

HOLY TRINITY HERALD NEWSLETTER February 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
Nick Kelley

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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Greetings From Your New Parish Council

Your new parish council met on Sunday, January 19th to elect our officers and nominate replacement representatives for two members who have left the council and/or our parish. I am the president (Thomas Lekas), Zoe Kugeares VP, Carman Gaetanos Secretary, and Kaliroi Parris Treasurer. We also have Niko Kelly, Andreas Antonopoulos, and Toula Zotos remaining on the council. Maria Lagoutaris has accepted our nomination to join the council. We need at least one more member, and we humbly request all parish stewards to come forward to join the PC, fill the final role, and help us do the church's business.

Thank you to the previous council members who gave their time, talents, and treasure to serve us these past two years. Under their leadership and with the support of many volunteers and donors, we have held meaningful spiritual, liturgical, and sacramental events, our parish facilities are mostly repaired and beautiful, and we have had successful cultural events and much more.

I want to share the vision and number 1 priority I shared with the PC in our first meeting last Tuesday, January 21. That vision is to grow our church. Gary Peterson is starting a committee to work on this priority. I challenged each PC member to work for this committee in addition to their other responsibilities. Work has started and we ask that each of you pray for us, reach out to people and bring them to church, and give us any ideas that you have that will move this priority forward.

A Personal Reflection on Stewardship

Stewardship is a concept that resonates deeply with me. It is more than just a responsibility or a duty: it is a guiding principle that shapes my actions, decisions, and interactions with the world around me. The words from the liturgy resonate in my head as the priest says: **μεταλαμβάνει ο δούλος του Θεού Σώμα και αίμα Χριστού εἰς Ἀφεσιν αμαρτιῶν Καὶ ζωὴν αἰωνίων.** That is: The servant of God receives the body and blood of Christ for the remission of sins and life eternal. That's who I want to be, the servant of God. My stewardship role is that of a servant. It means I use my time, talents, and treasures to serve my family, church, and community.

How do people know I am a servant, a steward, a caretaker of God's promise? It is sometimes difficult to see out in the community, but in the church, it is as simple as looking at the stewardship list. Filling out a stewardship card is a simple task in and of itself. But this action enables your parish council to communicate with you, create a budget, and measure our efforts to serve the church. I pray you make it the next act of your stewardship.

CALENDAR



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church - St.

February 2025

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 5:00 p.m. Hierarchical Vespers at St. Photios Shrine
2 • Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)	3	4	5	6 • St. Photios Feast Day	7	8
9 • Bersau Baptism • Philoptochos Meeting • Sunday Services (Matins 9am -	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 • Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy 10am)	17 • Presidents' Day	18 • Parish Council Meeting	19	20 • Naska Baptism	21	22 • Burke Baptism • Saturday of Soule 6pm
23 • Chresanthe Lamieux 2yr memorial • Sunday Services (Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy	24	25	26	27	28	1 • Oratorical Festival Workshop • Saturday of Soule 6pm

• Federal Holidays • Local Holidays • Multiple Events

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

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2940 COUNTY ROAD 214, ST AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, 32084

www.HolyTrinityStAugustine.org

Email: holy3goc@gmail.com



2025 Stewardship

“Your Own from Your Own”

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

As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God’s gift, as 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.

The Stewardship theme for 2025, *“Your Own from Your Own,”* is from the Divine Liturgy. We offer back to God that which He has given us. He receives our humble offering of bread and wine and returns them to us as His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

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 as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God’s generosity and love.

Your faithful support as stewards of our parish is a meaningful contribution toward parish viability. In the miracle of the loaves and fishes, we are taught to offer what we have, no matter the amount, and miracles will happen!

Please include a stewardship commitment in your financial plans for 2025. Your pledge amount is confidential and only needs to be an estimate for your personal planning and our overall projections. The form is on our website, in the narthex, or you may print one and send/scan it to the church office.

Thank you for your support of this parish!



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2025 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

In gratitude for God's blessings,

I / We _____ offer to Christ and His Church the following:

Total Amount \$ _____ for 2025*

*(*This only needs to be an estimate for your personal planning and our overall projections.)*

I/We plan to contribute toward Stewardship (check one):

Weekly Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually

(In addition to checks, consider using automated payments through your bank, or pay online at www.holytrinitystauqustine.org), noting "2025 Stewardship" with your payment.

2025 STEWARD INFORMATION (Please Print)

Name: _____	<u>Dependent Children's Names & Birthdates</u>
Name of Spouse _____	_____
Street Address _____	_____
City, State, Zip: _____	_____
Home Phone _____	_____
Mobile Phone _____	_____
Mobile Phone of Spouse _____	_____
E-Mail Address _____	_____
E-Mail Address of Spouse _____	_____

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2940 County Road 214, Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Ph: 904/829-0504 E-mail: holy3goc@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

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:



SCAN ME



Stewardship Report (as of December 31, 2024):

Stewards – 82

Commitments - \$13,815

Collected - \$13,215

Outstanding - \$600



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, February 9, 2025 □ Noon □ Conference Room

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

Our Philoptochos Chapter has been very busy!

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>

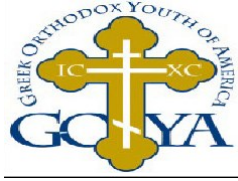
Thank you very much for your generosity

*Please join us in our February meeting to plan and move forward into the new year. We are very excited about 2025 and we need all our women to be a part of this sisterhood. The meeting is Sunday, February 9th at 12 o'clock following coffee hour!

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



GOYA YOUTH MINISTRY



Holy Trinity Church GOYANs prepared 50+ meals for the St. Francis House. HTGOC GOYA is about fun, fellowship and service. The youth prepared grilled chicken, pasta with alfredo sauce and Greek-style green beans.

The St. Francis Housing Crisis Center is a housing-focused program, accommodating men, women and families, who receive specific assistance to ensure that children's education is not interrupted, and stability of the family unit is maintained.

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

On Sunday, December 22nd, Sunday school children performed their Christmas pageant program. *The Christmas pageant was wonderful, thank you to our teachers and parents for their support*



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

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 January 31st, 2025

Income	\$26,661
Stewardship	\$17,266
Expense	\$33,094
Bank Balance	\$38,508
Reserves	\$94,651

*This does not include PayPal/Square income. The reports are not available until February 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.

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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We want to THANK our sponsors and benefactors for their support, especially those who wish to remain anonymous.

We encourage you to show your appreciation to the sponsors listed here by patronizing their business.