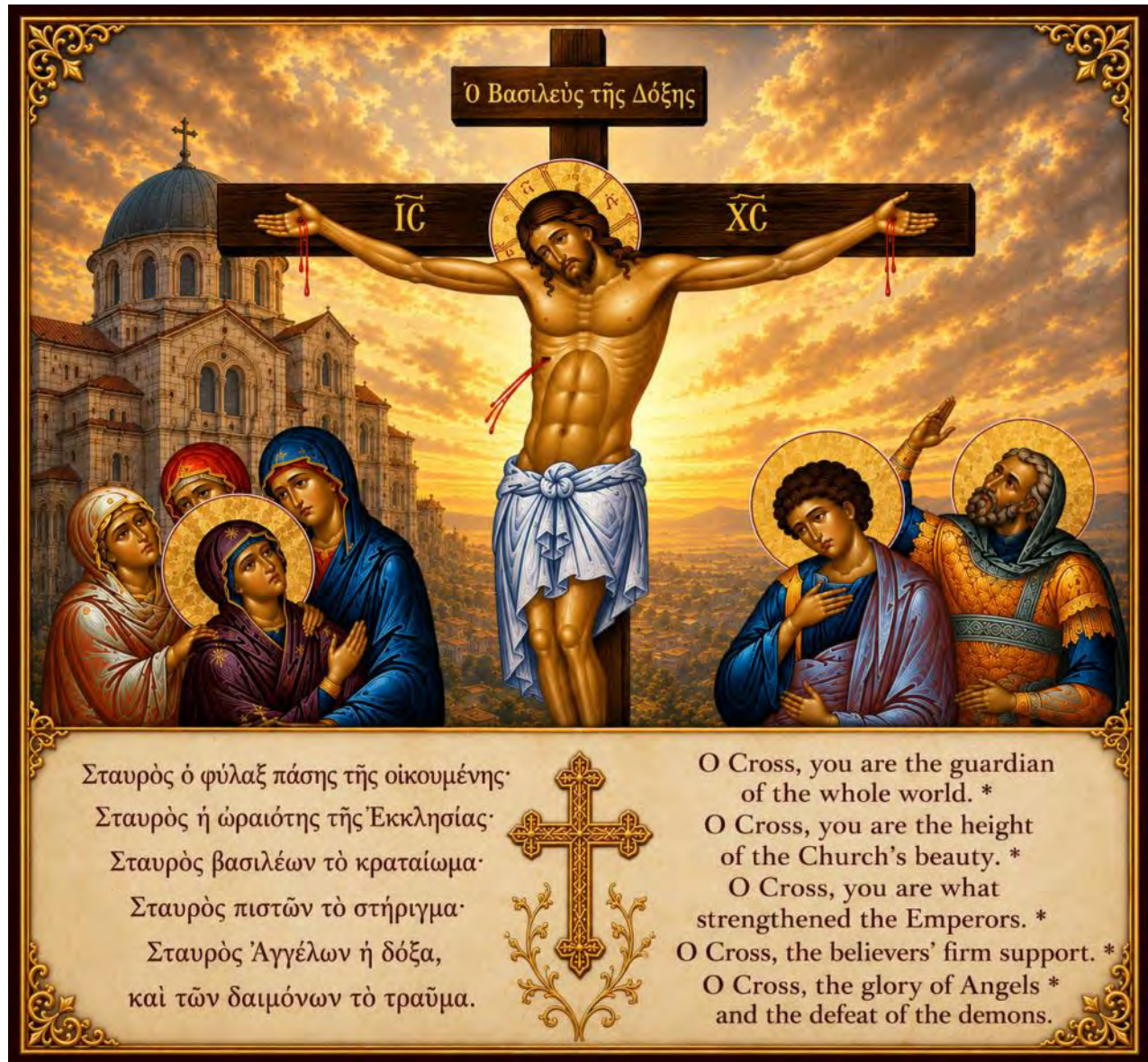


Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



Ιερος Καθεδρικός Ναός Αγίας Τριάδος

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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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



Ιερός Καθεδρικός Ναός Αγίας Τριάδος

September 2026

My dear beloved parishioners and friends,

As we enter the month of September and prepare for a new season in the life of our Cathedral, I would first like to share a significant and historic development in the life of our Holy Metropolis. On July 22, 2026, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, under the presidency of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, unanimously elected our beloved Metropolitan, His Eminence Apostolos of New Jersey, to serve as Archbishop of Canada.

For the past three years, His Eminence has served the Sacred Metropolis of New Jersey as our Chief Shepherd and Spiritual Father. We have experienced his love for the Church, his devotion to his clergy and faithful, and his sincere pastoral concern for our communities personally. Our own Holy Trinity community has been especially blessed by his fatherly love and support.



We will always remember with profound gratitude the extraordinary gift he gave to our parish in November 2024, when, as we celebrated the 90th Anniversary of our beloved church, His Eminence elevated Holy Trinity to the dignity of a Cathedral. That historic moment will forever remain connected with his archpastoral ministry among us and will always hold a special place in the history and heart of our community. His election to the Holy Archdiocese of Canada is therefore a source of great joy and pride for us, even though his departure naturally brings sadness as we say farewell to a Hierarch whom we have come to know and love.



On Tuesday, September 8, the clergy and faithful of our Metropolis will gather at The Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey, for a Farewell Banquet in honor of His Eminence to express our gratitude for his ministry among us and to wish him every blessing in the new responsibility entrusted to him by our Mother Church. His Enthronement as Archbishop of Canada will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026, in Toronto. May Christ our Chief Shepherd strengthen His Eminence in this new ministry and grant him many years of fruitful archpastoral service. **ΑΕΙΟΣ!**

As one chapter begins for His Eminence, September also marks a new beginning for all of us. After the different rhythm of the summer months, our Cathedral once again becomes filled with the familiar movement of parish life. Our children return to school, our families settle again into their schedules, our ministries resume, and we are given another opportunity to place Christ at the center of everything we do.

This sense of beginning is especially appropriate because **September 1 is the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year.** The Church reminds us that time itself belongs to God. The days that are given to us are not simply dates to fill with appointments, obligations, work, and activities. They are gifts entrusted to us and opportunities for salvation. The beginning of the Church year therefore asks us a spiritual question: *How will we use the time God gives us?* Will there be more room for prayer? Will Sunday worship truly have its proper place in our family life? Will we approach the Holy Sacraments more frequently? Will we make time for our children to know Christ and His Church?

September gives us an opportunity to begin again. Perhaps the previous year was spiritually fruitful. Perhaps it was difficult. Perhaps we intended to become more active in the Church but never quite did. Whatever has passed, God places another beginning before us. The doors of the Church remain open, and Christ continues to call us into deeper communion with Him.

The first major feast of this new ecclesiastical year comes on **September 8 with the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos.** At first glance, the birth of a little girl to Joachim and Anna might have appeared to be an ordinary family event. Yet within God's providence, something extraordinary was beginning. Mary would become the living Temple of God, the woman whose humble "yes" would welcome the Savior into the world. This is why the Church joyfully proclaims, **"Your Nativity, O Theotokos, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe."** Her birth teaches us that God often begins His greatest works quietly. Long before we can see the fulfillment of His plan, He is already at work.



Then, on **September 14**, we stand before the Precious and Life Giving Cross of our Lord as we celebrate its Universal Exaltation. On this day the Church places the Cross directly before our eyes and calls us to contemplate what it means. What appeared to the world as defeat became Christ's victory. What was once an instrument of execution became the sign of life. Through the Cross, hatred was answered with forgiveness, suffering with love, and death with Resurrection.



For an Orthodox Christian, the Cross is therefore not merely something we wear around our necks or place in our homes. It reveals the pattern of Christian life itself. Christ tells us to take up our cross and follow Him. There will be sacrifices in marriage, parenthood, ministry, friendship, and faithfulness to God. Yet when these sacrifices are united to Christ, they are never meaningless. The Cross teaches us that love is costly, but it also assures us that no cross carried with Christ is separated from the promise of Resurrection.

I warmly encourage all of you to **come and participate in the Divine Liturgy on Monday, September 14**, as together we venerate the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord. Let us also remember that the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross is **a day of strict fasting, solemn in character, like Great and Holy Friday**. Even in the midst of September and our busy schedules, the Church calls us on this sacred day to prayer, fasting, worship, and reflection upon the great sacrifice of Christ, through whose Cross joy and salvation have come into all the world.



September is also the month when the full life of our Cathedral begins again, and I am very excited about what lies ahead. Our annual **Parish Picnic will take place on Sunday, September 27**, following the Divine Liturgy. I hope that all our families will join us. The picnic is more than an enjoyable gathering. It is an opportunity to reconnect after the summer, welcome new families, strengthen friendships, and remember that a parish is not simply a place where we attend services. We are a spiritual family, and that family becomes stronger when we know one another and share our lives with one another.

Our **Orthodox Faith Sunday School will begin again with a special blessing on Sunday, September 20th**, as we welcome our children into another year of learning and spiritual growth. I am deeply grateful to our directors and teachers for the time and love they give to this sacred ministry. What our children learn about Christ cannot be treated as secondary to everything else they are learning. We prepare them carefully for school, college, careers, and life in the world. We must prepare their souls with even greater care. A child who knows that he or she belongs to Christ possesses a foundation that no academic achievement or worldly success can replace.

Our **Greek School** will also welcome our students back for another year. Through language, history, culture, faith, customs, songs, and traditions, our children receive something precious from the generations that came before them. Preserving our Greek heritage is not simply about looking backward. It is about giving our children roots strong enough to help them move confidently into the future while knowing who they are and where they come from.

At the same time, I must share with you a sincere concern. **Our Greek School enrollment and regular attendance have become very low, and we urgently need more children to register and participate.** If this trend continues, there may come a day when we can no longer maintain our Greek Language Program. What a great shame that would be for a historic parish such as ours, with more than ninety years of Greek Orthodox history, heritage, and deep roots in this community. We have many families and children in our Cathedral community, and I ask our parents to reconsider the importance of Greek School and make every possible effort to enroll their children. If we desire this ministry to exist for future generations, we must support it today. **Our Greek School can only remain alive if our children are in its classrooms.** Let us not allow something so precious, which previous generations worked so hard to preserve and pass down to us, to disappear during our own generation.



Our youth ministries, **GOYA, JOY, and HOPE**, provide our young people with something increasingly important: a community where they can form friendships while remaining connected to Christ and His Church. Our children are surrounded every day by countless voices competing for their attention and shaping the way they understand themselves and the world. The Church must be one of the strongest voices in their lives. Parents, please give your children that opportunity. Bring them to worship. Bring them to Sunday School. Encourage them to participate in our youth ministries. Help them form friendships within the Church. Years from now, these experiences may prove to be among the greatest gifts you ever gave them.

I also want to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude to all of our youth advisors and instructors, who truly love our children and generously sacrifice their precious time to serve them. Their ministry requires dedication, patience, preparation, and, above all, love. They give so much of themselves so that our children may have a place within the Church where they feel welcomed, valued, and loved. I am profoundly grateful for their commitment and for everything they do for the young people of our Cathedral.

Our beloved **Saint Agape Philoptochos Society**, under the leadership of Mrs. Dena Verikakis, will likewise continue its ministry of Christian love and philanthropy. Philoptochos reminds us that faith cannot remain only within the walls of the church building. Christ sends us outward toward the person who is suffering, lonely, hungry, struggling, or in need. I encourage the women of our Cathedral who are not yet involved to consider becoming part of this important ministry and to share their gifts in service to Christ and His people.

Beloved brothers and sisters, all these programs and events are important, but they must always lead us back to the reason our Cathedral exists: **Jesus Christ**. We can have successful events, excellent programs, wonderful festivals, and active organizations, **but the heart of our parish must always be the Holy Altar**. Everything begins and finds its meaning there. And everything we do should ultimately bring souls closer to Christ.



Therefore, as schedules become busy again, I ask you not to allow Sunday to become simply another day on the calendar. Make the Divine Liturgy the center of your week. Bring your children. Come as a family. Pray together. Receive the Holy Sacraments. Become involved. Find your place in the life of this Cathedral. There is room here for every generation and every family, as well as for those walking through our doors for the first time.

As we begin this new ecclesiastical year and a new season in the life of Holy Trinity, let us begin it **together and with Christ**. May He bless our Cathedral, our ministries, our volunteers, our teachers, our children and young people, and every family of our community. May He especially protect our students as they return to school and their studies, granting them wisdom, strength, and good progress. And through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos, and the protection of the Most Precious Cross of Christ, may our homes be filled with God's peace and our parish continue to grow as a living family of faith.

I look forward to seeing you all back home at Holy Trinity.

**With love in the Lord,
Fr. Christoforos**

Σεπτέμβριος 2026

Αγαπητοί μου ενορίτες και φίλοι,



Καθώς υποδεχόμαστε τον Σεπτέμβριο και μαζί του μια νέα περίοδο στη ζωή του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού, θα ήθελα να ξεκινήσω με ένα ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό και ιστορικό γεγονός για την Ιερά μας Μητρόπολη. Στις 22 Ιουλίου 2026, η Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδος του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, υπό την προεδρία της Α.Θ. Παναγιότητος του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου, εξέλεξε παμψηφεί τον αγαπημένο μας Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Απόστολο ως νέο **Αρχιεπίσκοπο Καναδά**.

Τα τελευταία τρία χρόνια είχαμε την ευλογία να έχουμε τον Σεβασμιώτατο ως Ποιμενάρχη και πνευματικό μας πατέρα. Γνωρίσαμε από κοντά την αγάπη του για την Εκκλησία, την αφοσίωσή του στον ιερό κλήρο και τον λαό του Θεού και το πατρικό του ενδιαφέρον για τις κοινότητες της Μητροπόλεώς μας. Η δική μας Ενορία έχει έναν ακόμη ιδιαίτερο λόγο να τον θυμάται πάντοτε με ευγνωμοσύνη. **Τον Νοέμβριο του 2024, όταν εορτάσαμε τα 90 χρόνια από την ίδρυση της ιστορικής μας κοινότητας, ο Σεβασμιώτατος μας προσέφερε ένα μοναδικό δώρο, ανυψώνοντας τον Ιερό μας Ναό σε Καθεδρικό Ναό.** Η στιγμή εκείνη αποτελεί πλέον ένα σημαντικό κεφάλαιο στην ιστορία μας και θα παραμένει για πάντα συνδεδεμένη με την αρχιερατική διακονία του ανάμεσά μας.

Η εκλογή του στην Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Καναδά μάς γεμίζει χαρά και υπερηφάνεια, αλλά συγχρόνως και συγκίνηση, καθώς αποχαιρετούμε έναν Ιεράρχη που γνωρίσαμε και αγαπήσαμε. Την Τρίτη 8 Σεπτεμβρίου, κληρικοί και λαϊκοί της Μητροπόλεώς μας θα συγκεντρωθούμε στο The Venetian στο Garfield της Νέας Ιερσέης για το αποχαιρετιστήριο δείπνο προς τιμήν του, ώστε να του εκφράσουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας και να του ευχηθούμε κάθε ευλογία στη νέα μεγάλη αποστολή που του εμπιστεύθηκε η Μητέρα Εκκλησία. Η Ενθρόνισή του ως Αρχιεπισκόπου Καναδά θα πραγματοποιηθεί το Σάββατο 19 Σεπτεμβρίου 2026 στο Τορόντο. Ο Χριστός, ο Μέγας Αρχιερέυς της Εκκλησίας, να τον ενισχύει, να τον φωτίζει και να του χαρίζει πολλά και καρποφόρα χρόνια αρχιερατικής διακονίας. **ΑΞΙΟΣ!**

Ο Σεπτέμβριος όμως σηματοδοτεί μια νέα αρχή και για όλους εμάς. Μετά τους διαφορετικούς ρυθμούς του καλοκαιριού, οι οικογένειές μας επιστρέφουν σταδιακά στην καθημερινότητά τους. Τα παιδιά ξαναμπαίνουν στις σχολικές αίθουσες, οι δραστηριότητες αρχίζουν και η ζωή του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού γεμίζει και πάλι με κίνηση. Μέσα σε αυτή την επιστροφή στην καθημερινότητα, η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί να προσέξουμε κάτι ουσιαστικό: καθώς οργανώνουμε ξανά το πρόγραμμά μας, να μη λησμονήσουμε να αφήσουμε χώρο και για τον Χριστό.

Άλλωστε, η **1η Σεπτεμβρίου είναι η αρχή του νέου Εκκλησιαστικού Έτους**. Η Εκκλησία μάς θυμίζει με αυτόν τον τρόπο ότι ακόμη και ο χρόνος μπορεί να αγιαστεί όταν προσφέρεται στον Θεό. Οι ημέρες μας δεν είναι απλώς ημερομηνίες γεμάτες υποχρεώσεις, εργασία, σχολείο και δραστηριότητες. Είναι δώρα του Θεού και ευκαιρίες να αγαπήσουμε περισσότερο, να προσευχηθούμε περισσότερο, να μετανοήσουμε, να συγχωρήσουμε και να πλησιάσουμε τον Χριστό.

Γι' αυτό η αρχή της εκκλησιαστικής χρονιάς είναι μια καλή ευκαιρία να αναρωτηθούμε: **Πώς θα χρησιμοποιήσουμε τον χρόνο που μας δίνει ο Θεός;** Θα υπάρχει περισσότερος χώρος για προσευχή; Θα έχει η Κυριακάτικη Θεία Λειτουργία τη θέση που της αξίζει μέσα στην οικογενειακή μας ζωή; Θα πλησιάζουμε συχνότερα τα Ιερά Μυστήρια; Θα βοηθήσουμε τα παιδιά μας να γνωρίσουν την πίστη τους και να αγαπήσουν την Εκκλησία;



Ο Σεπτέμβριος μάς δίνει την ευκαιρία να ξεκινήσουμε ξανά. Ίσως η προηγούμενη χρονιά να ήταν πνευματικά όμορφη. Ίσως να ήταν δύσκολη. Ίσως πολλές φορές να είπαμε ότι θα ερχόμαστε συχνότερα στην Εκκλησία ή ότι θα δώσουμε περισσότερο χρόνο στην πνευματική μας ζωή, αλλά τελικά δεν το καταφέραμε. Ο Θεός όμως δεν κουράζεται να μας προσφέρει νέες αρχές. Οι πόρτες της Εκκλησίας παραμένουν ανοιχτές και ο Χριστός συνεχίζει να μας περιμένει.

Η πρώτη μεγάλη Θεομητορική εορτή του νέου εκκλησιαστικού έτους είναι το **Γενέσιο της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου στις 8 Σεπτεμβρίου**. Η γέννηση της μικρής Μαρίας από τον Ιωακείμ και την Άννα ίσως να φαινόταν τότε σαν ένα απλό οικογενειακό γεγονός. Μέσα όμως στην πρόνοια του Θεού άρχιζε να ξεδιπλώνεται το μεγάλο σχέδιο της σωτηρίας. Η Μαρία θα γινόταν ο έμψυχος Ναός του Θεού και από εκείνη θα γεννιόταν ο Χριστός. Γι' αυτό η Εκκλησία ψάλλει: «**Ἡ γέννησίς σου Θεοτόκε, χαρὰν ἐμήνυσε πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ**». Η γέννησή της μάς υπενθυμίζει ότι ο Θεός πολλές φορές εργάζεται αθόρυβα και προετοιμάζει μεγάλα πράγματα πολύ πριν εμείς μπορέσουμε να τα αντιληφθούμε.

Στις **14 Σεπτεμβρίου** η Εκκλησία μας εορτάζει την **Ύψωση του Τιμίου και Ζωοποιού Σταυρού**. Εκείνο που στα μάτια του κόσμου έμοιαζε με απόλυτη ήττα έγινε με τον Χριστό η μεγαλύτερη νίκη. Το όργανο της καταδίκης έγινε σημείο σωτηρίας και ελπίδας. Επάνω στον Σταυρό το μίσος απαντήθηκε με συγχώρηση, ο πόνος με αγάπη και ο θάνατος με την υπόσχεση της Αναστάσεως.



Για εμάς τους Ορθοδόξους ο Σταυρός δεν είναι απλώς κάτι που φοράμε στον λαιμό μας ή τοποθετούμε στα σπίτια μας. Είναι τρόπος ζωής. Ο Χριστός μάς καλεί να σηκώσουμε τον προσωπικό μας σταυρό και να Τον ακολουθήσουμε. Η οικογένεια απαιτεί θυσίες. Η ανατροφή των παιδιών απαιτεί θυσίες. Η αληθινή αγάπη, η πίστη και η διακονία απαιτούν κόπο. Όταν όμως ο σταυρός μας ενώνεται με τον Σταυρό του Χριστού, τότε ο πόνος και η θυσία αποκτούν άλλο νόημα, γιατί κανένας σταυρός που σηκώνεται μαζί με τον Χριστό δεν μένει χωρίς την ελπίδα της Αναστάσεως.

Σας προσκαλώ λοιπόν όλους να έρθετε στη **Θεία Λειτουργία τη Δευτέρα 14 Σεπτεμβρίου**, για να προσκυνήσουμε μαζί τον Τίμιο και Ζωοποιό Σταυρό του Κυρίου. Ας θυμόμαστε επίσης ότι η Ύψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρού είναι **ημέρα αυστηρής νηστείας, με ιδιαίτερα κατανυκτικό χαρακτήρα, παρόμοιο με εκείνον της Μεγάλης Παρασκευής**. Η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί αυτή την ημέρα να προσευχηθούμε, να νηστέψουμε και να στρέψουμε τον νου μας στη θυσία του Χριστού, διά του Σταυρού του Οποίου ήρθε στον κόσμο η σωτηρία.

Ο Σεπτέμβριος είναι επίσης ο μήνας κατά τον οποίο ξεκινά και πάλι ολόκληρη η ζωή της κοινότητάς μας. Την **Κυριακή 27 Σεπτεμβρίου**, μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία, θα πραγματοποιηθεί το ετήσιο **Κοινοτικό μας Πικνίκ**. Εύχομαι να είμαστε όλοι εκεί. Είναι μια όμορφη ευκαιρία να συναντηθούμε ξανά μετά το καλοκαίρι, να καλωσορίσουμε νέες οικογένειες και να χαρούμε τη μεταξύ μας κοινωνία. Η ενορία δεν είναι απλώς ένας Ναός στον οποίο πηγαίνουμε για τις ακολουθίες. Είναι οικογένεια, και μια οικογένεια χρειάζεται να συναντιέται, να γνωρίζεται και να μοιράζεται όμορφες στιγμές.

Το **Κατηχητικό μας Σχολείο** θα ξεκινήσει τη νέα χρονιά **την Κυριακή 20 Σεπτεμβρίου με Αγιασμό για τα παιδιά και τους διδάσκοντες**. Ευχαριστώ θερμά τους υπευθύνους και τους κατηχητές μας που αφιερώνουν χρόνο και αγάπη σε αυτή την τόσο σημαντική διακονία. Επενδύουμε πολλά στη μόρφωση των παιδιών μας. Φροντίζουμε για το σχολείο, τις σπουδές και το επαγγελματικό τους μέλλον. Δεν πρέπει όμως να φροντίζουμε λιγότερο για την ψυχή τους. Ένα παιδί που γνωρίζει ότι ανήκει στον Χριστό έχει ένα πνευματικό θεμέλιο που καμία κοσμική επιτυχία δεν μπορεί να αντικαταστήσει.

Το **Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο** ετοιμάζεται επίσης να υποδεχθεί τους μαθητές του. Μέσα από την ελληνική γλώσσα, την ιστορία, τον πολιτισμό, την πίστη και τις παραδόσεις μας, τα παιδιά παραλαμβάνουν μια πολύτιμη κληρονομιά. Δεν διδάσκουμε τα Ελληνικά απλώς για να διατηρήσουμε κάτι από το παρελθόν. Δίνουμε στα παιδιά μας ρίζες, ώστε να γνωρίζουν την καταγωγή και την ταυτότητά τους καθώς προχωρούν στο μέλλον.

Εδώ όμως θέλω να μοιραστώ μαζί σας έναν πραγματικό προβληματισμό. **Οι εγγραφές και η συστηματική συμμετοχή στο Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο βρίσκονται δυστυχώς σε πολύ χαμηλά επίπεδα και χρειαζόμαστε περισσότερα παιδιά.**

Αν αυτή η κατάσταση συνεχιστεί, ίσως κάποια ημέρα βρεθούμε στη δυσάρεστη θέση να μην μπορούμε πλέον να διατηρήσουμε το πρόγραμμα διδασκαλίας της ελληνικής γλώσσας. Και αυτό θα ήταν πραγματικά κρίμα για μια ιστορική κοινότητα όπως η Αγία Τριάδα, με περισσότερα από ενενήντα χρόνια ιστορίας και τόσο βαθιές ελληνικές και ορθόδοξες ρίζες.

Έχουμε πολλές οικογένειες και πολλά παιδιά στην κοινότητά μας. Γι' αυτό απευθύνω μια ειλικρινή παρακλήση προς τους γονείς: **Ξανασκεφτείτε το και κάντε κάθε δυνατή προσπάθεια να εγγραφείτε τα παιδιά σας στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο.** Αν θέλουμε να υπάρχει αυτή η διακονία για τις επόμενες γενιές, πρέπει να τη στηρίξουμε σήμερα. Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο δεν μπορεί να διατηρηθεί μόνο από την καλή μας πρόθεση ή από την αγάπη μας για την Ελλάδα. **Θα παραμείνει ζωντανό μόνο εάν υπάρχουν παιδιά μέσα στις τάξεις του.** Οι προηγούμενες γενιές εργάστηκαν σκληρά και έκαναν μεγάλες θυσίες για να διατηρήσουν τη γλώσσα και την κληρονομιά τους σε αυτή τη χώρα. Ας μην επιτρέψουμε να χαθεί στη δική μας γενιά αυτό που εκείνοι αγωνίστηκαν τόσο πολύ να μας παραδώσουν.

Τα νεανικά μας προγράμματα, **GOYA, JOY και HOPE**, δίνουν στα παιδιά και στους νέους μας τη δυνατότητα να δημιουργήσουν φιλίες μέσα σε ένα περιβάλλον που έχει ως κέντρο τον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία. Τα παιδιά μας μεγαλώνουν σε έναν κόσμο γεμάτο φωνές και επιρροές που προσπαθούν καθημερινά να διαμορφώσουν τις σκέψεις, τις επιλογές και τις αξίες τους. Η Εκκλησία πρέπει να έχει δυνατή παρουσία στη ζωή τους. **Γονείς, φέρτε τα παιδιά σας στη Θεία Λειτουργία και στο Κατηχητικό.** Ενθαρρύνετέ τα να συμμετέχουν στα νεανικά μας προγράμματα και να δημιουργούν φιλίες μέσα στην Εκκλησία. Ίσως κάποτε συνειδητοποιήσετε ότι αυτό ήταν ένα από τα πολυτιμότερα δώρα που τους προσφέρατε.



Θέλω παράλληλα να εκφράσω τη βαθιά και ειλικρινή ευγνωμοσύνη μου προς όλους τους συμβούλους και υπευθύνους των νεανικών μας προγραμμάτων, οι οποίοι αγαπούν τα παιδιά μας και θυσιάζουν πολύτιμο προσωπικό χρόνο για να τα υπηρετήσουν. Κάθε συνάντηση και κάθε δραστηριότητα απαιτεί προετοιμασία, υπομονή και αφοσίωση. Τους ευχαριστώ μέσα από την καρδιά μου για όσα προσφέρουν, ώστε τα παιδιά μας να αισθάνονται ότι μέσα στην Εκκλησία υπάρχει ένας χώρος όπου ανήκουν, και είναι καλοδεχούμενα.

Η αγαπημένη μας **Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότητα «Αγία Αγάπη»**, υπό την προεδρία της Ντίνας Βερικάκη, συνεχίζει και φέτος το σημαντικό φιλανθρωπικό της έργο. Η Φιλόπτωχος μάς θυμίζει ότι η πίστη δεν μπορεί να περιορίζεται μέσα στους τοίχους του Ναού. Ο Χριστός μάς στέλνει προς εκείνον που πονά, που είναι μόνος, που δυσκολεύεται και που χρειάζεται βοήθεια. Προσκαλώ όλες τις κυρίες της κοινότητάς μας που δεν συμμετέχουν ακόμη να γνωρίσουν αυτή την όμορφη διακονία και να προσφέρουν τα δικά τους χαρίσματα στην υπηρεσία του Χριστού και του συνανθρώπου.



Αγαπητοί μου, όλα τα προγράμματα και οι δραστηριότητές μας έχουν μεγάλη αξία. Δεν πρέπει όμως ποτέ να ξεχνάμε τον πραγματικό λόγο για τον οποίο υπάρχει η κοινότητά μας: **τον Ιησού Χριστό.** Μπορούμε να έχουμε επιτυχημένες εκδηλώσεις, οργανωμένα προγράμματα και δραστήριες οργανώσεις, **αλλά η καρδιά της ενορίας μας πρέπει πάντοτε να είναι το Ιερό Θυσιαστήριο.** Εκεί βρίσκουν όλα το πραγματικό τους νόημα. Ο τελικός σκοπός κάθε διακονίας μας πρέπει να είναι να οδηγήει τις ψυχές πιο κοντά στον Χριστό.

Καθώς λοιπόν τα προγράμματά μας γεμίζουν ξανά, σας παρακαλώ να μην επιτρέψετε στην Κυριακή να γίνει απλώς ακόμη μία ημέρα υποχρεώσεων. **Κάντε τη Θεία Λειτουργία το κέντρο της εβδομάδας σας.** Ελάτε μαζί με τα παιδιά σας. Ελάτε ως οικογένεια. Προσευχηθείτε μαζί. Συμμετέχετε στα Ιερά Μυστήρια. Βρείτε τη θέση σας μέσα στη ζωή της Αγίας Τριάδος. Η Εκκλησία είναι το σπίτι όλων μας και οι πόρτες της είναι ανοιχτές τόσο σε εκείνους που βρίσκονται εδώ για δεκαετίες όσο και σε εκείνους που θα περάσει το κατώφλι της για πρώτη φορά.



Καθώς ξεκινά το νέο Εκκλησιαστικό Έτος και μια νέα περίοδος στη ζωή της Αγίας Τριάδος, ας την ξεκινήσουμε **όλοι μαζί και πάντοτε με τον Χριστό.** Εύχομαι ο Κύριος να ευλογεί τον Καθεδρικό μας Ναό, τις διακονίες μας, τους εθελοντές, τους δασκάλους και κατηχητές μας, τα παιδιά και τους νέους μας και κάθε οικογένεια της κοινότητάς μας. Ιδιαίτερα εύχομαι να προστατεύει και να φωτίζει όλα τα παιδιά μας καθώς επιστρέφουν στα σχολεία και τις σπουδές τους, χαρίζοντάς τους υγεία, σοφία και καλή πρόοδο.

Με τις πρεσβείες της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου και υπό τη σκέπη του Τιμίου και Ζωοποιού Σταυρού του Κυρίου μας, εύχομαι η ειρήνη του Θεού να κατοικεί στις καρδιές, στα σπίτια και στις οικογένειές σας και η Αγία Τριάδα να συνεχίζει να προσοδεύει ως μια ζωντανή οικογένεια πίστεως, αγάπης και εν Χριστώ κοινωνίας.

Ανυπομονώ να σας δω όλους και πάλι στο πνευματικό μας σπίτι, στην Αγία Τριάδα.

**Με αγάπη Χριστού,
π. Χριστοφόρος**

40-DAY BLESSINGS OF MOTHER & CHILD

The Rite of Churching

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

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



Photos of the 40 day blessing of baby Polyxeni by her parents Yianni & Ivana Degermentzidis, August 9



The Feast of the Dormition of our Theotokos at our Cathedral ~ August 15, 2026

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek *kimisis*) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.



On **Sunday, August 16**, Fr Christoforos invited our college students to come forward to the solea for a special prayer and blessing. As our college students prepare to begin a new academic year, we send them forth with the prayers and blessing of their

Church family. Whether beginning college for the first time or returning for another year, may they always remember that Christ goes with them, their parish family is praying for them, and Holy Trinity will always be their spiritual home.



BACKPACK PACKING!!

On Thursday, August 20, we gathered and packed backpacks for 115 students for the Urban Promise School. We would like to thank the many parishioners who donated these much-needed school supplies for students who may otherwise go without! We had two carloads!!!

Great job everyone!!



Message to Our Children from Father Christoforos

My dear children,

September is here, bringing a new beginning! School is starting, your activities are returning, and our Church also begins a new Ecclesiastical Year on **September 1**. As you return to your classrooms, remember that Christ goes with you everywhere. Begin your day with prayer, make your Cross, work hard, respect your teachers and parents, and always look for opportunities to be kind, especially to someone who may feel lonely or left out.

September also means that our programs at Holy Trinity are beginning again. **Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, JOY, HOPE, and all our youth ministries are waiting for you!** Remember that Holy Trinity is not only your parents' or grandparents' church. **It is your Church and your spiritual home too.** I hope to see all of you participating, learning about your Orthodox Faith and Greek heritage, making good friends, and growing together in Christ. I am also deeply grateful to all our teachers and advisors who love you and generously give their time to serve you.

Most importantly, never forget **who you are and to Whom you belong.** You are a beloved child of God. Never be ashamed of your faith, your Cross, or your Orthodox Christian identity. Keep Christ close to your heart and allow Him to guide you in everything you do. I pray that He protects you throughout this new school year, blesses your studies and friendships, and helps you grow in faith, wisdom, and love. **I cannot wait to see you all back home at Holy Trinity!**

With much love and many prayers,
Fr. Christoforos



ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR / September 1

Reading:

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

can deduce the aforementioned year (3 B.C.) by multiplying the fifty-two complete Indictions by the number of years in each (15), and adding the three years of the fifty-third Indiction.

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

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

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

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

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

August 2026

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

As we begin the new Ecclesiastical Year this September, I would like to extend my warmest wishes and blessings to each of you and your families.

September marks not only the beginning of a new church year, but also a time for renewal, and new beginnings.

I am especially looking forward to welcoming everyone back at our **Welcome Back Picnic on September 27**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our parish family to come together, reconnect after the summer, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

As we begin this new year, I also encourage everyone to consider becoming more involved in the life of our parish. **Please take a moment to sign up for one or more of our many ministries and parish organizations.**

I look forward to seeing everyone at church and at our Welcome Back Picnic as we begin another wonderful year together as one parish family.

In Christ's Service.

Georgia Halakos

Parish Council President



Sound System Pledge Drive

We need to raise: \$30,000



As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance our Cathedral, we are proceeding with the installation of a new sound system. Our current system has become outdated, and this upgrade will greatly improve the clarity of our Divine Services, sermons, and parish events for the benefit of our entire community. The total cost of the project is nearly \$30,000, and we prayerfully ask for your support in completing this important improvement. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Fr. Christoforos or Susie at the Church Office.

Every gift, no matter the amount, brings us closer to our goal.

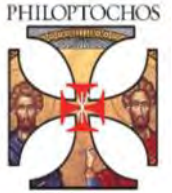
Thank you in advance!

___ Over \$20,000	___ \$20,000	___ \$15,000
___ \$10,000	___ \$5,000	___ \$2,500
___ \$1,000	___ \$500	___ Other

Print Name:



Philoptochos Sisterhood of Holy Trinity St. Agape Chapter



Beloved Father Christoforos, Ladies of Philoptochos and Parishioners,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a new Ecclesiastical year.

The Ladies of Philoptochos were pleased once again to host the luncheon following the celebration of the Dormition of our Lady Theotokos. Thank you to everyone who contributed sandwiches, fruit, and desserts. It was wonderful to see our Community Hall filled with parishioners. We were also grateful to provide coffee hour after the blessing for our young adults heading to college, and we wish them all the best as they begin this

new chapter.

Once again, we gathered and packed backpacks for 115 students at the Urban Promise School. We hope that these backpacks and school supplies assist the students to achieve a successful academic year.

Our first Philoptochos meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Hall. As is tradition, this will be a covered-dish meeting, and we hope you will join us with a special dish to share.

On September 13 we'll have an Artoklasia for our members asking for health and strength to carry out our philanthropic duties.

Looking ahead, please be sure to mark your calendars for November 20 for our annual Bid N Buy!!

Wishing you all a blessed Ecclesiastical year.

In Christ's Service,

Dena Verikakis

Adult Bible Study

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

- ♦ To read the greatest story ever told, the story of Jesus Christ.
- ♦ To find moral and spiritual guidance for your life.
- ♦ To learn God's way of forgiveness and eternal life.
- ♦ To build lasting moral values for your children.
- ♦ To read the stories of courageous women and men of faith.
- ♦ To discover God's everlasting love.
- ♦ To build a storehouse of knowledge of Christian faith.
- ♦ To discover God's principles of marriage and family life.
- ♦ To build hope for the future.
- ♦ To gain strength to face life's difficulties with faith and trust in God.
- ♦ To meet God personally through Jesus Christ.
- ♦ To develop habits of daily worship.
- ♦ To become a teacher of Christian faith in your parish.
- ♦ To grow intellectually, spiritually, and morally.
- ♦ To be able to encourage and help others grow in faith.

The Adult Bible Study is set to resume September 23rd.
WATCH WEEKLY BULLETINS FOR START DATES/TIMES

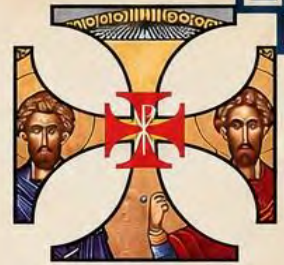
Wednesday Afternoons @ 12:00pm led by John Lazare

For further information you may call John at (302) 239-6140

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



HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



PHILOPTOCHOS *Sunday*

IN CELEBRATION OF

SAINT AGAPE,
DAUGHTER OF SAINT SOPHIA

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

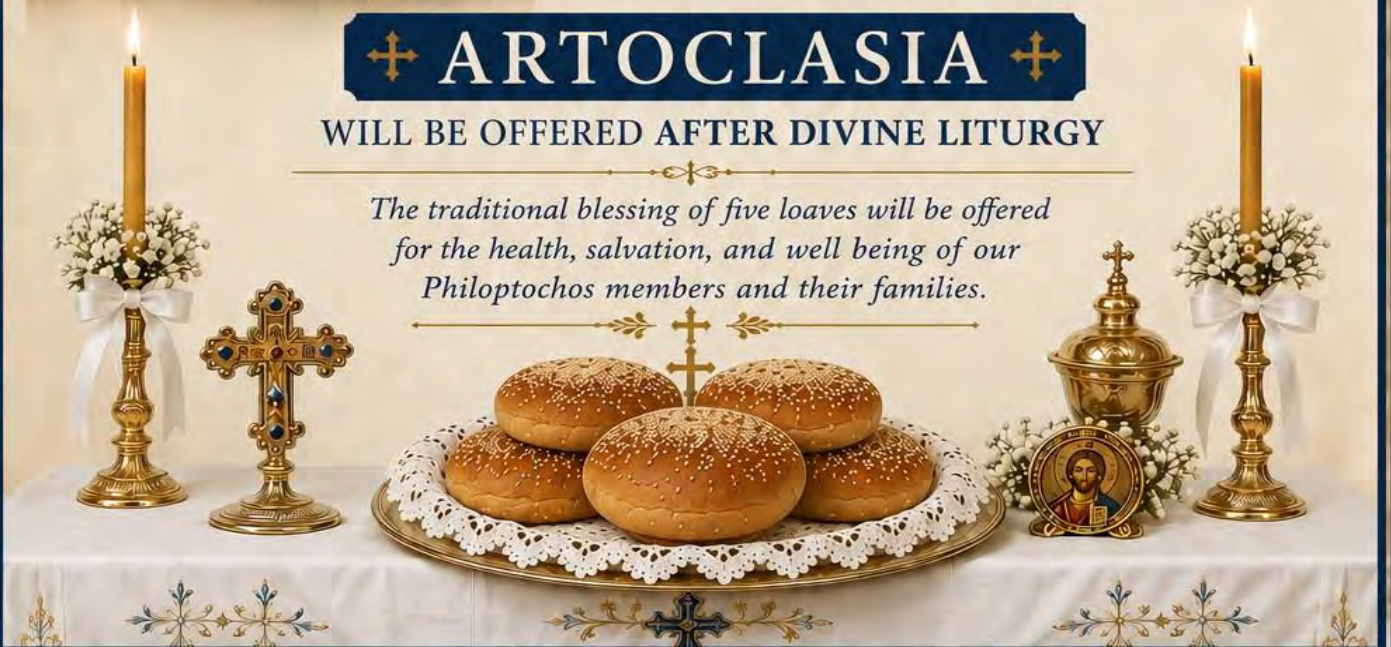
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR
SAINT AGAPE AND THE MINISTRY
OF PHILOPTOCHOS.



✠ ARTOCLASIA ✠

WILL BE OFFERED AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

*The traditional blessing of five loaves will be offered
for the health, salvation, and well being of our
Philoptochos members and their families.*



✠ FAITH. LOVE. SERVICE. ✠

For we are God's fellow workers.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Behind the mask,
there's a cause worth supporting

BID *and* BUY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
Wilmington, Delaware

An evening of elegance, excitement & fabulous gifts!

Friday, November 20th
doors open at 6pm

PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY!
VENMO AVAILABLE \$40



venmo

RSVP to Angie Karakasidis
610.864.4621 or
akarakasidis@yahoo.com

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
OUR MISSION, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CENTER
808 NORTH BROOM STREET, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



The Young @ Heart invites you to

Set Sail for an Unforgettable Experience!

Join us for a Scenic River Cruise

Discover Wilmington like never before

— from the water!

COST
\$29.95

Saturday, September 5th @ 12pm

(NOTE: this is in place of our regular Thursday meeting)

*We will have lunch at the
Iron Hill Brewery after the Boat Ride (on our own)*

Our cruise will depart aboard the Brandywine—a custom-built vessel featuring a premium surround sound system, vibrant LED lighting, an onboard restroom, and a fully stocked tiki bar serving your favorite tropical cocktails and soft drinks ~ all from our convenient location on the vibrant Wilmington Riverfront, along the historic Christina River!

Call Sophia 302.893.8850 or Dimitra 302.753.3941 to RSVP!!!

ALL are welcome! We hope you can join us!

HOLY TRINITY REGISTRY August 2026

40 Day Blessings:

Eleni Gianakis, daughter of Jerry & Tara Gianakis, received her 40 day Church blessing on August 2, 2026.

Polyxeni Degermentzidis, daughter of Yianni & Ivana Degermentzidis, received her 40 day Church blessing on August 9, 2026.

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

Baptisms:

Athanasios Kiril Cvetkov, son of Aliki & Kiril Cvetkov, grandson of Leo & Irene Rasis, was baptized in our Church on August 22, 2026. His sponsors were Adrian & Robert Svingos. We congratulate him and his sponsors and welcome Athanasios into the Orthodox faith.

Weddings:

George & Michelle Hall were united in marriage on August 16, 2026. The sponsor was Adriana Mirra. We congratulate the newly united in Christ and pray our Lord will bless them always.

Memorials:

Fotini Visvardis ~ 40 Days ~ August 2

Andrew Tsaldaris ~ 1 Year ~ August 23

Denise "Soula" Tsakiris ~ 5 years ~ August 30



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

2026-2027 Sunday School Calendar

2026

Sept 1	(Tue) No Sunday School – Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year
Sept 13	Welcome Back / Registration Sunday
Sept 20	Sunday School – Agiasmos – First Day of Classes!
Sept 27	Sunday School
Oct 4	Sunday School
Oct 11	Sunday School – Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Oct 18	Sunday School
Oct 25	Sunday School – Thanksgiving/Canned Food Drive Begins
Nov 1	Sunday School
Nov 8	Sunday School
Nov 15	Sunday School
Nov 22	Sunday School – Thanksgiving Drive/Canned Food Ends; Christmas Sock Drive Begins
Nov 26	(Thurs) – Thanksgiving
Nov 29	No Sunday School – Thanksgiving Weekend
Dec 6	Sunday School
Dec 13	Sunday School – Breakfast with Santa (Greek School)
Dec 20	Sunday School – Youth Christmas Pageant, Communion Breakfast, Christmas Drive Ends
Dec 27	No Sunday School – Christmas Nativity Break

2027

Jan 3	No Sunday School – Christmas Nativity / Theophany Break
Jan 6	(Wed) – Holy Theophany
Jan 10	Sunday School – Vasilopita Sunday
Jan 16	(Sat) – HTW Basketball Tournament
Jan 17	No Sunday School – HTW Basketball Tournament
Jan 24	Sunday School – Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Jan 31	Sunday School
Feb 7	Sunday School – Godparents' Sunday, Sunday School Coffee Hour
Feb 14	Sunday School
Feb 21	Sunday School
Feb 28	Sunday School
Mar 7	Sunday School
Mar 14	Sunday School – Forgiveness Sunday
Mar 15	(Mon) – Great Lent Begins
Mar 19	(Fri) – St. John Chrysostom Parish Level Oratorical Festival (7th-12th)
Mar 21	Sunday School – Sunday of Orthodoxy, Procession with Icons
Mar 28	Sunday School
Apr 4	Sunday School – Veneration of the Cross, Procession (students remain in Church); – Greek Independence Day Parade (Philadelphia)
Apr 11	Sunday School
Apr 18	Sunday School – SS Elementary Oratorical Festival (PreK-6th)
Apr 24	(Sat) – Saturday of Lazarus Community Palm Folding / Youth Retreat
Apr 25	No Sunday School – Palm Sunday
Apr 30	(Fri) – Holy Friday
May 2	No Sunday School – Pascha
May 9	Sunday School – Mother's Day
May 16	Sunday School
May 23	Sunday School – Sunday School Graduation, Awards Sunday

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School Registration is September 13th. Religious education classes will begin September 20th. If your child misses registration, please complete this form and bring to the Religious Education office.

Children are placed in our Religious Education classes according to the grade they will be attending in public/private school. Pre-School students must be three years old and Kindergarten students must be **five years old by September 1, 2026.**

The *Agiasmos* service (blessing the children and teachers) will be held on September 20th.

REGISTRATION FORM

Student's Name _____ Birthdate: _____

Student Baptismal Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Student Home Phone & Cell Phone _____

Family E-mail Address _____

Student's Email Address _____

Grade attending in Regular School _____

Parents' Names _____

Parent Cell Phone _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL USE ONLY

Grade in Sunday School _____

Added to Sunday School Directory _____



Holy Trinity Greek School

☎ 302)654-4446

✉ kallitsaganos@gmail.com

School Registration Form

Student's Name :

Email Address

Grade :

Home Address :

Name of Parents :

Student's age

Date of Birth :

Contact Number

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

Class preK-6, Teen 7th Grade & up
Adult Beginners & Advanced

Open House is
9/23
@ 5:30pm

pre K -6th grade

☐

Teen Class 7th +& up

☐

Adult Class

☐

GREEK SCHOOL

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Classes begin in September
Open House & Agiasmo service
Wednesday September 23rd 5:30–7pm

Pre-K – 6th grade

Interactive activities, music, and games
Ellinopoula app, Geia Xara books Greek Dance 2x month
Wednesday classes 5:30–7:15



Ellinomatheia Class A1, A2, B1

Classes work towards Greek Language proficiency

*Seal of Biliteracy

One on one tutoring available upon request

Adult classes (begin 9/23)

Wednesdays 5:30–7:00

We welcome learners of all levels.

SCAN QR TO REGISTER



For more information: please contact

Popi Tsaganos

(302) 598–3561

Kallitsaganos@gmail.com



2026 HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL SPONSORS OF ONE DAY OR MORE

Adamopoulos, Christos & Nancy	Galaris, Rick & Diana	Kirifides, Alexander & Kathy	Nannas, Theodore & Alexandra
Asimos, George & Kristie	Geanopulos, Georgiean	Kirifides, Lazarus M & Helen	Psaltis, Thomas & Cynthia
Bacchieri, Stacey	Gianelos, James & Stacie	Kirifides, Michael & Kerry	Raisis, Leonidas & Irene
Caras, Alexandra	Gray, David & Eugenia	Kirifides, Vasil & Eleftheria	Raisis, William & Emily
Caras, Constantine & Maria	Grivas, Christopher & Michelle	Kollias, Basil & Demi	Rassias, Dion & Gina
Caras, Valerie	Halakos, Demetris & Georgia	Lazare, John & Sandra	Souleles, Nicholas & Alexis
Chambers, George & Katherine	Halakos, Evangelos & Donna	Markatos, Harry & Susan	Tsaganos, Anthony & Joanne
Colborn, Brian & Nicole	Halakos, Ioannis & Eftihia	Maravelias, James & Diane	Turley, Steve & Akiko
Constantinou, John & Carol	Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie	Marvel, Jessica	Vande Poele, A. David & Anna
Dargakis, Mike & Kleo	Hall, George & Michelle	Michell, Constantine & Elaine	Wolcott, Josiah & Paraskevi
Diamond, Thomas	Joseck, Xanthi & Fred	Michell, Theodore & Catherine	Zerefos, Demetrios & Constantina
Dianastasis, Ernie & Jennifer	Karakasidis, John & Vickie	Milionis, Constantin	
Faller, James & Catherine	Karas, Theodore & Pamela	Mistras, Antonios & Soula	
Fournaris, Emmanuel & Evie	Kayiaros, Stephen	Moutsatsos, George & Alexis	

2026 FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Adamopoulos, Sotiere	Ferentinos, Joan	Karahalias, Stratton	Manoloudis, Michael & Kandi
Alexopoulos, Demetri & Lauren	Fessaras, Antonios	Karakasidis, Demetri & Eleni	Mantzavinos, Spiros & Megan
Alexopoulos, John	Fisfis, Nicholas & Cathryn	Karakasidis, Stephanos & Evaggelia	Marcantonis, George & Agnoulia
Almasou, Elias & Rasha	Floropoulos, Yiannis	Karaoglanis, Eleftherios & Niki	Marini, Irene
Amygdalos, Michael & Christine	Fotakis, Greg & Angeliki	Karas, George & Eva	Marinis, Kalliope
Anagnostou, Anamaria	Fotakos, Leonidas & Sophia	Karas, George M	Mathews, Alexander
Anagnostou, Anthoula	Fountzoulas, Costas & Audrey	Karas, Michael & Kate	Matulas, Anagnostis & Angela
Anastassiades, Litsa	Fournakis, Susan	Karavasilis, Nicholas & Foula	McLaughlin, Christina
Andrianopoulos, Faith	Fournaris, Anna	Kayiaros, Joanna	Minella, Tia & Charles
Angeletakis, Christos & Christina	Fournaris, Constantine & Kristen	Kays, Efigenia	Mitoulis, Nicholas & Stella
Annos, William	Fournaris, George & Soula	Kefallinos, Vasiliki	Moriello, Carissa & Nicholas
Apostolakis, Nicholas & Irene	Frangakis, Christine	Keros, Georgia	Napoli, Frances
Asimos SR, George	Galanis, Agnes	Kimbiris, George & Beatriz	Novakis, Louis
Atsidis, Kostas	Gatanis, Theodore	Klezaras, Michael & Kathy	Ohlemacher, Evangline
Barrios, Luis & Dimitra	Gatos, Paula	Klezaras, Nikoletta	O'Neal, Maximillian
Belitsas, Athanasios & Antonia	George, Mary	Klezaras-Lurz, Marina	Pacienza, Stephanie
Bouikidis, Vasilios & Yianna	Georgiou, Constantinos	Kollias, Georgia	Pandelakis, Denis & Anna
Bouloukos, Harry & Anastasia	Gianakis, Jerry & Tara	Koninis II, John	Pantelopoulos, Anthony & Daphne
Burpulis, Stamatis	Giannakakis, Vivian	Koninis, John+ & Anastasia	Papachrysanthou, Christos & Popi
Calliagas, Katherine	Giannatos, Stavros & Terrie	Kontis, Gus & Cindy	Papanicholas, Maria
Calliagas, Markella	Graham, Catherine	Kontodemos, Klianthis & Anthi	Papettas, Vasilis & Christina
Chahalis, Maria	Grivas, Athena	Kontomaris, Kostas & Melissa	Pappas, Elias & Denise
Charalambides, Dino & Nia	Grivas, Christopher F.	Kostas, John & Gale	Pappas, Elizabeth
Chilimidos, Effie	Grivas, Demetrios	Kostas, Lynn	Pappoulis, Demetra
Chollis, Drew	Guajardo, Evangelina	Kostas, Nicholas & Stephani	Pastis, Jacqueline
Christis, George & Effie	Guardascione, Louis & Shelly	Kostos, John	Pennias, John & Stacey
Christoforatos, Demetri & Dimitra	Halakos, Garifalia	Kouroubatzakis, Ioannis & Christina	Perna, Kevin & Elpida
Christou, Alecca	Haldas, Harry	Kramedas, Matoula	Pettaris, George & Stavroula
Christou, Christos & Evie	Haldas, Nicholas & Rodie	Kranidiotis, Konstantinos & Maria	Piccirilli, Joe & Melissa
Ciabattoni, Olga	Haldas, Thomas	Kromedas, Vasiliki	Pierson, Vetta & Charles
Coates, George & Effie Zerefos	Haldas-Long, Irene	Kyranakis, Demetri & Vanessa	Pispitsos, Pantelis
Constantinou, Elizabeth	Hantzopoulos, Bill & Lisa	Kyranakis, John & Gale	Pittaoulis, Steve
Constantinou, George	Haralambidis, Maroula	Laletas, Earnest & Barbara Brockett	Poulos, Vasilios & Eulampia
Constantinou, Georgia	Haralambidis, Nicholas	Laskaris, Johanna	Psaltis, John
Constantinou, Stephen	Hatzis, Katherine	Lawson, Alexander & Gia	Psihalinos, Athina
Constantinou, Virginia	Healy, Kevin & Sophia	Lawson, John	Psihalinos, Thomas & Magdalini
Courtis, Harry & Sophia	Heliotis, Alexandra	Lawson, Matthew	Raisis, Pauline
Croussouloudis, Despina+	Hionis, Sophia	Lawson., Michael & Victoria	Raisis, Spiros
Dalianis, John & Vicky	Hodlofski, Ryan & Anastasia	Lazopoulos, Emmanuel & Laura	Ramzi, Dino & Maria
Demetriou, Anna	Humphrey, Caroline	Lazopoulos, Jr., John & Christina	Rapposelli, Hareklia
Diakos, Andronikos	Issaris, Katherine	Lempesis, Dimitra	Rassias, George & Amalea
Diakos, Katina	Joris, Irene	Lengel, Robert & Maria	Rassias, Peter & Julie
Diamanty, Thomas+	Joseck, Anastasia	Liappis, Nikolaos & Maria	Regas, Sofia
Diamond, Anthony & Lauren	Joseck, John & Taylor	Liarakos, Ann	Roussos, Michael & Anna
Diamond, John	Kalaizoglou, Apostolos & Niki	Logullo, Desponia & Francis	Ruhl, David & Athena
Dietrich, Michael & Christina	Kalaizoglou, Stavros	Lomis, Toula	Saffos, Giovanna
Donald, Maria & Bill	Kaliakin, Victor & Elizabeth	Lonergan, William & Francesca	Saitis, Mary
Doukakis, Helen	Kamenakis, Peter & Juli	Lurz, Alexandros	Sarmousakis, Chris & Kaja
Drimones, Clara	Kanas, Emmanuel & Valerie	Lurz, Andreas	Sarmousakis, Marika
Drimones, Nicholas	Kanas, Larry & Alicia	Mackewiz, Lee & Irene	Savopoulos, Despina
Driza, Eleni	Karablas, Stelios	Magiros, George	Schillinger, Robert & Karen
Economou, Georgios & Lena	Karagiannis, Peter	Manolagos, Nicholas & Paula	Shahwan, Sofy

Continued...

Staab, Kristina
Stout, Robert & Voula
Tarabicos, Christina
Tarabicos, John & Joanne
Tarabicos, Maria
Tarabicos, Sophia
Tawfik, Emad & Soultana
Teklai, Titi
Theodorakis, Stamatis & Lisa
Theodorakos, Nicholas & Katherine
Thomas, Richard & Angela
Tiniakos, Gregory & Elaine

Tsaganos, Nicholas & Joanna
Tsaganos, Robert
Tsakataras, George
Tsakumis, George & Julia
Tsakumis, Theodore
Tsegkos, Antonios & Maria
Tsigkakos, Dimos & Ioanna
Tsoukalas, Frideriki
Tsoukalas, Niki
Tsugranes, George & Penny
Tzitzifas, Nikko & Fotini
Vassiliou, Kleoniki
Velitskakias, Steve & Karen

Verikakis, Dena
Verikakis, Evangelos & Shannon
Vice, Elaine
Visvardis, Aristeia
Visvardis, Socrates & Ruth
Vlami, Nicholas & Peggy
Vlastaridis, Christina & Ioannis
Vlastaridis, Theodoros & Sofia
Voultsis, Catherine
Voultsis, Evangeline & Damien
Voultsis, Jordana
Wiechecki, Frank & Kelly
Wilkinson, Suzanne

Wilson, Eugenia & Pronto, Julius
Xarhoulakos, Peter
Zerefos, Eugenia
Zerefos, Yianni & Lauren
Ziccarelli, Louis & Catherine
As of August 25, 2026
299 Families

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.holytrintywilmington.org - hit the donate button and follow the prompts)
- 1) Use the QR Code below and it will take you directly to the website donation page.

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

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



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

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

☐ \$1,500.00 (\$125/month 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

We hope everyone had a nice and relaxing summer! After a quiet summer for the Altar Guild, we are looking forward to the new Ecclesiastical year and adorning our church and its icons in the coming months. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to any of our members. No experience is needed and we would love to have you join us.

If you wish to donate towards any of the upcoming feast days, please use the form below.

September 14th – The Elevation of the Cross

November 21st – Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

If you have a special request for a wreath or bouquets, please use the form below.

The cost is \$50.00 for two small arrangements and \$100.00 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: _____

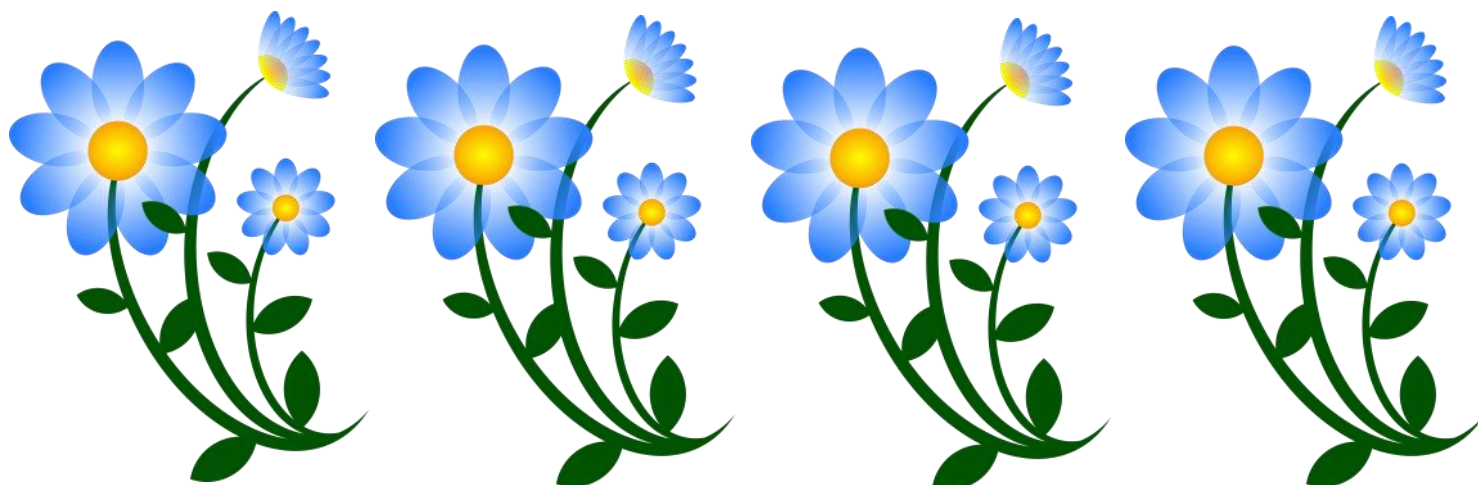
PHONE NUMBER: _____

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



HOLY TRINITY'S ANNUAL



Sunday, September 27, 2025

immediately after worship

Fellowship, Food & Fun for Everyone

Fellowship, Food & Fun for Everyone

There will be...

FUN
&
FUN
&
more
!!FUN!!



Sign up for...

Sunday School
&
Greek School
&
all
Youth Ministries

WE NEED YOUR HELP....

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Hamburgers
Rolls
Salads

Hotdogs
Fruit
Desserts

Water Bottles
Condiments
Soda / Juice



GOYA NEWS



Hello fellow parishioners, my name is Symeon Kranidiotis, and I will be serving as this year's GOYA president. I am a senior at Odyssey Charter School and am honored to help this GOYA year sail smoothly. I'm very passionate about sports as I've swam and played basketball most of my life, volleyball recently in high school, and track & field.

Heres a brief introduction To our GOYA board this year

President: Symeon Kranidiotis, 12th grade

Vice President: Katerina Marcantonis, 11th grade

Treasurer: Yianni Karakasidis, 10th grade

Secretary: Ellen Kirifides, 11th grade

Upcoming September Events

- **Sunday 9/13 : First GOYA meeting**
- **Monday 9/14 : Basketball practice starts**
- **Sunday 9/20 : Welcome back GOYA party**
- **Sunday 9/20: First day of Sunday School**
- **Sunday 9/27: Community welcome back picnic**
- **Sunday 9/27: DVYC basketball season begins**
- **Thursday 10/1 : First night of dance practice (7-8:30)**

Looking forward to a great year with GOYA
and building great memories!

Feel free to reach out with any ideas or
questions.

Symeon Kranidiotis

Email:

Symeonkranidiotis@gmail.com





HOPE & JOY

WELCOME BACK FAMILY NIGHT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2026

5:30-7:30 PM

AHEPA ROOM



JOIN US FOR FOOD,
FAITH, AND FUN AS
WE KICK OFF A
JOYFUL NEW YEAR
TOGETHER!

RSVP: HOPEJOYHTW@GMAIL.COM

-Coffee Hour Hosts 2026 - 27

September

- 6 No coffee hour
- 13 Parish Council
- 20 Philoptochos
- 27 **PC Welcome Back Picnic**

October

- 4 AHEPA
- 11 Philoptochos
- 18 Parish Council
- 25 Sunday/Greek School /**OXI Day Program**

November

- 1 Parish Council (**General Assembly**)
- 8 GOYA
- 15 Daughters of Penelope
- 22 Hellenic University Club
- 29 Young @ Heart

December

- 6 Parish Council
- 13 **Greek School Lunch w/Santa**
- 20 **Philoptochos/Community Breakfast**
- 27 **NO Coffee Hour (Christmas/New Years)**

January

- 3 Young@ Heart
- 10 Hellenic University Club
- 17 **GOYA Basketball Tournament**
- 24 **AHEPA Breakfast/Letters Day**
- 31 Altar Guild

February

- 7 God Parent Sunday (Sunday School)
- 14 Daughters of Penelope
- 21 Philoptochos
- 28 Altar Guild

March

- 7 GOYA
- 14 AHEPA
- 21 Daughters of Penelope
- 28 Greek School (**GK IND Program**)

April

- 4 Young @ Heart
- 11 GOYA
- 18 Parish Council
- 25 **Philoptochos Palm Sunday Lunch**

May

- 2 **NO COFFEE HOUR (Pascha)**
- 9 Hellenic University Club (Mother's Day)
- 16 Parish Council(**General Assembly**)
- 23 **Greek School (GRADUATION)**
- 30 **NO COFFEE HOUR (Memorial Day)**

**JUNE 21 – Parish Council for Holy Trinity
Name Day Celebration**

AUGUST 15 – Philoptochos

**Coffee Hour Organizational Assignments will
resume in September**

These dates are subject to change upon agreement of organizations and prior notification of the Church Office. Additionally, families will often assume a Coffee Hour for Memorials, etc., and in the event the Church is contacted by a family wishing to do so, we will immediately notify you and your organization.

When you host a coffee hour please bring...

1 gallon milk ~ 2 gallons juice

- 2-3 dozen cookies or doughnut holes (for the children!)
- 2-3 dozen doughnuts or danish (cut in half ~ for the adults!!)
- 2-3 dozen bagels (cut in half ~ for everyone!)
- 2-3 tubs cream cheese ~ plain and/or flavored

Fruit is also an option. You are not limited to the above but please remember to bring enough for everyone! (Approximately **100** people)

Each organization is responsible for setting up the food and coffee and cleaning up the tables, food and coffee area after the coffee hour as well.

A TRADITION
UNLIKE
ANY OTHER



LIMITED TO
100
GOLFERS

HOLY TRINITY GREEK OPEN

CONCORD COUNTRY CLUB

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

11:00 AM REGISTRATION | 1:00 PM SHOTGUN START
AWARDS RECEPTION, DELUXE DINNER & PRIZES TO FOLLOW

Complimentary Premium Cigar • Unlimited Drinks on the Course

PLAYER REGISTRATION



\$275
INDIVIDUAL
GOLFER



\$1,100
FOURSOME

REGISTER YOUR FOURSOME

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

302-654-4446

OR EMAIL

office@holyltrinitywilmington.org

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

Two Foursomes, Premium Banner Placement,
Logo on All Event Materials, Tee/Green Sign,
Recognition at Awards Reception

\$3,000



GOLD SPONSOR

Foursome, Tee/Green Sign,
Banner at Reception, Cook Out & Hole

\$1,600



BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR

Foursome, Tee/Green Sign,
Banner at Reception, Cook Out & Hole

\$1,600



CIGAR SPONSOR

Foursome, Tee/Green Sign,
Banner at Reception, Cook Out & Hole

\$1,600



HOLE SPONSOR

Company Name/Logo on Tee or Green Sign

\$275

SPONSOR DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

PRIZES & CONTESTS



LONGEST
DRIVE



CLOSEST
TO THE PIN



PUTTING
CHAMPIONSHIP



WINNING
TEAM

Plus: Skins Game • Door Prizes • Silent Auction

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st Place Finishers

TOURNAMENT FORMAT – SCRAMBLE



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral • 808 N Broom St., Wilmington, DE 19806

Or Email to: office@holyltrinitywilmington.org • (302) 654-4446

Ο Ναός της Αγίας Σοφίας Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, η Αγιασοφιά ΜΑΣ!!

Δρ. Κώστας Γ. Φούντζουλας

«Ο ναός της Αγία Σοφίας Κωνσταντινουπόλεως είναι ιδέα και σύμβολο. Οι άνθρωποι δεν μπόρεσαν να την βλάψουν όσο και αν προσπαθισαν. Η Αγία Σοφία υπερβαίνει κάθε κατάταξη, ταξινόμηση, περιγραφή, ανάλυση. Βιβλία, άρθρα, αναλύσεις, ταινίες, φωτογραφίες, αναπαραστάσεις, δεν δίνουν την εμπειρία του υπερκόσμιου φωτός και του ατέρμονος υπερβατικού χώρου.

Η Αγία Σοφία ως φιλοσοφικό ον, ανήκει στην υπερβατικότητα του Θεού, στην ιδιότητα του Θεού να βρίσκεται έξω και πέρα από τον κόσμο. Ανήκει στην κορυφαία θεϊκή υπέρβαση της ασύγκριτης τελειότητας. Ως έργο τέχνης ανήκει στην ποίηση μιλώντας απευθείας στις ψυχές των ανθρώπων. « (Κ.Ν.Μ.Καζαμιάκης,- *Αρχιτέκτον, ιστορικός αρχιτεκτονικής, ιστορικός Τέχνης*)

Ο ναός της Αγίας Σοφίας χτίσθηκε στην Κωνσταντινούπολη, σε μια ιδιαίτερος σεισμογενή περιοχή, αλλά συνεχίζει να **παραμένει όρθιος επί 15 αιώνες** ενώ άλλα κτίρια στην περιοχή ισοπεδώθηκαν, το οποίο αποτελεί ένα μοναδικό τεχνολογικό επίτευγμα. Ήταν έμπνευση του αυτοκράτορα Μέγα Κωνσταντίνου, όραμα του Ιουστινιανού καθώς και το πρωτοποριακού σχεδιασμού και αρχιτεκτονικής συνθέσεως δημιουργήμα των δύο πιο σημαντικών αρχιτεκτόνων της Αυτοκρατορίας του Βυζαντίου.

Ο **πρώτος** που έθεσε (στο ίδιο σημείο που βρίσκεται και σήμερα) τα θεμέλια ενός ναού του **Θεού Σοφίας** ήταν ο **Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος**. Ο ναός **404 μ.Χ. πυρπολείται** από τους οργισμένους υποστηρικτές του εξορισμένου ιεράρχη Χρυσόστομου. Αργότερα, τον **6ο αιώνα**, ο **Ιουστινιανός** αποφασίζει την ανοικοδόμηση του ναού, με στόχο να γίνει ένας ναός πιο εντυπωσιακός από κάθε άλλον. Αναθέτει το έργο στους κορυφαίους **αρχιτέκτονες** της εποχής, **Ανθέμιο Τραλλιανό και Ισίδωρο τον Μιλήσιο**. Περισσότεροι από 10.000 εργάτες εργάστηκαν για την ανοικοδόμηση του ναού χρησιμοποιώντας τα πιο ακριβά υλικά (χρυσό, πολύτιμους λίθους, λευκό μάρμαρο, ασήμι κ.ά.) και τελικά μόνο σε έξι χρόνια, ρεκόρ για τα δεδομένα της εποχής, η Αγία Σοφία, που στο εξής θα επαναπροσδιόριζε το κέντρο της χριστιανικής πίστης, ολοκληρώνεται.

Μέ μία μεγαλόπρεπη εορτή, ο Ναός της Αγίας Σοφίας χωρητικότητας 23.000 ανθρώπων, **ανοίγει τις πόρτες της** για πρώτη φορά το **537 μ.Χ.** Ο αυτοκράτορας Ιουστινιανός ενθουσιάζεται με το μεγαλείο του ναού, και με τα χέρια υψωμένα προς τα πάνω, στον άμβωνα του ναού, αναφωνεί μία φράση που περνάει στην Ιστορία: **«Δόξα τω Θεώ το καταξιώσάντί με τελέσαι τοιούτον έργον. Νενίκηκά σε Σολομών!»**.

Η Αγία Σοφία ήταν ο πατριαρχικός ναός της Κωνσταντινούπολης· και η αυτοκρατορική Εκκλησία, ενώ κάθε φορά που χτυπούσαν οι καμπάνες της ήταν για την Πόλη μια τεράστια εορτή. Κατά την Δ' Σταυροφορία το **1204 μΧ** ο εσωτερικός διάκοσμος και όλα τα ιερά κειμήλια, σκεύη και υφάσματα της Αγίας Σοφίας καθώς και τα άγια λείψανα που φυλάσσονταν μέσα, **αποσπώνται** με ιδιαίτερη βαρβαρότητα από τους **Σταυροφόρους**. Η λεηλασία αυτή γίνεται στο πλαίσιο της Πρώτης Άλωσης της Πόλης από τους Σταυροφόρους όταν, εκμεταλλευόμενοι τη στρατιωτική παρακμή της Αυτοκρατορίας, επιχειρούν να την καταλύσουν. Κατά τη Λατινοκρατία (**1204-1261**) στον ιερό ναό της Αγίας Σοφίας στέφονται Λατίνοι Πατριάρχες και Αυτοκράτορες· οι Ρωμαίοι είχαν επιτύχει τον στόχο τους: τον απόλυτο εξευτελισμό της Ορθόδοξης θρησκείας. Το **1054 μέσα στην Αγία Σοφία** της Κωνσταντινούπολης το **Σχίσμα** των δύο Εκκλησιών **«νομιμοποιείται»** όταν ο απεσταλμένος του Πάπα εισβάλλει στον ναό, σε ώρα λειτουργίας, και επιδεικτικά ρίχνει πάνω στην Αγία Τράπεζα τον αναθεματισμό του Παπισμού κατά της Ορθοδοξίας.

Η τελευταία χριστιανική λειτουργία στην Αγία Σοφία του Χριστού τελείται στις 28 Μαΐου του 1453. Ο αυτοκράτορας Κωνσταντίνος Παλαιολόγος ΙΑ' Δραγάτης, ο τελευταίος αυτοκράτορας της χρεωκοπημένης πλέον Αυτοκρατορίας της Ανατολικής Ρωμαϊκής Αυτοκρατορίας, η οποία μεωνομάσθη Βυζαντινή το **1571 μΧ** από τον Γερμανό Ιερώνυμο Γούλφ, αφού προσεύχεται μαζί με τον λαό για την Αυτοκρατορία, πέφτει μαχόμενος κατά την προσπάθειά του να υπερασπιστεί τα τείχη της Πόλης. Η Κωνσταντινούπολη τελικά περνάει στα χέρια των Οθωμανών και στο εξής η Αγία Σοφία αναμορφώνεται ώστε να λειτουργεί ως μουσουλμανικό τέμενος.

Μετά την Καταστροφή της Σμύρνης και με την επανάσταση του Κεμάλ Ατατούρκ, από το 1934 μέχρι την 23^η Ιουλίου 2020 η Αγία Σοφία μετατρέπεται σε μουσείο. Την 24^η Ιουλίου 2020 ο ναός της Αγία Σοφίας μετατρέπεται πάλι σε μουσουλμανικό τέμενος, πράξη που πιστοποιεί την Άλωση της Βασιλεύουσας που ολοκληρώθηκε την 16^η Μαρτίου 1964. (ΕΡΤ, Η Μηχανή του Χρόνου)

The Hagia Sophia Church of Constantinople, our Ayasofya!!

Dr. Costas G. Fountzoulas

"The church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople is an idea and a symbol. People could not harm her no matter how hard they have tried. Hagia Sophia goes beyond any classification, rating, description, analysis. Books, articles, analyses, films, photographs, representations, cannot give the experience of supernatural light and endless transcendental space.

Hagia Sophia as a philosophical being, belongs to the transcendence of God, to the quality of God to be outside and beyond the world. It belongs to the supreme divine transcendence of incomparable perfection. As a work of art, it belongs to poetry speaking directly to the souls of people. (K.N.M. Kazamiakis - Architect, historian of architecture, historian of Art)

The Hagia Sophia was built in Constantinople, today's Istanbul, in a highly seismic area, but has remained standing and intact for 15 centuries, while other buildings in the area were leveled, which is a unique technological achievement. It was the inspiration of the emperor Constantine the Great, the vision of Justinian as well as the innovative design and architectural composition created by the two most important architects of the Byzantine Empire.

The first to lay the foundations of the church of the Wisdom God (Sophia) (on the same site as it is today) was Constantine the Great. ***On 404 AD, the church was set on fire by the angry supporters of the exiled hierarch Chrysostom. Later, in the 6th century***, Justinian decided to rebuild the temple, aiming to make it a more impressive temple than any other. He entrusted the project to the leading architects of the time, ***Anthemio Tralliano and Isidore Milesius***. More than 10,000 workers worked to rebuild the church using the most expensive materials (gold, precious stones, white marble, silver, etc.) and finally in ***just six years, a record for the time***, the Hagia Sophia, which from now on it would redefine the center of the Christian faith, it is completed.

With a majestic celebration, the Church of Hagia Sophia, with a capacity of 23,000 people, opens its doors for the first time in ***537 AD***. The emperor Justinian is thrilled with the grandeur of the temple, and with his hands raised upwards, on the pulpit of the temple, exclaims a phrase that goes down in history: ***"Thank God you praised me for completing this work. I have won you Solomon!"***

Hagia Sophia was the patriarchal church of Constantinople, and also the imperial Church, and every time its bells rang it was a huge celebration for the city. During The 4th Crusade in 1204 AD the interior decoration and all the sacred relics, utensils and fabrics of Hagia Sophia as well as the holy relics which were kept inside, were removed with great barbarity by the Crusaders. This looting took place in the context of the First Fall of the City by the Crusaders when, taking advantage of the military decline of the Empire, they tried to overthrow it. ***During the Latin occupation (1204-1261)*** Latin patriarchs and emperors were crowned in the sanctuary of Hagia Sophia; the Romans had achieved their goal: the absolute humiliation of the Orthodox Christianity. In 1054, in the Hagia Sophia of Constantinople, the Schism of the two Churches was ***"legalized"*** when the Pope's envoy invaded the church, during the liturgy, and ostentatiously threw the aphorism of the Papism against Orthodoxy on the Holy Table.

The last Christian liturgy in the Hagia Sophia of Christ is celebrated on May 28, 1453. Emperor Constantine Palaiologos XI 'Dragatis, the last emperor of the now bankrupt Eastern Roman Empire, which was rebranded in 1571 AD by the German Hieronymus Wolf in Byzantine, he prays with the people for the Empire, he fell fighting while trying to defend the city walls. Constantinople eventually passed into the hands of the Ottomans and henceforth Hagia Sophia was rebuilt to function as a mosque.

After the destruction of Smyrna and the revolution of Kemal Ataturk, from 1934 until July 23, 2020, Hagia Sophia was turned into a museum. On July 24, 2020, the Hagia Sophia is converted back into a mosque, an act signifying the Fall of the Queen City, that was finished on March 16, 1964. (Source ERT (Hellenic Radio TV, The Time Machine)



ἀμιλλα

Celebrating the Hellenic Ideals Embodied in the Olympic Spirit

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

Wilmington Chapter 95

Proceeds to Benefit Odyssey Charter School

Event Information - Student discount applied at check

Event Info

8:00 am - Check in opens

8:55 am - Check in CLOSES

9:00am - 5k / 1 Mile start

10:15am - Award Ceremony

Location

Rockford Tower

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WELCOME BACK
Party

in the AHEPA Room
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
6:30PM

Come join us for an evening full of joy,
laughter, and good company!
Light Food & Libations will be served!

Cost \$10 per person @ the door

John Koninis
AHEPA #95
Past District Governor

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Holy Trinity Food Pantry

St Stephen's Food Pantry

658 First Visits

3437 Total Visits for the month of July



In the state of Delaware one in nine adults are food insecure, and one in six children are food insecure. Let's spread our wealth! Here are three nonprofit organizations that deserve donations in our area:

St. Patrick's Center – A stocked pantry provides three days' worth of staples and free breakfast 365 days a year.

Sunday Breakfast Mission – a Christian based organization that provides over 250 meals each night as well as a food pantry.

St Stephens Lutheran Church – provides three days of emergency food provisions for 800 to 1000 families each month.

We can make a difference! Cut out the list below and take it with you and your children to the grocery store each time you shop and pick up one item for the pantry. We will be rotating to the three centers listed above.

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

God Bless you!

John Lazare, Tina Ganiaris King, Steve Nicholas, Johanna Laskaris & Sandy Nannas

Anyone wishing to volunteer please email Johanna at Jlas40752@gmail.com

August at the Emmanuel Dining Room

A very big *thank you* to **Lauren** and **Tony Diamond** who sponsored the meal in August, as they have for many years now! 155 women, men and children enjoyed the luncheon meal that day. **Paulette Alexandridis** will sponsor the meal in September again this year. All are welcome to help serve the dining room on the 12th of each month or at any time!

Please call **Tina** at 302-367-6758 with any questions.

*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
Tina Ganiaris at 302-367-6758 for more information. Thank you!*

Serving in September

Coffee Hours:

September 6 ~ No Coffee Hour (Labor Day)

September 13 ~ Parish Council

September 20 ~ Philoptochos

September 27 ~ PC Welcome Back Picnic



Narthex Duty:

September 6 ~ Group 2

September 13 ~ Group 1

September 20 ~ Group 2

September 27 ~ Group 1



Prosforon Offeror's



We are looking to update our Prosfora Offeror List.

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

ACOLYTES

+Tonsured ~ *Reader

All readers are also tonsured



Jonathan Barrios
Mariano Barrios
Joseph Demourtzidis
+ Ioannis Gerakios
Alexander Hall
+ Angelo Hall
+ Demetri Karakasidis
+ Ioannis Karakasidis
Nikola Kranidiotis

Simon Kranidiotis
Theodore Liappis
Demetri Psaltis
Nicholas Psaltis
George Psihalinos
Gerasimos Psihalinos
+ Jerry Rassias
Nicholas Rassias
+ Demetri Thomas

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

ALTAR ASSISTANTS

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

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year</u>	2	3 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	4	5 12pm Young @ Heart Boat Ride
6 <u>14th Sunday of Matthew</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 <u>Nativity of Theotokos</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Farewell Banquet for Archbishop Apostolos, The Venetian, NJ	9 1pm Metropolis of NJ Clergy Synaxis	10 12pm Young @ Heart Gathering	11	12 12pm Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room
13 <u>Sunday before the Holy Cross</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy GOYA Oath of Office Philoptochos to pass a tray for Hellenic College Holy Cross Philoptochos Sunday / Artoklasia GOYA Meeting	14 <u>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	15 6pm Philoptochos Meeting/Covered Dish (5:30pm Executive Board) 7pm AHEPA / DOP Gathering	16 7pm Vespers at St Sophia, Jeffersonville, PA	17 St Sophia @ Jeffersonville, PA 3:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:30pm HOPE JOY Welcome Back Family Night	18 3:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:30pm HOPE JOY Welcome Back Family Night	19 1:30pm Wedding
20 <u>Sunday after the Holy Cross</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School Agiasmos GOYA Party	21 18th Annual Golf Tournament Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	22 6pm DOP Meeting 7pm DVYC Meeting, Elkins Park	23 12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Greek School (OPEN HOUSE & Agiasmos- In Church)	24 TAKE OUT Greek Festival	25 TAKE OUT Greek Festival	26 TAKE OUT Greek Festival
27 <u>1st Sunday of Luke</u> 9:00am Orthros /Divine Liturgy Sunday School Annual Welcome Back Picnic & Ministry Sign-ups DVYC BBALL Begins 6:30pm HUC Welcome Back	28 Basketball Practice 6:30pm Girls 7:30pm Boys	29	30 12pm Bible Study 12pm Philoptochos Serving @ Emmanuel Dining Room 5:30pm Greek School			

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

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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!



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