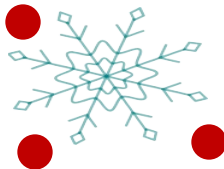
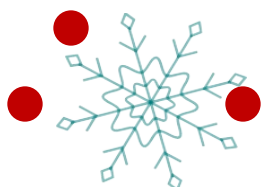


HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



December Newsletter



V. Rev. Fr. Maximos Politis – Parish Priest (347) 500-8176

FatherMaximUSA7@gmail.com

Mr. Nick Lekas – Parish President (904) 814-4930

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.*

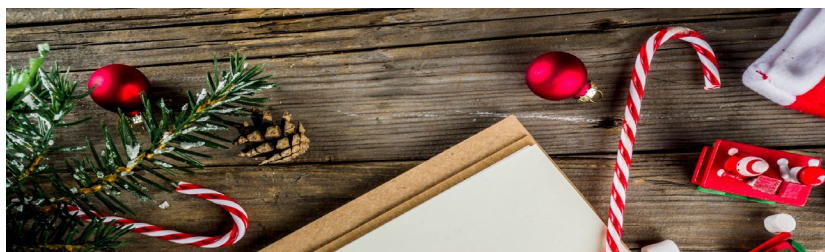
OUR VISION: *Fostering an Orthodox Christian environment that encourages parishioner engagement, increasing public awareness of our faith and of our parish as a spiritual home, and nurturing and growing our stewardship commitments.*

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

Contents

- Calendar (Services – Events – Activities)
- Philoptochos
- GOYA
- Sunday School
- Stewardship
- Agora (Greek Market)
- Book Store
- Announcements –“**Inaugural**” **Mini Golf Tournament** (See full details under Announcements page 16)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

CALENDAR

Date	Event
12/1/2024	Christmas Card Sign-up until 12/15/2024
12/1/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am No Sunday School
12/1/2024	3 year memorial for Mikea Gaetanos
12/6/2024	St. Nicholas Feast Day - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
12/6/2024	St. Photios Shrine Christmas open house event 3-5pm
12/8/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
12/8/2024	Philoptochos meeting following Liturgy (12:30pm)
12/15/2024	Sunday Services - Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am Christmans Carols - Hymns by Sunday School children
12/15/2024	GOYA Beach Christmas Party
12/15/2024	Sunday School Christmas Party, Cookie Table, Silent Auction
12/15/2024	Lenten Lunch provided by the Philoptochos
12/15/2024	Vasilopita & Tsoureki - Sale and Pick-up
12/15/2024	Mortgage Reduction Campaign
12/15/2024	Last day to sign-up for the Christmas Card
12/16/2024	Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm
12/22/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
12/22/2024	Sunday School - Christmas Carols - Hymns (No Sunday School)
12/24/2024	Christmas Eve - Divine Liturgy 10am
12/25/2024	Christmas / Nativity Day Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
12/25/2024	Holy Nativity (Christmas) - Parish and Archdiocese offices closed
12/26/2024	Holy Nativity (Christmas) - Parish and Archdiocese offices closed
12/29/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am No Sunday School

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

www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar

If you have any updates to the calendar, please contact the church Office or Kaliroi Parris roi.parris@gmail.com

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE FL**

PHILOPTOCHOS



GREEK ORTHODOX
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
SOCIETY, INC.

Paula Marchman Lekas – Philoptochos Chapter President
paulamarchman@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!!

- ❖ **Christmas Bazaar** on **December 15th** (See flyer below)
- ❖ Next Meeting will be on **December 8th**
- ❖ **Christmas Card** orders will be taken on 11/17 11/24
12/1 12/8 and 12/15 (See Flyer Below)

Welcome December

We are so thankful for all the support and generosity for our November projects. With your help they were all a success.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL



First, Thank you to all our beautiful souls who picked up the Angels off our tree to make Christmas special for a veteran. Our “Gifts of Grace with Gratitude for veterans” was a huge blessing. All of you are so generous, many of you took more than one angel! God bless you. We will be collecting all the gifts in the first week of December to deliver. We also enjoyed working on this project with St. Demetrios Philotochos and Saint Photios shrine. Thank you to Zoe and Marika for putting all the packaging and angels together, so organized!



Also, Thank you to everyone who brought canned foods and pantry items to deliver to the St. Augustine Pantry!



Thank you to Angela and Carman for organizing our amazing Bake sale and all our special bakers who make our holidays tasty! And a very special thank you to Vasso Poulos for generously donating all the wonderful Tsoureki loaves.



We are so excited to have paid for a professional to clean all our blue chairs, conference chairs, pews, and carpet in the church. They all are quite aged and eventually God willing we will replace them, but they are much cleaner and presentable.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL



Christmas Bazaar

*Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Ladies Philoptochos Society - "Koimisis Tis Theotokou"*

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

After Divine Liturgy

Our Christmas Bazaar includes:

- Bake Sale including Vasilopita
- Auction of beautiful Gift Baskets
- Books & Gifts from our Book Store
- Greek products from our Agora
- Crafts & assorted Gift Baskets

The Philoptochos ladies will provide a Lenten lunch and the Sunday school children will sing Christmas Carols and Hymns.

Come and get your Christmas gift shopping done while helping your parish!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL



Merry Christmas

*Benefiting the ministries of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Ladies Philoptochos Society - "Koimisis Tis Theotokou"*

Parish Christmas card

Donation is \$20.00 per family

To Sign-up:

- send an email to Kaliroi Parris roi.parris@gmail.com
or send her a text to 312-952-0400
- during coffee hour in the Church Hall on the following Sundays
📅 11/17 11/24 12/1 12/8 12/15

Deadline is December 15th, 2024

*Christmas cards will be mailed in time for you to share your Christmas greetings
with your church family*

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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!

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4BA9AB29ABF58-47162771-holy>

Please contact Gigi Ray at gigiray703@gmail.com or call her at 404-375-5859; or email Kaliroi Parris at roi.parris@gmail.com. You can speak to them after church, and they can sign you up also. 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!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

GOYA YOUTH MINISTRY

The Holy Trinity Church GOYA ministry is about *fun, fellowship* and *service*. GOYA is for those 13-18 years old. All sixth through twelfth graders are welcome to participate.

Upcoming GOYA events are in preparation for the holiday season. The youth will participate in:

- Sun Dec 15, 2-5pm – Fellowship - **Christmas party**. Join us for our first GOYA beach Christmas party at Coquina Condo in Crescent Beach (7900 A1A S unit B210, St Augustine) – lunch provided

******Also, please contact Connie or Andy regarding the St. Photios Shrine **scholarship** award. The deadline is Dec 6.

Contact Connie (773/517-6352) connie.l.espinosa@gmail.com or Andy (904/392-1084) ajlekos@att.net for additional information.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday School classrooms are nicely decorated, the kids' photos are on the wall and each student has a binder for their work and handouts.

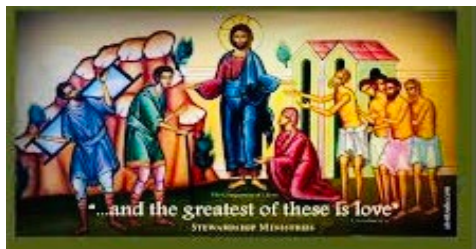
A huge thank you to our Sunday School parents and teachers for all your support and all the things that you do for our children! It is very much appreciated!



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship of our gifts can help shape our world and ourselves in such a way that we can experience God's grace, love and communion in the present.

Those that Seek the Lord Shall Never be in Want of any Good Thing

(Psalm 34:10 and the Closing Hymn of the Service of Artoclasia)

Stewardship Report

Thanks to the efforts of many parishioners, there has been great progress at Holy Trinity this past year. Several areas - inside and out - have been cleared, cleaned, organized and beautified! We have offered hospitality throughout our events and through our Sunday fellowship coffee hour. With generous donations of time and funds, our Philoptochos impacted the community at large, our youth ministries, and the church facility. We've also had an active year for our youth, with a reinvigorated Sunday School program and an active GOYA chapter.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ***ST. AUGUSTINE FL***

The only area that has not met expectations is the amount contributed to the basic operating expenses of our parish, which all come from designated stewardship donations. Please look into your hearts and end the year with a final 2024 stewardship donation commensurate with the needs of our parish.

The Stewardship theme for 2025 is "Your Own from Your Own" from the Divine Liturgy. God receives our humble offering of bread and wine and returns those to us as His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift, a sacrament of God's presence, and a means of communion with Him. This way we are able to offer back to God, in thanksgiving and love, the many gifts we receive from Him.

In the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, we are taught to offer what we have, no matter the amount, and miracles will happen.

So it is with our church, as we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of "Your own from your own". We will see our church not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love.

Please carefully consider your Stewardship commitment for 2025 to ensure that our parish can function as it should. The 2025 Stewardship Pledge form will soon be available online through

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

our church website. There will also be Stewardship forms in the Narthex and they will be mailed to those with no computer access.

With sincere thanks to all who have contributed their time, talents and treasure to our spiritual home,

Toula Zotos

The Stewardship form is available at the church and on-line at www.holytrinitystaugustine.org *You can also set up regular monthly payments through the church website or your bank.*

Don't forget to use the QR code, it's an easy and convenient way to give:



Stewardship Report (as of November 30, 2024):

Stewards - 79

Commitments - \$115,000

Collected - \$113,000

Outstanding - \$2,000

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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AGORA (Greek Market)



Taste the Flavors of Greece & Support a Good Cause! GR

This holiday season, indulge in delicious, imported Greek food items, including:

- **Cheeses, Olives, & Olive Oil**
- **Oregano, Phyllo, and Frozen Tiropites & Spanakopitas**
- **Lentils, Orzo, & Pistachio Noodles**
- **Halvah, Spoon Sweet Preserves & Greek Chocolates**
- **Coffee, Tea, Honey, and More!**

Perfect for holiday feasts, gift-giving, or treating yourself to something special. Every purchase supports **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church** of St. Augustine, helping us continue our community work and worship.

Contact us at holytrinityagora@gmail.com or visit us after church at the Agora in the church hall.

After hours? Just make an appointment!

Thank you for supporting our church and spreading the joy of Greek tradition this season.

With gratitude,

Stacy Symeonides, Stephanie Danikas & The Agora Team

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

BOOK STORE



ST. THEODORA BOOK STORE AND GIFT SHOP: Looking to sprinkle some Greek magic on a gift for that special someone or jazz up your home? Dive into our treasure trove of stunning items straight from Greece! For details, send an email to Paula Marchman at paulamarchman@yahoo.com.



DECEMBER SALE ALERT Kick off your holiday shopping spree with one-of-a-kind goodies! Our cozy shop is bursting with delightful new children's books that dive into our faith, celebrate our saints, and explore our church! They're not just great gifts; they're fabulous tools to instill our beautiful faith in the next generation. So, what are you waiting for? Go shopping now and show some love for our church! Plus, we've got a fresh stash of adult books too!

And don't forget to check out our **gift shop**, overflowing with gorgeous new items from our talented Greek artists! Think plush pillows, lovely towels, exquisite porcelain, and pomegranates galore—oh my! GR❤️ Swing by to snag some unique treasures for your home. Remember, we've got limited stock, so these gems are extra special and priced just right. Visit us on Sundays or schedule a private shopping spree during the week!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE FL

ANNOUNCEMENT!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST AUGUSTINE, FL

Presents our First Annual

MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

FIESTA FALLS MINIATURE GOLF COURSE

St Augustine Beach, Florida

2 Start times - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

\$50 registration includes savory Greek loukaniko!

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Wildflower Health Clinic.

Sponsorships begin at \$250

Higher sponsorships include one or more free players.

Contact HolyTrinityMiniGolf@gmail.com for sponsorship information.

Invite family and friends to organize a foursome!

Registration will be online through the church website.

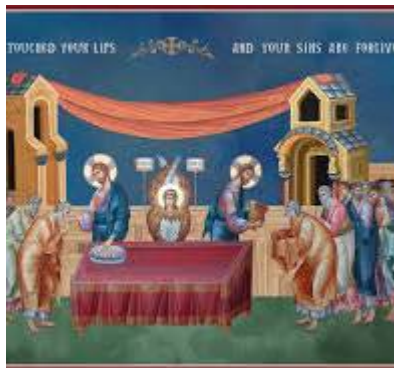
Faith, Fellowship and Fun!

HolyTrinityStAugustine.org

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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:

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

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

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

WEBSITE - www.holytrinitystaugustine.org

Check out our new website! It's easy to navigate and we'll keep adding more ways to make it your "go-to" destination for all things Holy Trinity of St Augustine!

- ✓ Looking for the weekly bulletin? Or the Parish calendar? Or the Sunday Coffee Hour sign-up? They're all under the "Calendar".
- ✓ Check out the **Photos** of our events! Also, information about our *Faith and Worship* can be found in the **Our Parish** tab.
- ✓ The *Commemorative Walkway* order form is added to **Our Parish** tab
- ✓ The Sunday School info is listed under **Parish Ministries** tab

We look forward to keeping you well informed!

Merry
Christmas

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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 offering can be made at the collection basket as you exit the service or

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ***ST. AUGUSTINE FL***

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.'

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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 for two specific situations:

1. 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>

2. 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!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE FL

Church Financials as of November 30th, 2024

Income	\$47,766
Stewardship	\$9,880
Expense	\$22,497
Bank Balance	\$40,747
Reserves	\$59,787

****This does include PayPal / Square
Incomes, the reports aren't available
until December 2nd.**

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ***ST. AUGUSTINE FL***

THE 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 alternately, 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!

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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 Angel 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.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ST. AUGUSTINE FL

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.

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE FL**

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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Signs Now
Smiles by Glenos & Hadqis Orthodontists
Surf Station
Old Town Trolleys
Pain Relief Center Chiropractic Rehab Wellness
Radiology Associates St. Augustine
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We want to THANK our sponsors and benefactors for their support.
 We encourage you to show your appreciation for their support by patronizing their business.