

HOLY TRINITY HERALD NEWSLETTER

August 2025



V. Rev. Fr. Maximos Politis – Parish Priest
(347) 500-8176 FatherMaximUSA7@gmail.com

Mr. Thomas Lekas – Parish President (678) 993-3629

Parish Council

Priest-V. Rev. Father Maximos Politis

President - Thomas Lekas

Vice President - Zoe Kugeares

Recording Secretary - Carman Gaetanos

Treasurer - Kaliroi Parris

Stewardship Toula Zotos

Andrew Antonopoulos

Theo Bersu

Nick Kelley

Maria Lagoutaris

Stacy Symeonides

OUR MISSION: Our parish is a living witness of Jesus Christ, serving the spiritual and physical needs of all people, through worship, outreach, and education.

OUR VISION: Fostering an Orthodox Christian environment that **encourages** parishioner engagement, increasing public awareness of our faith and of our parish as a spiritual home, and nurturing and growing our stewardship commitments.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar (Services – Events – Activities)

Letter from Parish Council

Stewardship

Philoptochos

Coffee Hour

Goya

Sunday School

Agora (Greek Market)

Book Store

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

AUGUST CALENDAR

Fri, Aug 1	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Fri, Aug 1	Holy Trinity Calendar	Paraklisis 6pm
Sun, Aug 3	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Wed, Aug 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Transfiguration of our Lord - 10am
Fri, Aug 8	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Fri, Aug 8	Holy Trinity Calendar	Paraklisis 6pm
Sat, Aug 9	Holy Trinity Calendar	Discover the Ancient Faith: Panel Discussion Fr. Maximos 10am - 1pm
Sun, Aug 10	Holy Trinity Calendar	Blessing of the Backpacks
Sun, Aug 10	Holy Trinity Calendar	Philoptochos Meeting
Sun, Aug 10	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Wed, Aug 13	Holy Trinity Calendar	Paraklisis 6pm
Fri, Aug 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Dormition of the Blessed Mary-Office Closed
Fri, Aug 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Dormition of the Theotokos (9am & 10am)
Fri, Aug 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sat, Aug 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	John Deoudes -Baptism
Sun, Aug 17	Holy Trinity Calendar	Dormition Luncheon (following Liturgy)
Sun, Aug 17	Holy Trinity Calendar	Mortgage Reduction Campaign
Sun, Aug 17	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Tue, Aug 19	Holy Trinity Calendar	Parish Council Meeting
Fri, Aug 22	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sat, Aug 23	Holy Trinity Calendar	Philoptochos Membership Tea
Sun, Aug 24	Holy Trinity Calendar	Father Maximos Vacation
Sun, Aug 24	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Mon, Aug 25	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Tue, Aug 26	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Wed, Aug 27	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Thu, Aug 28	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Aug 29	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Aug 29	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sat, Aug 30	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sat, Aug 30	Holy Trinity Calendar	Patel-Birthday Party 6p.m.-11p.m.
Sun, Aug 31	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sun, Aug 31	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)

Click the link below to view the Calendar of Saints, Feasts and Readings In the Orthodox Church.

www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar

Click the link below to view the Church Calendar

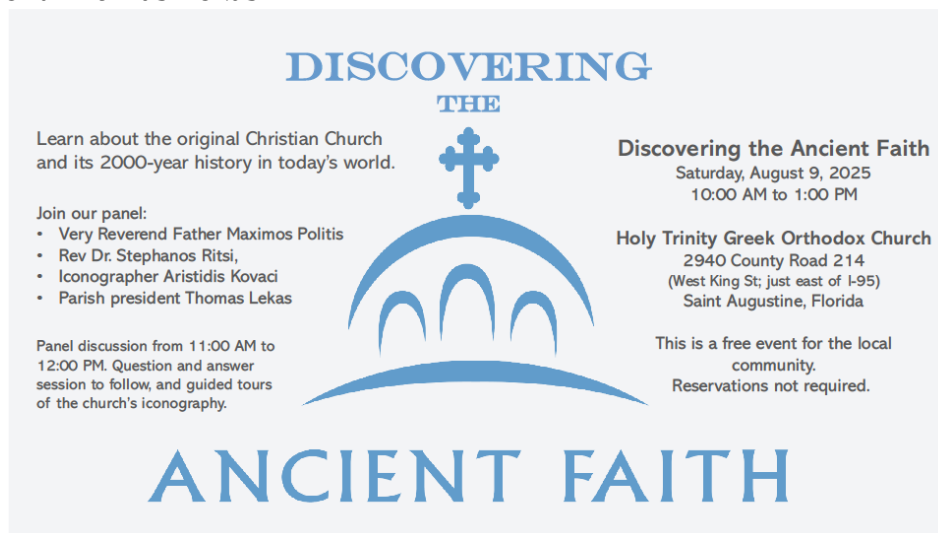
www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/events

If you have any updates to the calendar, please contact the Church Office at Holy3goc@gmail.com or (904)829-0504

EVENTS

Discover the Ancient Faith

Join us on **August 9th, 2025 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for a panel discussion featuring the Very Reverend Fr. Maximos Politis, Fr. Stephanos Ritsi, Iconographer Aristidis Kovaci and Parish President Thomas Lekas



Paraklesis

We will be having Paraklesis August 1st, 8th, 13th at 6:00 P.M.

We will be having Divine Liturgy August 6th at 10:00 AM and August 15th Orthros at 9 :00 a.m.
Divine liturgy at 10:00 A.M.

Blessing of the Backpack

We encourage all parents and students to join us on **August 10th** for the Blessing of the backpacks for the start of the new school year

Phanouropita Blessing

We will have a Phanouropita blessing in honor of Saint Phanourios on **Sunday, August 24**. The Great-martyr Phanourios is commemorated on August 27. He is known for assisting the faithful in revealing lost objects, directing or revealing actions that should be taken and restoring health. He is honored by the faithful through a symbolic cake, called the "Phanouropita". All are invited to bring a Phanouropita to the church for the blessing.

Greek Festival 2025

We need your assistance to make this year's festival a success. If you would like to be a sponsor of this fabulous event, please click link www.staugreekfest.com



Holy Trinity Scholarship Announcement

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in St. Augustine Florida is pleased to announce that we will be awarding scholarships to qualified high school graduating seniors starting with the current school year 2025-2026.

The recipients of these scholarships will have exhibited exemplary Christian values and enjoy a good standing in academic, civic, and cultural circles.

The scholarships, funded by private donations, will be presented at an annual event in May beginning in 2026.

Scholarship applications must be submitted in January of the award school year. The submission will be accompanied by the required documentation. The application deadline for the candidates is March 1st of each award year.

The review, evaluation and endorsement from the Holy Trinity Scholarship committee will be completed before the end of March.

The scholarship recipient selection will be finalized by mid-April, and the announcement will be made in mid-May at the Holy Trinity church of St. Augustine during church services.

Eligibility requirements and application will be available soon. For more details, please contact the church office Holy3GOC@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We wanted to share an update on the current state of our parish and the efforts of our Parish Council to address both the spiritual and financial needs of our community.

Spiritual Life

We are seeing encouraging signs of growth in parish trust and engagement. Transparency has become a cornerstone of our efforts—weekly announcements now highlight parish activities, financial updates, ways to support church needs, and offer a warm welcome to guests. One recent example of the fruits of this transparency involved an urgent plumbing issue in our parish kitchen. A guest of a parishioner, who happened to be a plumber, graciously volunteered to complete the repairs. This is just one of many instances of generosity inspired by our open communication.

On August 9th we will have our “Discover the Ancient Faith” event in our church, which is another way to grow interest in our church from our community. We encourage everyone to see. There is much that each of us can learn about our faith.

We have also initiated a weekly adult Bible study. Though still small (typically 5–8 participants) it is deeply enriching for those attending, and we are hopeful that it will grow over time.

Financial Matters

Financially, we continue to face challenges. While our stewardship numbers are slowly improving, they remain modest, with seventy-eight active stewards at present. Our June Profit & Loss statement showed a significant drop compared to March and April, resulting in a deficit of approximately \$29,000. We are actively working to improve stewardship. We have dedicated stewardship and church growth committees. Our “Welcome Home” event on May 18th and our “Discover the Ancient Faith” event on August 9 are examples of their work. We are also exploring the potential for reallocation of certain restricted funds, and I have reached out to donors to discuss short-term flexibility.

On a more positive note, we continue to organize fundraising events such as our “Gyro Luncheons,” which brought in almost \$3000. Additionally, our weekly tray collections for operating expenses now bring in approximately \$1,800 a month. Most importantly, we are making a conscious effort to integrate our spiritual life with our financial stewardship. Under Father Maximos’s guidance, we have introduced a beautiful prayer for our church, and a small group gathers every Tuesday to pray specifically for the Lord’s guidance and will regarding our financial struggles. We have shared this prayer with you to invite you to pray with us either in church or from home.

Conclusion

While our financials are still in the red, July’s P&L is trending in a positive direction. Our spiritual and stewardship efforts are beginning to bear fruit, and we remain hopeful that through prayer, transparency, and persistent effort, we will overcome these challenges. We humbly ask for your continued prayers and welcome any guidance or support you may wish to offer.

Operating account balance as of 6/30/2025	\$13,282.63
Reserves account balance as of 6/30/2025	\$78,357.44
Mortgage loan balance as of 6/30/2025	\$765,421.00

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Commitment

Thank you to all who have continued to contribute to stewardship through the summer months! Your faithful support as stewards of our parish is a meaningful contribution toward parish viability.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that all we have has been entrusted to us by God. How we use our time, the gifts of our hands and heart, and the treasure of our lives, matters. Being a good steward is as simple as that.

If you are not already a member/steward of our parish, please prayerfully consider becoming one by going online at holyltrinitystaugustine.org, or pick up a Stewardship form in the church narthex.

We look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you through the summer months!

Commitments to Date (as of July 31, 2025):

Stewards – 80

Commitments - \$122,903

Collected - \$80,956

Outstanding - \$41,947

PHILOPTOCHOS



□ Next Meeting: Sunday August 10, 2025 □ 12:15 □ Conference Room

The deadline for donations is August 10, 2025



ANNUAL PHILOPTOCHOS BACKPACK DONATIONS SUPPORTING KIDS IN NEED



**SIMPLY DONATE \$15
PER BACKPACK**

(Cash or Check Payable to Philoptochos)

The Dormition of the Theotokos Philoptochos Luncheon



The Dormition of the Theotokos

(Koimisis Tis Theotokou) is a major feast day in the ecclesiastical calendar, celebrated each August 15th.

**The St Augustine Philoptochos chapter is named
in honor of this feast day and
is offering a luncheon for our parish on August 17th.**

Philoptochos Luncheon Sunday, August 17th

(You may purchase tickets now or at the luncheon.)

Adults: \$20 <https://square.lnk/u/uJP8bReo>

Children: \$10 <https://square.lnk/u/K2th5mbS>



We look forward to sharing that special day with everyone!

Please join us in supporting a great cause for children:

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 27, ATLANTA



The Greek Orthodox Ladies
PHILOTOCHOS
SOCIETY

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND
20th Anniversary



HOPE. HEAL. CHANGE.
TAKE A CHANCE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE
YOUR TICKET!



**EACH TICKET IS A CHANCE TO
HOPE. HEAL. CHANGE.**

Let's rejoice and embrace the children!

**DRAWING DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 AT THE CMF LUNCHEON
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

Raffle tickets: \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Scan above, or see Toula for Tickets by September 21st.

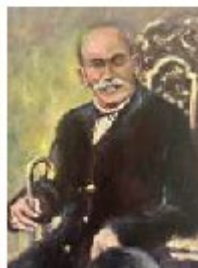
Don't Miss out on an afternoon with your Philoptochos Sisters

***Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Philoptochos Membership Tea***

***You are invited to an afternoon tea & light bites with your Holy
Trinity Philoptochos Sisters***



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 2025 2:00 TO 4:00 PM
CHRIS MCGLADE RESIDENCE
413 LOOKOUT POINT DRIVE - ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080**



ART BY ANN MCGLADE

RSVP by August 10th to Paula, call/text 404-272-5775 or email PaulaMarchman@yahoo.com

[HTTPS://WWW.HOLYTRINITYSTAUGUSTINE.ORG](https://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org)

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR



Each Sunday's social hour is chaired by Philoptochos.

A volunteer coordinates a given week's plan. That means that regardless of experience, anyone can volunteer to provide a snack and be a host. This is not limited to Philoptochos members or even just to women!

You can scan the QR below code to sign up:

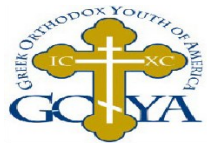


Sign up is also available on our website, under the Calendar tab.

If you need further assistance, please contact Kaliroi Parris at roi.parris@gmail.com You can also speak to her after church, and she can sign you up. Thank you!

We invite all Orthodox Christian women to attend any of our monthly Meetings and learn more about how we work together to make a difference!

GOYA YOUTH MINISTRY



HTGOC GOYA is for youth in sixth through twelfth grades. The GOYA ministry integrates worship (liturgia), fellowship (koinonia), service (diakonia), and witness (martyria).

EVENT: GOYA BEACH REACH



You can register using this link: <https://saint-demetrios-daytona-youth.square.site/beach-reach-2025>.

Follow these three simple steps to complete your registration:

1. Register online at the link provided above.
 2. Purchase your tickets using the same link above.
 3. Book your hotel room with instructions found on your registration confirmation email.
- The email will contain relevant hotel and special room rate information.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Ellie Kousidis 203-858-8806

Contact Connie (773/517-6352) connie.I.espinosa@gmail.com

Or Andy (904/392-1084) ajlekos@att.net for additional information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



*Sunday school starts September 7th, 2025 (the Sunday after Labor Day)
We're looking forward to seeing you!*

"We encourage all parents and students to join us on August 10th for the Blessing of the backpacks for the start of the new school year

Sunday school is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships and develop a strong moral foundation.

By prioritizing Sunday school, you're helping your children build a deeper understanding of their spiritual journey and strengthen their sense of community. It's not just a class - it's a chance for them to grow and learn.

Encourage your children to participate and watch them flourish in both their faith and character.

For additional information please contact our Sunday School Coordinator:

Holy3SundaySchool@gmail.com

Kaliroi Parris

AGORA (Greek Market)

Taste the Flavors of Greece & Support a Good Cause!



The Agora Team is looking for volunteers to keep the Agora going.

Your time commitment is minimal, but the returns to the church are huge. Once a month for an hour after liturgy, you will cover the Agora to make sales to parishioners. If you are a regular customer, consider working at the store. Training will be available.

Without your help, this ministry cannot continue to be successful!

To sign up, please visit:

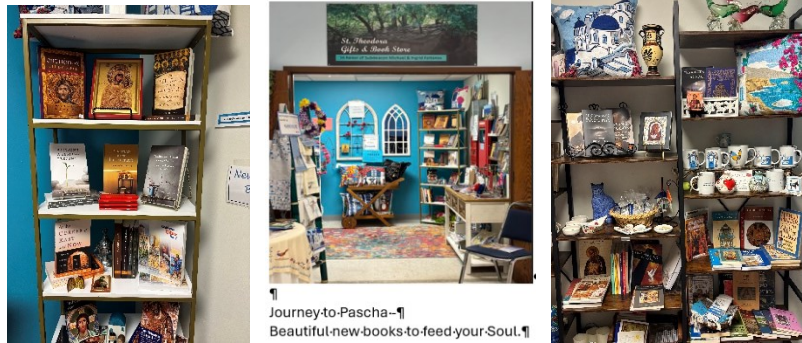
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948ADA92DA4FDC34-55817756-agora/98603915#/>

Thank you once again for your unwavering support kai eis anoteria (to even greater success)!

The Agora Team

holytrinityagora@gmail.com

BOOKSTORE



St. Theodora Bookstore & Gift Shop

Visitors to our church are always so appreciative of our little bookstore-gift store, and the array of orthodox books and exclusive gifts from Greece. We are here as a ministry to the church and appreciate all your support. Every month we have new books and wonderful gift ideas.

Our shop offers:

- **Prayer Ropes**
- **Orthodox Bibles**
- **Inspirational Books** for the whole family
- **Home Décor**
- **Jewelry**
- **And much more**

Shop with us and support our church.

We are open on Sundays and by appointments during the week. Discover unique treasures and meaningful gifts at St. Theodora Bookstore & Gift Shop!

Contact: Paula Marchman at paulamarchman@yahoo.com

HOLY COMMUNION



Holy Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who are in good canonical standing with the church and who have prepared through prayer and fasting.

Order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

- Newly illumined – recently baptized and babies.
- Sunday school teachers and students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion)-all visiting children are invited to join us!
- The remaining congregation as directed by the usher.

Everyone is invited to receive the Antidoron (Blessed Bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

WEBSITE - www.holytrinitystaugustine.org

*You can always use the **LIGHT A CANDLE** option on our website to light a candle and to send a prayer request for your loved ones.*

LIGHT A CANDLE

- The Photos page is under Our Parish tab. It has tons of pictures (i.e. Sunday School & GOYA activities, Philoptochos, church painting and repairs, etc.). We always welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to improve our website.



Our Parish

Faith and Worship

Cultural Heritage

Photos

Commemorative Walkway

Agora - Greek Market

St. Theodora Bookstore

Sponsors and Benefactors

- The Calendar is updated with the latest information as soon as it becomes available. Also, this is where you can sign up to host coffee hours.

HALL RENTAL



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2940 County Road 214, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Hall Rental Are you in search of the perfect venue to elevate your next gathering? Look no further than the **Michael C. Carlos Fellowship Hall at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church** in the charming city of St. Augustine, now available for your special occasion!

Spanning

2,500 sq. ft. with seating for up to 200 guests, this versatile space is perfect for any celebration be it a joyous birthday, cherished family reunion, festive holiday gathering, delightful baby shower, elegant wedding reception, or an insightful meeting and lecture.

The hall features kitchen facilities, allowing you to tailor the culinary experience to your desires. For inquiries regarding pricing and reservations, please reach out on (904) 829-0504 or contact us via our website at www.holytrinitystaugustine.org



We eagerly await the opportunity to assist you in crafting an unforgettable event!

WAYS OF GIVING

On-Line: Click “Donate Now” on our Church’s webpage: www.holytrinitystaugustine.org to make a gift. Give via credit card, PayPal, or set up recurrent giving through your bank. Please be sure a specific notation (ex: stewardship) is included for each transaction.

PAGE

QR Code: Scan the QR code with your phone



Our “**Light a Candle & Say a Prayer**” ministry lets you light a candle during divine services. Your request will be forwarded to a Council member in the Narthex to light your candle. If you wish to provide names of loved ones to be prayed for, those will be provided to Fr. Maximos.

Giving by Check or Cash: Please be sure to include a notation on the memo line on checks to allow us to identify your intentions (i.e. stewardship, candles, trays, memorials, etc.). Please use a donation envelope available at the welcome desk and the Narthex and fill out the information requested.

Weekly Offering: The Lord's Day is to be the time for a weekly offering for the support of His cause. Make your offering today...check or cash and enable our Church to continue to enhance the spiritual growth of the Orthodox Christians entrusted to our care. Your offer can be made at the collection basket as you exit the service or mailed to HTGOC using the **donation envelopes are available at the welcome desk and in the Narthex.**

Celebrations: Are you celebrating a special day? Birthday, Anniversary, Seasonal House Cleaning? Whatever the event, please consider celebrating it with others and making it a fundraiser for our church. People have raised \$6 billion USD on Facebook and Instagram for causes they care about. Create a fundraiser and Facebook will take care of the donation processing with no fees. You can also place the PayPal giving link for the church in your on-line message for donations to be made directly to our account. This can be a fun way to share your happy day with your friends and community and an effective fundraiser for our church. Please reach out to Fr. Maximos or Nick Lekas for details.'

We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our parishioners who have inquired regarding bequests and gifts to the church. We strongly suggest that you discuss your wishes with your estate Planner and financial advisor. Your bequests and gifts to the church will help our parish meet its Financial obligations as well as the philanthropic and educational needs in our community.

Our parishioners have requested information about two specific situations:

Qualified Charitable Distributions

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift is an easy way to reduce your tax bill and your RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or pretax 401K accounts for any person 70 ½ or older. This can be handled directly from your Financial institution through your financial advisor.

(Click the links below to read more about these programs.)

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/qualified-charitable-distributions-allow-eligible-ira-owners-up-to-100000-in-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>
<https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/guidance/philanthropy/qualified-charitable-distribution.html>

Donating Stocks to Holy Trinity

Those choosing to donate stocks to Holy Trinity can do so. The church has a Fidelity brokerage account specifically for this purpose.

Thank you for your continued support of Holy Trinity Church!

COMMEMORATIVE WALKWAY

The commemorative walkway (aka Brick Campaign) began as a parish fundraising program for Holy Trinity at the time of the Opening of the Doors in 2008.

It has become a vehicle to honor individuals who have impacted our parish, while it continues to provide a wonderful opportunity for people to create a lasting memory for a myriad of reasons.

Show your support to Holy Trinity by purchasing a 4" x 8" paver with 3 lines for \$100, or an 8" x 8" paver with 6 lines for \$250.00, The net profit supports the parish operations.

Brochures are available on the card rack in the Church Hall or alternatively, please contact Connie Espinosa connie.l.espinosa@gmail.com to assist in this parish ministry.

Information and order forms are also available on our website under the 'Our Parish' tab or click the link below:

<http://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/commemorative-walkway>



We're happy to share that nearly all the fabulous commemorative tiles are now in place! Huge shoutout to our awesome parishioners who rolled up their sleeves and made it happen!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

KOLIVA FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES:

Koliva is used for commemorations of the departed (40th day after death, 3rd, 6th, 9th month, annually) and Saturdays of the Souls. Contact Faye Peterson, pete9839@comcast.net or Angela Lekos, angelmou1@att.net if you need Koliva prepared. There is a fee of \$100 for materials, supplies and labor.

ARTOKLASIA:

Blessing of the Five Loaves is a service of thanksgiving through which we express our gratitude for all the blessings of life. The Blessing is offered on a feast day or special occasion. If you need Artoklasia prepared, contact Angela Lekos, angelmou1@att.net.

HOUSE BLESSINGS:

To arrange for a "house blessing" please contact the priest to make an appointment.

MEMORIAL:

To request a gravesite memorial, please contact the priest.

SPECIAL SERVICE: If you have a request for a special memorial service (traditionally a volunteered donation is given to the priest), please contact the church office in advance of the requested date with details.

To offer Holy Communion to someone in need at a hospital, nursing home, in hospice care or at home, please contact the priest.

******The deadline for the weekly Church bulletin e-mail articles is before noon on Wednesday.
The deadline for the monthly Newsletter articles is the 25th of the month.

SPONSORS

We are profoundly grateful to all the parishioners who have generously donated towards our major projects, including stucco, painting, roof renovations and landscaping. Your contributions have been instrumental in maintaining the beauty and integrity of our beloved parish.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to those who provided matching funds for the multi-use “Mikae Gaetanos Field” fund. We have established a talented professional committee to make the project a reality. This week we have approved the completion of the tree survey, wetlands inventory, and area survey. When completed, this field will enable us to have successful festivals and community events for years to come.

As we look ahead to 2025, we humbly request your continued support. While we have several upcoming projects that require funding, our most urgent need is for each of us to increase our stewardship giving to support our monthly expenses.

A huge THANK YOU to Mrs. Vasso Poulos for the icon stands. They look really nice!
May God bless you for your kindness and generosity!

Thank you once again for your unwavering generosity and commitment to our parish community.

May God bless you abundantly.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Sponsors and Benefactors

Athenian Owl Greek Restaurant

Julie's Jewelry & Appraisals

Mrs. Vasso Poulos

St. Johns Family Funeral Home

We want to THANK our sponsors and benefactors for their support, especially those who wish to remain anonymous.

We encourage you to show your appreciation to the sponsors listed here by patronizing their business.

May God bless you for your kindness and generosity!