

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE FL



2940 CR 214
St. Augustine FL



November 2024



Phone: (904) 829-0504

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.*

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FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 10

Your presence and voice are essential as we work together to strengthen our parish and continue our mission. Parishioner engagement is crucial to the overall health of the parish!

The Fall General Assembly meeting agenda will include the following:

- Overview of this year's activities and future plans
- Financial review and presentation of a budget for 2025
- The role of stewardship in our financial health
- Ministry reports
- Nominations for Parish Council openings
- Planning for upcoming major building repairs

We look forward to seeing all our parishioners there!

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PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS OPEN

There will be five openings for the 2025-26 Parish Council, two of which have been open since last year. The only requirement is to be a steward in good standing of Holy Trinity for the full previous year and the current year.

The Parish Council represents the interests of all parishioners and ministries and has a vital role in acting on their behalf.

We need new (and previous) Parish Council members to provide new perspectives and experiences. The members of the council discuss a variety of issues pertinent to our parish, and new ideas will allow us to expand our options and solutions.

You can make a difference! Please consider becoming a member of our Parish Council by speaking to any of its current members - Nick Lekas, Bill Lulias, Andy Antonopoulos, Toula Zotos, Kalirois Parris, Gigi Ray, or Father Maximos.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the November 10th General Assembly meeting!

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CALENDAR

11/1/2024	November 1st until November 24th Philophochos Food Drive for local Food Pantry
11/2/2024	Celebration of Life for Athena Duddy <small>(See email announcement for details or call Karen (508)335-1192)</small>
11/3/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
11/3/2024	Philoptochos meeting following Divine Liturgy
11/3/2024	40 Day Memorial for Demetrios Beckes
11/9/2024	Matthew Breuning Baptism at 9:00 a.m.
11/10/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
11/10/2024	Fall General Assembly (2nd Sunday in November)
11/11/2024 Monday	Veteran's Day - Parish Office and Archdiocese offices are closed
11/17/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am Mortgage Reduction Campaign
11/17/2024	Christmas Card Sign-up until 12/15/2024
11/18/2024	Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm
11/24/2024	Sunday Services Orthros 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am
11/24/2024	Holiday Bake Sale
11/24/2024	Last day for collection of canned foods and non-perishables for the local food pantry
11/26/2024	GOYA-Church Cleaning, including hall and chairs
11/28/2024 Thursday	Thanksgiving Day Parish Office and Archdiocese offices are closed
11/29/2024 Friday	Thanksgiving - Parish Office and Archdiocese offices are closed
11/30/2024	Goya-Decorate the Christmas Tree
11/30/2024	Annual Memorial Bonfire

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

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PHILOPTOCHOS

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

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!!

- November Meeting will be on **Sunday November 3rd**
- Bake sale on **November 24th** (See flyer below)
- Community Project- Food Drive for the Food Pantry in St. Augustine. Bring your items in **Now through November 24th**



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Ladies Philoptochos Society – Kimisis tis Theotokou – Chapter 5063

Annual Holiday Bake Sale
Sunday **November 24th, 2024** - After Divine Liturgy

Please help us plan by completing this form and return it to:
Angela Lekos by **November 17th, 2024**

Your name: _____ Phone or email: _____

I will make the following (please indicate approximate quantity):

Koulourakia _____	Kourabiethes _____
Melomakarona _____	Karithopita _____

Cookies: specify type and approx. quantity _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

_____ I can help with the Bake Sale on Sunday November 24th, 2024

If you cannot bake, but still want to help with a monetary contribution, mail a check to the church (indicate Bake Sale) or give your contribution to Toula Zotos, the Philoptochos Treasurer.

We greatly appreciate your support towards the many charities in our community.

Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County	St. Francis House
Alpha Omega Miracle Home	St. Johns County A.S.S.I.S.T.
International Orthodox Christian Charities	

<https://www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/parish-ministries>

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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!

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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.



The Holy Trinity Church GOYAnS were sporting their new shirts donated by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. The youth were in full force – dancing, serving, cleaning – volunteering at the Greek Taverna event. We thank them for their hard work!

Upcoming GOYA events include Church cleaning (Nov 26); and Christmas tree decorating (Nov 30).

Contact Connie at connie.l.espinosa@gmail.com or Andy at ajlekos@att.net for additional information

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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.

Here's a synopsis of the topics that we covered last month. The children are very engaged and have interesting questions, answers and comments.

- 9/15 The Elevation of the Cross, and, the finding of the True Cross by St. Helen, financed by her son, St. Constantine., and what that specifically means to Orthodox Christians, as well as what the Cross and Jesus dying on the Cross meant for us and our Salvation.
- 9/22 We discussed Jonah and The Whale, and how Jonah being in the belly of the whale prefigured Christ's being in the tomb for three days and rising. Jonah, too, "rose", when he was spat out and finally agreed to warn the people of Niniveh, as God had asked him to do to

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begin with, yet Jonah refused. We discussed how Jonah stretched out his hands in the belly of the whale, making himself into the shape of the cross.

·9/29 The children acted out the play of David and Goliath, and discussed how David could beat the Giant in an unfair contest, because he had God on his side, even though he chose not to wear the armor given to him by the King to protect him.

· 10/6 We watched a two-part video about Noah and the Ark, and we discussed in detail how and why it was necessary for Noah to build the ark, as well as how the animals were gathered to go into it. We also studied a very unusual icon written to depict the Ark and Noah and all the others who are in the symbolic ark, and what each figure in the icon represents. We also discussed something God promised never to do again, as well as what the rainbow means.

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!

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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 – Fall 2024

The Stewardship Commitment

Making a financial promise to the church is an exercise in spirituality and an act of gratitude. An annual pledge helps us transform our relationship with money and things and reorient our lives to God. It has the added benefit of allowing the parish to plan the best use of our resources.

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Journey to Generosity

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.

- Through the third quarter of this year, compared to the same period last year, stewardship donations are relatively flat. The current trajectory adds to the financial strain on our parish.

Taking the Next Step

Taking the next step is an opportunity to enrich our understanding of Christian stewardship and generosity. The focus is on the need of each person to contribute proportionately from their resources as a part of their own spiritual maturity and discipleship of Christ.

- There has been a welcome increase in regular monthly stewardship donations, from 28% last year, to 34% of the total this year.

We are asking each person to consider taking a step up in their giving as their response to all God has done for them. This biblical approach to financial stewardship effectively helps people make progress in one aspect of their spiritual journey.

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How we fulfill this commitment is up to each of us, keeping in mind that giving back to God a portion of what He has given us is crucial to spiritual health.

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver”

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 September 30, 2024):

Stewards - 74

Commitments - \$105,000

Collected - \$94,937

Outstanding - \$21,021

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AGORA (Greek Market)



Featuring **delicious imported Greek food items** like cheeses, olives, olive oil, oregano, frozen tiropites and spanakopita's, 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.

After hours, please make an appointment.

Stacy Symeonides, Stephanie Danikas & The Agora Team

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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.

🍩 **NOVEMBER 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!

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ANNOUNCEMENT!



TAVERNA NIGHTS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is grateful to all the parishioners who planned, prepared, hosted and served the community at our first Taverna Nights event, October 25 and 26. The feedback was very positive, and the event provided an opportunity to increase the visibility of our parish. Thank you too all!



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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Join Us for

3rd Annual

Memorial

BONFIRE

On Saturday, November 30, ~6:11pm ('til the fire is out) we will gather for the 3rd Annual Memorial Bonfire at the parish yard (2940 CR 214, St Aug, FL). Bring a bundle of wood, bring a lawn chair, bring a snack, bring a memory to share. Let us keep the fire of our loved ones alive and continue our journey to keeping their memory eternal.



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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.

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".

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- ✓ 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!

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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!

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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

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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.'

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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!

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Church Financials as of October 31st, 2024

Income	\$9,926
Stewardship	\$8,625
Expense	\$19,842
Bank Balance	\$2,031
Reserves	\$68,407

****** This does not include income from Taverna Nights as of this report the funds have not been dispersed.

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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!

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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.

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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.

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We encourage you to show your appreciation for their support by patronizing their business.***