

HOLY TRINITY HERALD NEWSLETTER

April 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

Andrew Antonopoulos	Theo Bersu
Nick Kelley	Maria Lagoutaris
Stacy Symeonides	Toula Zotos

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.

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From the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Some of my best memories come from Pascha. Singing "Christ is Risen," Lighting our candle in church and bringing it home to bless our home, magiritsa after midnight liturgy, and of course, the competition for the toughest egg are just a few. Now our holiest of holidays is upon us. We are in the middle of our Lenten fast and our church has many services and activities to help us keep our thoughts focused on loving our Lord and neighbor. We have a Pre-Sanctified liturgy for the next three Wednesdays up to April 9th. This Friday, April 4th, we have our last evening compline/Salutations to the Theotokos. These are beautiful services we only see and hear during this time. April 12th, we have Lazarus Saturday Breakfast and making of palm crosses (another favorite memory). We look forward to seeing you and praying with you.

We will have our annual Agape Pot-luck immediately after the Agape Service on Pascha, April 20th. Your PC will provide lamb and beverages, and the rest will be brought by all who come and bring a dish. We will send an invitation reminder to everyone.

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. Our bank balances are:

Operating account balance as of 2/28/2025	\$19,099.23
Reserves account balance as of 2/28/2025	\$88,616.95
Mortgage loan balance as of 2/28/2025	\$770,887.28

The reserves account contains ~\$51,000 targeted funds for the Mikae Gaetanos Multi-use field, ~\$17,600 targeted funds for iconography, and ~\$5,600 targeted funds for our fence (From the Michael Lekos Eagle Project).

**We, your parish council, wish you strength as we
proceed in our Lenten fast and a blessed Pascha to
come.**

Thank you

CALENDAR

APRIL 2025

Wed, Apr 2	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Fri, Apr 4	Holy Trinity Calendar	Salutations 6pm
Sun, Apr 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Dr. George Antonatos 9 month Memorial
Sun, Apr 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Easter Card sign-up - deadline 4/6
Sun, Apr 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Phlioptochos Meeting
Sun, Apr 6	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Tue, Apr 8	Holy Trinity Calendar	Parish Council Meeting
Wed, Apr 9	Holy Trinity Calendar	Presanctified 6pm
Sat, Apr 12	Holy Trinity Calendar	Saturday of Lazarus Matins 9am - Liturgy 10am
Sun, Apr 13	Holy Trinity Calendar	Bake Sale
Sun, Apr 13	Holy Trinity Calendar	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Matins 6pm (Palm Sunday afternoon)
Sun, Apr 13	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)
Mon, Apr 14	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Monday - Nymphios - Matins 6pm
Tue, Apr 15	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Tuesday - Nymphios - Matins 6pm
Wed, Apr 16	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction Service 6pm
Thu, Apr 17	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Thursday - Vespers Liturgy 9am - Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels 6pm
Fri, Apr 18	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Friday - Royal hours 9am - Removal of the Christ's Body from the Cross - Vespers 2pm - Epitaphios (Th
Sat, Apr 19	Holy Trinity Calendar	Holy Saturday - Vespers (Liturgy of St. Basil the Great) 9am - Midnight Service 11:30 pm
Sun, Apr 20	Holy Trinity Calendar	Great and Holy Pascha - Holy Resurrection Divine Liturgy 12am (midnight) - Agape Vespers 12pm (noon)
Sun, Apr 20	Holy Trinity Calendar	Mortgage Reduction Campaign
Wed, Apr 23	Holy Trinity Calendar	St. George The Great Martyr
Sat, Apr 26	Holy Trinity Calendar	Phlioptochos Membership Tea
Sun, Apr 27	Holy Trinity Calendar	Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Holy Week Services
SCHEDULE 2025**

Lazarus Saturday (April 12)

- Orthros, 9:00 am; Liturgy, 10:00 am
 - o Palm cross making
 - o *Breakfast to follow*

Palm Sunday (April 13)

- Orthros, 9:00 am; Liturgy, 10:00 am
 - o *Palm Sunday Luncheon to follow*
- Nymphios (Bridegroom) Orthros, 6:00 pm

Holy Monday (April 14)

- Nymphios (Bridegroom) Orthros, 6:00 pm

Holy Tuesday (April 15)

- Nymphios (Bridegroom) Orthros, 6:00 pm

Holy Wednesday (April 16)

- Holy Unction Service, 6:00 pm

Holy Thursday (April 17)

- Liturgy for the Mystical Supper – Vespers Liturgy, 9:00 am
- Orthros with Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:00 pm

Holy Friday (April 18)

- Royal Hours, 9:00 am
 - o *Holy Friday Sunday School Retreat, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm*
- Removal of Christ's Body from the Cross – Vespers, 2:00 pm
- Epitaphios Service (The Lamentations) – Orthros, 6:00 pm

Holy Saturday (April 19)

- Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:00 am
- Midnight Service, 11:30 pm

Pascha Sunday (April 20)

- Paschal Candle and Holy Resurrection, 12:00 am (midnight)
- Divine Liturgy at Midnight, ~12:20 am

- Agape Vespers, 12:00 pm
 - o *Pascha Picnic (potluck)*

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



Holy Trinity Stewardship Growing Together

Our parish is fortunate that so many of our members share their time and talents to move us forward toward our goals. Our stewardship chairs, Toula Zotos and Stacy Symeonides, will strive to encourage a renewed commitment from all our current members to nurture and grow our church and to help meet our basic financial needs. We will also continue to encourage our visitors to become active members and contributing stewards.

With the enhancements to our website and the expanded use of QR codes, it is now even easier for members to make regular stewardship contributions, and we thank everyone for their financial support.

Working with the Parish Council, we are focused on visibility and growth and we welcome leads and ideas from everyone. We have information cards at St Photios Shrine but need more opportunities to increase awareness of our parish as a spiritual home. If you have any leads or ideas, please speak with Toula, Stacy or anyone on Parish Council.

Thank you.

We look forward to working together and moving forward!



SCAN ME

Commitments to Date (as of March 31st, 2025):

Stewards – 63

Commitments - \$60,179

Collected - \$40,022

Outstanding - \$20,770

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

Thank you to all who graciously donated and supported our Sisters Upscale Thrift sale on March 15th. It was a great success and well received by our St. Augustine community. We have raised over \$2000. We will vote in our next meeting on April 6th to confirm distribution to The Betty Griffin House, Alpha Omega Miracle Home, and our Holy Trinity Church. Also, many clothes and household goods were picked up and donated to St. Vincent de Paul after our event.

We are all so thankful to everyone who donates and prepares our coffee hour each Sunday and supports our special luncheons and bake sales throughout the year. This hospitality in our church home creates a welcoming community for all our families and visitors.

We will be sending out our beautiful invitations to our Membership Tea, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. All the women in our parish will be invited. We are so thankful to Chris McGlade for sharing her beautiful home and featuring her mother, Ann McGlade's creative artwork. We are also working on the Landing Day Celebration and Dinner for our St. Photios Shrine event in June.

Our Philoptochos Chapter has been very busy this year! We have raised much needed funds for our parish and our community. We cannot do any of these things without your support! Please consider renewing your membership by clicking the [link](#) below.

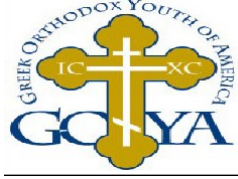
The renewal is \$35.00, a large portion of that supports our National and Metropolis commitments. Go to our website: <https://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/ladies-philoptochos-society> to see details about the organizations that we support, complete the form on-line or pay your dues. Also, click the Photos tab to see pictures of all the things that our wonderful members have done lately.

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLNKKW612GNDQ/checkout/HZMPGGN25F5CDF7NOIBK4IXZ>

Most importantly we enjoy each other as we work together as Sisters in Christ to serve with loving and joyful hearts in the Lord's Kingdom. Thank you to all for your great support!

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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) connie.I.espinosa@gmail.com

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Sunday of Orthodoxy commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons. Our Sunday school children joined the congregation in the celebration of the momentous event (March 9th, 2025).

Thank you to our Philoptochos ladies for their donation to Sunday school. The TV enables the children to watch many religious programs provided by the Metropolis and Archdiocese.

On March 23rd our students helped us celebrate the 1821 Greek War for Independence from the Ottoman Empire by reading an article about the heroism of our ancestors.

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!



The Agora 2024 Annual Report

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the incredible support of our parishioners and patrons, the Agora Ministry has surpassed \$15,000 in sales during our second full year! This achievement would not have been possible without your generosity and dedication to our mission.

As we continue to grow, we invite you to help maintain this momentum by assisting with sales during coffee hour. Please visit our Signup Genius page, to choose a time that works for you (See below)

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

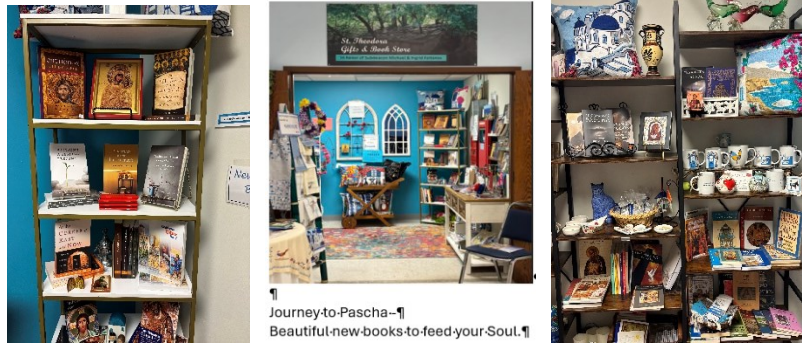
Your participation is invaluable in supporting the ongoing success of the Agora Ministry.

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.

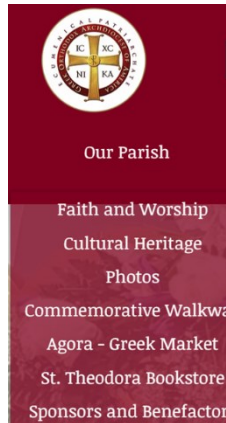
WEBSITE - www.holytrinitystaugustine.org

Easter at Holy Trinity - Visit our website to make your Easter Offering, to sign the Easter card, to donate towards the purchase of flowers for the Epitaphio and Luminaria, and to RSVP & pay for the Palm Sunday luncheon.

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.



- 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!

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.

