



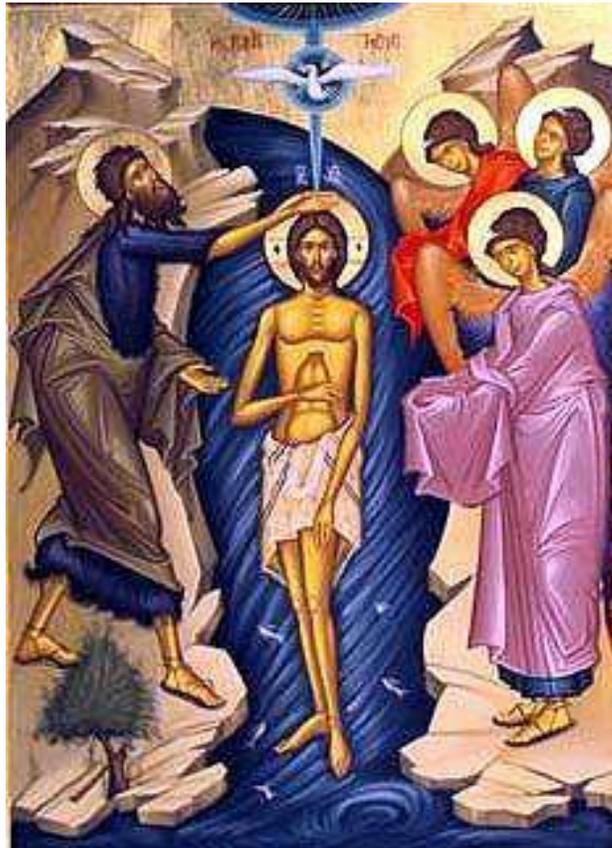
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

JANUARY 2026 – ISSUE 1



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



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

V. Rev. Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne

Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis, Proistamenos

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

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Daughters of Penelope

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ALL ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

THESE ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF, EMAILED, FAXED OR U. S. MAIL.

FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE CHURCH SERVICES

OR PARISH EVENTS PLEASE CHECK WEEKLY BULLETIN AND PARISH WEBSITE



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΛΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

January 2025



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



As we step into a new year of our Lord 2026, we do so wrapped in the stillness and severity of winter. The cold surrounds us, the days are short, and yet the Church greets this season not with darkness but with radiant light. January finds us standing between two great mysteries, still warmed by the joy of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and already moving toward the splendor of the Epiphany. In the silence of winter, God continues to speak. In the barrenness of the season, divine life is revealed. The Church invites us to pause, to reflect, and to receive anew the blessings that flow from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have just celebrated what the Holy Fathers call the “metropolis of feasts”, the Nativity of our Lord. Heaven and earth rejoiced together as God took flesh, entering human history not with noise or power but with humility and love. The cave of Bethlehem became wider than the heavens, for it contained the One whom nothing can contain. Angels sang, shepherds worshiped, and the Magi offered their gifts, reminding us that Christ comes for all people and all nations. Even as the memory of this feast remains fresh in our hearts, the Church leads us forward to the feast of the Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Here, the revelation of God reaches a new depth, for the Holy Trinity is made manifest. The voice of the Father is heard, the Son stands in the waters, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. The light that shone in Bethlehem now shines upon the waters of the Jordan and upon the entire creation.

The Baptism of the Lord holds profound theological significance in the life of the Church. Christ approaches the Jordan not because He needs cleansing, repentance, or forgiveness. He is the sinless One, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Holy Fathers teach us that His Baptism is an act of humility and obedience, a voluntary descent into the waters to sanctify them and, through them, all of creation. Saint Gregory the Theologian tells us that Christ goes into the waters to bury the old Adam and to raise up humanity renewed. The river trembles, not because it purifies Christ, but because Christ purifies the river.



Saint John Chrysostom explains that the Baptism of Christ reveals His divine mission and inaugurates His public ministry. By entering the Jordan, Christ accepts the path that will lead Him to the Cross and the Resurrection. His Baptism is already a prophecy of His death and rising, a descent followed by exaltation. The heavens open, showing that the separation between God and humanity is being healed. What was closed by disobedience is reopened by obedience. In this moment, the world is invited to behold the mystery of salvation unfolding.

Saint Basil the Great emphasizes that Christ receives Baptism not for His own sake but for ours. By sanctifying the waters, He grants to us the grace of our own Baptism. Our Baptism is not a mere symbol or ritual. It is a real participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ. Through it, we are cleansed of sin, reborn by water and the Spirit, and grafted into the Body of Christ, which is the Church. When we remember the Baptism of the Lord, we are also called to remember our own Baptism and to renew our commitment to live as children of God. We are reminded that we have been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and called to a life of holiness, faith, and love.



Central to the feast of the Epiphany is the figure of Saint John the Forerunner. He stands at the threshold between the Old and the New Testament, the last and greatest of the prophets and the first witness to the coming of the Messiah. His life is a testimony of repentance, humility, and unwavering faith. Saint John prepares the way of the Lord not only by his words but by his entire way of life. He decreases so that Christ may increase. He points away from himself and toward the Lamb of God. For every Orthodox Christian, Saint John is a living example of what it means to stand in truth, to speak with courage, and to live with integrity. He teaches us that authentic faith requires repentance and that genuine humility opens the heart to receive Christ.

Continued...



One of the most cherished elements of the Epiphany celebration is the Great Agiasmos, the blessing of the waters. On the eve of Theophany and on the feast day itself, the Church prays for the sanctification of the waters through the descent of the Holy Spirit. This holy water is not ordinary water. It is a gift of divine grace, a visible sign of God's blessing upon creation. The faithful receive it with reverence and gratitude, bringing it into their homes, keeping it near their icons, and using it with prayer and faith. The holy water becomes a source of sanctification, healing, and protection. The Church teaches us that it is a powerful weapon against all evil powers, not by superstition, but by the grace of God working through faith. It is imperative that we come to church, take part in this holy process, and receive this gift as members of the living Body of Christ.

As January draws to a close, the Church invites us to celebrate another great feast, the commemoration of the Three Hierarchs, Saint Basil the Great, Saint John Chrysostom, and Saint Gregory the Theologian. These three pillars of Orthodoxy are honored together for their immense contributions to the life and theology of the Church. Each one shone with unique gifts, yet all three were united in faith, holiness, and love for the truth. They enlightened the world with their broad knowledge and profound theological wisdom. Through their writings, homilies, and pastoral care, they shaped the language of the Church and defended the true faith. Their legacy continues to guide and inspire us throughout the ages, reminding us that faith and reason, prayer and learning, belong together in the life of the Church.

As we reflect on all these blessings, we cannot help but give thanks to God for the gift of our Orthodox Church. She is a loving mother who cares deeply for our well-being, our happiness, and above all, the salvation of our souls. At the beginning of a new year, many of us make resolutions. As Orthodox Christians, our resolutions must be rooted in the Gospel. We resolve to love God more, to draw closer to His Church and the holy Sacraments, to love our neighbor more sincerely, and to forgive even those who have wronged us. We resolve to be present in the life of the Church, to come every Sunday, and to become active members of the Body of Christ and of our Greek Orthodox community.

Another essential resolution is to bring our children to church and to help them experience the Church as their home. In a world that often pulls them in many directions, the Church offers stability, truth, and love. Our cathedral is busy and active, offering ministries for every age and especially for our youth. Here, our children can grow in faith, friendship, and service, learning not only about God but how to live with God at the center of their lives.

As your priest and spiritual father, I close with a personal wish and prayer. May this new year be blessed, healthy, and filled with God's grace for you and your families. Know that I love you, that I pray for you, and that I am grateful to walk this journey of faith with you. I humbly ask that you also pray for me, that together we may continue to grow in Christ and glorify His holy name.

Happy New Year!

With love in the Lord,

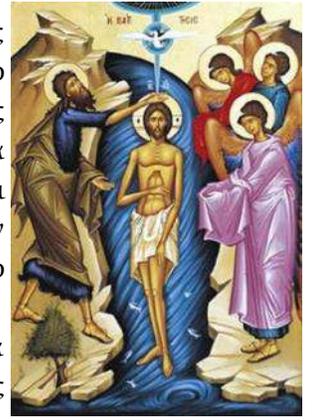
**Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Christoforos Oikonomidis, Presiding Priest**

Αγαπητοί μου ενορίτες και φίλοι του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού,

Καθώς εισερχόμαστε στο νέο έτος του Κυρίου μας 2026, μέσα στην αυστηρότητα του χειμώνα, όπου το κρύο μας περιβάλλει και το φως της ημέρας είναι λιγοστό, η Εκκλησία δεν μας υποδέχεται με σκοτάδι, αλλά με φως ισχυρό και ακτινοβόλο. Ο Ιανουάριος μάς βρίσκει να στεκόμαστε ανάμεσα σε δύο μεγάλα μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας, τη Γέννηση του Ιησού Χριστού και τη λαμπρότητα των Θεοφανείων. Μέσα στη σιωπή του χειμώνα, ο Θεός εξακολουθεί να μιλά στις καρδιές μας. Η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί να σταθούμε με προσοχή, να αναλογιστούμε την παρουσία Του στη ζωή μας και να δεχθούμε εκ νέου τις πλούσιες ευλογίες που αναβλύζουν από αυτές τις μεγάλες Δεσποτικές Εορτές.

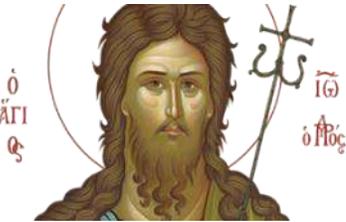
Μόλις εορτάσαμε αυτό που οι Άγιοι Πατέρες ονομάζουν «μητρόπολη των εορτών», τη Γέννηση του Κυρίου μας. Ο ουρανός και η γη αγαλλίασαν μαζί, καθώς ο Θεός προσέλαβε σάρκα, εισερχόμενος στην ανθρώπινη ιστορία όχι με θόρυβο ή δύναμη, αλλά με ταπείνωση και αγάπη. Το σπήλαιο της Βηθλεέμ έγινε πιο πλατύ και από τους ουρανούς, διότι περιέκλεισε Εκείνον που τίποτε δεν μπορεί να χωρέσει. Οι άγγελοι έψαλαν, οι ποιμένες προσκύνησαν και οι Μάγοι προσέφεραν τα δώρα τους, υπενθυμίζοντάς μας ότι ο Χριστός έρχεται για όλους τους ανθρώπους και όλα τα έθνη. Και ενώ η ανάμνηση αυτής της εορτής παραμένει ζωντανή στις καρδιές μας, η Εκκλησία μάς οδηγεί προς τη μεγάλη εορτή των Θεοφανείων, τη Βάπτισμα του Χριστού στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό. Εκεί, η αποκάλυψη του Θεού φθάνει σε νέο βάθος, διότι φανερώνεται η Αγία Τριάδα. Η φωνή του Πατέρα ακούγεται, ο Υιός στέκεται στα ύδατα και το Άγιο Πνεύμα κατεβαίνει σε μορφή περιστεράς. Το φως που έλαμψε στη Βηθλεέμ φωτίζει τώρα τα ύδατα του Ιορδάνη και ολόκληρη την κτίση.

Η Βάπτιση του Κυρίου έχει βαθύ θεολογικό νόημα στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας. Ο Χριστός προσέρχεται στον Ιορδάνη όχι επειδή έχει ανάγκη καθαρισμού, μετανοίας ή συγχωρήσεως. Είναι ο αναμάρτητος, ο Αμνός του Θεού που αίρει την αμαρτία του κόσμου. Οι Άγιοι Πατέρες μας διδάσκουν ότι η Βάπτισή Του αποτελεί πράξη ταπεινώσεως και υπακοής, μία εκούσια κάθοδος στα ύδατα για να τα αγιάσει και, δι' αυτών, ολόκληρη την κτίση. Ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος λέγει ότι ο Χριστός εισέρχεται στα ύδατα για να ενταφιάσει τον παλαιό Αδάμ και να αναστήσει την ανθρωπότητα ανακαινισμένη. Ο ποταμός τρέμει, όχι επειδή καθαρίζει τον Χριστό, αλλά επειδή ο Χριστός καθαρίζει τον ποταμό.



Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος εξηγεί ότι η Βάπτιση του Χριστού αποκαλύπτει τη θεία αποστολή Του και εγκαινιάζει τη δημόσια δράση Του. Με την είσοδό Του στον Ιορδάνη, ο Χριστός αποδέχεται τον δρόμο που θα Τον οδηγήσει στον Σταυρό και την Ανάσταση. Η Βάπτισή Του αποτελεί ήδη προφητεία του θανάτου και της Αναστάσεώς Του, μία κάθοδος που ακολουθείται από ύψωση. Οι ουρανοί ανοίγουν, δείχνοντας ότι το χάσμα μεταξύ Θεού και ανθρώπου θεραπεύεται. Εκείνο που έκλεισε με την ανυπακοή, ανοίγει εκ νέου με την υπακοή.

Ο Μέγας Βασίλειος τονίζει ότι ο Χριστός δέχεται το Βάπτισμα όχι για τον εαυτό Του, αλλά για εμάς. Αγιάζοντας τα ύδατα, μας χαρίζει τη χάρη του δικού μας Βαπτίσματος. Το Βάπτισμά μας δεν είναι απλώς σύμβολο ή τελετουργία. Είναι πραγματική συμμετοχή στον θάνατο και την Ανάσταση του Χριστού. Δι' αυτού καθαριζόμαστε από την αμαρτία, αναγεννιόμαστε «εξ ύδατος και Πνεύματος» και ενσωματωνόμαστε στο Σώμα του Χριστού, που είναι η Εκκλησία. Όταν ενθυμούμαστε τη Βάπτιση του Κυρίου, καλούμαστε ταυτόχρονα να θυμηθούμε και το δικό μας Βάπτισμα και να ανανεώσουμε τη δέσμευσή μας να ζούμε ως «τέκνα Θεού».



Κεντρική μορφή της εορτής των Θεοφανείων είναι ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος. Στέκεται στο κατώφλι μεταξύ Παλαιάς και Καινής Διαθήκης, ο τελευταίος και μεγαλύτερος των προφητών και ο πρώτος μάρτυρας της παρουσίας του Μεσσία. Η ζωή του αποτελεί μαρτυρία μετανοίας, ταπεινώσεως και ακλόνητης πίστεως και γίνεται παράδειγμα για κάθε πιστό Χριστιανό. Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ετοιμάζει την οδό του Κυρίου όχι μόνο με τα λόγια του, αλλά με ολόκληρο τον τρόπο ζωής του. Δείχνει όχι προς τον εαυτό

του, αλλά προς τον Αμνό του Θεού.

Ένα από τα πιο αγαπημένα στοιχεία της εορτής των Θεοφανείων είναι ο Μέγας Αγιασμός. Η Εκκλησία προσεύχεται και διά της καθόδου του Αγίου Πνεύματος το νερό παύει να είναι κοινό νερό. Γίνεται δώρο θείας χάριτος και σημείο της ευλογίας του Θεού πάνω στην κτίση. Οι πιστοί το λαμβάνουν με ευλάβεια, το φέρνουν στα σπίτια τους και το χρησιμοποιούν με πίστη και προσευχή, ως πηγή αγιασμού, ίασεως και προστασίας από κάθε παγίδα του διαβόλου.



Καθώς ο Ιανουάριος πλησιάζει στο τέλος του, η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί να τιμήσουμε τους Τρεις



Ιεράρχες, τον Άγιο Βασίλειο τον Μέγα, τον Άγιο Ιωάννη τον Χρυσόστομο και τον Άγιο Γρηγόριο τον Θεολόγο. Οι τρεις αυτοί στύλοι της Ορθοδοξίας φωτίζουν την Εκκλησία με τη σοφία και την αγιότητά τους και μας υπενθυμίζουν ότι η πίστη και η παιδεία πορεύονται μαζί.

Αγαπητοί μου, καθώς βρισκόμαστε στην αρχή του νέου έτους, και πολλοί από μας παίρνουν αποφάσεις που θα αλλάξουν το τρόπο ζωής μας, ας αποφασίσουμε να αγαπήσουμε περισσότερο τον Θεό, να συμμετέχουμε περισσότερο στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας μας, να αγαπήσουμε τον πλησίον μας και να συγχωρούμε. Ας φέρουμε τα παιδιά μας στην Εκκλησία και να τους δείξουμε με τη ζωή μας και το παράδειγμά μας ότι η Εκκλησία είναι το αληθινό τους σπίτι, είναι η πνευματική τους οικογένεια.

Ως ιερέας και πνευματικός σας πατέρας, εύχομαι και προσεύχομαι το νέο έτος να είναι ευλογημένο, υγιές και γεμάτο με τη χάρη του Θεού για εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας. Να θυμάστε ότι σας αγαπώ, προσεύχομαι για εσάς και σας ζητώ ταπεινά να προσεύχεστε και εσείς για εμένα, ώστε όλοι μαζί να πορευόμαστε εν Χριστώ και να δοξάζουμε το άγιο όνομά Του.

Καλή και ευλογημένη νέα χρονιά!

π. Χριστοφόρος Οικονομίδης

Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου, Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος



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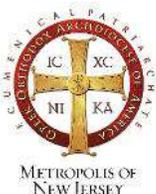
**2026 NATIVITY SEASON
 LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

JANUARY

- THURSDAY 1** ***The Circumcision of our Lord & Feast of St. Basil the Great***
 9:00am ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY
- SUNDAY 4** ***Sunday before Epiphany***
 9:00am ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY
- MONDAY 5** ***Forefeast of the Theophany***
 9:00am THE GREAT & ROYAL HOURS OF THE THEOPHANY, DIVINE LITURGY &
 BLESSING OF THE WATERS (Great Agiasmos) (*Strict Fast*)
- TUESDAY 6** ***The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***
 9:00am ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY & BLESSING OF THE WATERS (Great Agiasmos)
- WEDNESDAY 7** ***Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, and Forerunner John the Baptist***
 9:00am ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY
- SUNDAY 11** ***Sunday after Epiphany***
 9:00am ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY / Sunday School
 Vasilopita Sunday

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

- ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 1** ***Η κατά σάρκα Περιτομή του Κυρίου - Αγίου Βασιλείου του Μεγάλου***
 9:00 π.μ. ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
- ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 4** ***Κυριακή προ των Φώτων***
 9:00 π.μ. ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
- ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 5** ***Παραμονή των Φώτων (Αυστηρή νηστεία)***
 9:00 π.μ. Η ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΩΝ & ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΩΝ ΩΡΩΝ ΤΩΝ
 ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ - ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ - ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΥ
- ΤΡΙΤΗ 6** ***Τα Άγια Θεοφάνεια***
 9:00 π.μ. ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ - ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΥ
- ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 7** ***Σύναξις του Αγίου Ιωάννου Προδρόμου***
 9:00 π.μ. ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
- ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 11** ***Κυριακή μετά τα Φώτα***
 9:00 π.μ. ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ - Θα ακολουθήσει η Κοπή της Ενοριακής
 Βασιλόπιτας



A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

January 2026



Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we conclude this year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your faith, dedication, and love for our parish. Through worship, service, and fellowship, we have continued to grow together for the benefit of our Cathedral.

We offer our sincere thanks to our outgoing Parish Council members, Para Wolcott, Nick Demourtzidis, and George Rassias, for their dedicated and faithful service, and we warmly welcome our newly elected members James Maravelias, Basil Kollias, and Emad Tawfik as they begin their ministry to our community. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure continues to strengthen our parish and support our community.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I thank our clergy, volunteers, and all parishioners for their commitment and faithful stewardship. As we look ahead to the New Year, we do so with hope and faith. May Christ grant you and your families health, peace, and much happiness.

In Christ's Service,
Georgia Halakos
Parish Council President

The 2026 Parish Council

Anamaria Anagnostou	Alexia Moutsatsos
Anna Fournaris	Stacey Pennia
Emmanuel Fournaris	Tom Psaltis
Georgia Halakos	Leo Raisis
Stephen Karakasidis	Emad Tawfik
Alex Kirifides	Dena Verikakis
Basil Kollias	Peter Xarhoulakos
Jim Maravelias	



HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY December 2025

Funerals:

Alexandra Tsaganos, wife of George Tsaganos of blessed memory, fell asleep in the Lord on December 16. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on December 23. She is survived by her children, Robert and Peggy; her grandchildren, Bianca-Alexis Ferrante, Alexa Taylor (Anthony), George Tsaganos (Adrienne), Dimitrios Tsaganos; her cherished angels (great-grandchildren), Robert, Ophelia, Mateo, Phillip, and James; sisters, Marina Georgileas, Ioanna Petousis, Evdokia Koumbourlis; godson, Georgios Petousis; and many beloved nephews and nieces. May her memory be eternal.

Memorials:

Mark Dougherty ~ 8 Years ~ December 14

Markos Zerefos ~ 40 Days ~ December 21



SAVE THE DATE!

GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, February 1, 2026

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

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

2026 THEOPHANY BLESSINGS

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

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

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

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

What should you expect in terms of the House Blessing?

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

What should you have ready?

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME NUMBER (required): _____

CELL NUMBER: (required): _____

EMAIL: _____

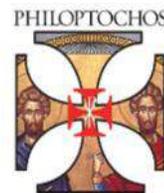
PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO

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

COMMENTS: _____



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Dearest Father Christoforos, Ladies of Philoptochos and parishioners:

I pray that the Christmas season provides profound joy, peace and togetherness. This season is overflowing with the spirit of generosity, love and service, reflecting our collective spirit.

The festive season began with the success of our Annual Bid and Buy. This event was filled with fellowship, laughter, fun, gifts, and a shared purpose. The organizational skills of Angie Karakasidis and her committee, with her meticulous planning ensured an evening enjoyed by all who attended. As always, the culinary expertise of Eleni Karakasidis elevated the experience, making the food an additional highlight. Our youth ministries- JOY/HOPE and GOYA ~ assisted us with the efficiently served meals and desserts to all guests with a smile. The proceeds of this wonderful evening

will bolster our capacity to extend aid and support to those facing hardship, whether here in our local community, across the nation, and globally. We wholeheartedly thank every sponsor, helpers, and attendees and eagerly look forward to welcoming you all back next year.

The spirit of compassion continued December 7th, when our community joined for the Rise Against Hunger initiative. Our community enthusiastically packed an astonishing 10,000 meals, directly contributing to the global fight against hunger. Eleni Karakasidis, once again, championed this initiative in taking on the organization of this event. Thank you to Eleni and Father Christoforos for assisting in promoting this event, and to every single individual who devoted their time and energy to this impactful cause.

Mid December, on Saturday the 13th, offered a unique opportunity for spiritual enrichment with a journey to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A large group of parishioners from our Cathedral witnessed the glorious presentation of "Noah". This presentation assisted us in elevating the Christmas spirit and assisted us to deepen our faith.

Our philanthropic commitment continued with the Christmas Toy Drive, a collaborative effort with our vibrant youth Ministries of JOY/HOPE and GOYA. This successful model of previous years, the generous collection of toys, was lovingly delivered to the Ronald McDonald House and the Hope House, bringing countless smiles and comfort to children during a time when it is most needed.

On December 21, we marked another cherished gathering, our Annual Christmas Breakfast. This warm gathering was also a time for picking up the orders for the highly successful bake sale and Vasilopita for the New Year.

Beyond these celebrations and events, we also answered the call for assistance to the Urban Promise School. There were approximately 16 children who would have otherwise gone without gifts and were able to provide them with coats, and other thoughtful presents ensuring a brighter Christmas. Thanks to Popi Papachrysanthou who took her time during this busy season to purchase these gifts and to Sophia Hionis who also assisted Popi in the delivery of these beautifully wrapped gifts. Similarly, we responded to a Christmas Wish List from some of the children at St. Basil's Academy, turning their Christmas dreams to reality.

Once again, as we do every year, we packed gifts bags to 25 of our parishioners who are homebound. Father Christoforos and some of the ladies of Philoptochos personally delivered these tokens of affection to those we are unable to see in our Cathedral.

We would like to thank Joanne Tarabicos for undertaking our Annual Christmas Card Fund Raiser and we thank the many parishioners who support this effort as well, by placing their names in the Christmas Card each year.

The December donation to the Emmanuel Dining Room was provided by Fotini Visvardis in loving memory of her beloved husband.

Our 2026 membership drive starts in January. Jessica Marvel will email you with a renewal reminder and our mission statement. If you are not a member, please see Jessica for a registration form.

I pray that the Lord grants us renewed strength, health, and continued resolve with our philanthropic endeavors.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

In Christ's Service,
Dena Verikakis



Vasilopita (St. Basil Bread)
Cutting of the Vasilopita Breads sponsored by Philoptochos

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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



Kollyva for Memorials

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

Philoptochos Bid N Buy ~ December 5, 2025



On December 5 our Ladies Philoptochos hosted their annual Bid N Buy and it was a very successful event! Over 300 attendees were present and all who were there enjoyed a wonderful meal served by our HOPE JOY and GOYAnS - who did a superb job. We were blessed to have with us our Metropolis Philoptochos President Eleni Constantinides! Several people went home winners!! Thank you all for making our Bid and Buy such a beautiful success! Your generosity, support, and kindness made a real difference. We are so grateful for everyone who donated, volunteered, attended, or cheered us on. Together, we truly made an impact.





Fr. Christoforos, Dena Verikakis & Popi Papachrysanthou made, among others, Christmas visits to our senior Philoptochos members Katherine Coustenis, Mary Saitis and Angie Dumel.



ABOVE: On Wednesday, December 17, 2025 the Bible Study celebrated with a small Christmas Luncheon



Honoring our Archons on Archon Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Mr. Constantine Caras, as the senior Archon of our Parish and a National Council Board Member spoke about the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Metropolis Council Vice President Jim Polos was present along with Archons Demetri Halakos, Dr. Larry Kirifides, and Basil Kollias.



The Three Hierarchs and Education

By H.E. Metropolitan Nektarios of Hong Kong and South-East Asia

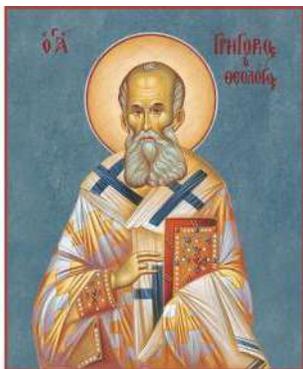
In the 11th Century, at the time of Emperor Alexios Komninos, the common feast of the three great Fathers of the Church, Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople and Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia was established to honour their supreme contribution to education, their unshakeable and zealous faith in God and their incomparable pastoral and charitable activities.

Since then, it has been customary for the feast of the Three Hierarchs to be associated with education and Greek letters, even through the time of the Turkish occupation, when it assumed a national character. It appeared to the Turks to be a religious feast and a day when the progress of students was checked, but in fact the priests/teachers used it to cultivate the desire for freedom in Greek children.

After the liberation, it was recognized officially as the greatest feast for Greek schools and for education more generally, first by the University of Athens, with a motion by the Senate in the academic year 1843-4, and then later, by law, by the Greek state.

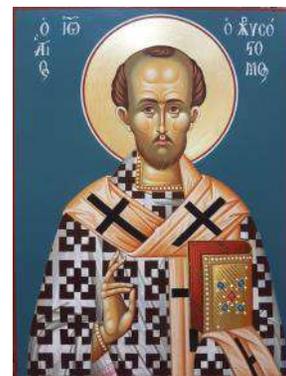
Within the strict limits of an article, it is not possible to present the fullness of the multi-faceted work and enormous contribution of the Three Hierarchs, which is why we shall present only a few, mainly practical, points regarding their relationship to education and the training of young people.

From childhood, all three Fathers loved education wholeheartedly, sought knowledge, and devoted themselves earnestly to learning. After the general education he was given by his father, Basil the Great studied in the famous schools of Caesarea, later pursuing higher studies in Constantinople. In 351, he moved to Athens, where he studied rhetoric, philosophy, dialectics, astronomy, geometry and medicine. In his works, particularly the Hexameron, he later displayed his expert grasp of Greek discourse, his astonishing familiarity with ancient Greek philosophers and his knowledge of the scientific data of his time.

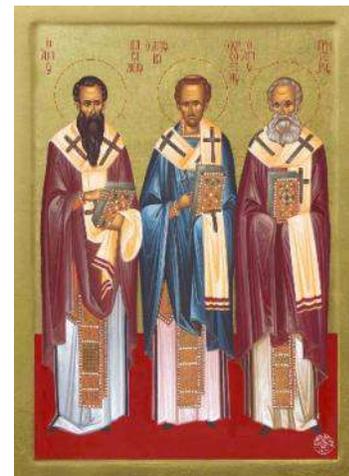


Saint Gregory was probably given his general education in Nazianzos and continued his studies in Caesarea, Alexandria and Athens. In Athens he was a fellow-student of Basil the Great and studied philosophy, rhetoric, music, astronomy and geometry with unusual enthusiasm. He impressed his teachers so greatly that, on the completion of his studies, they forced him to remain in Athens and teach philosophy and rhetoric. He proved to be incomparable in his use of the Attic dialect, a great poet and author and a fascinating speaker.

Saint John studied in Antioch under the famous philosophers Andragathios and Libanios. Immediately after his studies, he practiced as a lawyer and proved to be “most proficient at speaking and convincing”. He is considered the greatest orator of all times. He was awarded the soubriquet “Golden-Mouthed” because of his eloquence and the power of his speeches.



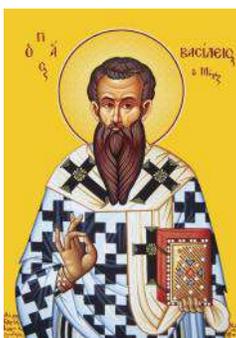
Despite the fact that all three devoted their talents and abilities to the service of Christ’s Gospel, they did not turn their backs on secular wisdom. They recommended the serious study of all academic subjects and, moreover, emphasized the value of Greek wisdom. Not only did they not oppose the ancient Greek spirit- any more than all the other Fathers of the Church- they also adopted the positive elements of Hellenism. They used many views and theories of Greek philosophy in the best possible way, without, of course, altering the revelation of the Orthodox Christian truth. The Fathers wrote against the deception of idolatry, not against Greek education.



Saint Gregory the Theologian praised Greek education, advising young men of his time to read everything but reject anything related to idolatry. He even went so far as to set out the way they should be trained, in other words, the manner in which a Christian should have ancient literature as a teacher, using Caesarius, the brother of Basil the Great, as an example. Caesarius sought every virtue and all learning. He studied rhetoric, medicine, geometry and astronomy, though never allowing himself to be affected by the dangerous deception of astrology, which leads to idolatry.

In his wonderful work *To Young People, on the Beneficial Study of Greek Texts*, Basil the Great recommends the judicious use of Greek philosophy, which he calls “the antechamber of the Christian way of life”. He considered anyone who had not studied the legacy of Greek thought and intellection to be uneducated. You can find all the great thinkers of antiquity- Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Plutarch, Plotinus and others- whispering in his works.

The three hierarchs proved to be incomparable educators. Their advice and precepts to both parents and children are still applicable to this day. Saint John emphasized that education is superior to any other profession, because it has to do with forming souls. He urged educators to demonstrate their love for their students while they were teaching and to respect and recognize the specific traits of each one. He focused on the character of the teacher and recommended that anyone wishing to undertake the task of educator should be compassionate, self-effacing, willing to sacrifice themselves and be free of pride and arrogance. Moreover, they should always confirm what they taught with their own, personal example.



Basil the Great was even more practical as regards his educational precepts. He suggested that schools should be built in quiet places and that teachers should try to attract the confidence of their students. During the lesson, the teacher should make himself clear and be brief, though not so much so that the students would be unable to retain what he said. He pointed out to educators that they should not deal with more than one subject at any one time; should repeat what they have said; not attempt to prove what is obvious and self-evident; should use lots of examples; and generally teach in the capacity of a guide.

The holy Father was also a pioneer of professional orientation. He urged parents and educators to take into account whatever leanings a child had towards a particular skill. They should conscientiously test the abilities of any child and then choose the most suitable teacher or artisan for an apprenticeship. Even though Basil the Great condemned excessive and indulgent concern with the body, he did not forbid exercise. Indeed, in his 74th Epistle, he expressed his profound sadness that gymnasia had been closed in his homeland and that young men now preferred a soft life and diversions. It is also worth mentioning that the subjects that young men should be taught should definitely include history, physics, geometry, arithmetic and astronomy, which he dissociates from astrology. Indeed, in his Epistle 135 (to the Presbyter Diodoros) he stresses that a text book should be pleasant and, at the same time “simple and straightforward”.



As was the case with the other two hierarchs, Basil the Great emphasized to parents their obligation to bring up their children properly. He calls upon parents to nurture their children in accordance with the words of Saint Paul “with all humility and gentleness”, ‘never giving them any excuse for anger or sadness’. And, of course, they were to teach by example and not forget that they were to be the first to give their children religious instruction and to plant love and reverence for God in their responsive souls.

If we were to summarize the precepts of the three great hierarchs, we might say that they advise young people of any era: “Go on, ever forwards and ever upwards. Really want to be educated. Throw yourselves into your studies. Hunger to do something great and heroic. Learn to ignore yourselves and submit to the service of others. Do you dream of a better society? Work for it. Arm yourselves with vitality and persistence and live the love of Christ powerfully and ardently, until the end”.

(Published by Pemptousia Partnership)

On Sunday, December 7 we hosted a Rise Against Hunger Event in our Community Center where we packed meals for those in need across the world!! Together we packaged 10,000 meals!

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our Philoptochos Saint Agape Chapter and the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral community for coming together with such dedication and love. Thank-you to every volunteer who took time out of their day to join us helping to pack those meals. Your hands, your hearts, and your willingness to serve made this incredible act of philanthropy possible. Together, we didn't just package meals; we offered hope, dignity, and comfort to thousands of people. May God bless each of you for your generosity and for embodying the true spirit of our Orthodox faith.





HAPPY NEW YEAR GOYANS

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

- Our Goyans helped out at the Philoptochos Bid & Buy and the Rise Against Hunger food drive.
- We held our annual kalanda and Christmas party.
- Regular season of basketball came to an end.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 17 & 18 : 2026 Basketball tournament
 - Help support us by buying an ad in the ad book! Purchase at coffee hour or visit the office/email Susie.
- January 17: NEON Party dinner dance 7-11 pm. All Goyan's welcome \$25 non player entrance
- January 18: His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos will join us in celebrating Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- 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.
- Basketball practice every Monday - Girls @ 6:30 Boys @ 7:30
- Dance practice every Thursday @ 7-8:30

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

Goya Ad Book Form



2025 Basketball Tournament January 17 & 18, 2026

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

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

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

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The Synaxis of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner of Christ

The Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord is an Orthodox feast day established in honor of this saint. The Church has a custom of glorifying those righteous servants of God who most closely served in a celebrated event on the day following certain great feast days.

On the next day after Holy Theophany, or the Baptism of the Lord, we celebrate the Synaxis of the Forerunner and Baptist John, who served the sacrament of Divine Baptism by laying his hand on the head of the Savior. As for the word “synaxis” in the name of the feast, St. Dimitry of Rostov noted that it “means that the people gather in the church for services that honor and praise the great Forerunner and Baptist John, whom we glorify on this day.”



The greatest of the prophets, St. John the Baptist, concludes the Old Testament history and heralds the era of the New Testament. The son of the priest Zechariah and righteous Elizabeth, he was a relative of the Lord through his mother. Prophet John was born six months before the birth of Christ. His parents, who reached old age without children, continued to fervently pray, and the Lord heard them. Archangel Gabriel announced that they would soon have a son, and that he should be named John.

There is no information about St. John’s childhood and youth. When King Herod learned of the birth of Jesus Christ, he ordered the killing of all infants in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger, based on the information he received from the Magi. Righteous Elizabeth managed to hide with her son in the wilderness, while his father, at the time, was questioned concerning his son while serving in the temple. When he refused to answer, he was killed right in the sanctuary. John grew up in the wilderness, preparing himself for his prophetic ministry through strict fasting, contemplation, and prayer. At around the age of thirty, he began preaching repentance. St. John the Baptist appeared on the banks of the Jordan River to prepare people for the coming of the Savior of the world. *Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan went out to him* (Matt. 3:5). Many were baptized by him, including the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. St. John the Baptist had the honor of baptizing Him in the waters of the Jordan and witnessing the mysterious manifestation of the Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior’s Baptism.

After that, John the Baptist continued his preaching, exposing the sins and vices of his contemporaries and calling them to repentance. He testified to the coming of the Only-Begotten Son of God, who took on human flesh.

The earthly life of the holy prophet John ended in martyrdom. Because he condemned Herod Antipas, who had left his lawful wife to live with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, the Baptist was thrown into prison and beheaded.

The holy relics of St. John the Baptist were buried by his disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. In 362 AD, by the order of Emperor Julian the Apostate, the holy relics of John the Baptist were burned along with the Church of Sebaste. However, his head, right hand, and particles of his relics were preserved.

Sermon by Fr. Christoforos on Stewardship Sunday (December 7, 2025)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, on this Stewardship Sunday, as we stand together here in our beloved Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pause to reflect on one of the most sacred responsibilities God has entrusted to us: **the call to be faithful stewards of His gifts**. When we speak of stewardship, we are not simply referring to finances or obligations. We are talking of an entire way of life, a way of living that recognizes that everything we have and everything we are belongs first to God. Our time, our talents, our resources, our families, and this sacred spiritual home are blessings placed into our hands not to be held tightly, but to be offered back to God with love, gratitude, and trust.

In the Gospel, Christ often speaks about servants to whom the Master entrusts His household. He does not ask them to perform miracles or extraordinary feats. He asks only that they be faithful with what has been given to them. **This is the heart of stewardship**. God invites us to care for His Church, to support the ministries that shape our souls, to be present in worship, and to ensure that our parish remains strong and vibrant for generations to come.

This brings us to an essential and efficient question: how do we teach stewardship to our children? How do we train the next generation to love the Church as profoundly as we do? The answer is simple, though not always easy. We teach by example.

Children learn far more from what they see than from what they are told. If they see us praying, they learn to pray. If they see us forgiving, they learn to forgive. If they see us offering our time, our talents, and our resources to the life of the Church, they learn that the Church is worth supporting, worth loving, and worth sacrificing for.

A child who sees their parents rushing faithfully to sports, school events, and social activities, but rarely to the services of the Church, learns where priorities truly lie. But a child who sees their family coming to worship, standing before the icons, lighting a candle, offering a prayer, and participating in parish life learns something very different. They learn that this place is their spiritual home. They learn that the Church is not just a building but a living community that loves, supports, guides, and prays for them.

Stewardship, then, is not only about what we give. It is about what we teach and what we pass on. It is about forming souls. When a child places even a small offering in the tray, they are not learning about money; they are learning gratitude. When they help at the festival, attend Sunday School, or serve at a youth event, they are learning responsibility and joyful service. When they see their parents or grandparents make a stewardship commitment or quietly volunteer in a ministry, they come to understand that faith is not a theory. It is a lived experience.

My beloved, our community stands strong today because of the love, sacrifice, and vision of those who came before us. We are the inheritors of their devotion. Now it is our turn to carry this sacred responsibility forward. It is our calling to support our Church so that it remains a place of worship, learning, fellowship, and love. And it is our duty to prepare the next generation to continue this holy work long after we are gone.

Today, on this Stewardship Sunday, I invite each of you to reflect prayerfully on how God is calling you to offer yourself more fully to the life of this Cathedral. Offer your heart. Offer your presence. Offer your support. And above all, offer your example to the children and young people who look to you for guidance.

May God bless you, strengthen you, and inspire you to be faithful stewards of His sacred gifts. And may He bless our children, that they may grow to love His Church with the same devotion and joy that fill our hearts today. Amen.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ



+ V. Rev. Archimandrite
Christoforos Oikonomidis

November 21, 2025

Dear beloved Stewards of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

I greet you in the name of our Lord, prayerfully wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving, a joyous Christmas, and a healthy New Year. As I reflect upon the year that has passed, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for you and your family, and for the warm, loving presence you bring to our Holy Trinity community.

As we approach the end of 2025, I write to you in the name of your longstanding love for our Church to personally appeal for your support of our Stewardship drive. Your generous contributions, donations, and most importantly, your presence have tangible and profound benefits. They are critical to sustaining our ministries, covering our operating expenses, and offering as many programs as possible for all ages who call our Cathedral their spiritual home.

As of today, 340 families have offered their stewardship for 2025. Yet our true potential is well over 400 families. This means that some of our own parishioners, families who love Holy Trinity, have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this essential offering. Our records show that you have been a steward of Holy Trinity at least once in the past, and I kindly appeal to your love and care for our Church to renew your commitment to our Cathedral and to the community that needs you now more than ever.

Enclosed, you will find a Stewardship Pledge Card and information about the sacred act of offering Stewardship. (Online contributions are also available.) Please take a few moments to prayerfully reflect on them and make a decision according to your financial strength and your desire to help our parish grow.

Please check your records, and if you have not fulfilled your 2025 commitment, may I humbly ask that you complete it soon? Sunday, December 7th, has been designated as Stewardship Sunday to inaugurate the new year. If you are ready, you may bring your 2026 Pledge Card that day or mail it to the Church office at your convenience.

- The Christian work of our Cathedral is made possible only through your support.
- Our ministries can be sustained only by your generous love and contributions.
- Your commitment to Stewardship is vital for everything we do.
- Feel welcome to worship with us, and feel safe bringing your children to be part of our community.

I am here for you and your family. I would be honored to speak with you and to meet you in person if we have not already done so. You may reach me directly at **856-246-2756**. I look forward to seeing you soon and thanking you personally for your love and support.

With love in Christ and heartfelt gratitude,

Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis
Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne
Presiding Priest

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

There are several ways you can give...

You can:

- 1) Bring cash or check and put it in the offering tray as it is passed in church.
- 2) Send a check in the mail or stop by the office any time during the week (M - F 9a-4p)
- 3) Give on line via our website (www.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

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Dear Parishioners, we kindly remind those who have not yet fulfilled their annual stewardship commitment that now is the time to do so. Our Cathedral is more than just a building; it is the living presence of Christ in our community, where we gather to Worship, to pray, to learn, and to serve. Based on our budget, *we need \$2,000 per day to operate and maintain our doors open.* At present, about 400 families are listed as stewards, yet we know that the number of families connected to our parish life is much greater. It would be a blessing if every family living in our area joined in supporting our Cathedral, ensuring that our mission continues for generations to come.

If each stewarding family contributed \$40 a week, all of our operational needs would be fully met, allowing us to focus more on ministry rather than fundraising. Most importantly, your stewardship allows us to serve God and His people, especially our children, who are the future of our Church. While our Greek Festival is a beloved tradition, our parish should not rely on it as the main source of financial stability. Instead, we invite all of you to join together as one family in Christ, to offer generously from the heart, so that our Cathedral may continue to shine as a beacon of faith, love, and service in our community.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis

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

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy
Asimos, George & Kristie
Caras, Constantine & Maria
Chambers, George & Katherine
Colborn, Brian & Nicole
Constantinou, John & Carol
Demourtzidis, Nichoals & Daphne
Dini, C & O
Faller, James & Catherine
Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evanthea
Galaris, Rick & Diana
Gray, David & Eugenia
Grevenitis, Demetri & Clewell
Grivas, Christopher & Michelle
Halakos, Angelos & Donna

Halakos, Demetris & Georgia
Halakos, Ioannis & Effie
Hall, George & Michelle
Kayiaros, Stephen
Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy
Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen
Kirifides, Michael & Kerry
Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria
Kollias, Basil & Demi
Kolovos, Dimitrios & Effie
Lazare, John & Sandra
Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi
Maravelias, James & Diane
Marvel, Jessica
Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela

Michell, Constantine & Elaine
Michell, Theodore & Catherine
Mistras, Antonis & Soula
Moutsatsos, George & Alexia
Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra
Psaltis, Tom & Cindy
Raisis, Leonidas & Irene
Rassias, Dion & Gina
Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis
Turley, Steve & Akiko
Vassilatos, Yvonne
Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Zerefos, Demetri & Constantina

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Al-Annouf, Nabil & Rabia Batah
Alexopoulos, Demetri & Lauren
Alexopoulos, John
Almasou, Elias & Rasha
Anagnostou, Anamaria
Anagnostou, Anthoula
Anastassiades, (Aglia) Litsa
Andrianopoulos, Faith
Angeletakis, Christos & Christina
Annos, William
Arvanitis, Argyrios & Lisa
Asimos SR, George
Athanasiadis, Fotios & Asmik
Atsidis, Kostas & Eftihia+
Bacchieri, Stacey
Balos, Peter
Bambacus, Meropi
Barrios, Luis & Dimitra
Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia
Blazakis, Chris & Kia
Bouloukos, Harry & Anastasia
Brown, Sean & Maria
Burpulis, Stamatis
Calliagas, Katherine
Calliagas, Markella

Caras, Alexandra
Caras, Valerie
Chahalais, Maria
Charalambides, Dino & Nia
Chilimidos, Effie
Chilimidos, Jerry & Amy
Chollis, Drew
Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra
Christou, Alecca
Christou, Christos & Evie
Coates, George & Evie
Constantinou, Elizabeth
Constantinou, George
Constantinou, Georgeia
Constantinou, Stephen
Constantinou, Virginia
Coulaloglou, Michelle
Curtis, Harry & Sophia
Coustenis, Katherine
Creedon, Patrick & Mary Beth
Croussouloudis, Despina
Dalianis, John & Vicky
Dandolos, Demetri & Carol
Dargakis, Mike & Kleo
Degermentzidis, Yiannys

Demetriou, Anna
Diamanty, Thomas
Diamond, Anthony & Lauren
Diamond, John
Diamond, Soula+
Diamond, Thomas
Dickey, Irene
Donald, Bill & Maria
Dougher, John & Christina
Doukakis, Helen
Drimones, Clara
Drimones, Nicholas
Dumel, John+ & Evangeline
Economou, Georgios & Lena
Evangelatos, Speros & Emily
Farella, Robert & Leah
Ferentinos, Joan
Fernandes, Jordan & Evanthia
Fessarar, Costas & Anna
Fisfis, Nicholas & Cathryn
Fleming, Elizabeth
Floropoulos, Yiannis & Peggy
Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki
Fotakos, Arhontoula
Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia

Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey
Fournakis, Susan
Fournaris, Anna
Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen
Fournaris, George & Soula
Frangakis, Christine
Galanis, Agnes
Gatanis, Theodore
Gatos, Paula
Geanopoulos, Georgiean
George, Mary
Georgiou, Constantinos
Gerakios, Michael
Gerakios, Nikoletta
Gerakios, Sakelaris & Spiridoula
Ganelos, Eleni
Ganelos, James & Stacie
Giannakakis, Vivian
Giannatos, Stavros & Terrie
Gordan, Brendan & Harriet
Graham, Catherine
Grigorakakis, Maria
Grivas, Demetrios
Guajardo, Evangelina
Guardascione, Louis & Shelly

2025 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

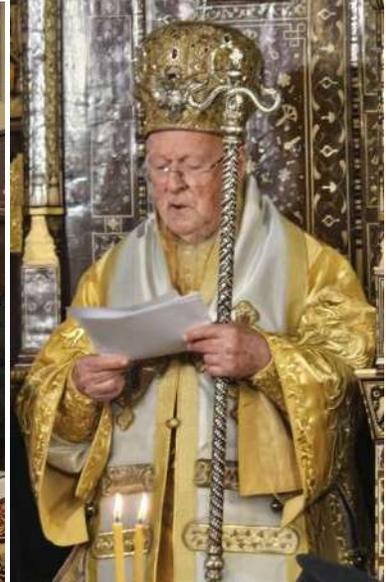
Halakos, Garifalia	Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa	Phalangas, Charalambos & Mary	Tsionas, Angela
Haldas, George & Beth	Kormalis, Vasiliki+	Piccirilli, Melissa & Joe	Tsioucha, Eleftheria
Haldas, Harry	Kostas, John & Gale	Pierson, Vetta & Charles	Tsoukalas, Frederiki
Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie	Kostas, Lynn	Pispitsos, Pantelis	Tsoukalas, Niki
Haldas, Thomas	Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani	Pittaoulis, Steve	Tsugranes, George & Penny
Haldas-Long, Irene	Kostos, Yianni	Pittas, John	Vande Poele, Andrew & Caroline
Hall, Elena	Kotanidis, Christos & Maria	Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia	Vande Poele, David & Anna
Hantzandreou, George & Diane	Kotanidis, Roula	Psaltis, John	Vassiliou, Kleoniki
Hantzandreou, Katerina	Koukourdis, Athanasios & Dimitra	Psaltis, Nikolaos	Velitskakis, Steve & Karen
Hantzandreou, Lambrini	Kramedias, Matoula	Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini	Verikakis, Dena
Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa	Kranidiotis, Konstantinos & Maria	Raisis, Irene	Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon
Hantzopoulos, George & Amanda	Kyranakis, Demetri & Vanessa	Raisis, Pauline	Vice, Elaine
Haralambidis, Maroula	Kyranakis, John	Raisis, Spiros	Visvardis, Fotini
Hatzis, Katherine	Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett	Raisis, William & Emily	Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Hatzis, Tom+ & Bing	Laskaris, Johanna	Rapposelli, Hareklia	Vlamis, Nicholas & Peggy
Healy, Kevin & Sophia	Laws, Brian & Vasiliki	Rassias, George & Amalea	Vlastaridis, Theodoros & Sofia
Heggan, Brandon & Maria	Lawson, Alexander & Gia	Rassias, Peter & Julie	Voultsis, Catherine
Heliotis, Alexandra	Lawson, Michael & Victoria	Regas, Sofia	Voultsis, Evangeline & Damien
Hinte, Jr., Forrest	Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura	Rentoulis, Niko & Androniki	Voultsis, Jordana
Hionis, Sophia	Lazopoulos, John & Christina	Richardson, Robert & Stavroula	Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly
Hooper, Joseph	Lemper, Anthony & Diana	Riga, Jason & Ekaterini	Wilkinson, Suzanne
Humphrey, Caroline	Lempesis, Dimitra	Rigas, Elais & Patoula	Xarhoulakos, Peter
Issaris, Katherine	Lengel, Robert & Maria	Righos, Elaine	Zaloga, Paul & Joann
Jacobs, Joseph & Alexandra	Liarakos, George+ & Ann	Roberts, Scott & Linda	Zerefos, Yianni & Lauren
Joris, Irene	Logullo, Desponia & Francis	Rochonchou, Athena	Zerefos, Markos+ & Eugenia
Joseck, Anastasia	Lonergan, William & Francesca	Roussalis, John & Valerie	Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
Joseck, John & Taylor	Lomis, Toula	Roustopoulos, Alexia	
Joseck, Xanthy & Fred	MacKewiz, W Lee & Irene	Roustopoulos, Theodoros & Natalie	
Kaliakin, Victor & Elizabeth	Manolakos, Adam & Isabelle	Ruhl, David & Athena	
Kamenakis, Effie	Manolakos, Nicholas	Saitis, Mary	
Kamenakis, Peter & Juli	Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi	Saridakis, Chris & Penny	
Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie	Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan	Sarmousakis, Marika	
Kanas, Larry & Alicia	Marcantonis, George & Agnoula	Sartin, Nimrah & Deborah	
Kanteliotis, Steve & Olga	Marini, Irene	Savopoulos, Despina	
Karablacas, Stelios	Marinis, Kalliope	Schillinger, Robert & Karen	
Karagiannis, Peter	Markatos, Harry & Susan	Semos, Joanne	
Karahalias, Stratton	Marusiodis, Kalliope	Shahwan, Sofy	
Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni	McCloskey, Brendan & Anna	Spence, Jason & Sunday	
Karakasidis, John & Vickie	McGee, John & Tina	Staab, Kristina	
Karakasidis, Stephen & Angie	Michell, Vasili & Megan	Staikos, Nicholas & Eirini	
Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki	Milionis, Constantine	Stevens, Richard & Penny	
Karapanagiotis, Athanasios	Mitoulis, Nikolaos & Stella	Stout, Robert & Voula	
Karas, Theodore & Pamela	Moriello, Carissa & Nicholas	Tarabicos, Christina	
Karavangelas, Eleni & Samer	Napoli, Frances	Tarabicos, John & Joanne	
Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula	Nicholas, John & Emily	Tarabicos, Sophia	
Karvounis, Nikolaos & Amanda	Nicholas, Steve	Tawfik, Emad & Soultana	
Kayiaros, Joanna	Novakis, Louis	Teclenariam, Berhan & Saba	
Keros, Georgia	Ohlemacher, Evangline	Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa	
Kirifides, Eleni	Pacienza, Stephanie	Theodorakos, Nicholas & Katherine	
Kirifides, Lazarus V	Pagonis, Marcus & Cheryl	Thomas, Richard & Angela	
Kirtses, Eugenia	Pandelakis, Denis & Anna	Tiniakos, Gregory & Elaine	
Kirtses, Petros & Athy	Pantelopulos, Anthony & Daphne	Tsaganos, Alexandra	
Kledaras, George & Ann	Papachrysanthou, Chris & Popi	Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne	
Kledaras, Olympia	Papachrysanthou, George & Laura	Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna	
Klezaras, Michael & Kathy	Papanicholas, Evan	Tsaganos, Robert & Popi	
Klezaras III, Michael	Papanicholas, Maria	Tsaganos, Robert	
Klezaras, Nikoletta	Papettas, Vasilis & Christina	Tsakataras, George	
Kollias, Georgia	Pappas, Elizabeth	Tsakiris, Konstantine	
Koninis II, John	Pappoulis, Demetra	Tsakumis, George & Julia	
Koninis, John & Anastasia	Pastis, Jaqueline	Tsakumis, Theodore	
Kontis, Gus & Cindy	Pennias, John & Stacey	Tsavalas, George & Yvonne	
Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi	Pettaris, George & Stavroula	Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna	

AS OF: December 22, 2025
353 Families of 400+ Families
listed as active members of
Holy Trinity Cathedral.



 If you have not submitted your pledge for 2025 there is still time! We will except your pledge for 2025 until January 6, 2026. After that date any pledges received will go towards your 2026 Stewardship. We thank you for your continued support of our Holy Trinity Cathedral!

Visit of Pope Leo to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on November 30, 2025.
Fr. Christoforos was honored to be there on this historic and momentous day!



Fr. Christoforos with Mr. Gus & Dr. Maria Caras by the Lake of Nicea, which is the exact location where the 1st Ecumenical Council took place in 325AD.

Τα Προτοχρονιάτικα Έθιμα μας

(Επαναδημοσίευση)

Δρ. Κώστας Γ. Φούντζουλας

Μεγαλώνοντας στην Ελλάδα δεν περίμενα τον Άγιο Νικόλαο (Σάντα Κλός) να μου φέρει τα φτωχικά Χριστουγεννιάτικα δώρα, αλλά τον Αη Βασίλη. Στην Αμερική το όνομα και ο αδύνατος Αη Βασίλης έχουν πλέον αντικατασταθεί από τον ευτραφή Σάντα Κλός ή Άγιο Νικόλαο. Ο Αη-Βασίλης ούτε και στις εκκλησίες μας στις ΗΠΑ αναφέρεται σαν τον άγιο που μοιράζει δώρα στα παιδιά. Υπάρχει μόνο ο Άγιος Νικόλαος. Ας προσπαθήσουμε με την βοήθεια της ιστορίας να βάλουμε τα πράγματα στην θέση τους.

Ο Σάντα Κλός είναι επίσης γνωστός απλά ως «Σάντα», είναι μια μορφή της φαντασίας, θρυλικής, μυθικής, ιστορικής και λαογραφικής προελεύσεως, ο οποίος σε πολλές δυτικές χώρες, φέρνει τα δώρα στα σπίτια των καλών παιδιών την παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων. Η σύγχρονη μορφή του Σάντα προέρχεται από την Ολλανδική φιγούρα του **Sinterklaas**, η οποία βασίζεται κατά κάποιον τρόπο στην ιστορική φυσιογνωμία του Χριστιανού επισκόπου και δωρητή δώρων του Αγίου Νικολάου. Φοράει γυαλιά και κόκκινα ρούχα, είναι εύθυμος και παχύς.

Ο Άγιος Νικόλαος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Μύρων γεννήθηκε το 270 μ.Χ. στα Πάταρα της Λυκίας, από γονείς ευσεβείς και πλουσίους και έτυχε επιμελημένης μόρφωσης. Πέθανε στις 6 Δεκεμβρίου 343 μ.Χ.. Έμεινε ορφανός νεαρή ηλικία και κληρονόμησε μεγάλη περιουσία. Αφιέρωσε τη ζωή του αποκλειστικά στον Χριστιανισμό. Ήταν γνωστός για τα πλούσια δώρα του στους φτωχούς, και ιδίως όταν προίκισε τις τρεις κόρες ενός εξασθλιωμένου ευσεβούς Χριστιανού για να μην γίνουν πόρνες. **Στην Ολλανδία, Βέλγιο, Αυστρία και Γερμανία απεικονίζεται συνήθως ως μία γενειοφόρα μορφή με άμφια επισκόπου. Στην Ελλάδα, ο Άγιος Νικόλαος θεωρείται ο κατ' εξοχήν προστάτης των ναυτικών, του Ελληνικού Πολεμικού Ναυτικού και του Λιμενικού Σώματος, γιατί στον βίο του αναφέρονται θαύματα που έχουν σχέση με τη θάλασσα.**

Ο Βασίλειος ο Μέγας, Πατέρας της Εκκλησίας, γεννήθηκε το 330 μ.Χ. στην Νεοκαισάρεια του Πόντου και πέθανε την 1η Ιανουαρίου 379 μΧ, σε ηλικία μόλις 48 ετών. Ήταν επίσκοπος Καισαρείας κορυφαίος θεολόγος και ένας από τους Τρεις Ιεράρχες, που θεωρούνται προστάτες της παιδείας. **Ο Βασίλειος ήταν ο πρώτος άνθρωπος στην ιστορία που ίδρυσε ένα ορφανοτροφείο για μικρά παιδιά καθώς και το πρώτο Χριστιανικό νοσοκομείο στον κόσμο.** Σύμφωνα με την παράδοση, ο έπαρχος της Καισαρείας, ζητούσε περισσότερους φόρους από τους Χριστιανούς. Εκείνοι, μη έχοντας χρήματα να πληρώσουν τους φόρους, επήγαν στον Άγιο Βασίλειο, όπου αυτός τους παράτρυνε να μαζέψουν όλα τα χρυσαφικά και τα κοσμήματα των γυναικών τους και να του τα δώσουν. Όταν του τα παρέδωσαν, ο Άγιος τα επήγε στο σπίτι του Έπαρχου. Αυτός όμως εντράπηκε τον Άγιο ακύρωσε την διαταγή του και χάρισε τον φόρο στους Χριστιανούς. **Όταν αυτός επέστρεψε στο σπίτι του θέλησε να επιστρέψει τα δώρα στους ιδιοκτήτες τους. Επειδή όμως δεν γνώριζε τι ανήκει σε ποιόν, ζήτησε να ζωμάσουν ψωμάκια στα οποία έβαλε ένα κόσμημα βρήκε, Με έναν θαυματουργό τρόπο, ο καθένας βρήκε στο ψωμάκι που του έτυχε το κόσμημά του. Από τότε λοιπόν καθιερώθηκε το έθιμο της βασιλόπιττας με το νόμισμα για τον τυχερό της χρονιάς.**

Μπορούμε και πρέπει να διδάξουμε τα παιδιά μας την ζωή του και του δικού μας “Σάντα”, του Αη Βασίλη μας, χωρίς να τους στερήσουμε την χαρά των δώρων που μεταφέρει από τον Βόρειο Πόλο, το Ριβανιέμι της Φιλανδίας, ο Σάντα Κλός.

Ευτυχισμένο και Υγιές το Νέο Έτος 2026!!

Our New Year's Eve Customs

(Republication)

Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

Growing up in Greece, I did not expect **Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus)** to bring me my very poor Christmas gifts, but “**Ai Vasilis**”, **Saint Basil** that is. In America the name and skinny Ai Vasilis have been replaced by the chubby Santa Claus or St. Nicholas. Even in our Greek Orthodox churches, our Ai Vassilis is not recognized anymore as the saint who distributes gifts to children, but only Saint Nicholas, a.k.a. Santa Claus. Let us try to put things in perspective with the help of history.

Santa Claus, who is also known simply as “**Santa**”, is a fantasy figure with legendary, mythical, historical and folkloric origins who, in many Western countries, brings gifts to the homes of the good children on Christmas Eve. The modern version of Santa comes from the Dutch figure of **Sinterklaas**, which is based in some way on the historical figure of the Christian bishop and the gift giver Saint Nicholas. He wears glasses and red clothes, and he is merry and fat.

St. Nicholas Archbishop of Myra was born in 270 AD in Patara in Lycia of Asia Minor, now Turkey, of pious and wealthy parents and was highly educated. He died on December 6, 343 AD. He was orphaned at young age and he inherited large property. He devoted his entire life to Christianity. He was known for his generous gifts to the poor. In particular, he became well known when he presented the three impoverished daughters of a pious Christian man with dowries so that they would not have to become prostitutes. **In the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Germany he is usually depicted as a bearded bishop in canonical robes. In Greece, Saint Nicholas is considered the pre-eminent patron of sailors, the Greek Navy and the Coast Guard, because during his life miracles associated with the sea are attributed to him.**

Basil the Great was born in 330 AD in Neo-Caesarea in Pontus and died 1 January 379 AD, only 48 years old. He was Father of the Church, Bishop of Caesarea, distinguished theologian and one of the Three Hierarchs, who are considered patrons of education. **Saint Basil was the first man in history who founded an orphanage for young children, the first Christian hospital in the world and a hospice for travelers.**

According to the tradition, the governor of Caesarea demanded more taxes from the Christians. Since they did not have any money to satisfy the governor's demand they sought St. Basil's help. St. Basil instructed the Christians to collect all the golden jewels of their wives and to give them to him. When all the jewels were collected he went to the governor's house to deliver the jewels to him. However, the governor felt ashamed of the respectful St. Basil and nullified his order, not demanding taxes from the Christians. **When St. Basil returned to his home he wanted to return the jewels to their owners. However, since he did not know which one belonged to whom he asked from the Christians to make small breads where he inserted a jewel. He then distributed the small breads to the people. Miraculously, everybody found his jewel in the small bread. Since then, the tradition of vasilopita containing a coin for the lucky of the year, and especially the ritual of its cutting, was established.**

We can and we should teach our children the life of our “Santa”, our Ai Vasilis, without depriving them of the joy of the gifts Santa Claus carries for them from the North Pole, from Rovaniemi of Finland.

Happy and Healthy New Year 2026!

Feast of St Iakovos of Evia in our Holy Metropolis

On the evening of Friday, November 21, 2025 His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey celebrated the Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Iakovos of Evia, the patron Saint of the Metropolis of New Jersey at the church of St. Thomas in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Upon his arrival with the epitrachelion vestment relic of St. Iakovos of Evia, His Eminence was welcomed by proistamenos Fr. Georgios Oikonomou and 30 brother clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey alongside parish council members, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolis Philoptochos, Altar Boys from the Delaware Valley Region and over 200 faithful. A litany celebrating the arrival of to enter the church to begin the Great Vespers.

In his Vespers homily, His Eminence foremost shared that the life of St. Iakovos and that of all the new saints of the Church prove that the Holy Spirit is active in the world to this day and that our Church is a living one. This reality he said, was apparent in his acquisition of the relic of the saint during the Monastery of the Venerable David in Evia, Greece. After celebrating the Divine Liturgy and sitting in the monastery's reception room, he made a request of Abbot Gabriel for one of the Saint's belongings to bring back to the Metropolis of New Jersey to encourage the faithful who now proclaimed him their patron saint. Responding to this request, Abbott Gabriel respectfully declined explaining that the monastery only had one final article of the Saint's vestments left that had not been taken or given away. The Abbott explained to His Eminence that he would however think and pray about it as he left briefly to go pray with a family who had come to ask for the Saint Iakovos's intercessions. Returning from the chapel to the reception room, Abbott Gabriel (whose eyes His Eminence stated were somber and teary) bore in his hands the final remaining epitrachelion of St. Iakovos. He proceeded to hand the vestment to His Eminence he explained to him "this belongs to you". As a Metropolis, we are indebted to the Monastery of St. David and Abbott Gabriel who through the prayers and will of St. Iakovos bestowed on us such a blessing and pillar of hope of our Patron Saint who stands and intercedes for us before the throne of God.

Continued next page...



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Douglas John Photography
Stelios Lambrou
Article by Metropolis of NJ





(continued...)

Before the dismissal, His Eminence gathered the nearly 45 Altar Boys who had come to serve during the festal vespers service and bestowed on them a special cross to be worn during their service in the altar. He prayed over them entreating the Lord that they may follow the model of St. Simon of Cyrene, who assisted Christ on his excruciating climb up Golgotha by carrying His Live-Giving Cross. His Eminence thanked the Altar boys for being present, encouraging them to continue to grow in their service to the Lord. His Eminence also thanked the parents and grandparents of the boys for their efforts in raising their children in the Church and to continue to encourage them to keep their children in the calm harbor that the Church provides.



We were pleased to have eight of our Altar Servers present at the glorious Vesper Service who received the special blessing and the Cross from His Eminence.

**Demetri Thomas, JT Psaltis, Nicholas Psaltis, Alex Hall,
Angelo Hall, Jerry Rassias, Jerry Psihalinos, & Paris Verikakis**





Y A L



After Thanksgiving, Holy Trinity's Young Adult League met in the community hall for a casual 'Friendsgiving' and game night. We asked all in attendance to bring nonperishable food items to add to our community's food drive. It was wonderful to reconnect with our members in college home for the holiday!

YAL's next event is Friday, January 2nd at 6:30pm. We hope to have another good turnout of new and old members! Please check your email and GroupMe for more details.



On Sunday December 7th, we had many young adults participate in the community wide philanthropic event, Rise Against Hunger. It was an incredible event where we prepared, weighed and packaged 10,000 meals. It's beautiful to see what we, as a community, can accomplish when parishioners in various ministries work together. Thank you to the Philotochos ladies for planning another wonderful event.

Holy Trinity's Young Adult League meets monthly and is for individuals ages 18 - 35 married, engaged, single, all are welcome! If you would like to be added to the email list or have any questions/ suggestions please email Anna Fournaris at fournaris10@gmail.com

Wishing our community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Join us as we come together to welcome the new year in the spirit of faith and tradition.

HOPE & JOY

VASILOPITA CUTTING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026
5:30 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL - AHEPA ROOM

We will gather with our HOPE & JOY family to cut the Vasilopita and begin the New Year with joy, faith, and gratitude.

This beautiful tradition has been passed down for over 1,600 years, dating back to the time of St. Basil the Great. We continue it today because it reminds us of faith, generosity, and caring for one another. By sharing this tradition with our children, we pass on the values St. Basil taught and help keep our faith and heritage alive for the next generation.

Let's see who finds the lucky coin!!



The Vasilopita will be seed- and nut-free.

HOPE & JOY held another successful fundraiser today during Coffee Hour, with our children proudly serving and engaging our parish community. With bright smiles and helping hands, they assisted in taking orders and serving, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The continued support of our parishioners and families allows our ministry to grow and plan meaningful activities for the children throughout the year.



On Wednesday, December 3, 2025 the Greek School partnered with HOPE / JOY hosted a St Nicholas Event that included a lesson about the Feast of St Nicholas by Fr. Christoforos, decorating the tree outside in the lobby and then we enjoyed food and fellowship!







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.**

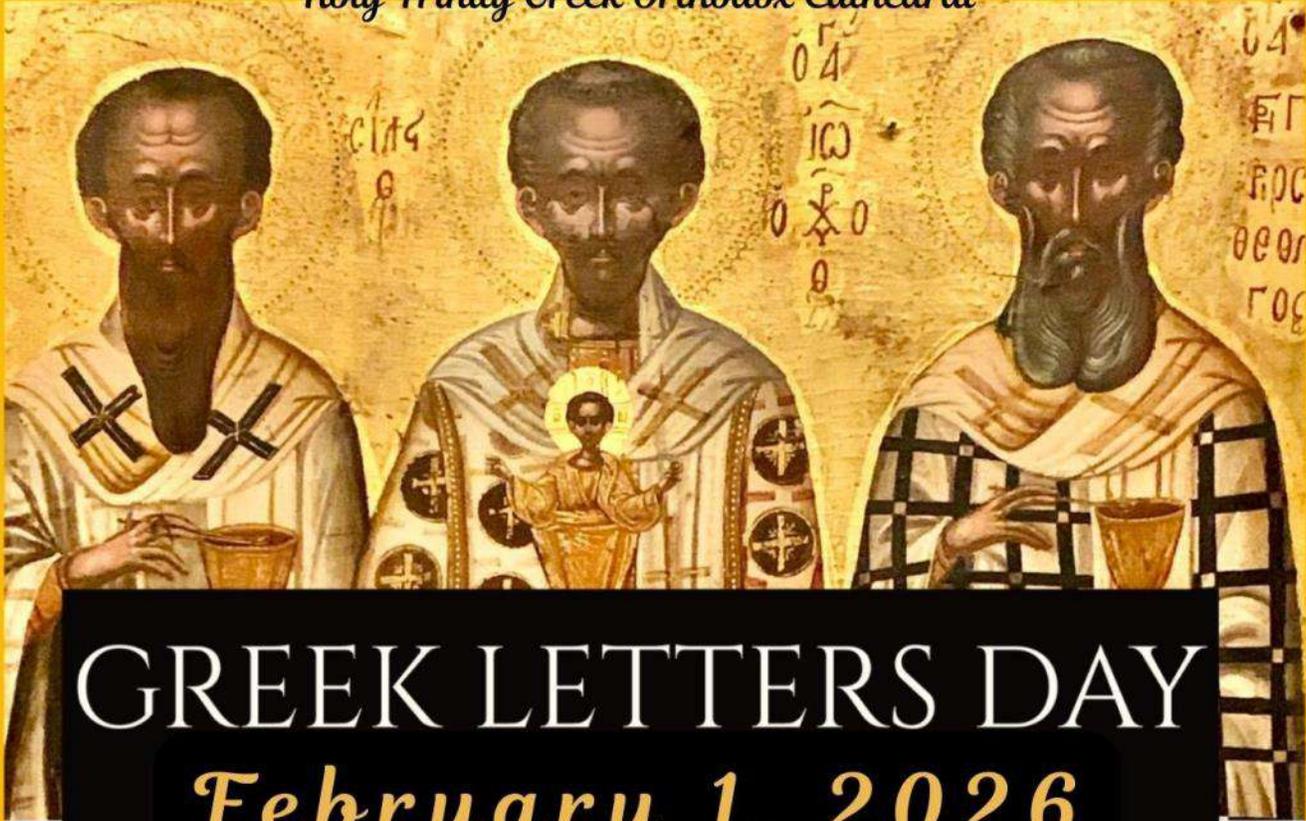
**MEET HSA MEMBERS & PHILHELLENE PROFESSORS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.**

LEARN ABOUT THE NEW HUC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.

FEB 12 | 6 PM | CLAYMONT STEAK NEWARK

THURSDAY NIGHT | FREE | 57 S MAIN & AMSTEL

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



GREEK LETTERS DAY

February 1, 2026

Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou

Dr. Hatzidimitriou holds a doctorate in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek History from Columbia University. He was a Gennadius Fellow at the American School in Athens, and an Educational Counselor at the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki, where he was a professor at Anatolia College. In 2023, he was the Christos Mantzios Visiting Scholar at The Australian Institute of Macedonian Studies. Currently, he is Managing Editor of *The American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues* and the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* and Research Associate at St. John's University. He is the author of three books: *Navios: A Future Built Upon A Historical Tradition of Innovation and Excellence* (2007); *American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna* (2005, 2022); and *Founded on Freedom and Virtue: Documents Illustrating the Impact in the United States of The Greek War of Independence* (2002). Last year, he published the *Teacher Resource Guide on Byzantine History and Culture*. He has multiple contributions to scholarly journals in the fields of Byzantine and Modern Greek history and education. He is currently working on two books on American Philhellenes during the Greek Revolution, and Central Greece during the Byzantine and Ottoman periods.



A Workshop on the New Byzantine guide will be held for interested teachers & historians.

Contact us at huewilm@gmail.com.

huewilmington.org.



60th Anniversary Lecture Series



Young @ Heart



On December 11 The Young @ Heart held their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Mendenhall Inn. We enjoyed a delicious lunch, sang Christmas Carols and a few of us went home with wonderful prizes from the raffles!! Special thanks to Demetra Pappoulis and Sophia Hionis for all they did to make this day a special one!



MENDENHALL INN
WELCOMES
Young at Heart
Holy Trinity
Cathedral
LUNCHEON
LOCATED IN GARDEN ROOM
12:00PM - 4:00PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025



ALTAR GUILD

Happy 2026 and 2025 was a wonderful year.

The Altar Guild was busy adorning the church for the Christmas. We wish to thank the members who came to freshen the bows, change batteries and fluff the decoration for the church. A few new items were added to keep the decorations fresh. Thanks to Lauren Diamond, Sophia Hionis, Diania Galaris, Helen Doukakis, Stacy Koninis, Helen Kirifides, Kristie Asimos, Evie Fournaris, Joanne Tarabicos & Stephen Nicholas who decorated the Nativity Icon.

The following donations were received for this month:

January 6th ~ The Holy Theophany: John & Joanne Tarabicos, celebrating 60 glorious years together on December 11th.

January 30th ~ Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Elizabeth Pappas, To honor my family.

Donation of poinsettias from George and Michelle Hall: For the continued good health of our family.

Donations needed, February 2nd ~ Presentation of our Lord.

It was a pleasure to serve our church in 2025 and our members are looking forward to another great year in 2026. Please use the form below for any requests or donations.

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



December at the Emmanuel Dining Room

We *sincerely* thank the **Karakasidis family** for sponsoring the meal in December, as they have for many, many years now! 145 men, women and children enjoyed a nice warm meal through their generosity. **Evie and Emmanuel Fournaris** will start off the new year for us by hosting the meal in January! 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 now being served at the 2nd and Jackson St. dining room until future notice

Various groups and individuals from our church donate the food to sponsor the luncheon meal on the 12th of every month.

If you, your family or organization would like to provide a meal, contact Nikkie Tsakataras at 302-655-2252 or Tina Ganiaris at 302-367-6758 for more information. Thank you!

We wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year 2026!

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry Team would like to thank everyone in participating in their donations this year!

A HUGE thank you to our Sunday School for their hard work and dedication to helping families less fortunate. We should thank God everyday for the food put on our tables.

Because of your support we are able to help over 1800 each month!

Please take the following list with you to the grocery store...

Canned soups, tuna, fruits and vegetables
Oatmeal and cereal
Pancake mix and syrup
Shelf stable apple juice and orange juice
Rice, whole wheat pasta, and pasta sauce

Toothbrush and toothpaste
Dish Soap
Deodorant
Shampoo
Body Wash or Bath-soap



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

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

Serving in January

Coffee Hours:

January 4 ~ Young @ Heart

January 11 ~ Altar Guild & The Family of Tom Hatzis

January 18 ~ GOYA Basketball Tournament

January 25 ~ AHEPA Greek Letters Day Breakfast



Narthex Duty:

January 4 ~ Group 1

January 11 ~ Group 2

January 18 ~ Group 1

January 25 ~ Group 2



Prosforon Offeror's

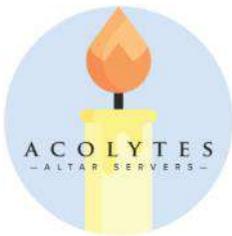


We are looking to update our Prosfora Offeror List.
If you would like to become a regular Prosfora Offeror, please contact the church office to be added to our list. You can offer prosfora for any service by bringing it in before the service starts. If you do not bake but would like to donate towards 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.

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

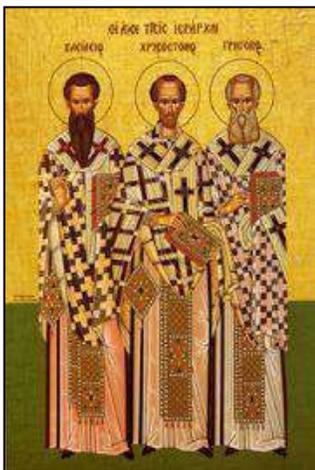
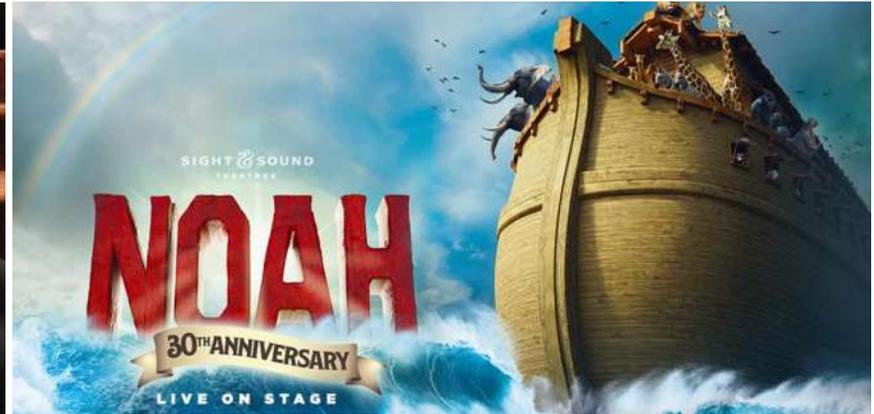
Alexandros Matthews ~~~ Josiah Wolcott ~~~ Markos Zerefos

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year! <u>Circumcision of our Lord / St Basil the Great</u> <u>9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</u>	2 6:30pm YAL Gathering	3 DVYC BBALL Quarter Finals
4 <u>Sunday before Theophany</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School/Family Worship DVYC BBALL Semi-Finals	5 STRICT FAST Forefeast of Theophany 9am Service of the Great Hours of the Epiphany Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	6 <u>Holy Theophany</u> <u>Great Blessing of Waters</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 7pm AHEPA Executive Meeting	7 <u>St John the Baptist</u> <u>9am Orthros / Divine Liturgy</u> 5:30pm Greek School	8 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	9 5:30pm HOPE JOY Vasilopita Night	10 11am Philoptochos Meeting
11 <u>Sunday after Theophany</u> 9:00am Orthros/ Divine Liturgy Sunday School Vasilopita Sunday Parish Council Oath of Office HOPE JOY Hot Cocoa Fund Raiser DVYC BBALL Finals	12 12pm Serving at Emmanuel Dining Room Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	13 7pm AHEPA MEETING	14 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	15 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	16 PREP for: GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT <u>6pm Vespers of St Anthony @Vineland, NJ</u>	17 <u>St Anthony</u> 9:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT (7pm-11pm Dance)
18 <u>St Athanasios & Cyril</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Family Worship GOYA BBALL TOURNAMENT	19	20	21 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	22 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	23	24
25 <u>St Gregory the Theologian</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School 4pm Greek Letters Day Celebration @ St Luke, Broomall	26 Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls	27 6pm DOP Meeting 7pm DVYC Meeting, St Sophia (6pm S & S)	28 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School	29 7pm GOYA Dance Practice	30 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 5:30pm HOPE JOY Dance Practice	31



On Saturday, December 13 a large group from our Holy Trinity Cathedral went to see “Noah” at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. What a wonderful time we had and all who went were not disappointed!



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

Apolytikion in the First Tone

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

Kontakion in the Second Tone

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

Reading:

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

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

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

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



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Enclosed please find my/our pledge payment for:

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



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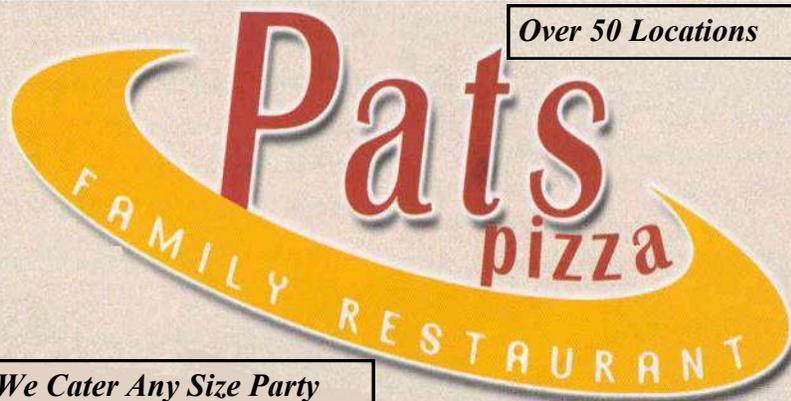
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