

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



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Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Θεοφανείων

Ἦχος α΄

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

Ἥκοντάκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

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

Ὁ Οἶκος

Τῇ Γαλιλαίᾳ τῶν Ἐθνῶν, τῇ τοῦ Ζαβουλὼν χώρα,
καὶ τοῦ Νεφθαλεὶμ γαίᾳ, ὡς εἶπεν ὁ Προφῆτης,
φῶς μέγα ἔλαμψε Χριστός· τοῖς ἐσκοτισμένοις
φαινήν ᾤφθη αὐγή, ἐκ Βηθλεὲμ ἀστράπτουσα·
μᾶλλον δὲ ἐκ Μαρίας ὁ Κύριος πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ
ἀνατέλλει τὰς ἀκτῖνας, ὁ Ἥλιος τῆς Δικαιοσύνης.
Διὸ οἱ ἐξ Ἀδὰμ γυμνοὶ, δεῦτε πάντες ὑποδύωμεν
αὐτόν, ἵνα θαλφθῶμεν· σκέπη γὰρ γυμνῶν, καὶ αἴγλη
ἐσκοτισμένων, ἦλθες 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!

Ἥκοντάκιον 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 Zebulun
and the land of Nephthalim, 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.

*«Ιησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτὸς καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας»
(Εβρ. 13,8)*

Με τὴν χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσερχόμαστε σήμερα στὸ Νέο Ἔτος 2026, ὅχι ὡς ἄνθρωποι ποὺ ἀπλῶς μετροῦν τὸν χρόνο, ἀλλὰ ὡς τέκνα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ποὺ ἀγιάζουν τὸν χρόνο καὶ τὸν προσφέρουν στὰ χέρια τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία δὲν φοβάται τὸ μέλλον, διότι γνωρίζει ὅτι *«Ιησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτὸς καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας»*. Ὁ νέος χρόνος δὲν εἶναι ἀπλῶς ἀλλαγὴ ἡμερολογίου· εἶναι κλήσις μετανοίας, ἐλπίδας καὶ πνευματικῆς ἀνακαινίσεως. Μᾶς δίδεται ἀπὸ τὸν Θεὸ ὡς δῶρο τῆς Θείας μακροθυμίας Του καὶ συγχρόνως ὡς εὐθύνη ἀγιασμοῦ τῆς ζωῆς μας.

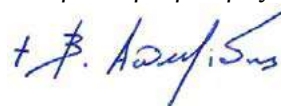
Σήμερα, ὅμως, ἡ ἀγία Ἐκκλησία, μᾶς χαρίζει καὶ ἓνα φωτεινὸ πρόσωπο νὰ συμπορευθῇ μὲ ἐμᾶς στὴν ἀρχὴ τοῦ νέου χρόνου· τὸν Ἅγιον Βασίλειον τὸν Μέγαν. Ὁ Ἅγιος ὑπῆρξε μέγας θεολόγος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ ὑπόδειγμα ἔμπρακτης πίστεως καὶ φιλανθρωπίας. Μὲ τὸ λόγο του δίδαξε τὴν ἀλήθεια τῆς πίστεως καὶ μὲ τὴ ζωὴ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

Μέσα στὸ πνεῦμα αὐτὸ τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς διακονίας, τὸ μηνιαῖο περιοδικὸ τῆς ἐνορίας μας *«Μέθεξις»* συμπληρώνει ἓναν χρόνον ζωῆς καὶ προσφορᾶς. Ἐνα χρόνο δημιουργίας, μαρτυρίας καὶ πνευματικῆς ἐπικοινωνίας, ποὺ δὲν θὰ μπορούσε νὰ υπάρξῃ χωρὶς τὴ συνεργασία, τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν προσευχὴ 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. Ὅπως φανερώνει καὶ τὸ ὄνομά του, δὲν ὑπῆρξε μόνον λόγος τυπωμένος, ἀλλὰ πρόσκληση σὲ πνευματικὴ κοινωνία καὶ μακάρι καὶ τὴ νέα αὐτὴ χρονιά νὰ συνεχίσει νὰ φωτίζει διακριτικά, νὰ οἰκοδομεῖ ταπεινά καὶ νὰ παρηγορεῖ ἀληθινά.

Ἀγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοί, ἂς ἀρχίσουμε τὸν νέο χρόνο μὲ προσευχή, μὲ συμμετοχὴ στὴ Θεία Λατρεία καὶ μὲ ἐμπιστοσύνη στὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀς κρατήσουμε τὴν Ἐκκλησία κέντρο τῆς ζωῆς μας καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο κανόνα τῶν πράξεών μας, ἔχοντας ὡς πρότυπο τὸν Ἅγιο Βασίλειον καὶ ὡς συνοδοιπόρο τὸν Χριστό. Εὐχομαι ὁ Κύριος, διὰ πρεσβειῶν τοῦ Ἁγίου Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου, νὰ εὐλογήσῃ τὸ ἔτος 2026, νὰ χαρίσῃ ὑγεία σωματικὴ καὶ πνευματικὴ, εἰρήνη στὶς οἰκογένειές σας καὶ νὰ φωτίσει τὴν πορεία ὅλων μας.

Καλὴ καὶ εὐλογημένη χρονιά!


Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος



Βασίλειος Γ. Αποστολίδης, Δρ.Μ
Γερατικός Προϊστάμενος

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever”

(Heb. 13:8)

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

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

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Πέμπτη 1	Η ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ – Αγ. Βασιλείου του Μεγάλου 9:00π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή 4	Κυριακή πρό τῶν Φώτων 8:30π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Δευτέρα 5	8:00 π.μ. Μεγάλες Ώρες - 10:00 π.μ. Έσπερινός Θεοφανείων καὶ ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγ. Βασιλείου - Μεγάλος Ἀγιασμός
Τρίτη 6	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ 8:30π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία - Μεγάλος Ἀγιασμός
Τετάρτη 7	Σύναξις Ἀγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ 9:00π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή 11	Κυριακή μετὰ τὰ Φῶτα 8:30π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Τετάρτη 14	5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Ἀγίας Γραφῆς
Σάββατο 17	Ἀγίου Ἀντωνίου τοῦ Μεγάλου 9:00π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή 18	12 ^η Κυριακή Λουκᾶ - Ἀγίων Ἀθανασίου & Κυρίλλου Πατριαρχῶν Ἀλεξανδρείας 8:30π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Τετάρτη 21	5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Ἀγίας Γραφῆς
Κυριακή 25	15 ^η Κυριακή Λουκᾶ - Ἀγίου Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου 8:30π.μ. Όρθρος - 10:00π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία
Τετάρτη 28	5:00μ.μ. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανόνας - Μελέτη Ἀγίας Γραφῆς
Παρασκευή 30	Σύναξις τῶν Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν 9:00π.μ. Όρθρος - 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 11th 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 Efkhaita, 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 Efkhaita 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 Χρυσοστόμου**. 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,

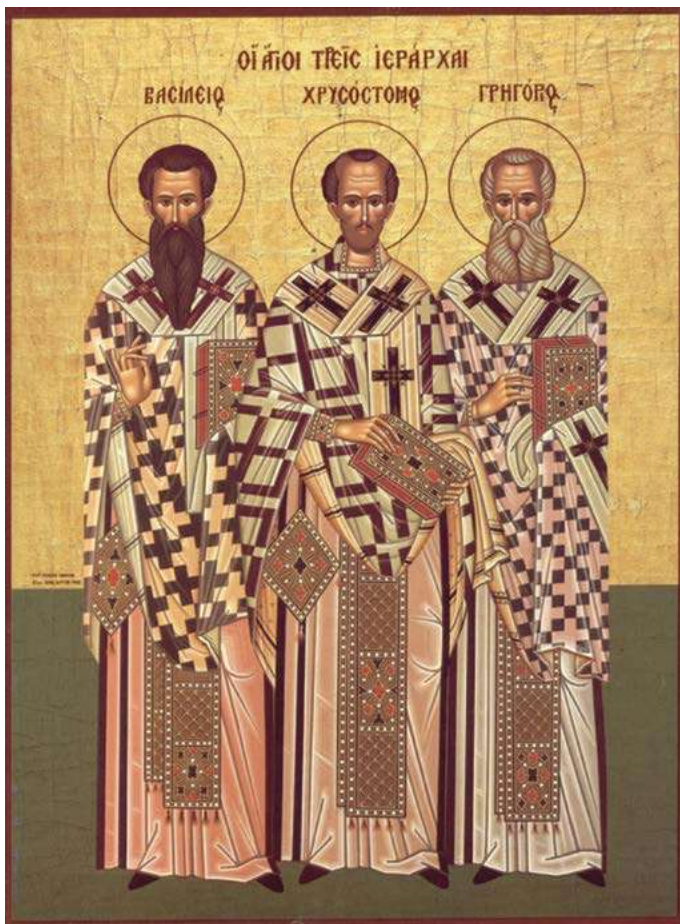
άλλοι τον Βασίλειο, και άλλοι τον Γρηγόριο, και υποτιμούσαν τους άλλους δύο. Έτσι δημιουργήθηκαν τρεις διαμαχόμενες παρατάξεις: των Ιωαννιτών, των Βασιλειτών και των Γρηγοριτών. Στην έριδα έθεσε τέλος ο μητροπολίτης Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννης ο Μαυρόπουλος, λόγιος και ευλαβής κληρικός.

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 Χρυσοστόμου.

Η σύσταση της εορτής πέτυχε τον σκοπό της. Απετέλεσε το ορατό σύμβολο της ισότητας και της ενότητας των μεγάλων διδασκάλων και της συμφιλώσεως των διισταμένων πριν μερίδων. Κοινή ακολουθία 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 παρουσιάστηκε 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 11th**, 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 21st and May 2nd, 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

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



GOYA

All 8th through 12th 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



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







Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

4 Sunday before Epiphany	5 Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	6 The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	7  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
11 Sunday after Epiphany	12 Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	13 Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	14  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
18 12th Sunday of Luke	19 Macarius the Great of Egypt	20 Righteous Euthymius the Great	21  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
25 15th Sunday of Luke	26 Xenophon & his Companions	27 Removal of the Relics of John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople	28  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	9	 Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	10	Gregory of Nyssa
GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM		GOYA 7:30 PM			
15	Paul of Thebes	16	 Veneration of Apostle Peter's Precious Chains	17	Anthony the Great
GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting 8:00 PM		JOY 6:00 PM Jr GOYA 7:00 PM GOYA 7:30 PM		Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM	
22	Timothy the Apostle of the 70	23	 Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra	24	Xenia, Deaconess of Rome
GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM		GOYA 7:30 PM			
29	Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer	30	 Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs	31	Cyrus & John the Unmercenaries
GOBL Basketball League 6:00 PM		Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM GOYA 7:30 PM			



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 30th**

Co-Directors
Stella Viris, Kevi Langis

GREEK SCHOOL

Η εκπαιδευτική μας ύλη για τον μήνα Ιανουάριο:

Kindergarten

VOCABULARY: Jungle animals, The letters Εε, Ζζ.

NUMBERS: 1-10

1ST Grade

VOCABULARY: The name “Νίκος”, “Μαρία”

LETTERS: Μμ, Νν.

GRAMMAR: The verb “είναι”

2nd Grade

VOCABULARY: The words “μέρα, καρέκλα, αλάτι, νερό, κότα”

LETTERS: Ρρ, Κκ, Ττ.

4th 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”

6TH Grade

LETTERS: Double Letters «ια», «μπ», «ντ»

GRAMMAR: Forming Sentences (Προτάσεις)

8TH 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 Επιρρήματα)

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





STEWARDSHIP LIST 2025



(as of December 12, 2025)

Rev. Vaseilios and Presvytera Elisavet Apostolidis	Chris Christofilakes Carlos Colon	Edward and Julia Dunphy Vernon and Maria Dutton
Rev. Nicholas and Presvytera Patricia Petropoulakos	Annetta Colon Donna Colonna	Andrew and Stacey Economos Dyala Sophia Eid
Kevin and Cleo Adams George and Sophia Alexander	Konstantinos Constantellis Marios and Maryanne	Elias and Evangelia Etimos Justin and Katrina Fama
Cathy Alicakos Michael and Roseanna Anagnostos	Constantellis Kay Constantine	Peter Fikias Stella Fiore
Ken and Denise Andolino Steve and Markella Andreakos	Fay Corinotis Maria Coussoule	Christopher and Alexa Francesc Kimon and Mary Frantzeskakis
Nestor and Lori Andrianos Sotirios Anemodouras	Pamela Crivera Mary Cuccia	Alexis Gaugi-Clemente Argyrios and Olga Gerazounis
Greg and Maria Angelides John and Emily Antonopoulos	Emily Cummings Michael and Joy Cummings	Vincent and Linda Gerecitano Patricia Germano
Spiro and Cheryl Antypas George and Niki Apostolopoulos	Aikaterini Darios Irene Della Croce	John and Corinne Girgis Socrates and Katerina
Panagiota Arfanis Konstantinos and Susan Arvanites	Michael Della Croce Nicole Della Croce	Grammenos Peter A. Gregor
Michael Arvanites Stefanos Aspiotis	James Demetriades Philip Denis	Phoebe Gregor George Gregoriou
Richard and Maria Baggs Chris Bakakos	Demetrius and Angela Dermanis	Petros and Eirini Gregoriou Despina Grigos
Steven and Debbie Ballaro Emanuel and Anna Belibasakis	Anthony Devito Dimitri Dimitriou	Pauline Grillos Steven and Georgia Guagenti
Hazis and Zhanetta Bello Steve and Cheryl Bontales	Konstantinos Dimitropoulos Christopher and Stephanie	Gloria Haramis George and Stephanie Haros
Christine Borovilas John and Anita Borovilas	Dontis Nicholas and Vicky Dontis	Ann Esther Hatzipetros Alexandra Hondros
Steve Boutsikakis Joan Breen	Georgia Doukas Alexandra Doyle	Frank and Christine Iemmiti Yiannis and Arhontoula
Dominick Breen Andrew Brennan	John Doyle Jr. John and Florendia Dragazis	Ikonomou Akis Iliopoulos
Melissa Brennan Kyriakos Cambos	Doyle Paraskevi Dragazis	Demetrios Iliopoulos Virginia Itsines
Edna Cardinale John and Christine Charitis	Nicole Drakontis Panagiotis Drakontis	Paul and Maryann Jannace Irene Joris
Demetra Christofilakes	Paula Drakontis	Stavros Kadas



Michael Kakias
Elias and Cathy Kalaizes
George Kalaizes
Barbara Kallinikos
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 Kouretsos
Nick and Chrissy Kournidakis
Alexia Koutsoudakis
Andreas Koutsoudakis
Georgia Koutsovasilis-Grippio
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
Vasilisa 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 Papaicovou
Maria Papaioannou
Toula Papanikolaou
Nicholas Papas
Katherine Pappas
Tasia Pavalis
Konstantinos Pavlidis
Kostas and Katina Paxis
Jason and Antonette Pearson
William and Constance Peist
Stacey Petropoulakos
Philip and Penny Phytides
Michael and Marietta Plaitis
Dean and Soula Platis
Evangelia Platis
Harrison Platis
Markos and Anita Platis
Gus Plessias
Michael Plessias
John and Cathy Plevritis
Nicholas Protopsaltis
Diana Provenzano
Salvatore and Maria
Quarantino
Anastasia Raptis
George and Pat Rassias

Peter and Helen Rassias
John Reid
Voula Reveliotis
Louis and Estelle Ricciardi
Donald and Linda Ritchie
Dennis Rondogiannis
George and Eugenia Roussis
Nicholas and Christiana Roussis
Anthony Ruggiero
Anthony and Lena Russo
Frank and Paulina Schirripa
Kathy Scuteri
Katherine Seremetis
Andrew and Debbie Sfougataki
Jim and Dee Sidiropoulos
Annie Sigalos
Michael Siozios
Jaclyn Smith
Helen Spanos
Chris and Mary Spirocostas
Carol Spithogiannis
Nicole Spithogiannis
Stephen Stark Sr.
John Stathakis
Thomas and Moira Stavola
Michael Stratis
Michael and Lemonia Tamborra
Nicholas and Angela Tamborra
Georgiana Telegadis delBusto
Evangelia Temaj
Harry Thambounaris
Stemie Thanasoulis
Pauline Thaten
William Thiro
Maria Thomas
Stella Tortora
Nikolaos and Christina Tountas
Irene Tragares
Eleni Trepel
Keith and Effie Trepel
Corine Troianiello

Alexios and Lucia Tsakonas
Tom and Antonetta Tsakonas
Joanne Tsirigotis
Lea Tsokris
Eleni Tsontakis
Elpis Tsoukalas
Konstantinos Tsoukaris
Konstantinos and Irene Tsoukas
Constantinos and Helen Tzivas
Stephen and Victoria Vasilakopoulos
Demetra Vass
Kayla Vayos
George Veres
Diane Vernados
Mary Veros
David and Stella Viris
Angie Viscione
Alex and Lisa Vlastakis
Emmanuel and Stella Vlastakis
Thomas and Kaliope Vlastakis
Konstantinos Volakos
Evangelos and Maria Xenakis
Niki Yiannoulatos
Maria Zachariades
George Zalantis
Brian and Anna Zeakis-Lyons
Chris Zorbas
Christo and Anna Zorbas
Dimitra Zorbas
Steve Zorbas
Emanuel and Irene Zoumboulis

Thank you
for your consideration
and continued support!



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

*Your own
from Your own
we offer to You*



STEWARDSHIP
2026



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Join us every Sunday after Divine Liturgy



January 4 th	Parish Council
January 11 th	Philotochos
January 18 th	PTO & Youth Ministry
January 25 th	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:

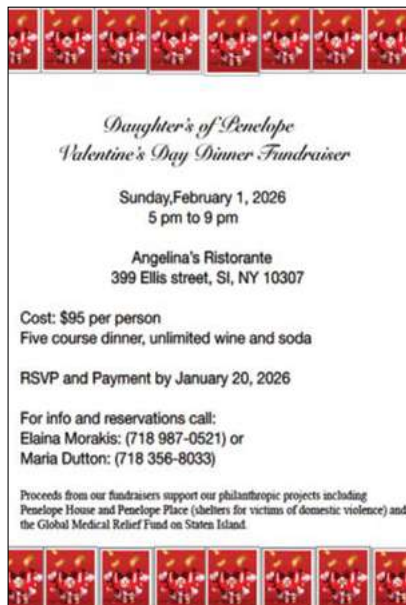
Greeks for Good - "Greeks for Good" is a non-profit organization started in North Carolina, after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. It is dedicated to providing essential goods like food, money, and toys to those facing challenges, emphasizing the Greek culture.

Open Door - www.eps-ath.gr - 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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METHEXIS[©]

«*Methexis*» /mé.thek.sis/, (*methexis*):

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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Submissions can be emailed to:

info@htsngoc.org

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Happy
New Year!
2026

