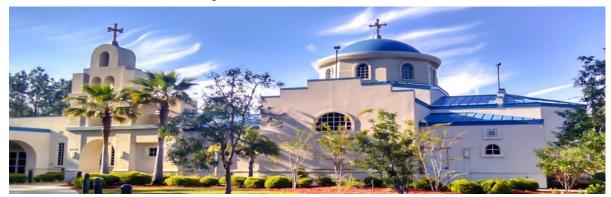
HOLY TRINITY HERALD NEWSLETTER

September 2025



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

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

Parish Council

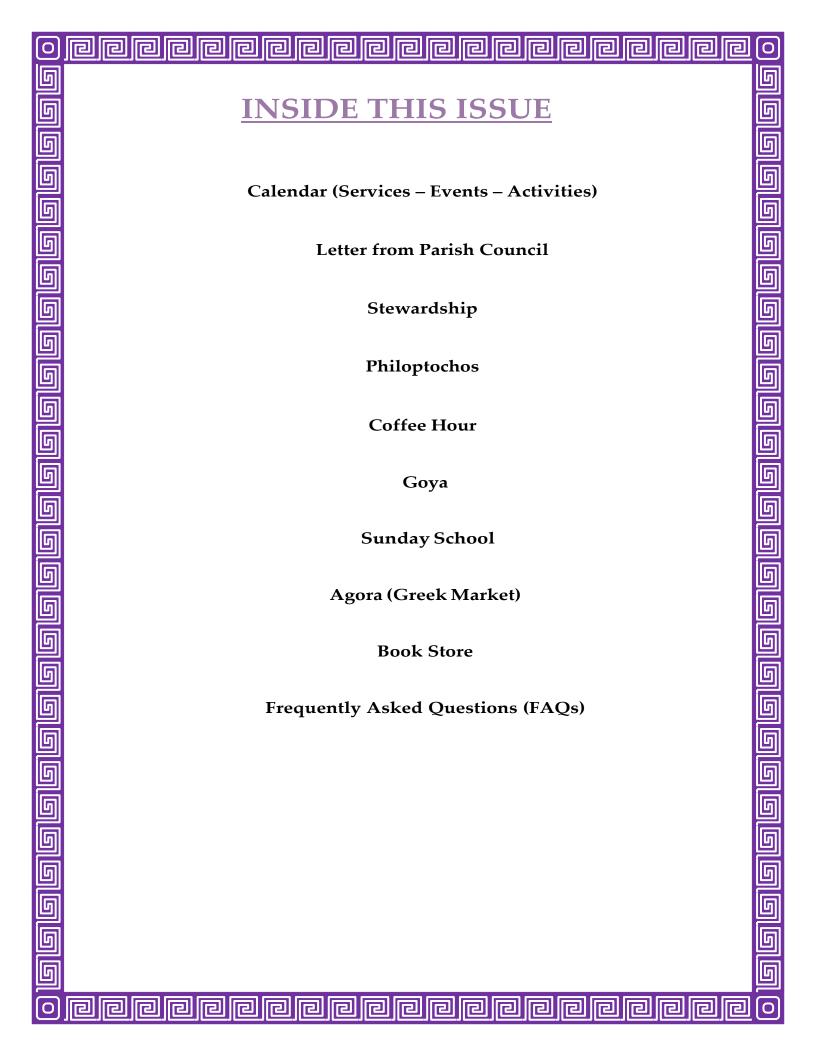
Priest-V. Rev. Father Maximos Politis
President - Thomas Lekas
Vice President - Zoe Kugeares
Recording Secretary - Carman Gaetanos
Treasurer - Kaliroi Parris
Stewardship Toula Zotos

Andrew Antonopoulos Theo Bersu Nick Kelley Maria Lagoutaris Stacy Symeonides

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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.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Mon, Sep 1	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Mon, Sep 1	Holy Trinity Calendar	Labor Day-Office Closed
Tue, Sep 2	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Wed, Sep 3	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Thu, Sep 4	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 5	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 5	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sat, Sep 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sun, Sep 7	Holy Trinity Calendar	First Day of Sunday School
Sun, Sep 7	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sun, Sep 7	Holy Trinity Calendar	Philoptochos Meeting
Sun, Sep 7	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Mon, Sep 8	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Tue, Sep 9	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Wed, Sep 10	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Thu, Sep 11	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Thu, Sep 11	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 12	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 12	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sat, Sep 13	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sun, Sep 14	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Sun, Sep 14	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Mon, Sep 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Tue, Sep 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Tue, Sep 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Parish Council Meeting
Wed, Sep 17	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Thu, Sep 18	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 19	Holy Trinity Calendar	Fr. Maximos vacation
Fri, Sep 19	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sun, Sep 21	Holy Trinity Calendar	Mortgage Reduction Campaign
Sun, Sep 21	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Fri, Sep 26	Holy Trinity Calendar	Office closed on Fridays
Sun, Sep 28	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.

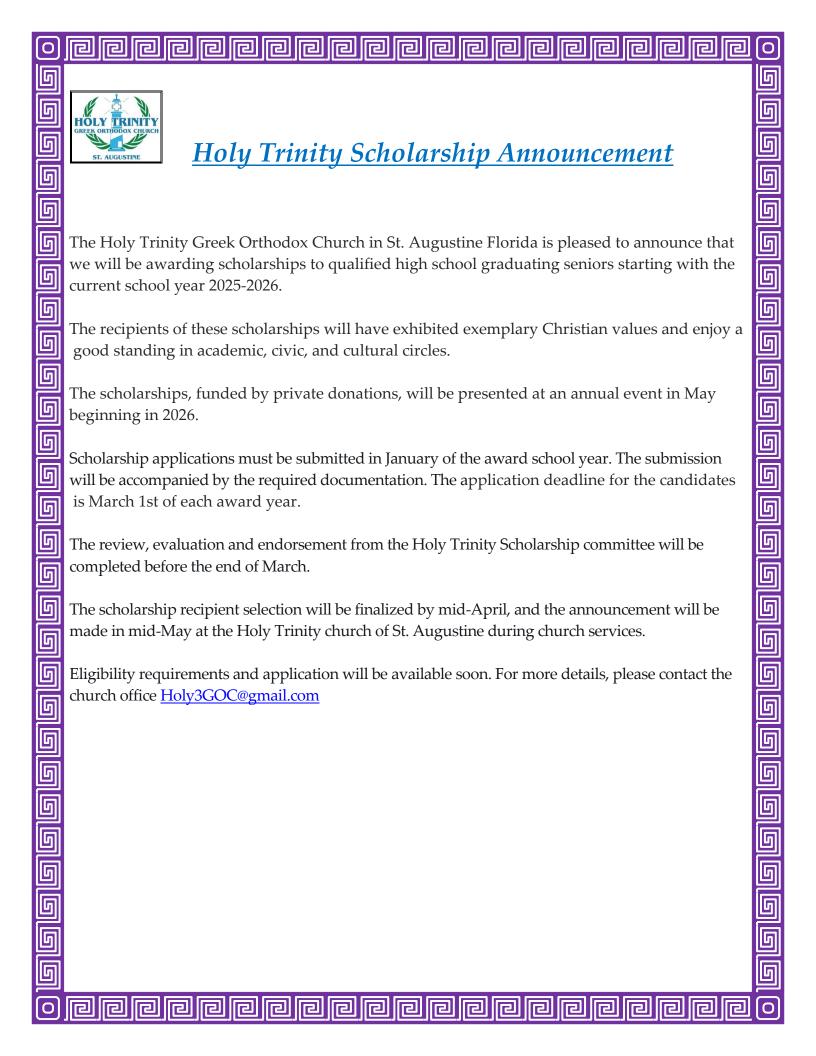
www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar

Click the link below to view the Church Calendar

www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/events

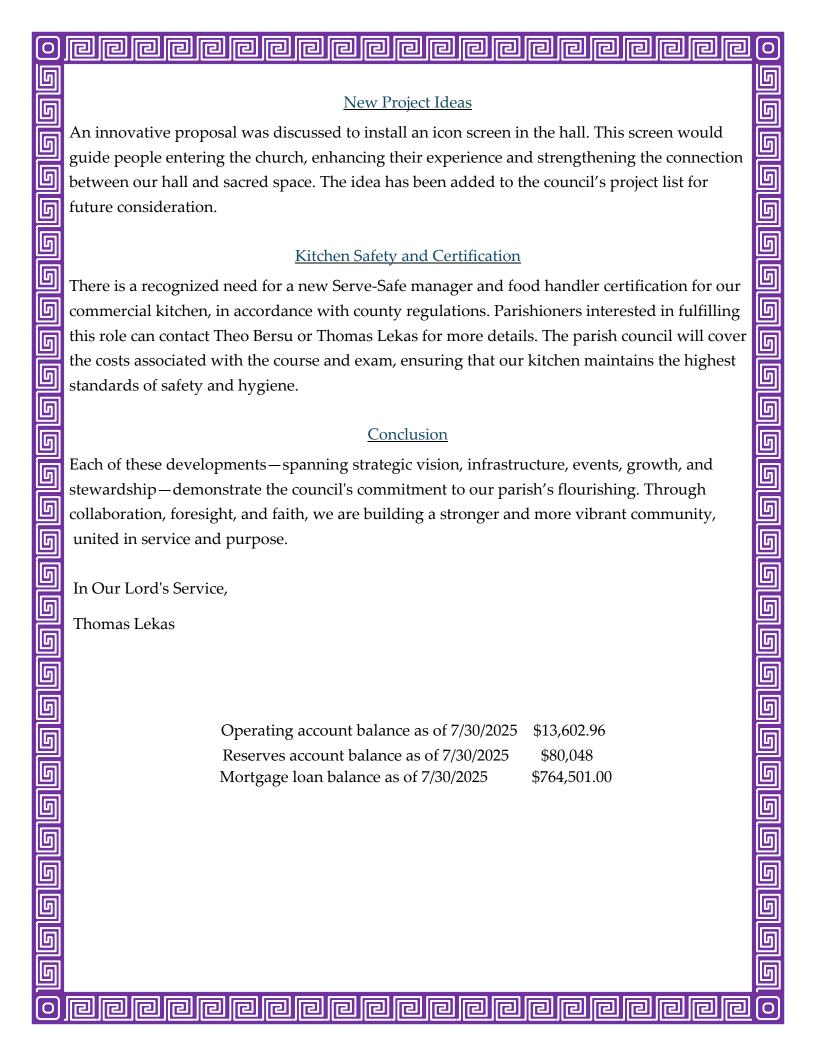
If you have any updates to the calendar, please contact the Church Office at Holy3goc@gmail.com or (904)829-0504

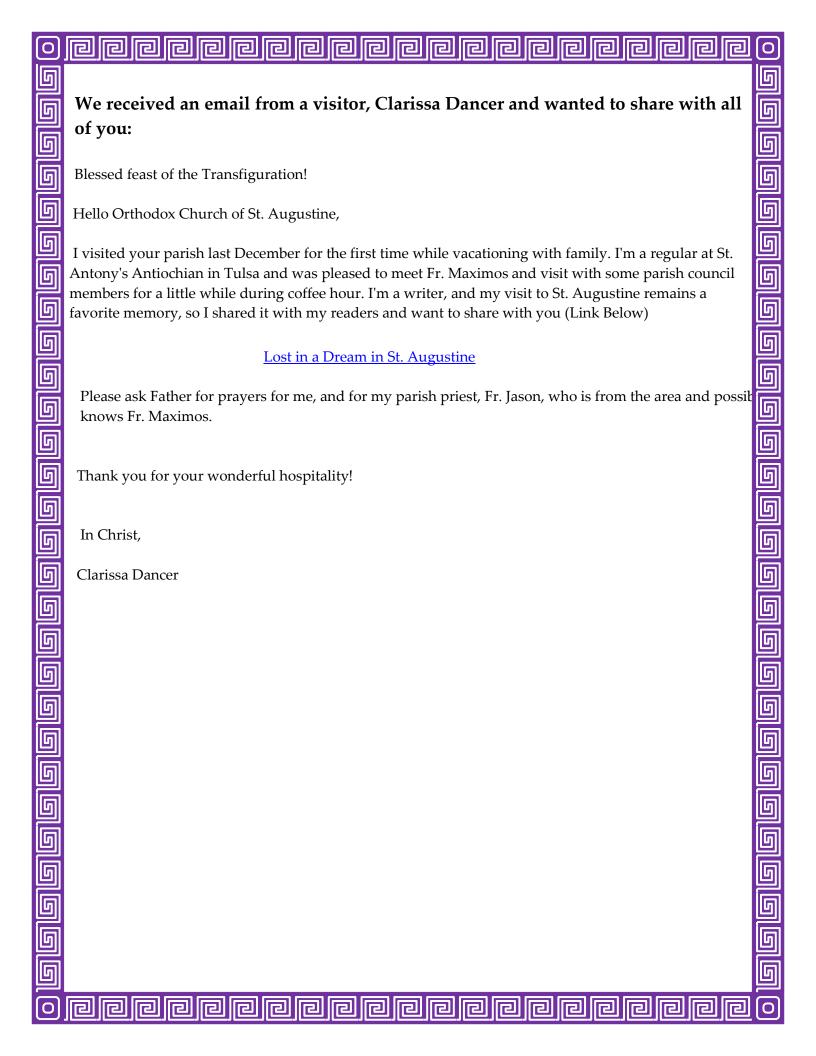
Greek Festival 2025 We need your assistance to make this year's festival a success. If you would like to be a sponsor of this fabulous event, please click link www.stauggreekfest.com Please save the following dates to assist with Festival preparations: September 5th & 6th - Dolmathes September 12th & 13th - Pastitsio September 19th & 20th - Moussaka September 27th - Chicken souvlaki September 28th - Hall and Outdoor cleanup October 5th - Signage distribution/placement October 6th - Tzatziki October 10th - Setup, cooking prep, salad/tzatziki cups

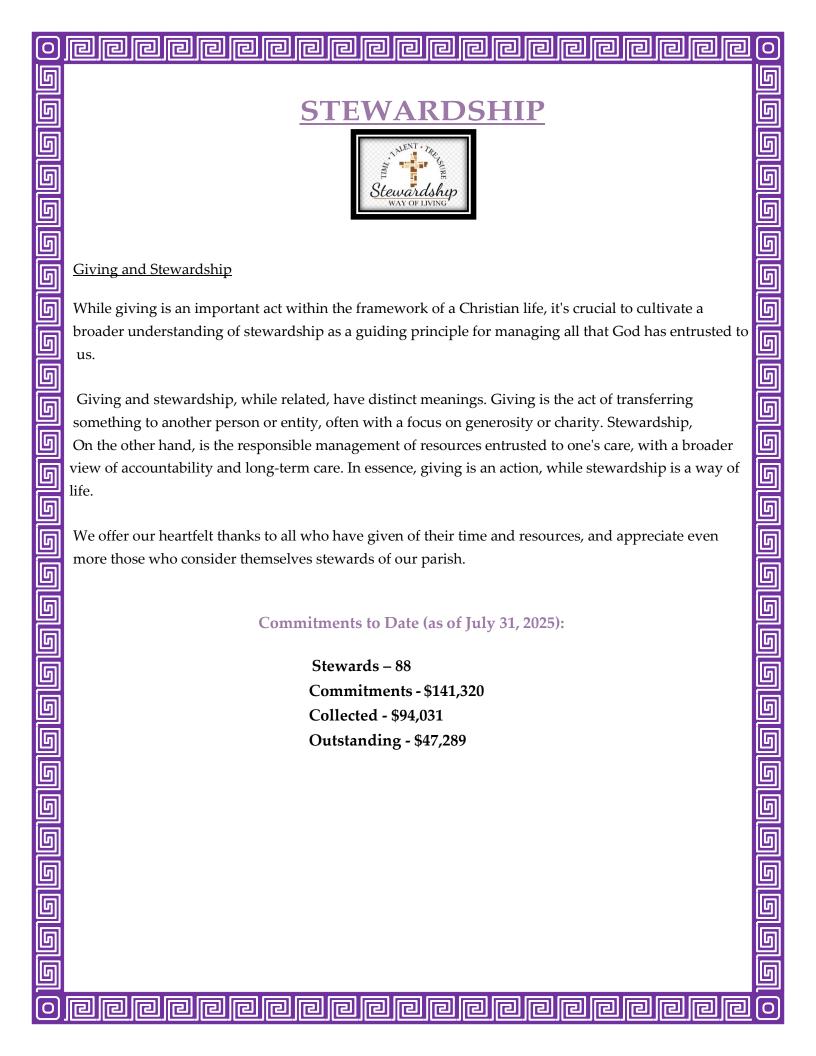


FROM THE PRESIDEN Dear Fellow Parishioners, Summary of Developments: August 19, 2025, Parish Council Meeting Highlights and Updates for Our Community Strategic Plan Approval 5 The parish council made a significant stride forward by officially approving our strategic plan. This marks a transition from operating reactively, week by week, to embracing a long-term vision for the church's growth and success. The plan has already been sent out to parishioners, laying out a roadmap for our collective future. Guided by faith and diligence, the council is committed to following this plan, inspired by the wisdom of Proverbs: "The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." <u>Infrastructure Projects</u> 5 The council approved plans to clear and grade the utility access road shoulder, ensuring stable volunteer parking for the upcoming Greek Festival. This work is part of the Mikae Gaitanos 5 5 Multi-Use Field project, using specifically earmarked funds. The improvement will benefit both the festival and future parish activities by making parking safer and more accessible for volunteers. **Upcoming Events** Parishioner Appreciation: On Sunday, November 30, we will host a parishioner appreciation event. We don't have specifics yet, but it will involve an Artoklasia. Vendor Bazaar & Gyro Event: On Saturday, December 6, 2025, we will host a Craft & Vendor 5 Fair alongside another Saturday Gyro Event. Vendors will pay for their booths but retain their profits, while the church provides space and handles advertising. The last gyro event was notably successful, and this joint effort by the Philoptochos ladies and parish council aims to equal or surpass those results.

Event Recap Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hosts Successful Community Open House 5 On August 9, 2025, we hosted its second community open house "Discover the Ancient Faith" as part of an ongoing series aimed at introducing Orthodox Christianity and our parish to the local community. The event featured guided tours of the church, and a compelling panel discussion with distinguished guests: V. Rev. Fr. Maximos Politis, Rev. Dr. Stephanos Ritsi, 6 5 Parish Council President Thomas Lekas, and our iconographer, Aristidis Kovaci. This event was part of our broader initiative to welcome and educate both potential members and current parishioners about the depth and beauty of the Orthodox faith. We aim to create an 5 open and accessible path for those interested in Orthodoxy—whether they are seekers, long-time believers, or simply curious neighbors. 5 We are excited to announce that our next event is tentatively scheduled for **February 2026**, and 6 we are honored to welcome **His Eminence**, **Metropolitan Demetrios**, who has graciously agreed to participate. Stay tuned for more details—and thank you to all who joined us and helped make this event a meaningful success. Stewardship Growth Stewardship numbers are on the rise, with Toula reporting 88 stewards currently in our church. Additionally, at least three more families or individuals have expressed intent to join, indicating continued upward trajectory in community engagement and support. Fall General Assembly The Fall General Assembly is scheduled for November 9, 2025. The council is working diligently 5 to ensure that this meeting is impactful, engaging, and as concise as possible, taking inspiration from the previous assembly, which was completed in 63 minutes.







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PHILOPTOCHOS



□ Next Meeting: Sunday September 7, 2025 □ 12:15 □ Conference Room

NEWS

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- Our next Philoptochos Sunday Meeting will be September 7th.
- Note: The October meeting will be on October 5th!
- Please remember to contact Kaliroi if you would like to host a Sunday coffee hour. We need hosts for the next few months coming up!
- ➤ Thank You to Vasso Poulos for donating the funds to purchase our new liturgy books in loving memory of her beloved husband, Dr. Steve Poulos. You will find them in our church pews.
- ➤ We delivered our backpacks and school supplies to the District to provide supplies for the children in need. They were ever so thank-full.
- ➤ The Dormition luncheon on August 17th was a beautiful celebration of our Theotokos and our Philoptochos Chapter! A big thank you to Angela, Andy, Kaliroi, Theo and Tom Gross and the team for all their hard work preparing a wonderful meal for everyone. It was a truly blessed event!
- Philoptochos is thankful to be able to donate to our Church operating account \$1500!
- ➤ What can I say about the Membership Tea on Saturday, August 23rd! It was delightful and a wonderful opportunity to come together to be sisters in Christ. A big thank you to our hostess Chris McGlade for sharing her amazing artistic talents, her precious mother and her beautiful home with us. (See pictures)









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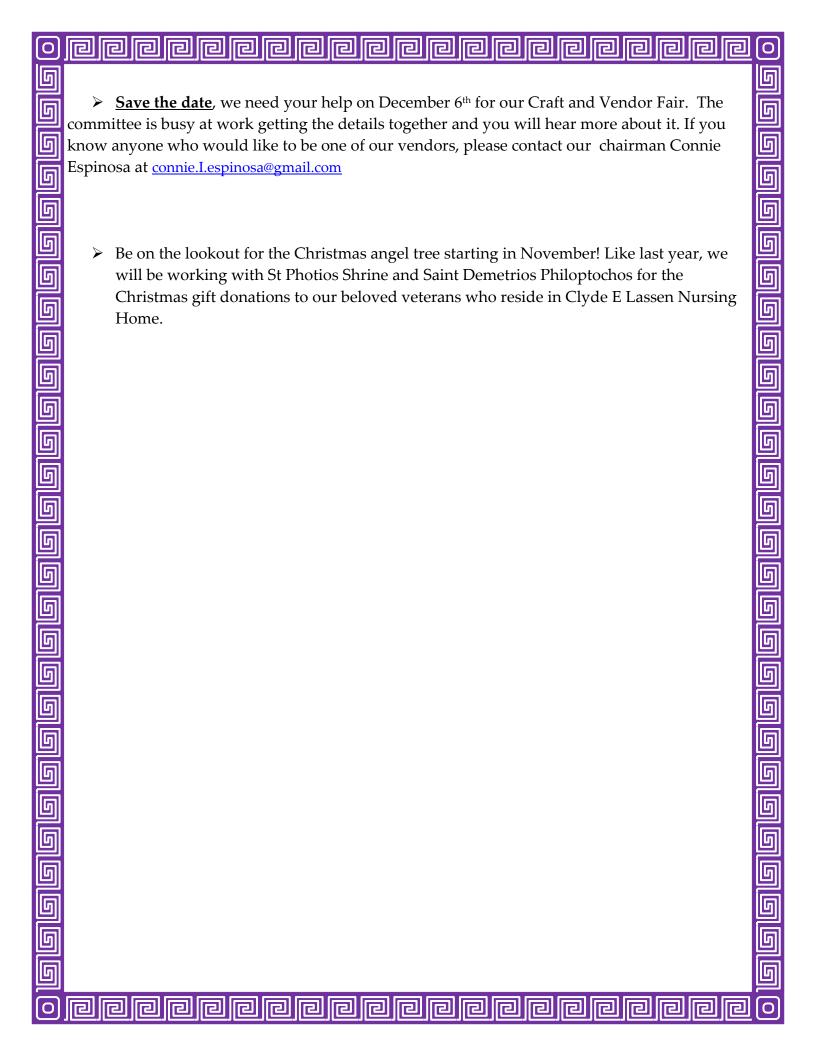
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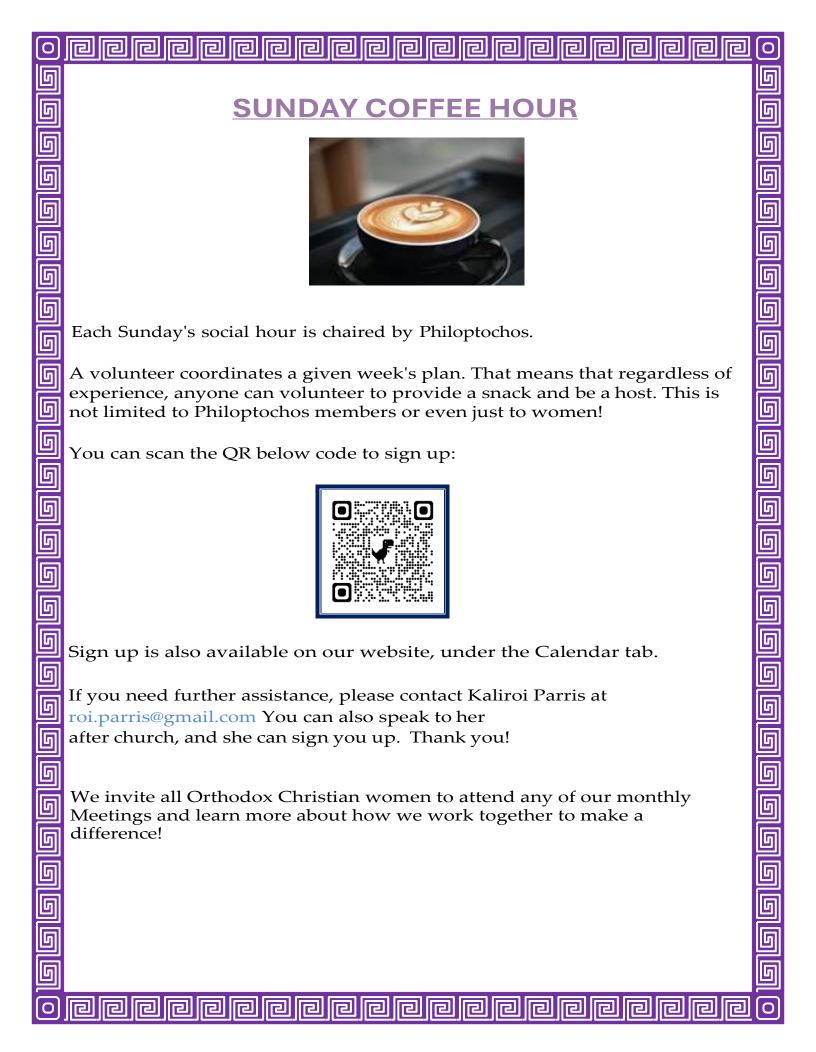
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GOYA YOUTH MINISTRY



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) <u>connie.I.espinosa@gmail.com</u> Or Andy (904/392-1084) <u>ajlekos@att.net</u> for additional information.







Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



Starts September 7th, 2025

(Immediately after Holy Communion)

We do not have a fee for Sunday school. We happily welcome all children.

Looking forward to seeing you!

It's not too late to register!

Click the link to register on our website or scan the QR code

https://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/holy-trinity-youth



Our mission is to help our children grow in understanding our Orthodox faith and build Community along the way. Sunday school is vital in developing a child's knowledge and love for God.

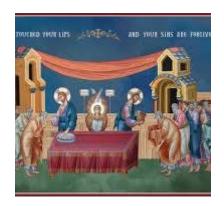
E-mail Holy3SundaySchool@gmail.com with any questions or concerns

We're looking forward to seeing you!

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 anotera (to even greater success)! The Agora Team holytrinityagora@gmail.com

Beautiful-new-books-to-feed-you St. Theodora Bookstore & Gift Shop Where faith meets fabulous gift ideas (and the occasional Russian stacking doll). Yes, we know—it's only September. But blink twice and you'll be untangling Christmas lights and wondering where you hid the nativity set last year. So why not get a head start? We've got brand new pillows from Greece (perfect for post-feast naps) and Russian stacking dolls that are both beautiful and mildly addictive. Our little bookstore and gift shop have become a favorite stop for visitors to our church, and we totally get why—who doesn't love a shop filled with Orthodox books, unique gifts from Greece, and the faint scent of incense? As a ministry of the church, everything we do supports the community—and your shopping habits helps more than you know. Here's a taste of what you'll find: Prayer Ropes (great for your spiritual discipline... or your cat's new toy—no judgment) Orthodox Bibles (yes, the good kind!) Inspirational Books for the Whole Family (and yes, even that one relative) Home Décor (because your walls deserve a blessing too) Jewelry (crosses, icons, and sparkle—hallelujah!) And much more Open Sundays (come by after Liturgy) and by appointment during the week - because we're flexible like that. So come shop, laugh, pray, and support the church—all in one go. St. Theodora Bookstore & Gift Shop: holier than Amazon, and way more charming.

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:

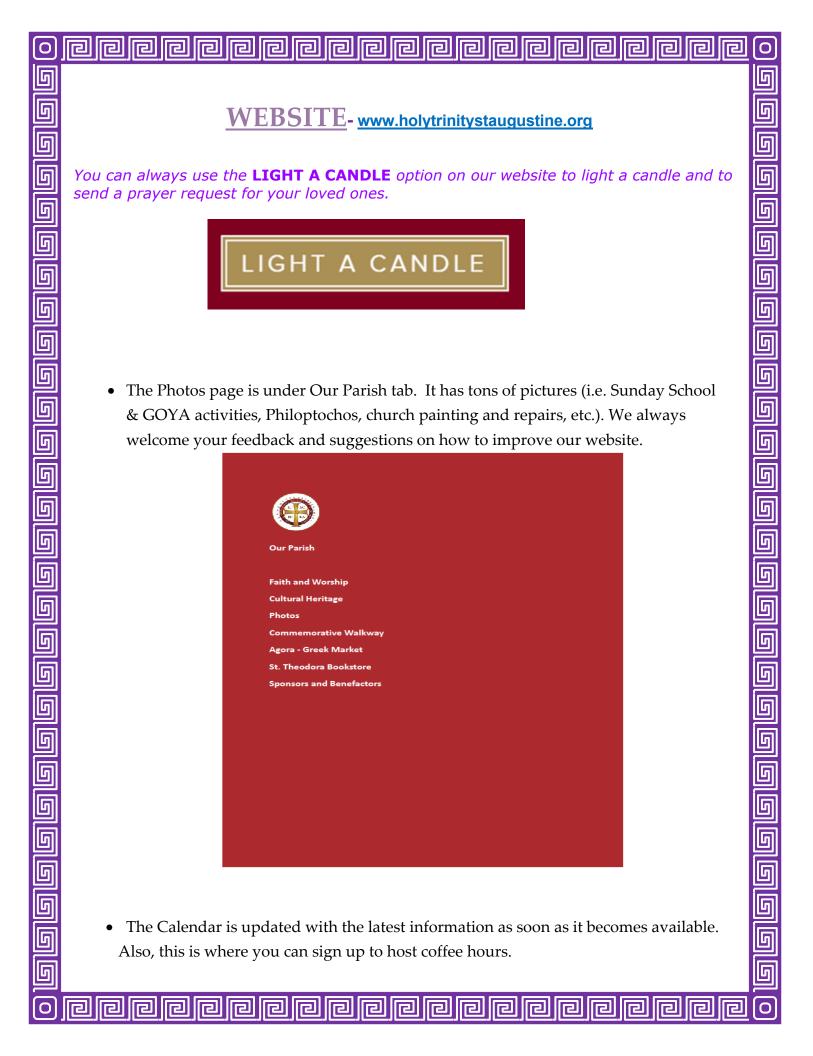
Newly illumined – recently baptized and babies.

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 Sunday school teachers and students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion)-all visiting children are invited to join us! 5

• The remaining congregation as directed by the usher.

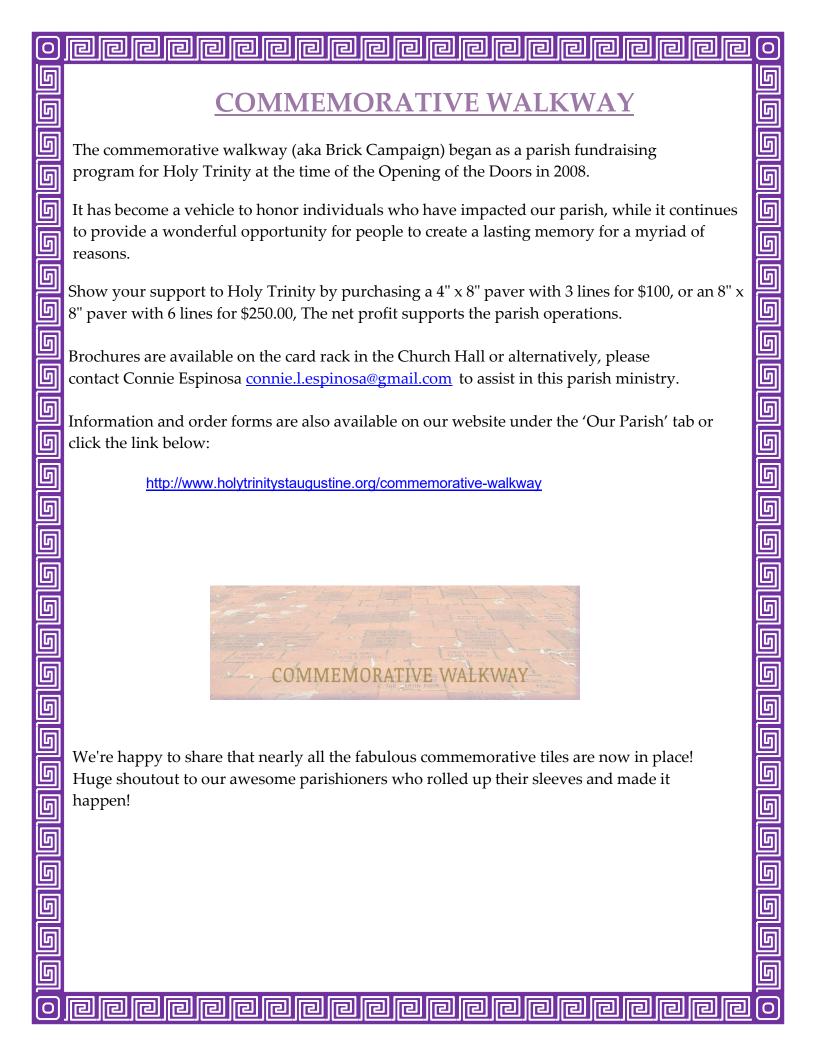
Everyone is invited to receive the Antidoron (Blessed Bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.





WAYS OF GIVING 5 **On-Line:** Click "**Donate Now**" on our Church's webpage: <u>www.holytrinitystaugustine.org</u> 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 9 8 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, 5 etc.). Please use a donation envelope available at the welcome desk and the Narthex and fill out the information requested. 5 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 5 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!



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, <u>angelmou1@att.net</u> if you need Koliva prepared. There is a fee of \$100 for materials, supplies and labor. 5 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, 5 angelmou1@att.net. **HOUSE BLESSINGS:** To arrange for a "house blessing" please contact the priest to make an appointment. 5 **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. 5 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.

