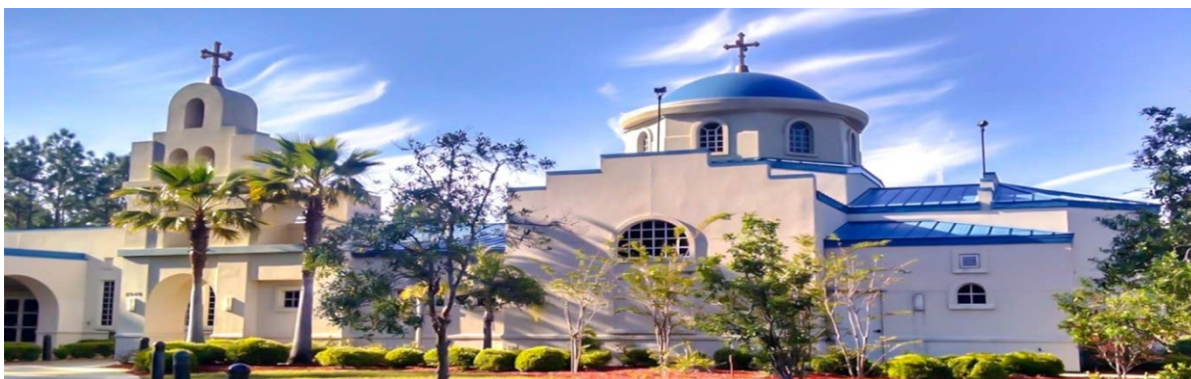


HOLY TRINITY HERALD NEWSLETTER March 2025



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

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



Parish Council

President - Thomas Lekas
Vice President - Zoe Kugeares
Recording Secretary - Carman Gaetanos
Treasurer - Kaliroi Parris
Stewardship - Toula Zotos
Andrew Antonopoulos Theo Bersu
Carman Gaetanos Nick Kelley
Zoe Kugeares 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 President

Stewardship

Philoptochos

Goya

Sunday School

Agora (Greek Market)

Book Store

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the first time in many months, your parish council is complete. We have the required nine members as specified in our parish by-laws and we added a tenth member by unanimous vote and approval by Father Maximos. We do this because we need our parish's maximum voice and support to accomplish our mission successfully. Thank you, Maria Lagoutaris, Theo Bersu and Stavroula (Stacy) Symeonides for stepping up to serve. By this time, you know our highest priority is to grow the church. Our first action for you, our parishioners, is to change our behaviors so that we will be a more visible witness of love and caring. We have committed to each other and now to you, that we will have parish council support at every service in the form of greeters, candle stand maintenance, and ushers for communion. We will have a PC message of progress and information every Sunday. I would like to say a special thank you to Tom Gross, who is consistently at church before orthros every Sunday to help us open and prepare the church.

I'd like to share two important actions we took in our last meeting. We approved the survey and the tree/wetland inventory work for our Mikae Gaetanos Multi-Use Field. We expect that work to begin soon. Thank you, Nick Lekas, Victor Sarris, and Matt Bruening, for leading this effort. We also approved having a Greek Festival this year. Thank you, Carman Gaetanos and Andy Lekos, for taking on the leadership role.

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. We are not meeting our monthly expenses, what suggestions do we as a parish have to bridge this gap? We believe we have a wealth of resources and information within our own parish that we need to work with, and we will make sure your input is heard.

We have many needs as a parish, not the least of which is more consistent and able help for our priest on the altar. We have planned services for Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday for every week in March. These services are essential for our mutual preparation and strength in the Lenten season. Having adequate chanter and altar service support will make our worship even more special for us and even more pleasing to our Lord, as He knows our struggles and He knows when we go beyond our struggles and make His church a priority. Please reach out to us at holy3goc@gmail.com to support this critical ministry.

Thank you

CALENDAR

MARCH 2025

Sat, Mar 1	Holy Trinity Calendar	Saturday of Souls
Sun, Mar 2	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am) Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday
Mon, Mar 3	Holy Trinity Calendar	Start of Lent - Clean Monday
Wed, Mar 5	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Fri, Mar 7	Holy Trinity Calendar	Salutations 6pm
Sat, Mar 8	Holy Trinity Calendar	Saturday of Souls
Sun, Mar 9	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday of Orthodoxy
Wed, Mar 12	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Fri, Mar 14	Holy Trinity Calendar	Salutations 6pm
Sat, Mar 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Siters' Upscale Thrift Sale
Sun, Mar 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Easter Card sign-up - deadline 4/6
Sun, Mar 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Mortgage Reduction Campaign
Sun, Mar 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Tue, Mar 18	Holy Trinity Calendar	Parish Council Meeting
Wed, Mar 19	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Fri, Mar 21	Holy Trinity Calendar	Salutations 6pm
Sat, Mar 22	Holy Trinity Calendar	Oratorical Festival at our Parish
Sun, Mar 23	Holy Trinity Calendar	Annunciation Luncheon
Sun, Mar 23	Holy Trinity Calendar	Greek Independence Day Celebration
Sun, Mar 23	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Tue, Mar 25	Holy Trinity Calendar	Annunciation of the Theotokos
Tue, Mar 25	Holy Trinity Calendar	Greek Independence Day
Tue, Mar 25	Holy Trinity Calendar	Oratorical Fest Finalists to be submitted
Wed, Mar 26	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Fri, Mar 28	Holy Trinity Calendar	Salutations 6pm
Sat, Mar 29	Holy Trinity Calendar	Oratorical Festival NE FL in Brunswick GA
Sun, Mar 30	Holy Trinity Calendar	Spring General Assembly
Sun, Mar 30	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**

Annual Greek Festival

The annual Greek Festival returns to Holy Trinity on October 11 & 12, 2025! Join us for a **Greek Festival meeting on Monday, March 10th at 6:30pm**. Our popular festival needs everyone's support to make this event a success in showcasing our Church and culture. See you on Mon, Mar 10. *Opa!*



Greek Summer Night

SAVE THE DATE! This year's Greek Summer Night will be **Saturday, June 7, 2025**. Join us for an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship, and delight in Greek food, music and dance. This annual event benefits our beloved Holy Trinity Church. *Opa!*

STEWARDSHIP

To the Family and Friends of Holy Trinity Church, St Augustine:

Our church is where people of faith gather for worship, fellowship and service.

As we make Holy Trinity our spiritual home we become its caretakers. As such, we make a commitment to ensure that our church is open and accessible to all who seek her comfort.

Our members are stewards whose efforts are the lifeline of the church.

We are in charge of our own destiny. It is only through the combined efforts of all members of our parish that we can strengthen and grow.

The founders of our parish made their dream a reality. Since then, it is only because of decades of parishioner efforts and stewardship commitments that our church exists.

Let's renew that dream and renew our commitment to a sustainable parish.

Stewardship forms are available at church or simply go online to <https://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/give> to access the form and donation options.

Please look into your heart, consider God's blessings, and make a conscious decision to actively support the needs of your church.

Thank you.



SCAN ME

Commitments to Date (as of February 28, 2025):

Stewards – 85
Commitments - \$129,201
Collected - \$24,545
Outstanding - \$104,866

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 use the link below to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A45A8AD2FABFECE9-54297592-coffee#/>

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!

PHILOPTOCHOS

□ **Next Meeting:** Sunday, April 6, 2025 □ Noon □ Conference Room

Join us as we come together for an amazing **2025 Philoptochos Year!**

Our Philoptochos chapter is hard at work, not only within our church but also to assist our St. Augustine community and at-risk families.

The sisters thrift sale is a new event for us and we need your help. Please see the flyer with all the information and dates!

Also, we are looking forward to being together on Sunday, March 23rd as a family. Please see the flyer below with all the information.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, April 6 at 12 o'clock!

Join Us!

The Sisters' Upscale Thrift Sale

Saturday, March 15, 2025 - 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - during coffee hour

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church | 2940 CR 210 - St. Augustine, FL

Find your next treasure - women's, men's, and children's clothing and accessories, purses, wallets, shoes.

Children's toys, electronics, small household appliances and decor.

Greek sweets and imported goods from our Agora and Bookstore available for purchase.

Proceeds will be donated by our Philoptochos Chapter to benefit local at-risk men, women, and youth. All unsold items will be donated to charity shops supporting these causes.

Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Please Help!

- **Through March 2, donate at church:**
Gently used clothing and accessories such as men's women's, children's clothes, toys, shoes, hats, scarves, purses, wallets, small household décor, books, CDs, DVDs, DVD players, speakers, computer monitors.
No furniture, large household items, old electronics, broken, torn, or shabby clothing please.
- **Through March 2, sign up in the church hall for any of the following:**
 - Sun, March 9 - pre-event sort goods, test electronics, price goods
 - Fri, March 14 - set up
 - Sat, March 15 - work the event
 - Sun, March 16 - event work and clean up

For more info, contact: Stephanie Danikas at Danikas.stephanie@gmail.com



SATURDAY 3/15/25
10 AM - 3 PM



THE SISTERS' UPSCALE THRIFT SALE



PRESENTED BY
THE LADIES' PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2940 CR 214 - St. Augustine, FL

www.holytrinitystaugustine.org



Women's - Men's - Kids & Toys
Home Decor - Greek Sweets & Imports

Proceeds benefit local at-risk families
Cash - check - credit cards accepted

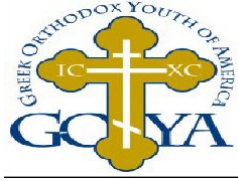


THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO A
DELICIOUS LENTEN LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd
Celebrating the
Annunciation of the Theotokos
and Greek Independence Day



\$15 - Tickets on Sale March 2nd
(Cash, Check or Credit Card)

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).



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 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. During January, our children learned about the Church Sacraments. Very lively and interesting discussions.



AGORA (Greek Market)

Taste the Flavors of Greece & Support a Good Cause!



Featuring **delicious imported Greek food items** like cheeses, olives, olive oil, oregano, frozen tiropites and spanakopites, phyllo, chocolates, lentils, orzo and pistachio noodles, halvah, spoon sweet preserves, coffee, tea, honey and many more tasty items!

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of St Augustine.

Please contact holytrinityagora@gmail.com to place an order or see us after church at the Agora in the church hall.

Stacy Symeonides, Stephanie Danikas & The Agora Team

BOOK STORE



St. Theodora Bookstore & Gift Shop

Looking for the perfect gift or a way to beautify your home? Explore our exquisite collection of items from Greece!

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

- The Photos page 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.
- 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 **John 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.

QR Code: Scan the QR code with your phone



SCAN ME



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.'

PLANNED GIVING

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!

Church Financials as of February 28th, 2025

Income	\$10,752
Stewardship Portion	\$10,501
Expense	\$15,835
Bank Balance	\$18,497
Reserves	\$88,611

*This does not include PayPal/Square income. The reports are not available until March 3rd

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.

