within the life of the Church.

This year, our Cathedral will observe the Saturdays of Souls on February 14, February 21, and February 28. On each of these Saturdays, Orthros will begin at 9:00 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 9:45 am. During these services, special prayers will be offered for the repose of the souls of our beloved departed from our parish and beyond.

All faithful are warmly encouraged to participate, to submit the names of their departed loved ones, and, if possible, to bring kollyva as an offering of faith and love. Even those who are unable to prepare kollyva are invited to come, pray, and stand together as one Church.

In remembering the dead, we learn how to live. In praying for them, we deepen our faith. And in passing this tradition to our children, we ensure that love, memory, and hope will continue to flourish from generation to generation, until we all meet again in the light of Christ’s glorious Resurrection.



SATURDAYS OF SOULS

❖ 1st Saturday of Souls: February 14

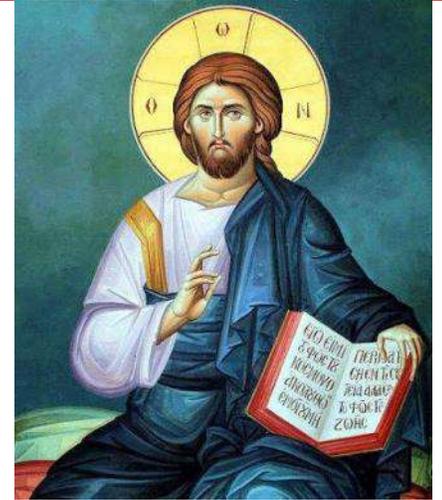
Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am

❖ 2nd Saturday of Souls: February 21

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am

❖ 3rd Saturday of Souls: February 28

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 9.45 am



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

ΙΕΡΑ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ

❖ 1^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 14 Φεβρουαρίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ

❖ 2^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 21 Φεβρουαρίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ

❖ 3^ο Ψυχοσάββατο: 28 Φεβρουαρίου

Όρθρος 9 πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 9.45 πμ



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

On February 25th the Hellenic University Club
will *host* the first of
6 Lenten Community Meals
that will take place after the
Presanctified Liturgies
each Wednesday Evening @ 6:30pm
during the Lenten Period.

We hope you will join us each week as we gather for a Lenten meal as the family of God. The "Main" dish will be provided. Please bring a friend or family member and your favorite Lenten dish to share.

Our Hosts:

February 25 ~ Hellenic University Club

March 4 ~ Philoptochos

March 11 ~ GOYA

March 18 ~ Young @ Heart

March 25 ~ NO SERVICE & MEAL

April 1 ~ Daughters of Penelope



The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
The Triodion Begins



The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

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

40-DAY BLESSINGS OF MOTHER & CHILD



Christos & Evi Christou and baby Alexandros



Kevin & Sophia Healy and baby Nikolaos

The Rite of Churching

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

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

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

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

The Chrismation of Kate Spurlock ~ December 21, 2025





GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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

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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

302-654-4446

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

February 2026

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

As we begin the New Year, I extend to each of you and your families my warmest wishes for a blessed January.

We are grateful for yet another successful GOYA basketball tournament recently hosted by our parish. It was a joy to welcome many visiting churches and young people from across the region. The tournament was a wonderful example of fellowship and Orthodox unity, and it showcased the devotion of our youth and the generosity of our volunteers. Thank you to all who helped throughout the entire weekend, it is truly a huge undertaking.

As a parish, we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and look forward to the opportunities ahead. The Parish Council remains committed to serving our community with unity, stewardship, and love, working with our clergy and ministry leaders to strengthen our parish spiritually, as well as financially.

I would like to thank each of you for your continued support, and involvement. Your faithfulness is what allows our parish to flourish. Whether through worship, volunteering, ministries, or stewardship, every contribution matters and is deeply appreciated.

In Christ's Love,
Georgia
Halakos
Parish Council
President



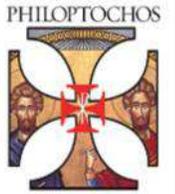
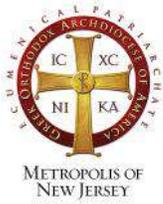
The Parish Council was sworn in on January 11, 2026

Anamaria Anagnostou
Anna Fournaris
Georgia Halakos
Stephen Karakasidis
Alex Kirifides

Basil Kollias
Jim Maravelias
Alexia Moutsatsos
Stacey Pennia
Tom Psaltis

Leo Raisis
Emad Tawfik
Dena Verikakis
Peter Xarhoulakos





Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Beloved Father Christoforos, Members of Philoptochos and parishioners:

I extend warmest greetings and prayers that this message finds you well.

We joyously congratulate all those recipients of the Vasilopita coin on the Sunday of our Vasilopita cutting. May it bring you prosperity throughout the year!

A huge bravo to our incredible youth athletes and everyone involved in the Annual Basketball Tournament at our Holy Trinity Cathedral. Kudos to everyone involved in making this tournament such a remarkable success. The dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment demonstrated by our coaches, parents, and volunteers truly deserve our highest praise. These events foster a strong sense of community and teamwork and also cultivate new friendships for our youth within our Metropolis.

The Philoptochos Membership Drive for 2026 is underway. Joining our chapter transcends mere affiliation; it is an invitation to immerse yourself in a profound journey of compassionate community service. Your membership empowers us to extend vital support to those in need of our local community, in addition to extending this support both nationally and internationally. Our chapter's unique strength lies in the beautiful tapestry of multiple generations of members, each contributing their diverse talents and perspectives. Last year we witnessed an extraordinary surge in our membership, which directly translated into an even greater capacity of reach out and make a tangible difference in the lives of many. We are eager to continue this legacy of impact TOGETHER!

To renew your membership, or to join our philanthropic family for the first time, please find the registration form included in this bulletin. Kindly complete the form and either mail it to Holy Trinity Cathedral for the attention of Jessica Marvel, or send it directly to her at the address provided in the form. You can always give it to Jessica following Divine Liturgy as well.

On February 1, Holy Trinity will once again host Godparents Sunday and Philoptochos will once again hold our third annual Loukoumades Sunday fundraising event on this special day. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you all for an afternoon of heartwarming fellowship and delicious Loukoumades.

The second annual Music Dance Festival (MDF) will be held in Philadelphia from February 13-15, 2026, and the chapters of Philoptochos in our Metropolis have been asked to make koulourakia as a treat for all those attending this wonderful event. We extend our love and sincerest wishes for good luck to our Holy Trinity Goyan's and members of the Joy Ministries as they participate and connect with fellow youth from across our Metropolis.

Our next meeting will be held on February 22 when we will also be hosting coffee hour.

With the arrival of February 23rd, we begin the sacred Lenten season. I extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you for a blessed and spiritually enriching Lent, and may God bestow upon us all health, strength, and unwavering love during this profound and reflective period.

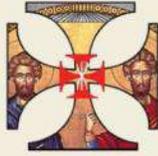
In Christ's Service,
Dena Verikakis

Our 1st Meeting for the New Year took place on Saturday, January 10, and Fr. Christoforos blessed our Vasilopita.



Kollyva for Memorials

The Philoptochos Society will prepare the tray of Kollyva for any family of our community. The cost of \$125 includes the Prosforon, oil and wine. Please allow at least a week and call the church office 654-4446 and Susie will contact the Philoptochos. Your donation of \$125 (less cost), will help Philoptochos Charities.



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
SAINT AGAPE CHAPTER
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
WILMINGTON, DE

LOUKOUMADES SALE

ON GODPARENT SUNDAY

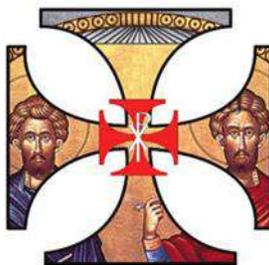


8 LOUKOUMADES FOR \$10



FEBRUARY 1, 2026

In the church hall during coffee hour
following Divine Liturgy



As we begin our membership drive for 2026, the St. Agape Chapter extends warmest wishes for a joyous and healthy New Year! If you aren't currently a member, we invite you to join our active Philoptochos chapter. If you are currently a member, please remember to update your membership dues.

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

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

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

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

Our membership cost is only \$45, which goes a long way to help others. If you are currently a member, please renew your membership dues. Below you will find our contact information. We look forward to hearing from you and becoming a member of our chapter.

With love and blessing,

Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne, Father Christoforos Oikonomidis

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

Jessica Marvel, Membership Committee, jessicamarvel@gmail.com

Karen Schillinger, Membership Committee, karschill@aol.com

PHILOPTOCHOS



Philoptochos St. Agape Chapter Registration Form

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

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

Please accept my stewardship to be allocated as follows:

National Per Capita (Support National Philoptochos Projects) \$15.00

Metropolis Per Capita (Support Metropolis Philoptochos Projects) \$8.00

My Stewardship to our Local Chapter's Ministries \$17.00

Other: \$.00

TOTAL: \$.00

Please make checks payable to Philoptochos Society St. Agape Chapter

*****Membership dues are \$ 45.00 starting January 2026, please include your payment along with this form & mail it to Jessica Marvel @ 202 Kirk Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803 and email it to jessicamarvel@gmail.com.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

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

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

_____ Family & Society / Church Projects

_____ Ministry Commitments

_____ New Philanthropic Initiatives

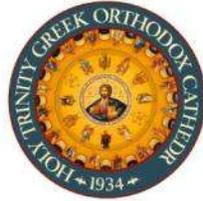
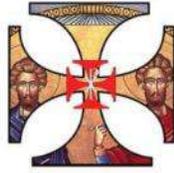
_____ Spiritual Enrichment

_____ Fundraising/Special Events

_____ Membership

_____ Social Services

Thank you for your support!!!



**Ladies Philoptochos Society
 Saint Agape Chapter
 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
 Wilmington, Delaware
 Tsoureki Sale**



Orders are due by March 26th, 2026

Orders can be picked up in the church hall on Palm Sunday, April 5th during coffee hour

**Make checks payable to: Philoptochos Society and
 send to: Eleni Karakasidis 235 Caleb Dr, West Chester, PA 19382**

Contact: wilmingtongreekcookies@gmail.com or 302-898-6047 with any questions

Name:		Number:		
Item	Pieces	Price	Quantity	Total
Tsoureki (Large)	1	\$25		
Tsoureki (Small)	1	\$17		

Total Amount Due:

GOYA Christmas Gathering

On December 20 after a day of Kalanda (Christmas Caroling) and visiting our home bound parishioners we had our annual Christmas gathering, enjoying fellowship and a great meal!



On Sunday, December 21
the Holy Trinity Sunday School presented their annual
Christmas Pageant celebrating the birth of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Christmas Service 2025



On January 6, 2026 Holy Trinity celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



KALANDA!!!
On December 20
our GOYAns went to visit
our Shut-ins and brought
some Christmas joy as we
sang Christmas Carols to
brighten their days!!



Holy Trinity Cathedral Celebrated Vasilopita Sunday, January 11, 2026, where the heads of each Ministry and Organization accepted the first pieces for their membership.



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

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy	Halakos, Demetris & Georgia	Michell, Constantine & Elaine
Asimos, George & Kristie	Halakos, Ioannis & Effie	Michell, Theodore & Catherine
Caras, Constantine & Maria	Hall, George & Michelle	Mistras, Antonis & Soula
Chambers, George & Katherine	Kayiaros, Stephen	Moutsatsos, George & Alexia
Colborn, Brian & Nicole	Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy	Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra
Constantinou, John & Carol	Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen	Psaltis, Tom & Cindy
Demourtzidis, Nichoals & Daphne	Kirifides, Michael & Kerry	Raisis, Leonidas & Irene
Dini, C & O	Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria	Rassias, Dion & Gina
Faller, James & Catherine	Kollias, Basil & Demi	Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis
Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evanthea	Kolovos, Dimitrios & Effie	Tsakumis, George & Julia
Galaris, Rick & Diana	Lazare, John & Sandra	Turley, Steve & Akiko
Gray, David & Eugenia	Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi	Vassilatos, Yvonne
Grevenitis, Demetri & Clewell	Maravelias, James & Diane	Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Grivas, Christopher & Michelle	Marvel, Jessica	Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina
Halakos, Angelos & Donna	Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela	

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Al-Annouf, Nabil & Rabia Batah	Creedon, Patrick & Mary Beth	Gerakios, Sakelaris & Spiridoula	Karablacas, Stelios
Alexopoulos, Demetri & Lauren	Croussouloudis, Despina+	Gianelos, Eleni	Karagiannis, Peter
Alexopoulos, John	Dalianis, John & Vicky	Gianelos, James & Stacie	Karahalias, Stratton
Almasou, Elias & Rasha	Dandolos, Demetri & Carol	Giannakakis, Vivian	Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni
Anagnostou, Anamaria	Dargakis, Mike & Kleo	Giannatos, Stavros & Terrie	Karakasidis, John & Vickie
Anagnostou, Anthoula	Degermentzidis, Yiannys	Gordan, Brendan & Harriet	Karakasidis, Stephen & Angie
Anastasiades, (Aglaia) Litsa	Demetriou, Anna	Graham, Catherine	Karaoqlanis, Eleftherios & Niki
Andrianopoulos, Faith	Diamanty, Thomas	Grigorakakis, Maria	Karapanagiotis, Athanasios+
Angeletakis, Christos & Christina	Diamond, Anthony & Lauren	Grivas, Demetrios	Karas, Michael
Annos, William	Diamond, John	Guajardo, Evangelina	Karas, Theodore & Pamela
Apeossos, Spyros	Diamond, Soula+	Guardascione, Louis & Shelly	Karavangelas, Eleni & Samer
Arvanitis, Argyrios & Lisa	Diamond, Thomas	Halakos, Garifalia	Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula
Asimos SR, George	Dickey, Irene	Haldas, George & Beth	Karvounis, Nikolaos & Amanda
Athanasiadis, Fotios & Asmik	Donald, Bill & Maria	Haldas, Harry	Kayiaros, Joanna
Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia+	Dougher, John & Christina	Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie	Keros, Georgia
Bacchieri, Stacey	Doukakis, Helen	Haldas, Thomas	Kirifides, Eleni
Balos, Peter	Drimones, Clara	Haldas-Long, Irene	Kirifides, Lazarus V
Bambacus, Meropi	Drimones, Nicholas	Hall, Elena	Kirtses, Eugenia
Barrios, Luis & Dimitra	Dumel, John+ & Evangeline	Hantzandreou, George & Diane	Kirtses, Petros & Athy
Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia	Economou, Georgios & Lena	Hantzandreou, Katerina	Kledaras, George & Ann
Blazakis, Chris & Kia	Evangelatos, Speros & Emily	Hantzandreou, Lambrini	Kledaras, Olympia
Bouloukos, Harry & Anastasia	Farella, Robert & Leah	Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa	Klezaras, Michael & Kathy
Brown, Sean & Maria	Ferentinos, Joan	Hantzopoulos, George & Amanda	Klezaras III, Michael
Burpulis, Stamatis	Fernandes, Jordan & Evanthia	Haralambidis, Maroula	Klezaras, Nikoletta
Calliagas, Katherine	Fessaros, Costas & Anna	Hatzis, Katherine	Kollias, Georgia
Calliagas, Markella	Fisfis, Nicholas & Cathryn	Hatzis, Tom+ & Bing	Koninis II, John
Caras, Alexandra	Fleming, Elizabeth	Healy, Kevin & Sophia	Koninis, John & Anastasia
Caras, Valerie	Floropoulos, Yiannis & Peggy	Heggan, Brandon & Maria	Kontis, Gus & Cindy
Chahalidis, Maria	Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki	Heliotis, Alexandra	Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi
Charalambides, Dino & Nia	Fotakos, Arhontoula	Hinte, Jr., Forrest	Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa
Chilimidos, Effie	Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia	Hionis, Sophia	Kormalis, Vasiliki+
Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy	Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey	Hooper, Joseph	Kostas, John & Gale
Chollis, Drew	Fournakis, Susan	Humphrey, Caroline	Kostas, Lynn
Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra	Fournaris, Anna	Issaris, Katherine	Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani
Christou, Alecca	Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen	Jacobs, Joseph & Alexandra	Kostos, Yianni
Christou, Christos & Evie	Fournaris, George & Soula	Joris, Irene	Kotanidis, Christos & Maria
Coates, George & Evie	Frangakis, Christine	Joseck, Anastasia	Kotanidis, Roula
Constantinou, Elizabeth	Galanis, Agnes	Joseck, John & Taylor	Koukourdis, Athanasios & Dimitra
Constantinou, George	Gatanis, Theodore	Joseck, Xanthy & Fred	Kramedas, Matoula
Constantinou, Georgeia	Gatos, Paula	Kaliakin, Victor & Elizabeth	Kranidiotis, Konstantinos & Maria
Constantinou, Stephen	Geanopoulos, Georgian	Kamenakis, Effie	Kyranakis, Demetri & Vanessa
Constantinou, Virginia	George, Mary	Kamenakis, Peter & Juli	Kyranakis, John
Coulaloglou, Michelle	Georgiou, Constantinos	Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie	Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett
Courtis, Harry & Sophia	Gerakios, Michael	Kanas, Larry & Alicia	Laskaris, Johanna
Coustenis, Katherine	Gerakios, Nikoletta	Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga	Laws, Brian & Vasiliki

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Lawson, Alexander & Gia	Pacienza, Stephanie	Roberts, Scott & Linda	Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna
Lawson, Michael & Victoria	Pagonis, Marcus & Cheryl	Rochonchou, Athena	Tsionas, Angela
Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura	Pandelakis, Denis & Anna	Roussalis, John & Valerie	Tsioucha, Eleftheria
Lazopoulos, John & Christina	Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne	Roustopoulos, Alexia	Tsoukalas, Frederiki
Lemper, Anthony & Diana	Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi	Roustopoulos, Theodoros & Natalie	Tsoukalas, Niki
Lempesis, Dimitra	Papachrysanthou, George & Laura	Ruhl, David & Athena	Tsugranes, George & Penny
Lengel, Robert & Maria	Papanicholas, Evan	Saitis, Mary	Vande Poele, Andrew & Caroline
Liarakos, George+ & Ann	Papanicholas, Maria	Saridakis, Christopher & Penelope	Vande Poele, David & Anna
Livaditis, John	Papettas, Vasilis & Christina	Sarmousakis, Marika	Vassiliou, Kleoniki
Logullo, Desponia & Francis	Pappas, Elizabeth	Sartin, Nimrah & Deborah	Vassos, Barbara
Lonergan, William & Francesca	Pappoulis, Demetra	Savopoulos, Despina	Velitskakis, Steve & Karen
Lomis, Toula	Pastis, Jaqueline	Schillinger, Robert & Karen	Verikakis, Dena
MacKewiz, W Lee & Irene	Pennias, John & Stacey	Semos, Joanne	Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon
Manolakos, Adam & Isabelle	Pettaris, George & Stavroula	Shahwan, Sofy	Vice, Elaine
Manolakos, Nicholas	Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary	Spence, Jason & Sunday	Visvardis, Fotini
Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi	Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe	Staab, Kristina	Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan	Pierson, Georgia	Staikos, Nicholas & Eirini	Vlami, Nicholas & Peggy
Marcantonis, George & Agnoulia	Pierson, Vetta & Charles	Stavru, Sophia	Vlastaridis, Theodoros & Sofia
Marini, Irene	Pispitsos, Pantelis	Stevens, Richard & Penny	Voultsis, Catherine
Marinis, Aristotelis	Pittaoulis, Steve	Stout, Robert & Voula	Voultsis, Evangeline & Damien
Marinis, George & Sophia	Pittas, John	Tarabicos, Christina	Voultsis, Jordana
Marinis, Kalliope	Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia	Tarabicos, John & Joanne	Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly
Marinis, Louis	Psaltis, John	Tarabicos, Sophia	Wilkinson, Suzanne
Markatos, Harry & Susan	Psaltis, Nikolaos	Tawfik, Emad & Soultana	Xarhoulakos, Peter
Marusiodis, Kalliope	Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini	Teclemariam, Berhan & Saba	Zaloga, Paul & Joann
Mayew, Michael & Charlotte	Raisis, Irene	Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa	Zerefos, Yianni & Lauren
McCloskey, Brendan & Anna	Raisis, Pauline	Theodorakos, Nicholas & Katherine	Zerefos, Markos+ & Eugenia
Melissourgos, Xenophon & Aikaterini	Raisis, Spiros	Thomas, Richard & Angela	Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
McGee, John & Tina	Raisis, William & Emily	Tiniakos, Gregory & Elaine	
Michell, Vasili & Megan	Ramzi, Dino	Tsaganos, Alexandra+	
Milionis, Constantine	Rapposelli, Harekليا	Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne	
Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella	Rassias, George & Amalea	Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna	
Moriello, Carissa & Nicholas	Rassias, Peter & Julie	Tsaganos, Robert & Popi	
Napoli, Frances	Regas, Sofia	Tsaganos, Robert	
Nicholas, John & Emily	Rentoulis, Niko & Androniki	Tsaganos, Peggy	
Nicholas, Steve	Richardson, Robert & Stavroula	Tsakataras, George	
Novakis, Louis	Riga, Jason & Ekaterini	Tsakiris, Konstantine	
Ohlemacher, Evangline	Rigas, Elais & Patoula	Tsakumis, Theodore	
O'Neal, Maximilian	Righos, Elaine	Tsavalas, George & Yvonne	

AS OF: December 31, 2025
369 Families of 400+ Families
listed as active members of
Holy Trinity Cathedral.

This is the final list of Holy Trinity Stewards for 2025.

Your End-Year Statements were mailed on January 23, 2026. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please contact the church office.

LOOKING FORWARD...

If you have not made your 2026 pledge, we ask that you prayerfully consider what your gift will be, remembering...

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

Luke 6:38

If you have not yet given towards your
2026 Stewardship
 you can do so at any time.

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.

- 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.
- Based on our 2026 Budget, we need the amount of \$2,000 a day to operate and keep our doors open.

We 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 are listed as Cathedral Stewards. We are grateful for any manner of giving.

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.holytrinitywilmington.org - hit the donate button and follow the prompts)
- 4) 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



SHARING

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your stewardship number: _____

Your 2025 pledge was: _____

Please increase my pledge by 10% to: _____

Please increase my pledge by 20% to: _____

My 2026 commitment is: _____

\$750.00 (\$62month or \$15/week)

\$1,000.00 (\$84month or \$20/week)

\$1,500.00 (\$125month or \$29/week)

\$5,000.00 (\$415/month or \$96/week)

\$2,000.00 (Sponsors a Day of Operations)

___ # of Days (Sponsor Multiple Days)

(above figures are rounded)

I/We understand that by completing this good faith estimate, and by pledging my/our Time, Service and Sharing section of this Stewardship Card, I/We are committing ourselves to being faithful stewards of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral for 2026.

Signature _____ Date _____

Proportionate Sharing

Our operating budget for 2026 will be \$792,000.

We offer you this giving guide to assist you in determining your 2026 pledge. Please use the enclosed envelopes and give according to what God has blessed you.

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED CARD TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

Annual Income	Weekly Giving		
	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

ALTAR GUILD

As chairman of the annual Christmas card, I need to inform our parish members that Vasili & Megan Michell & family donated to our annual Christmas card. Sorry for the error.

We will be starting our Lenten Season soon and we will be posting in the March bulletin the necessary Icons, and/or materials for this Holy event. We are looking forward to decorating all that is needed during this Holy Time.

If you have a special request, please contact Joanne Tarabicos at 302-239-4950 or Evie Fournaris at 302-229-6849 or use the form below.

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 Young @ Heart invites you to join us for our next gathering

Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 12pm

We will gather and enjoy a "Pot-Luck" luncheon for

Tsiknopempti!!

Please bring your favorite "MEAT" dish to share
as we prepare to enter the Lenten Season.

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



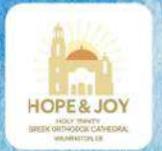
On January 11, we held a 40 day Memorial Service for our great benefactor, **Athanasios "Tom" Hatzis.**

On January 20 the 2026 Parish Council met for our first meeting of the year.

We look forward to serving the community in the year to come.

Not pictured: *Anna Fournaris, Stephen Karakasidis, Alex Kirifides, and Peter Xarhoulakos*





HOPE & JOY KITE FLYING

Join us as we lift our kites and our hearts toward the sky!

Flying kites is a beloved tradition as we begin the season of Great Lent. While kite flying traditionally takes place on Clean Monday, we invite our HOPE & JOY families to gather and celebrate together after church.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

AFTER DIVINE LITURGY
& COFFEE HOUR



ROCKFORD PARK
1910 ROCKLAND RD
WILMINGTON, DE 19803

Bring your kites, enjoy time outdoors with friends, and celebrate faith, fellowship, and tradition. Everyone is welcome: kids and kids at heart!



For more information, please contact us at: hopejoyhtw@gmail.com

HOPE / JOY EVENTS

December and early January were filled with beautiful moments for our HOPE & JOY families.



On December 3rd, we gathered together with our Greek school friends for a very special evening honoring St. Nicholas of Myra. We began by sharing a meal, then created a festive shoe craft together. Afterward, Father Christoforos gathered us in the church and shared the beautiful story of Saint Nicholas with the children. We then decorated our Christmas tree while singing Christmas carols, filling the space with joy and excitement. When we returned to the church, the children were amazed to discover that St. Nicholas had visited and left them gold chocolate coins and an orange. It was a truly magical moment that the children will remember for years to come.



On December 19th, we came together once again for our annual HOPE & JOY Christmas party, and it was absolutely magical. The children arrived in their Christmas pajamas, with sleeping bags, cozy blankets, and their favorite stuffies, ready for a special movie night. We watched "The Star" on a large inflatable screen and enjoyed being together in such a warm and joyful setting. We had dinner, surprised Father Christoforos with birthday songs and a cake, and enjoyed the festive hot cocoa bar filled with toppings and freshly baked cookies. The joy continued with laughter, games, and togetherness, and as the children left, each one received a Christmas stocking filled with gifts. It was a beautiful night and a reminder of how special it is to celebrate this season as a community.



We kicked off the New Year on January 9th with our Vasilopita cutting, a treasured tradition passed down for over 1,600 years from the time of Saint Basil the Great. It was a joyful gathering as we shared the Vasilopita together and discovered two lucky coin winners, Vasiliki Iliadis and Nikolas Kranidiotis. The evening continued with dance practice as our children continue to prepare for the MDF in February, and it was wonderful to see their excitement and dedication as they moved forward together.



These moments of faith, fellowship, and joy are exactly what HOPE & JOY is all about, and we are so grateful to share them with our families.

The JOY HOPE Advisors,
Tania Tawfik, Spiridoula Kerasaridis,
Anthi Kontodemos & Spiridoula Gerakios

“Πουθενά και παντού” - Μου αρέσει

Ο ήλιος έκανε την αέναη περιστροφή του γύρω από την γη και αρχίζω να σχεδιάζω που και πως θα περάσω λίγο χρόνο στην Ελλάδα το καλοκαίρι. Όμως τα τελευταία χρόνια κάτι βασανίζει το μυαλό μου. Προσπαθώ να καταλάβω αν πράγματι ανήκω στην χώρα που άφησα πίσω ή αν την μοιράζομαι και κατά πόσο με την νέα μου χώρα όπου μετανάστευσα νέος. **2026**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"πλέων ἐπὶ οἴνοπα πόντον ἐπ' ἄλλοθρόους ἀνθρώπους" [**Πλέοντας στην θάλασσα με το κρασώπο (μπλαβί) χρώμα σε ανθρώπους αλλόγλωσσους**]. (Οδύσσεια (1.178-1.220)).

“Nowhere and everywhere” - I like it

2026 -- The sun has made its eternal rotation around the earth and I'm starting to plan where and how I'll spend some time in Greece this summer. But in recent years something has been tormenting my mind. I am trying to understand if I really belong to the country I left behind or if I share it and to what extent with my new country where I immigrated to as a young lad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY GOYA NEWS



TOURNAMENT WRAP UP

The 2026 GOYA Basketball Tournament was a great success. We faced tough competition marked by excellent sportsmanship and capped off the weekend with an unforgettable Neon Party dance. Thank you to our coaches, advisors, volunteers, and families for making it all possible, and a special thank you to Eleni and Demetri Karakasidis for their tireless efforts in preparing all of the weekend's delicious meals.



Congratulations to our girls team for going undefeated this season and for placing second in the tournament!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 7: DVYC ski trip
- February 13-15: Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (MDF)
- March 21: Our parish will host Sights and Sounds, we will need 50 parish volunteers to help for the day.

★ **REMINDER:** Attend church and Sunday school weekly ★

2026 GOYA Basketball Tournament



What a blessed weekend we had at yet another wonderful tournament celebrating over 50 years now! His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey visited Saturday and enjoyed watching our youth play basketball and gifted our kids a beautiful cross. The Chancellor, Fr. Gregory Gilbert, joined our community for liturgy on Sunday and stayed to watch the finals. Congratulations to all 4 of our teams, our wonderful coaches, and the advisors and parents who helped in a vast variety of ways. From donations of time, money, and supplies, our community pulled together and were wonderful hosts! It was a remarkable success.





DELAWARE VALLEY YOUTH
COMMISSION

CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN

SKI & SNOWBOARD DAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026



Lift tickets/lessons/rentals may be purchased directly @ www.camelbackresorts.com.
\$69 lift tickets available at Buckman's ski shop or act fast for a deal for \$40 lift tickets @ www.wmmr.com (mailed out 7-10 days from purchase/while supplies last).
2 hour snow tubing tickets also available @ www.cambelbackresorts.com
Meet in front of Trail's End @ 1pm for a group photo. We can't wait to see you on the slopes!

Questions? Please contact Kari Zarynow
kari0827@gmx.com

Questions: Kari Zarynow

CGS LENTEN RETREAT



3 days

\$100/camper

2 nights

March 6-8, 2026

Camp Piankatank

1586 Stampers Bay Rd Box 435

Hartfield, VA 23071

Retreat Theme: Coming Home

"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Joel 2:13



Register Here:



bit.ly/4qRZ94q



INVITE YOU TO A

2026

JOINT VASILOPITA
& GREEK FOOD PARTY

**JOIN MEMBERS OF HUC WILMINGTON &
THE UD HELLENIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
IN FINDING THE 2026 GOOD LUCK COINS.**

**MEET HSA MEMBERS & PHILHELLENE PROFESSORS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.**

LEARN ABOUT THE NEW HUC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.

FEB 12 | 6 PM | CLAYMONT STEAK NEWARK

THURSDAY NIGHT | FREE | 57 S MAIN & AMSTEL



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2026

Apply Online Now at
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SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS:

- Tuition is paid directly to your student account at the university you are accepted to.
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- Networking Events



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? hucwilm@gmail.com

Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95

The Epiphany Celebration with the Cutting of the Vasilopita Holiday Party

Dear Brothers and Sisters in AHEPA,

We are delighted to share a recap of the recent Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95 Holiday Party, held on January 13, 2026, at Tonic Seafood & Steak in Wilmington, Delaware. This annual gathering brought together members, families, and distinguished guests for an evening of fellowship, celebration, and Hellenic spirit. Everyone had a wonderful time, enjoying a delicious three-course meal, lively conversations, and the warmth of our community as we welcomed the New Year.

The current Chapter #95 executive board for 2025/2026:

- President: Michael Kirifides
- Vice President: Michael Roussos
- Treasurer: Christos Adamopoulos
- Corresponding and Social Media Secretary: Nikos Dandolos and Dimitri Dandolos
- Board of Governors: Chair John Koninis II, Jim Lenhard, Tom Psaltis, and Stephen Karakasides

The event was honored by the presence of District 5 Lodge members:

- District Governor: Louis Stefanou
- Lieutenant Governor: George Perentesis
- District Secretary: Evans John
- District Treasurer: Thomas Borzeka
- Supreme Governor Region 3: Dean Mosco
- President of Camden Chapter #69 from Cherry Hill, New Jersey: Tasso Malapetsas

Their attendance added a special layer of camaraderie and reinforced the bonds that unite our chapters.

A highlight of the evening was the traditional blessing and cutting of the Vasilopita by Father Christoforos, who invoked blessings for prosperity and good fortune in the coming year. In a moment of joy and good luck, Archon Dr. Lazarus Kirifides discovered the coin in his slice, symbolizing extra blessings for him and our community.

We were especially excited to spotlight several new chapter initiatives that demonstrate AHEPA's forward-thinking commitment to youth engagement and professional development. John Koninis II shared inspiring plans to reinstate the Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena chapters, aimed at engaging the next generation in our Hellenic heritage and fostering leadership among young men and women. This effort promises to invigorate our community with fresh energy and dedication to our shared values.

Additionally, Jim Lenhard and Chris Blazakis, as Co-Chairs, introduced the new Professional Entrepreneurial Networking and Workshops program, designed to support young innovators in launching businesses. Building on this, Brother Evans John added that the district is constructing a database to allow for networking. These initiatives underscore AHEPA's vital role in promoting education, entrepreneurship, and community service, and we look forward to their growth and impact in the coming year.

Our guest speaker, Elias Pappas, Executive Director and Head of School at Odyssey Charter School, delivered an outstanding annual report on the school's progress. Under the guidance and ongoing support of AHEPA Chapter #95 since its founding in 2006 as Delaware's first mathematics-focused elementary charter school with Modern Greek as a second language, Odyssey has grown into a nationally recognized K-12 institution serving over 2,400 students. Mr. Pappas highlighted the school's emphasis on strong academics, Hellenic classical education, and values such as empathy and community. He shared exciting news that Odyssey has received grants for excellence in education, recognizing its innovative programs.

Additionally, Mr. Pappas discussed the school's impressive rankings: According to 2026 U.S. News & World Report data, Odyssey ranks #32 among elementary schools in Delaware (#4 among charter elementary schools), #15 among middle schools (#6 charter middle), and #23 among high schools in the state (#9,208 nationally and #927 among charter high schools). Niche's 2025 rankings further praise it as #1 for the most diverse public K-12 school in Delaware, #4 best public K-12 school overall, and #4 best charter elementary/middle school in New Castle County. These accolades reflect Odyssey's consistent performance in academics and diversity.

Looking ahead, Mr. Pappas announced Odyssey's transition to a 100% immersion Greek program, where classes will be taught in Greek. Currently, students benefit from math instruction in both English and Greek, effectively reinforcing the material twice. The school also offers certification and gives students college credit through the Ellinomatheia Exams, the official Greek language proficiency test administered by the Center for the Greek Language. As a certified testing center, Odyssey aligns its curriculum with ACTFL standards, preparing students for levels A1 through C2, which provide internationally recognized certificates and potential college credits. Extra classes are available to support student preparation, fostering high proficiency in Greek language and culture.

During the event, current and past Odyssey board members were introduced, acknowledging their dedication. Current President of the Board Ken Przywara led the group, which includes members Dimitri Dandolos, Costas Fountzoulas, Georgia Kollias, Dimitri Karakasides, and Valerie Carras. Past board member present included Michael Kirifides.

****Public Notification from the Chapter Search Committee for Odyssey Board Members:****

The Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95 Search Committee for Odyssey Board Members that represent the chapter is now receiving applications for well-qualified members. There are no geographic limitations. Board members are expected to attend all monthly meetings, with Zoom attendance available.

Events like this remind us of the strength and vitality of our AHEPA family. We extend our gratitude to all who attended and contributed to making the evening memorable. Here's to continued success and fellowship in 2026!

AHEPA ~ Cutting of the Vasilopita Holiday Party



HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY January 2026

Newborn 40-day Blessings:

Alexandros Christou, son of Christos & Evi, received his 40 day Church blessing on January 11.
Nikolaos Healy, son of Kevin & Sophia, received his 40 day Church blessing on January 14.
Alexandros Malapetsas, son of Harry & Irene, received his 40 day Church blessing on January 24.

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

Baptisms:

Henry Vande Poele, son of Andrew & Caroline, was baptized in our Church on January 24, 2026. His sponsor was Leah Farella. We congratulate him and his sponsors and welcome Henry into the Orthodox faith.

Chrismations:

Kate Spurlock was Chrismated in our Church on December 21, 2025. Her sponsor was Elisabeth Kaliakin. We welcome Kate into the Orthodox faith.

Funerals:

Athanasios "Tom" Karapanagiotis (Karas), fell asleep in the Lord on December 16, 2025. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity on December 30, 2025. In addition to his parents, his wife and his son, Tom is preceded in death by his brothers Peter (Taki), Michael and Chris and his sister Demetra Giannaras. He is survived by his daughter, Moley Evans, and her husband, Nicholas, of Arlington, Virginia; his cherished grandchildren, Charlotte and Will Evans; his godson and nephew, Andy Papanicolas; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and a wide circle of dear friends. May his memory be eternal.

Kalliope Marusiodis, fell asleep in the Lord on January 7, 2026. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on January 14. She is predeceased by her husband John and her son Emmanuel. Kaliopi is survived by her loving daughter Flora and son-in-law Alan. May her memory be eternal.

Despina Croussouloudis, twin sister of Presbyteria Mary Giannaris of blessed memory, fell asleep in the Lord on January 3. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on January 15. Despina also had a profound impact on the lives of her five nieces and one nephew and their children. She loved her family dearly and shared her world with us in so many ways. She will be remembered as a devoted daughter, a caring sister and a favorite aunt to our family. May her memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Soultana Michailidou ~ 7 Years ~ January 4

Themistoklis Michailidis ~ 36 Years ~ January 4

Konstantinos Stamatiadis ~ 2 Years ~ January 4

Thomas Hatzis ~ 40 Days ~ January 11

Dionisios "Dennis" Chilimidos ~ 7 Years ~ January 11

Constantinos Gus Kromedas ~ 1 Year ~ January 18



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



Sunday ~ February 8, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Holy Trinity AHEPA Room

808 N Broom Street, Wilmington, DE

FOOD & FUN for Everyone @ \$25 per person

Students \$15 (12 to 18) / Kids under 12 ~ FREE

Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 3, 2026

To reserve your tables or spot send email to:
ahepawilm@gmail.com

January at the Emmanuel Dining Room

We *sincerely* thank Evie and Emmanuel Fournaris for starting off our new year of service by sponsoring the meal in January! 145 folks enjoyed a nice, warm meal. The **Alexandra Christou family** will sponsor the meal in February again this year, given in loving memory of her husband, **Vasilios Christou**. All are welcome to help serve the dining room that day or at any time!

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

All meals are being served at the 2nd and Jackson St. dining room from 11:30 - 1:30 until future notice.

Various groups and individuals from our church donate the food to sponsor the luncheon meal 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

As Christians, we want to commit to stepping outside of our doors and serve disciples in the community to help others.



For December, there was a total of 2517 people coming to St Stephens Food Pantry. There were 146 children. There were 97 new visits.

We are blessed as a church community to have each other in time of need.

**Jesus invites his disciples by saying
"Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
Matthew 4:19**

God bless you!

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

Serving in February

Coffee Hours:

February 1 ~ Sunday School & The Tsaganos & Geanopoulos Families
February 8 ~ Daughters of Penelope & The Artemiadis Family
February 15 ~ Philoptochos & The Karas Family
February 22 ~ Parish Council



Narthex Duty:

February 1 ~ Group 1
February 8 ~ Group 2
February 15 ~ Group 1
February 22 ~ Group 2



Prosforon Offeror's

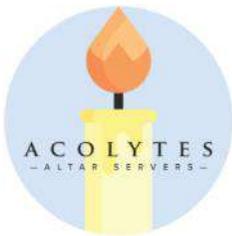


We are looking to update our Prosfora Offeror List.
If you would like to become a regular Prosfora Offeror, please contact the church office to be added to our list. You can offer prosfora for any service by bringing it in before the service starts. If you do not bake but would like to donate towards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

ACOLYTES

+Tonsured ~ *Reader

All readers are also tonsured



Joseph Demourtzidis
+Ioannis Gerakios
Alexander Hall
+Angelo Hall
+Demetri Karakasidis
+Ioannis Karakasidis

Demetri Psaltis
Nicholas Psaltis
George Psihalinos
Gerasimos Psihalinos
+ Jerry Rassias
Nicholas Rassias

+Demetri Thomas
Savvas Thymakis
+Paraskevas Verikakis
+Fotios Wolcott
+Jack Wolcott
+Josiah Wolcott, Jr.

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

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Christopher & Michelle Grivas

Level 9 (\$100,000+)

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The Kirifides Family

Philoptochos Society Wilmington, DE

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

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Constantine & Maria Caras

Leo & Irene Raisis

Konstantinos & Foula Tsionas & Family

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

Vasilios & Alexandra Christou & Family

James & Catherine Faller

George & Amalea Rassias

George & Yvonne Vassilatos

Josiah & Paraskevi Wolcott

Level 6 (\$10,000- \$19,999)

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Spyros & Anna Demetriou

Alexandra Heliotis

John & Vickie Karakasidis

George Karas & Electra Yorsz

Petros & Athy Kirtsos

Constantine & Elaine Michell Family

Ted & Catherine Michell Family

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Nicholas Staikos & Eirini Daskalaki

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Clara Drimones

Nicholas Drimones

George & Lena Economou

Frederick & Xanthy Joseck

Demetrios & Eleni Karakasidis

Stephanos & Evaggelia Karakasidis

Joanna Michell Kayiaros & Family

Dean & Toula Lomis

Vasili & Megan Michell

George & Alexia Moutsatsos

John Psaltis

Nickolas Psaltis

Margaret Riggins

John & Valerie Roussalis

Nicholas & Alexis Souleles & Family

Angela Tsionas & Family

Nikki Tsoukalas

Level 4 (\$2,000-\$4,999)

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Stacey Bacchieri

Maria Burpulis

Brian & Nicole Colborn

John & Carol Constantinou

Dimitri & Carol Dandolos

Paula Gatos

David & Eugenia Gray

Harry Haldas

John & Dorothy Ioannou

Level 4 (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Steve & Olga Kanteliotis

The Karapanagiotis (Karas) Family

Basil & Demi Kollias

James & Diane Maravelias

Harry & Susan Markatos

Antonis & Soula Mistras

Theodore & Alexandra Nannas

Louis Novakis

Vasilis & Christina Papettas

Fr. Philemon & Pres. Maria Patitsas

George & Stavroula Pettaris

Marika Poulos

Dion & Gina Rassias

Bryan & Pauline Snell

Robert & Voula Stout

Nicholas & Joanna Tsaganos

George & Julie Tsakumis

George & Yvonne Tsavalas

Anna Tsionas

Evangelos Tsionas

Regina Valko

Demetrios & Tanya Yiannos

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Louis & Catherine Ziccarelli

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Argyrios & Lisa Arvanitis

Harry & Sophia Courtis

Steve & Annette Cozamanis

Daughters of Penelope & Young @ Heart

Anthony & Lauren Diamond

John & Christine Frangakis

Rick & Diane Galaris

Mary George

Thomas Haldas

Katherine Issaris

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John & Joanne Tarabicos

Robert & Eugenia Terss

Anthony & Joanna Tsaganos

George & Alexandra Tsaganos

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Steve & Karen Velitskakis

Socrates & Ruth Visvardis

Demetri & Constantina Zerefos

LEVEL 2 (\$500-\$999)

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Kostas & Eftihia Atsidis

Jerry & Amy Chilimidos

Minas & Kleopatra Dargakis

Helen Doukakis

John & Evangeline Dumel

Constantinos Georgiou

Virginia Gotides

Demetrios & Helen Grivas

Theodore & Labrini Hantzandreou

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Stavroula Karakasidis

Maria Karakasidis

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John & Anastasia Koninis Family

Dimitrios & Effie Kolovos

Michael & Victoria Lawson

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Michael Logothetis

Despiona Logullo

Irene Marini

Nicholas & Carissa Moriello

Christos & Popi Papachrysanthou

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Constantina Verikakis

Level 1 (\$50-\$499)

Litsa Anastassiades

Geroge & Kathy Chambers

George Coates & Evie Zerefos

Peter Drossos

Yianni Floropoulos

Georgiean Geanopoulos

Maria Grigorakakis

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Eleftherios & Niki Karaoglanis

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PLEASE NOTE:

We are in the final days of this capital campaign. 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!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <u>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</u> <u>Presentation of our Lord</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Godparent's Sunday Philoptochos Loukoumades Sale HUC Greek Letters Day Presentation DVYC All-Star Games</p>	<p>2 <u>The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple</u> 9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</p> <p>5pm Ursuline Using Gym</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm AHEPA Executive Meeting</p>	<p>4 12pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm GOYA Dance & SS Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm HOPE JOY Dance Practice</p>	<p>7 DVYC Ski Trip</p>
<p>8 <u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School</p> <p>1pm Philoptochos Meeting</p> <p>6pm AHEPA Superbowl Party</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys</p>	<p>10 <u>St Haralambos</u> 9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</p> <p>7pm AHPEA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>12 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering / Pot-Luck Lunch 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 6pm HUC Vasilopita @ Claymont Steak Shop, Newark 7pm GOYA Dance Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8am PADUA Hall Use</p> <p>Metropolis of NJ MDF</p>	<p>14 <u>1st Saturday of Souls</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Metropolis of NJ MDF</p>
<p>15 <u>Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School</p> <p>Metropolis of NJ MDF</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm DOP Meeting</p> <p>7pm DVYC ZOOM Meeting (6pm S & S)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>7pm GOYA Dance & SS Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm HOPE JOY Meeting</p>	<p>21 <u>2nd Saturday of Souls</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy</p> <p>12pm Floropoulos Baptism</p>
<p>22 <u>Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School HOPE JOY Kite Flying after Worship</p> <p>6:30pm Vespers Service of Forgiveness</p>	<p>23 <u>Clean Monday Lent Begins</u></p> <p>6pm Great Compline followed by Orthodox Discussion STRICT FAST</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm DOP Meeting</p> <p>7pm DVYC ZOOM Meeting (6pm S & S)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School</p> <p>6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>8pm Community Meal (HUC)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm GOYA Dance Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm <u>1st Salutations to the Theotokos</u></p>	<p>28 <u>3rd Saturday of Souls</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy</p> <p>12pm Caras Baptism</p>



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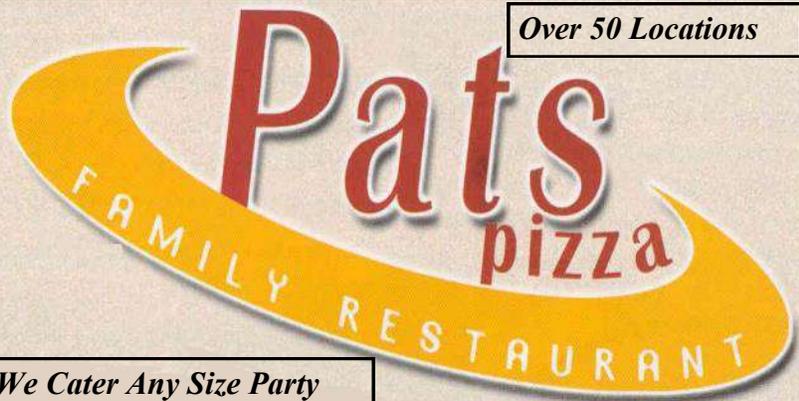
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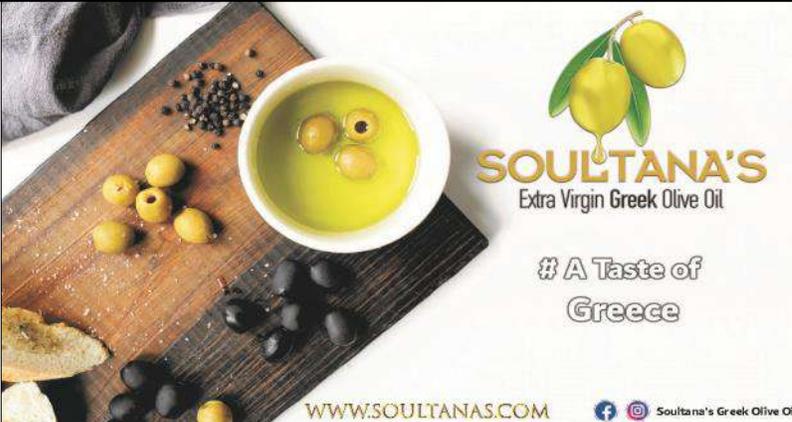
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**For anyone looking for translation work and communication
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