

HOLY TRINITY • ST. NICHOLAS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF STATEN ISLAND

# METHEXIS



The Monthly Bulletin of Holy Trinity - St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church of Staten Island

January 2026



# HOLY TRINITY \* ST. NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF STATEN ISLAND



## PARISH PRIEST

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# Ἄπολυτίκιον τῶν Θεοφανείων

Ὕχος α'

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε,  
ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις·  
τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι,  
ἀγαπητὸν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα·  
καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστερᾶς,  
ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές.  
Ο ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός,  
καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.

# Ἄποντάκιον τῆς Ἔορτῆς

Ὕχος πλ. δ'

Ἐπεφάνης σύμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ,  
καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς,  
ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε·  
Ὕλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

# ‘Ο Οἶκος

Τῇ Γαλιλαίᾳ τῶν Ἐθνῶν, τῇ τοῦ Ζαβουλῶν χώρᾳ,  
καὶ τοῦ Νεφθαλείμι γαίᾳ, ὡς εἶπεν ὁ Προφήτης,  
φῶς μέγα ἔλαμψε Χριστός· τοῖς ἐσκοτισμένοις  
φαεινὴ ὥφθη αὐγὴ, ἐκ Βηθλεέμ ἀστράπτουσα·  
μᾶλλον δὲ ἐκ Μαρίας ὁ Κύριος πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ  
ἀνατέλλει τὰς ἀκτίνας, ὁ Ἡλιος τῆς Δικαιοσύνης.  
Διὸ οἱ ἔξ Αδάμ γυμνοί, δεῦτε πάντες ὑποδύωμεν  
αὐτόν, ἵνα θαλφθῶμεν· σκέπη γὰρ γυμνῶν, καὶ αἴγλη  
ἐσκοτισμένων, ἥλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

# A polytikion of Theophany

Mode 1

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord,  
it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity.  
For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You,  
also bore witness to You, calling You “beloved Son,”  
and the Spirit, in the form of a dove,  
confirmed that what was said is true.  
In Your epiphany, O Christ God,  
You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You!

# Ἄποντάκιον of the Feast

Mode pl. 4

You revealed yourself today on earth, O Master,  
and Your light was stamped on us, who in the knowledge  
of the truth, O Lord, extol Your epiphany.  
You came; You revealed yourself, O unapproachable Light.

# Oikos

On Galilee of the Gentiles, on the region of Zebulon  
and the land of Nephthali, as the Prophet declared,  
a great light has shone, which is the Christ.  
Dark-dwellers have seen a radiant dawn  
shining out of Bethlehem, rather out of Mary,  
as the Lord -- the Sun of Justice -- breaks  
His rays o'er the whole of civilization.  
Come then, all unclothed offspring of Adam:  
let us put on Christ and thus keep warm.

For, as a mantle for the denuded  
and a beacon to the be-darkened,  
You came and shone forth,  
O Light unapproachable.

«*Ἴησοδ̄ς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτός καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰώνας*»  
(Εβρ. 13,8)

**Μ**ε τὴν χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσερχόμαστε σήμερα στὸ Νέο Ἔτος 2026, ὅχι ως ἄνθρωποι ποὺ ἀπλῶς μετροῦν τὸν χρόνο, ἀλλὰ ως τέκνα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ποὺ ἀγιάζουν τὸν χρόνο καὶ τὸν προσφέρουν στὰ χέρια τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία δὲν φοβᾶται τὸ μέλλον, διότι γνωρίζει ὅτι «*Ἴησοδ̄ς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτός καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰώνας*». Ὁ νέος χρόνος δὲν εἶναι ἀπλῶς ἀλλαγὴ ἡμερολογίου· εἶναι κλῆσις μετανοίας, ἐλπίδας καὶ πνευματικῆς ἀνακαίνισεως. Μᾶς δίδεται ἀπὸ τὸν Θεὸν ως δῶρο τῆς Θείας μακροθυμίας Του καὶ συγχρόνως ως εὐθύνη ἀγιασμοῦ τῆς ζωῆς μας.

Σήμερα, ὅμως, ή ἀγία Ἐκκλησία, μᾶς χαρίζει καὶ ἔνα φωτεινὸν πρόσωπο νὰ συμπορευθῇ μὲ ἐμᾶς στὴν ἀρχὴ τοῦ νέου χρόνου· τὸν Ἀγιον Βασίλειον τὸν Μέγαν. Ὁ Ἀγιος ὑπῆρξε μέγας θεολόγος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ ὑπόδειγμα ἔμπρακτης πίστεως καὶ φιλανθρωπίας. Μὲ τὸ λόγο του δίδαξε τὴν ἀλήθεια τῆς πίστεως καὶ μὲ τὴ ζωὴ του μαρτύρησε τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἡ Βασιλειάδα, τὸ μεγάλο ἔργο τῆς φιλανθρωπίας του, μᾶς θυμίζει ὅτι ὁ χρόνος ποὺ μᾶς χαρίζεται ἀπὸ τὸν Θεό δίφεύλει νὰ μεταποιεῖται σὲ διακονία καὶ προσφορὰ πρὸς τὸν πλησίον.

Μέσα στὸ πνεῦμα αὐτὸ τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς διακονίας, τὸ μηνιαῖο περιοδικὸ τῆς ἐνορίας μας «*Μέθεξις*» συμπληρώνει ἔναν χρόνον ζωῆς καὶ προσφορᾶς. Ἐνα χρόνο δημιουργίας, μαρτυρίας καὶ πνευματικῆς ἐπικοινωνίας, ποὺ δὲν θὰ μποροῦσε νὰ ὑπάρξῃ χωρὶς τὴ συνεργασία, τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν προσευχὴν ὅλων σας. Ἀπὸ τὴν πρώτη του ἔκδοση μέχρι σήμερα, ἔγινε σταθερὸς συνοδοιπόρος τῆς ἐνοριακῆς μας ζωῆς· ὅχι ἀπλῶς μέσον ἐνημερώσεως, ἀλλὰ μέσον μετοχῆς. Μετοχῆς στὸ λόγο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, στὴν ἐμπειρία τῆς πίστεως, στὴν παράδοση καὶ στὸ ζωντανὸ βίωμα τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας. Ὄπως φανερώνει καὶ τὸ ὄνομά του, δὲν ὑπῆρξε μόνο λόγος τυπωμένος, ἀλλὰ πρόσκληση σε πνευματικὴ κοινωνία καὶ μακάρι καὶ τὴ νέα αυτή χρονιά νὰ συνεχίσει νὰ φωτίζει διακριτικά, νὰ οίκοδομεῖ ταπεινά καὶ νὰ παρηγορεῖ ἀληθινά.

Ἄγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοί, ἀς ἀρχίσουμε τὸν νέο χρόνο μὲ προσευχή, μὲ συμμετοχὴ στὴ Θεία Λατρεία καὶ μὲ ἐμπιστοσύνη στὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἄς κρατήσουμε τὴν Ἐκκλησία κέντρο τῆς ζωῆς μας καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο κανόνα τῶν πράξεών μας, ἔχοντας ως πρότυπο τὸν Ἀγιο Βασίλειο καὶ ως συνοδοιπόρο τὸν Χριστό. Εὐχομαι ὁ Κύριος, διὰ πρεσβειῶν τοῦ Ἀγίου Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου, νὰ εὐλογήσῃ τὸ ἔτος 2026, νὰ χαρίσῃ ὑγεία σωματικὴ καὶ πνευματική, εἰρήνη στὶς οἰκογένειές σας καὶ νὰ φωτίσει τὴν πορεία ὅλων μας.

**Καλὴ καὶ εὐλογημένη χρονιά!**

Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος

*† Β. Αρναούτος*

Βασίλειος Γ. Αποστολίδης, Δρ.Μ  
Τεραπικός Προϊστάμενος

“***Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever***”  
(Heb. 13:8)

**B**y the grace of God, we enter today into the New Year 2026, not as people who measure time, but as children of the Church who sanctify time and offer it to the Creator. The Church does not fear the future, because she knows that “***Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever.***” The new year is not simply a change of calendar; it is a call to repentance, hope, and spiritual renewal. It is given to us by God as a gift of His Divine long-suffering and at the same time as a responsibility for the sanctification of our lives.

Today, however, the holy Church also gives us a luminous person to accompany us at the beginning of the new year: Saint Basil the Great. The Saint was a great theologian of the Church and a model of practical faith and charity. With his word, he taught the truth of faith, and with his life, he bore witness to the love of Christ. The Kingdom, his great work of charity, reminds us that the time God gives us must be transformed into ministry and offering to our neighbor.

In this spirit of ecclesiastical ministry, the monthly magazine of our Parish, “***Methexis***,” completes a time of life and offering. A time of creation, testimony, and spiritual communication that could not exist without the cooperation, love, and prayer of all of you. From its first publication to today, it has become a constant companion of our parish life; not simply a source of information, but a means of participation. Participation in the word of the Church, in the experience of faith, in the tradition, and in the living experience of Orthodoxy. As its name indicates, it offers not only a printed word but also an invitation to spiritual communion. May this new year also continue to illuminate discreetly, to build humbly, and to comfort truly.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us begin the new year with prayer, participation in the Divine Liturgy, and trust in the mercy of God. Let us keep the Church at the center of our lives and the Gospel the rule of our actions, with Saint Basil as our model and Christ as our companion. I pray that the Lord, through the intercessions of Saint Basil the Great, will bless the year 2026, grant physical and spiritual health, bring peace to your families, and illuminate the path of all of us.

***Happy and blessed New Year!***

Reverend Protopresbyter



Vasileios G. Apostolidis, PhD  
Presiding Priest

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

<b>Thursday 1</b>	<b>THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD – St. Basil the Great</b> 9:00am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>Sunday before Epiphany</b> 8:30am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Monday 5</b>	<b>8:00am Great Hours - 10:00am Theophany Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil - Great Agiasmos</b>
<b>Thursday 6</b>	<b>THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> 8:30am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy - Great Agiasmos
<b>Wednesday 7</b>	<b>Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist</b> 9:00am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday 14</b>	<b>5:00pm Small Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos – Bible Study</b>
<b>Saturday 17</b>	<b>St. Anthony the Great</b> 9:00am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke – Sts. Athanasios and Cyril Patriarchs of Alexandria</b> 8:30am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday 21</b>	<b>5:00pm Small Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos – Bible Study</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke – St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle</b> 8:30am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday 28</b>	<b>5:00pm Small Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos – Bible Study</b>
<b>Friday 30</b>	<b>Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs</b> 9:00am Orthros - 10:00am Divine Liturgy

# ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

**Πέμπτη 1** Η ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ – Άγ. Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου  
9:00π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Κυριακή 4** Κυριακή πρό τῶν Φώτων  
8:30π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Δευτέρα 5** 8:00 π.μ. Μεγάλες Ὡρες - 10:00 π.μ. Έσπερινὸς Θεοφανείων καὶ ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγ. Βασιλείου - Μεγάλος Άγιασμός

**Τρίτη 6** ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
8:30π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία - Μεγάλος Άγιασμός

**Τετάρτη 7** Σύναξις Άγιου Ιωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ  
9:00π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Κυριακή 11** Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὰ Φῶτα  
8:30π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Τετάρτη 14** 5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφῆς

**Σάββατο 17** Άγιου Άντωνίου τοῦ Μεγάλου  
9:00π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Κυριακή 18** 12<sup>η</sup> Κυριακή Λουκᾶ - Αγίων Αθανασίου & Κυριλλου Πατριαρχῶν Ἀλεξανδρείας  
8:30π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Τετάρτη 21** 5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφῆς

**Κυριακή 25** 15<sup>η</sup> Κυριακή Λουκᾶ - Άγιου Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου  
8:30π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**Τετάρτη 28** 5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφῆς

**Παρασκευή 30** Σύναξις τῶν Τριῶν Τεραρχῶν  
9:00π.μ. Ὁρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

# ORTHODOX STUDIES

## The Three Hierarchs

† Ioannis Foundoulis

Professor of the Theological School of Thessaloniki



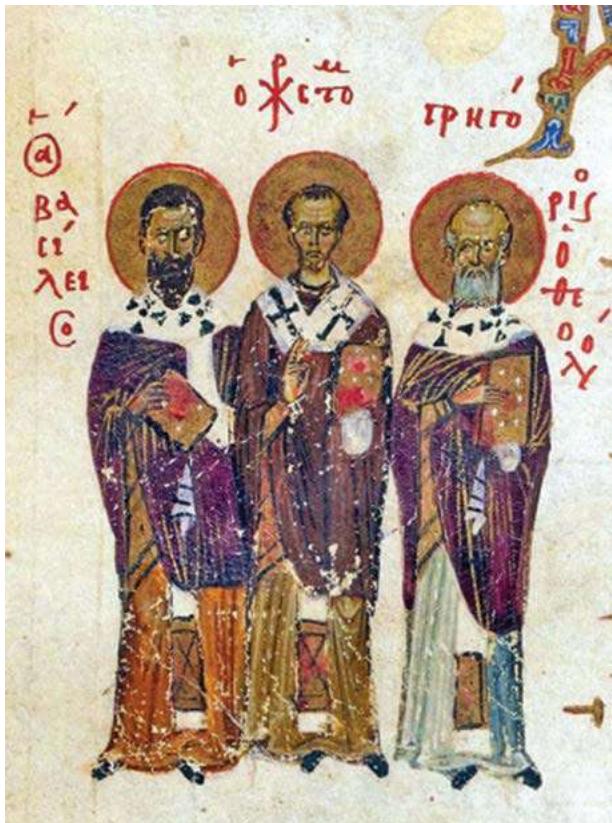
On 30 January, the Church celebrates the memory of the Three Great Hierarchs: **Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom**. This is not a commemoration in the strict sense of the word, i.e. the anniversary of the death of these Fathers, but a common feast, a “synaxis”, to use liturgical terminology. Basil the Great died on 1 January in the year 379 and his memory is celebrated, as is well-known, on January 1; Gregory the Theologian departed this life on 25 January, 389, so his feast is on that day; and John Chrysostom fell asleep in the Lord on 14 September 407, on the day of the Elevation of the Precious Cross. The latter’s commemoration has been moved, however, because it coincided with one of the Lord’s feasts, and it is now held on 13 November.

The feast on 30 January is of later provenance, which is why it is not to be found in the most ancient calendars of feasts. It was

established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of Alexios Komninos (1081-1118). The reason for the common feast for all three is related at length in the *synaxario* (calendar of saints) for the day. There was a clash between the “learned and virtuous men” in Constantinople. Some considered Chrysostom the most important of the three hierarchs, other Basil and others again Gregory, each group belittling the other two. So, three conflicting parties were formed: the Johannites, the Basilites and the Gregorites. The discord was ended by Ioannis Mavropous, the Metropolitan of Efkhaïta, a devout cleric and scholar.

According to the author of the *synaxario*, he saw the three saints in a vision: first each one separately and then the three together. With one voice they told him: “We three are one, as you see, close to God and nothing can separate us or make us contend... There is no first or second among us... Arise, therefore, and tell those who are quarrelling not to divided into parties over us. Because in life and death we had no desire other than to bring peace and unity to everyone”.

As a symbol and expression of their unity, they urged him to establish a common feast for all three. So, the Metropolitan of Efkhaïta undertook the task of reconciling the conflicting groups and established the feast on 30 January. He judged January to be the most suitable



month for their common commemoration, because all three celebrate in that month: January 1, Basil; 25, Gregory; and 27, the translation of the relics of Chrysostom.

The establishment of the feast served its purpose. It became the visible symbol of the equality and unity of the great teachers and of the reconciliation of the three estranged parties. Metropolitan Ioannis composed a common service for all three, worthy of their status as great Fathers. Since then, the three are often depicted in the same icon, clad in their episcopal vestments, with a Gospel in one hand and blessing with the other, as if they were together not only in spirit but in the body. And they are, indeed, the eternal and immortal teachers of the Church of Christ. They taught with their holy lives, their exceptional activity and their wise writings.

In them, the Christian ideal of the “image and likeness of God” was embodied in the form of people shaped and reborn in Christ. And, above all, education, edification and proficiency in Greek philosophy were combined with the truth of Christianity. They were wise in the things of the world and those of God. A more harmonious marriage between Hellenism and Christianity in all their perfectitude has never been presented to the world. This is why their feast has become one of Christian, Greek education, of which the Three Hierarchs were teachers and models.

# ORTHODOX STUDIES

## Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες

† Ιωάννου Φουντούλη  
Καθηγητή της Θεολογικής Σχολής Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης

Την 30ή Ιανουαρίου εορτάζει η Εκκλησία την μνήμη των Τριών Μεγάλων Ιεραρχών, **Βασιλείου του Μεγάλου, Γρηγορίου του Θεολόγου και Ιωάννου του Χρυσόστομου**. Δεν πρόκειται περί «μνήμης» με την κυρία έννοια της λέξεως, δηλαδή επετείου του θανάτου των Πατέρων αυτών, αλλά περί κοινής εορτής, «συνάξεως» κατά την λειτουργική ορολογία. Ο Μέγας Βασίλειος απέθανε την 1η Ιανουαρίου του έτους 379 και η μνήμη του εορτάζεται, ως γνωστόν, την 1η Ιανουαρίου. Ο Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος την 25η Ιανουαρίου του έτους 389, και την 25η Ιανουαρίου εορτάζουμε την μνήμη του. Τέλος ο Χρυσόστομος απέθανε στην εξορία την 14η Σεπτεμβρίου του έτους 407, κατά την ημέρα της εορτής της Υψώσεως του τιμίου Σταυρού, η μνήμη του όμως μετατέθηκε, λόγω του ύψους της δεσποτικής εορτής της ημέρας αυτής, και εορτάζεται την 13η Νοεμβρίου.

Η εορτή της 30ής Ιανουαρίου είναι μεταγενέστερη, γι' αυτό και δεν την συναντάμε στα παλαιά εορτολόγια. Καθιερώθηκε κατά τον 11ο αιώνα επί της βασιλείας του Αλεξίου Κομνηνού (1081 -1118). Την αιτία της συστάσεως της κοινής και για τους τρεις εορτής μας αφηγείται εκτενώς το συναξάριο της ημέρας. «Στάσις», διένεξη, υπήρχε στην Κωνσταντινούπολη μεταξύ «των ελλογίμων και εναρέτων ανδρών». Από τους τρεις Ιεράρχες άλλοι θεωρούσαν σπουδαιότερο τον Χρυσόστομο,

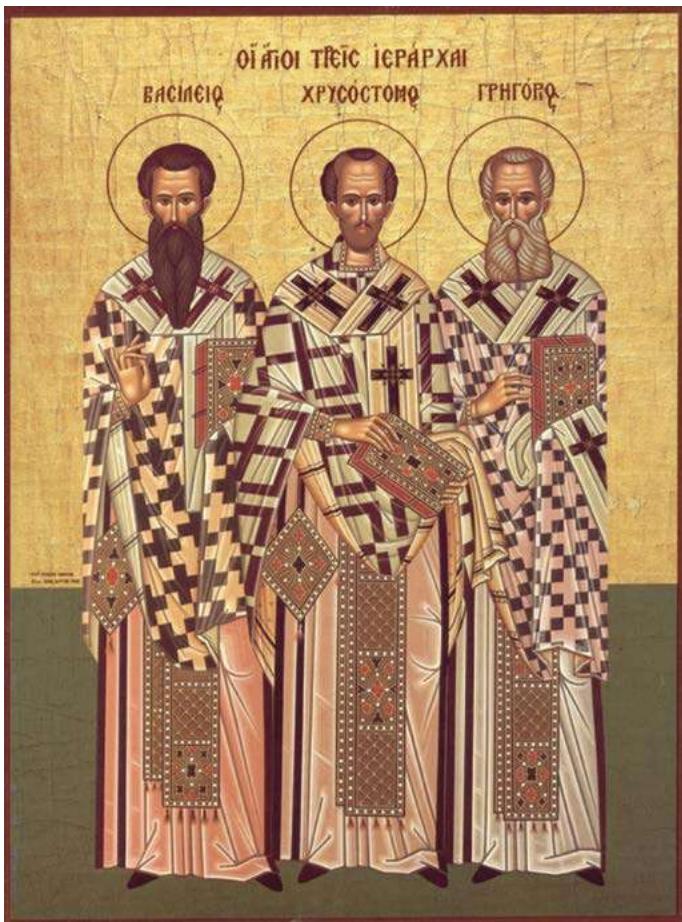
άλλοι τον Βασίλειο, και άλλοι τον Γρηγόριο, και υποτιμούσαν τους άλλους δύο. Έτσι δημιουργήθηκαν τρεις διαμαχόμενες παρατάξεις: των Ιωαννιτών, των Βασιλειτών και των Γρηγοριτών. Στην έριδα έθεσε τέλος ο μητροπολίτης Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννης ο Μαυρόπους, λόγιος και ευλαβής κληρικός.

Αυτός, κατά τη διήγηση του συναξαριστή, είδε σε οπτασία τους τρεις αγίους, πρώτα τον καθένα χωριστά και ύστερα και τους τρεις μαζί. Αυτοί του είπαν με ένα στόμα: «Ημείς οι τρεις είμαστε ένα, καθώς βλέπεις, κοντά στον Θεό και τίποτε δεν υπάρχει που να μας χωρίζει ή να μας κάνει να αντιδικούμε... Πρώτος δεν υπάρχει μεταξύ μας ούτε δεύτερος... Σήκω λοιπόν και πες σ' εκείνους που μαλώνουν, να μη χωρίζονται σε παρατάξεις για ημάς. Γιατί ημείς και στην ζωή μας και μετά τον θάνατό μας δεν έχουμε άλλη επιθυμία, παρά να ειρηνεύει και να ομονοεί όλος ο κόσμος».

Σαν σύμβολο και έκφραση της ενότητάς τους του συνέστησαν να συστήσει κοινή εορτή και των τριών. Έτσι ο Ευχαΐτων ανέλαβε την συμφιλίωση των διαμαχομένων μερίδων και συνέστησε την εορτή της 30ής Ιανουαρίου. Έκρινε τον Ιανουάριο ως καταλληλότερο μήνα για τον εορτασμό τους, αφού κατ' αυτόν εόρταζαν και οι τρεις σε διάφορες ημέρες, την 1η ο Βασίλειος, την 25η ο Γρηγόριος και την 27η η ανακομιδή των λειψάνων του Χρυσόστομου.

Η σύσταση της εορτής πέτυχε τον σκοπό της. Απετέλεσε το ορατό σύμβολο της ισότητας και της ενότητας των μεγάλων διδασκάλων και της συμφιλιώσεως των διισταμένων πριν μερίδων. Κοινή ακολούθια και για τους τρεις συνέθεσε ο Ευχαΐτων, αντάξια των τριών μεγάλων Πατέρων. Από τότε σε κοινή εικονογραφική παράσταση περιλαμβάνονται και οι τρεις, ντυμένοι τα αρχιερατικά τους άμφια, με το Ιερό Ευαγγέλιο στο ένα χέρι, ευλογούν με το άλλο, σαν να παρευρίσκονται όχι μόνο εν πνεύματι, αλλά και εν σώματι μεταξύ μας. Και είναι πράγματι οι αιώνιοι και αθάνατοι διδάσκαλοι της Εκκλησίας του Χριστού. Δίδαξαν με τον άγιο βίο τους, με την έξοχο δράση τους, με τα σοφά των συγγράμματα.

Σ' αυτούς ενσαρκώθηκε το τέλειο χριστιανικό ιδεώδες του «κατ' εικόνα και καθ' ομοίωσιν Θεού» πλασμένου και εν Χριστώ αναγεννημένου ανθρώπου. Και προ πάντων στα πρόσωπα αυτών των τριών Ιεραρχών συναντήθηκε η παιδεία, η μόρφωση και η ελληνική φιλοσοφική κατάρτιση με την χριστιανική αλήθεια. Ήταν οι σοφοί κατά κόσμον και σοφοί κατά Θεόν. Αρμονικότερη σύζευξη ελληνισμού και χριστιανισμού σ' όλη των την τελειότητα δεν παρουσιάσθηκε ποτέ στον κόσμο. Γι' αυτό και η εορτή των απέβη εορτή της ελληνοχριστιανικής παιδείας, της οποίας διδάσκαλοι και πρότυπα υπήρξαν οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες.





## VASILOPITA SUNDAY



The cutting of the “**Vasilopita**” will take place this year on **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, at the end of the Divine Liturgy. As we receive a portion of the “**Vasilopita**” it is customary to offer a donation to “**St. Basil’s Academy**.” We kindly invite the leaders of all the organizations to open their hearts and make a merciful donation to support this wonderful institution!

Η κοπή της “**Βασιλόπιτας**” θα γίνει φέτος την **Κυριακή 11 Ιανουαρίου** με το πέρας της Θείας Λειτουργίας. Καθώς λαμβάνουμε μια μερίδα από τη “**Βασιλόπιτα**”, συνηθίζεται να προσφέρουμε μια δωρεά στον “**St. Basil’s Academy**.” Καλούμε τους Προϊσταμένους όλων των οργανισμών, να ανοίξουν τις καρδιές τους και να κάνουν μια φιλεύσπλαχνη δωρεά για να στηρίξουν αυτό το υπέροχο ίδρυμα!

## NEW YEAR HOME BLESSING (ΦΩΤΙΣΜΑ)

Blessing our homes and businesses for the New Year with the grace of “**Great Agiasmos**” is a beautiful and spiritual part of our Orthodox tradition. Fr. Vasileios will be available to visit and bless your home or business in the days and weeks following the “**Epiphany**.” Please feel free to call the Church Office and make your appointment. The earlier, the better!

Η ευλογία των σπιτιών ή των επιχειρήσεων μας στην αρχή κάθε έτους με τη χάρη του «**Μεγάλου Αγιασμού**» είναι ένα όμορφο και πνευματικό κομμάτι της Ορθόδοξης παράδοσής μας. Ο π. Βασίλειος θα είναι διαθέσιμος να επισκεφθεί και να ευλογήσει το σπίτι ή την επιχείρησή σας τις ημέρες και τις εβδομάδες που ακολουθούν τα «**Θεοφάνεια**». Μη διστάσετε να τηλεφωνήσετε στο Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας και να κλείσετε το ραντεβού σας. Όσο νωρίτερα, τόσο το καλύτερο!

# PARISH COUNCIL

## Dear Parish Family,

As we welcome the new year, we extend our heartfelt wishes to Fr. Vasileios on the occasion of his Nameday, praying that God grant him many years of health, strength, and continued service to our parish.

I also take this opportunity to reflect upon the year 2025 and the many accomplishments achieved together as a parish community. Despite the responsibilities and challenges of the past year, our parish continued to grow and flourish through unity, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to our faith. We are grateful for the continued growth of our community and warmly welcome the many new families and individuals who have joined our parish.

The year 2025 was distinguished by several successful parish events, including a well-attended Greek Night, our Annual Festival, two cigar nights, and a memorable Christmas Gala. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Festival leadership and to all volunteers whose tireless efforts and generous service were instrumental in the success of our Annual Festival. I am also grateful to everyone who supported our 50/50 Mega Raffle, which raised \$23,450 in support of our Church and its ministries. Your generosity remains essential to the vitality and growth of our parish.

In addition, we were pleased to launch a new basketball program and enter four teams into the New York Direct Archdiocesan District Greek Orthodox Basketball League, further strengthening our youth and athletic ministries.

The success of these initiatives was made possible by the dedication and spirit of our parish family. As we move forward into 2026, we do so with optimism and a renewed commitment to fellowship and engagement. Two upcoming parish events are scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, both to be held in the Church Gym with live entertainment.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Executive Board, Parish Council, organization leaders, and volunteers for their unwavering dedication and service, which are essential to the strength and vitality of our parish.

**As we begin 2026**, I encourage all parishioners to continue supporting our Church and its organizations in whatever capacity they are able. United in faith and purpose, let us continue to strengthen Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas. We look forward to seeing you in church on Sundays, especially during the Holy Holidays.

**With sincere gratitude and best wishes for a blessed and healthy New Year,**

Spyro Lazaretos  
Parish Council President



# LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Dear Philoptochos Members and fellow parishioners,

Our parish ended 2025 in the most loving and giving way during the Thanksgiving season. The Ladies Philoptochos Society delivered Thanksgiving baskets to families at PS 20 and those in need, along with donated coats from our community. Extra coats were distributed throughout Staten Island, including Trinity Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in Stapleton. Our Jr. GOYA collected, and assembled “Blessings in a Bag”, consisting of hygiene items for children, which were also donated to PS 20. Thank you all.

Along with our Thanksgiving season, we joined the Global Medical Relief Fund (GMRF) organization as Community Partners to raise funds for the healing of children in need both Nationally and abroad. Our members worked very hard and on November 21st at LiGreci's Staaten, Philoptochos donated \$6,000 supporting the incredible humanitarian efforts of Elissa Montanti and staff. It truly was an “Evening of Hope”.

Thank you all who joined us at DeLuca's on December 10th for our Christmas outing. We celebrated the spirit of Christmas and being able to gather once again. The Ladies Philoptochos presented a Christmas gift to Fr. Vasileios and Presvytera Elizabeth, thanking them for their spiritual guidance and devotion to our community. It was a wonderful night.

*Please note the following are our events for the month of January:*

## **1/1 St. Basil the Great**

## **1/3 Cook for Trinity Lutheran Soup Kitchen**

Thank you to our Soup Kitchen crew for their devotion on December 6th. The crew cooked and served 90 people on site with 25 take outs. The menu was: Baked tilapia, buttered noodles w/ cheese, peas w/butter, tossed salad, and chocolate pudding w/marshmallows. Bravo!

## **1/4 Philoptochos Monthly Tray for our Social Services obligation**

## **1/11 Vasilopita Sunday (All proceeds to benefit Saint Basil Academy)**

Please donate to our Vasilopita Tea Party in honor of St. Basil's Academy.

Send a gift and show that you care.



## 1/13 Monthly meeting 6:30 pm refreshments/7:00 meeting

Come and continue the kindness and make a difference in the world.

## 1/23 Project Hospitality

*May the Spirit of the season last throughout 2026!*

All correspondence regarding Ladies Philoptochos Society can be made through our new Philoptochos email: [philoptochos@htsngoc.org](mailto:philoptochos@htsngoc.org)

Conveying the blessings and love of Fr. Vasileios,

Faithfully,  
Dee Sidiropoulos, President



## YOUTH MINISTRIES



### JOY

All 3rd to 5th graders are invited to join JOY. We meet every first and third Friday of every month, 6-7pm. During the month of December, JOY kids honored our patron saint, St. Nicholas, with community service. They prepared “Blessings in a Bag” by buying and bagging essential items for children in need. It was a partnership with Philoptochos, who delivered them to the elementary school children at P.S. 20. They learned about Christmas through a game and craft, and learned that Jesus is the gift! We wish everyone a healthy and joyous new year!

Contact us at: [joy@htsngoc.org](mailto:joy@htsngoc.org)



### GOYA

All 8th through 12 th graders are invited to join GOYA every Friday from 8-9 pm. The month of December was filled with the Christmas spirit. GOYAns enjoyed each other’s company as they decorated the church’s Christmas tree in the lobby, took in the Christmas scene at Bryant Park and Rockefeller Center, and went ice skating together at the Pavilion. We wish everyone a healthy and productive New Year!

Email: [goya@htsngoc.org](mailto:goya@htsngoc.org)





# JUNIOR GOYA

All 6th and 7th graders are invited to join Junior GOYA. We meet every first and third Friday of the month, 7-8 pm. During the month of December, Junior GOYAns honored our patron saint, St. Nicholas, with community service.. They prepared “Blessings in a Bag” by buying and bagging essential items for children in need. It was a partnership with Philoptochos, who delivered them to the elementary school children at P.S. 20. They ended 2025 with a “Cozy Christmas” party filled with Christmas activities and treats. We wish everyone a healthy and fun 2026!

Contact us at: [jr.goya@htsngoc.org](mailto:jr.goya@htsngoc.org)





## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

<b>4</b> Sunday before Epiphany	<b>5</b> Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	<b>6</b> The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	<b>7</b>  Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner
Orthros 8:30 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM Hellenic Dancers 12:00 PM	Great Hours 8:00 AM Theophany Vespers, the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great & the Great Agiasmos 10:00 AM	Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy & the Great Agiasmos 10:00 AM GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	Orthros 8:30 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM
<b>11</b> Sunday after Epiphany	<b>12</b> Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	<b>13</b> Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	<b>14</b>  Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Orthros 8:30 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM Vasilopita Sunday Hellenic Dancers 12:00 PM		GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	Paraklesis Service - Orthodox Study 5:00 PM GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM
<b>18</b> 12th Sunday of Luke	<b>19</b> Macarius the Great of Egypt	<b>20</b> Righteous Euthymius the Great	<b>21</b>  Maximus the Confessor
Orthros 8:30 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM Hellenic Dancers 12:00 PM GOBL - Game 1:00PM		GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	Paraklesis Service - Orthodox Study 5:00 PM GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM
<b>25</b> 15th Sunday of Luke	<b>26</b> Xenophon & his Companions	<b>27</b> Removal of the Relics of John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople	<b>28</b>  Ephraim the Syrian
Orthros 8:30 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM Hellenic Dancers 12:00 PM		GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	Paraklesis Service - Orthodox Study 5:00 PM GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM

# Thursday

# Friday

# Saturday

1	Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	2	Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	3	Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
	Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM				
8	Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	9	Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  GOYA 7:30 PM	10	Gregory of Nyssa
15	Paul of Thebes  GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting 8:00 PM	16	Veneration of Apostle Peter's Precious Chains  JOY 6:00 PM Jr GOYA 7:00 PM GOYA 7:30 PM	17	Anthony the Great  Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM
22	Timothy the Apostle of the 70  GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	23	Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra  GOYA 7:30 PM	24	Xenia, Deaconess of Rome
29	Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer  GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM	30	Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs  Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM GOYA 7:30 PM	31	Cyrus & John the Unmercenaries



**Strict Fast:** Refrain from meat, fish, oil, wine, dairy, and eggs.  
**Αυστηρή νηστεία:** Αποφύγετε το κρέας, τα ψάρια, το λάδι, το κρασί, τα γαλακτοκομικά προϊόντα και τα αυγά. (Red)



**Wine & Oil:** Wine and oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, and eggs.

**Κρασί & Λάδι:** Το κρασί και το λάδι επιτρέπονται. Αποφύγετε το κρέας, τα ψάρια, τα γαλακτοκομικά προϊόντα και τα αυγά. (Purple)



**Fish, oil and wine are allowed:** Refrain from meat, dairy and eggs. **Τα ψάρια, το λάδι και το κρασί επιτρέπονται:** Αποφύγετε το κρέας, τα αυγά και τα γαλακτοκομικά προϊόντα. (Blue)



**Dairy Allowed:** Dairy, fish, eggs, oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from meat.

**Επιτρέπονται γαλακτοκομικά:** Επιτρέπονται τα γαλακτοκομικά, τα αυγά, τα ψάρια, το λάδι και το κρασί. Αποφύγετε το κρέας. (Orange)

**No Symbol Fast Free:** All Foods Allowed.

**Χωρίς σύμβολο:** **Κατάλυσις εις πάντα:** Επιτρέπονται όλα τα τρόφιμα (Yellow)



# HELLENIC DANCERS



## Calling all youth!

Please join us every Sunday, after church for dance practice. Learn traditional folk dances from all parts of Greece. Our robust program, consisting of three youth groups, aims to pass on our rich cultural legacy of music and dance to our children. Through traditional Greek folk dancing, our children learn the language, history, and cultural traditions of all regions of Greece. It is important to us that they enjoy it, and we hope their love of Greek dancing becomes a part of who they are, so they can pass it on to their children.

**Little Dancers** – Kindergarten to 3rd Grade (Sunday Practice 12pm – 12:30pm)

**Junior Hellenic Dancers** – 4th – 8th Grade (Sunday Practice 12pm – 12:30pm)

**Hellenic Dancers** – High School (Sunday Practice 12:30pm – 1:30pm)

## Adult Hellenic Dancing

Have you ever been to a dance or wedding and wish you knew how to dance all those dances that are not kalamatiano? Come and learn them! Join us to learn traditional folk dances from all parts of Greece. New members of all skill levels are always welcomed and encouraged to attend. Our goal is to bring our community together through dance and music as we express our love of Greek dancing and our Greek heritage.

For **January** we will meet on **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**

Co-Directors  
Stella Viris, Kevi Langis



# GREEK SCHOOL

Η εκπαιδευτική μας ώλη για τον μήνα Ιανουάριο:

## Kindergarten

VOCABULARY: Jungle animals, The letters Εε, Ζζ.  
NUMBERS: 1-10

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

VOCABULARY: The name “Νίκος”, “Μαρία”  
LETTERS: Μμ, Νν.  
GRAMMAR: The verb “είναι”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

VOCABULARY: The words “μέρα, καρέκλα, αλάτι, νερό, κότα”  
LETTERS: Ρρ, Κκ, Ττ.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

VOCABULARY: Review colors  
LETTERS: Review Greek alphabet  
GRAMMAR: Negative Sentences (Αρνητικές προτάσεις «δεν»)  
The verbs «είμαι, διαβάζω, κάνω»  
Review the Personal Pronoun «εγώ-εσύ-αυτός-αυτή-αυτό»

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

LETTERS: Double Letters «ιι», «μπ», «νν»  
GRAMMAR: Forming Sentences (Προτάσεις)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

VOCABULARY: Studies & City Parts (Σπουδές & Περιοχές μιας Πόλης)  
Where do you live? Where are you from? (Πού μένεις; / Από πού είσαι;)  
GRAMMAR: Present Tense (Ενεστώτας - μένω)  
Adverbs of Place (Τοπικά Επιτρήματα)  
Από/ σε + Accusative (Από/ σε + Αιτιατική - «Είμαι από την Ελλάδα/ μένω στην Αθήνα»)

***Ευχόμαστε σε όλες και όλους να είναι Ευλογημένη η Νέα Χρονιά!***

Η δασκάλα  
Σταυρούλα Χαμπάκη





# STEWARSHIP LIST 2025



*(as of December 12, 2025)*

Rev. Vaseelios and Presvytera  
Elisavet Apostolidis  
Rev. Nicholas and Presvytera  
Patricia Petropoulakos  
Kevin and Cleo Adams  
George and Sophia Alexander  
Cathy Alicakos  
Michael and Roseanna Anagnostos  
Ken and Denise Andolino  
Steve and Markella Andreakos  
Nestor and Lori Andrianos  
Sotirios Anemodouras  
Greg and Maria Angelides  
John and Emily Antonopoulos  
Spiro and Cheryl Antypas  
George and Niki Apostolopoulos  
Panagiota Arfanis  
Konstantinos and Susan Arvanites  
Michael Arvanites  
Stefanos Aspiotis  
Richard and Maria Baggs  
Chris Bakakos  
Steven and Debbie Ballaro  
Emanuel and Anna Belibasakis  
Hazis and Zhanetta Bello  
Steve and Cheryl Bontales  
Christine Borovilas  
John and Anita Borovilas  
Steve Boutsikakis  
Joan Breen  
Dominick Breen  
Andrew Brennan  
Melissa Brennan  
Kyriakos Cambos  
Edna Cardinale  
John and Christine Charitis  
Demetra Christofilakes

Chris Christofilakes  
Carlos Colon  
Anneta Colon  
Donna Colonna  
Konstantinos Constantellis  
Marios and Maryanne  
Constantellis  
Kay Constantine  
Fay Corinotis  
Maria Coussoule  
Pamela Crivera  
Mary Cuccia  
Emily Cummings  
Michael and Joy Cummings  
Aikaterini Darios  
Irene Della Croce  
Michael Della Croce  
Nicole Della Croce  
James Demetriaides  
Philip Denis  
Demetrius and Angela  
Dermanis  
Anthony Devito  
Dimitri Dimitriou  
Konstantinos Dimitropoulos  
Christopher and Stephanie  
Dontis  
Nicholas and Vicky Dontis  
Georgia Doukas  
Alexandra Doyle  
John Doyle Jr.  
John and Florendia Dragazis  
Doyle  
Paraskevi Dragazis  
Nicole Drakontis  
Panagiotis Drakontis  
Paula Drakontis

Edward and Julia Dunphy  
Vernon and Maria Dutton  
Andrew and Stacey Economos  
Dyala Sophia Eid  
Elias and Evangelia Etimos  
Justin and Katrina Fama  
Peter Fikias  
Stella Fiore  
Christopher and Alexa Francese  
Kimon and Mary Frantzeskakis  
Alexis Gaugi-Clemente  
Argyrios and Olga Gerazounis  
Vincent and Linda Gerecitano  
Patricia Germano  
John and Corinne Girgis  
Socrates and Katerina  
Grammenos  
Peter A. Gregor  
Phoebe Gregor  
George Gregoriou  
Petros and Eirini Gregoriou  
Despina Grigos  
Pauline Grillos  
Steven and Georgia Guagenti  
Gloria Haramis  
George and Stephanie Haros  
Ann Esther Hatzipetros  
Alexandra Hondros  
Frank and Christine Iemmitti  
Yiannis and Arhontoula  
Ikonomou  
Akis Iliopoulos  
Demetrios Iliopoulos  
Virginia Itsines  
Paul and Maryann Jannace  
Irene Joris  
Stavros Kadas



Michael Kakias  
Elias and Cathy Kalaizes  
George Kalaizes  
Barbara Kallnikos  
Despina Kalogrides  
Irene Kambos  
Manny Kambouris  
Marina Kanakos  
Peter and Gloria Kanakos  
Theodore Kanellis  
Bertha Kapetanakis  
Andreas Kapsalis  
Nicholas Kapsalis  
Lori Karelas  
George and Penny Karidis  
Michael Kasidonis  
Alexios and Susan Katsanos  
Chris Katsanos  
George Katsoris Jr.  
Michael and Debbie Katsoris  
Maria Kefalas  
Christina Kenwood  
Diana Kolaitis  
Argeta Komninos  
Kyriaki Kosmidou  
Paulina Koudellou  
Vasili and Koula Koukounis  
Dimitrios and Vivian Koulouris  
Peter Kouretos  
Nick and Chrissy Kournidakis  
Alexia Koutsoudakis  
Andreas Koutsoudakis  
Georgia Koutsovasilis-Grippo  
Chris and Maria Krisilas  
Alexander and Nikki Krokos  
Nataliya Kuchinka  
Mary N. Kusas  
John and Maria Lago  
Dimitrios and Paraskevi Langis  
Spyro and Karen Lazaretos  
Theodore Lazaretos

Toula Lellos  
George and Panagiota Leunes  
Helen Leventakis  
Nick Liakaris  
Joyce Liappas  
John Licciardello  
Pavlos and Dimitra Lintzeris  
Andrew Litos  
Angela LoBasso  
Arianna LoBasso  
Emily Loukas  
Ourania Lymberis  
Vasilia Lyras-Ruiz  
Nestor and Katy Makarigakis  
Yiannis Mallas  
George Malliotakis  
Jim Mamakos  
John Manos  
Vasiliki Manousogiannakis  
Argiro Mappas  
John Marangos  
Nicholas Mardikos  
Nikki Ann Mardikos  
Christos Marinakis  
Michael and Julia Maring  
Nelson Marun Jr.  
Kathy Massimillo  
Vasilios and Krystle Mastoras  
Emmanuel and Tina Padas  
- Mavroudis  
Effie Melahrinakis  
Mary Menichella  
John Michael  
Konstantinos and Anastasia  
Michos  
Adam and Diane Miller  
Steven and Sophia Mirones  
George Mitsogiorgakis  
Stefanos Mitsogiorgakis  
George Mitsopoulos  
Harry and Mary Monioudis  
Ierotheos Moraitis  
Christine Moscoso  
Catherine Moudatsos  
Mary Mousmoutis  
Nicholas Mousmoutis  
Thomas Napoli  
Konstantinos and Alina  
Nevradakis  
Roula Ntiudis  
John and Lola Palividas  
Nicholas Palividas  
Dennis and Irene Panagos  
Peter Panagos  
Priscilla Panteleakis  
Minas Papageorgiou  
Androulla Papaiacovou  
Maria Papaioannou  
Toula Papanikolaou  
Nicholas Papas  
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Tasia Pavalis  
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# COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

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January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Philoptochos
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	PTO & Youth Ministry
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Daughters of Penelope

*Please note... all Fasting days are in bold*

*Σημείωση... Οι ημέρες Νηστείας είναι με έντονα γράμματα*

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

### Daughters of Penelope two new voluntary obligations:

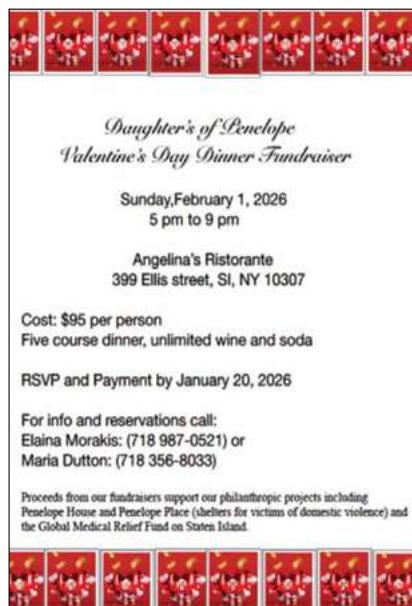
Greeks for Good - “Greeks for Good” is a non-profit organization started in North Carolina, after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. It is dedicated to providing essential goods like food, money, and toys to those facing challenges, emphasizing the Greek culture.

Open Door - [www.eps-ath.gr](http://www.eps-ath.gr) - The goals of Cerebral Palsy Greece/Open Door were and are the development and systematic provision of diverse services, programs and activities aimed at addressing needs, improving situations and promoting the interests of people with cerebral palsy in Greece.

### JANUARY 2026 MEETING:

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7 pm, with refreshments at 6:30 pm, in the community center lobby. The meeting will emphasize our major fundraiser, Valentines dinner on February 1, 2026 and the Zone 1 conference in March.

DIANA KOLAITIS  
Corresponding Secretary



# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Presbytera Elisavet



## Vasilopita-King pie

### Ingredients

1 cup butter  
2 cups sugar  
4 eggs  
4 tablespoons brandy  
orange zest  
1 cup milk  
3 1/2 cups flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder

### Ingredients for icing

1 cup powdered sugar  
1 tbsp cognac juice  
Preparation for Vasilopita

### Preparation for Vasilopita

1)Preheat the oven to 210°F in air. 2)Beat the butter in the mixer until soft. 3)Add the sugar and continue beating. 4)Add the eggs one by one and beat. 5)Alternatively add milk and flour (we have added baking powder to the flour) and beat well. 6)Grease a round baking pan with a removable base with butter and sprinkle with flour. 7)Pour the mixture into the mold and spread well with the spatula. 8)Place a penny at a random point in the mixture. 9)Transfer to the oven and bake for 45 minutes. 10)Remove the mold from the oven and let it cool well.

### Preparation for Icing

Put the powdered sugar in a bowl, add the cognac and mix  
Decorate with icing

**Tip:** Don't keep opening the oven to check on the baking progress, because the pie won't rise.

### *The Christian tradition for the custom of the Vasilopita*

When Saint Basil was bishop of Caesarea, the prefect of Cappadocia threatened to plunder the city. Saint Basil asked the faithful to gather all the valuable objects they had to offer them to him.

The tyrant was "neutralized" with the help of God, before he could take the gold or cause any destruction. As a result, Saint Basil had to return the valuable objects they had offered to the faithful without wronging anyone.

On the advice of the saint, small pies were kneaded and inside them he hid the gold and distributed them, and when the distribution took place, everyone miraculously found what they had given. Since then, according to tradition, we make pies with coins inside on the feast of Saint Basil.

Greek Vasilopita-King pie is savory and leafy - as the leaves symbolize the months of the year -, filled with cheese, pieces of meat or minced meat and other ingredients, but nowadays the sweet Vasilopita has prevailed which is an influence from Asia Minor and Constantinople and is called politiki.

A piece in the Vasilopita belongs to the Saint and if the coin falls on Him, they consider it luck for the house. It means that it will have good fortune and goods. It will have the privilege of feeding the poor, the widow and the orphans as the Saint did.

**Have a Sweet and Happy New Year!**

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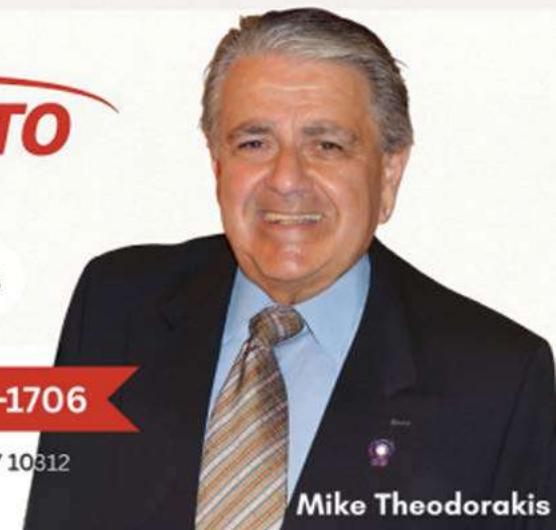
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«*Methexis*» /mé.thek.sis/, (*méthexis*):  
Mental, spiritual participation, meeting, contact and communication

The Monthly Bilingual Bulletin of Holy Trinity-St Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church of Staten Island.

Our mission is to reach out to all members of the Community by providing useful information  
about the ecclesiastical, spiritual, and cultural life of the entire Parish.

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The next deadline for submitting news to **METHEXIS** is  
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Happy  
New Year!

2026

