

# THE DIALOGIST

FALL EDITION



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## WELCOME ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA! AXIOS!

*by Presvytera Mary Christy*

After twenty years of faithful service to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, submitted his resignation on May 1, 2019, and on June 22, 2019, our newly elected Archbishop of America, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (meaning, “bearer of hope”), was Enthroned at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York.

“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health” Proverbs 15:30

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros’ engaging smile, combined with his trademark humility, offers us hope as his name proclaims, at a time when our Greek Orthodox Church of America needs joy and hope.

It was with great excitement that our beloved Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta was selected for His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros’ first pastoral visit, when he joined us for the Grand Banquet of our 2019 Clergy-Laity Assembly, at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville, Florida. For all of us who had faithfully watched his Enthronement just days before, we were eager to embrace our new Archbishop and to personally welcome him to America and to our Metropolis.

Earlier that day, I had been selected to be seated at the Dais as Treasurer of our Metropolis, for which I was truly humbled, as it allowed for private time with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. During our discussion, I welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, offering our full support as he begins his service to Christ and His Holy Church as our Archbishop. His goals are our goals, and his task, although difficult, will be achieved through the incredible spirit of the Orthodox faithful in America!

Archbishop Elpidophoros has been described by many of my friends who personally know him as kind, generous, a good listener, devoted spiritual friend and brother, and transparent. I witnessed this first-hand as we spoke at length about his primary goals: to complete St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, to revitalize Holy Cross Seminary, and to restore financial stability to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, particularly with respect to the clergy pension and benefits plan. In

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In addition to my current role as Vice-President of the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres, I faithfully serve on the Archdiocese Benefits Committee as well as Treasurer and Coordinator of the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres and Archdiocesan Presbyters Council Benevolent Fund, and on the Steering Committee of the Clergy Families Initiative program. I am grateful to know that our Archbishop is fully committed to all of us.

In his address during the Lesser and Greater Minima (Announcement) of the new Archbishop of America, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stated, "Brother Archbishop of America, you have many, too many things to do and offer. And you can! We trust you and send you off with good hopes and expectations. You must glorify the Throne of your Eparchy, but also this Holiest and Martyred Throne, which raised you, nurtured you, and honors you today in an exceptional way. May you excel as an Archbishop of love, of peace, of humility and of unity. Axios!"

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has come to love and embrace us. Through his love and embrace, he will serve us with passion and conviction for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In his first Archpastoral Message to the Faithful of the Archdiocese, he stated, "I want all of you to know most importantly, is that I am coming to America not only to be your Archbishop, but I am coming to be your spiritual friend and brother, your servant in the Lord, your co-worker in Christ, and your fellow steward of all the gifts of God that have been bestowed upon the Greek Orthodox Faithful of America. Together we will bring the Holy Archdiocese of America to the greater understanding that we are the Body of Christ, and each of us a precious member. Let this be a time of hope and positive expectation for us all. We have much to accomplish together, and by God's grace and with His strength, we must surely be victorious."

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

### A GIFT FROM A CATHOLIC PRIEST

Fr. Christy,

My wife Carol and I love coming to the annual Greek Festival and early December food/dessert sale and always appreciate your kind generosity and welcome that is extended to us.

I happened to have seen a number of weeks ago on your website a note from you to parishioners inviting them to contribute to supply copies for the pews of the new Eucharistic Liturgy book that the Greek Archdiocese has recently published. I wondered if sufficient contributions to cover the cost have already been given. If not, I would like to make a contribution. Please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Robert T. Schriber  
Parochial Vicar  
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Apex  
starprst@gmail.com



### GREEK SCHOOL MINISTRY

The Holy Trinity Greek School Ministry invites you to join us as we prepare for another exciting year of learning Greek. Registration is underway for all students, beginners to adult. We meet every Sunday from noon to 1pm and our first day of classes will be Sunday, Sept. 15th. We will learn our beautiful language, songs, poems and lots more about our beautiful culture and heritage. Registration forms and the 2019-2020 schedule of classes can be found on the church website and also on the candle stand. For questions, more information or if you are interested in teaching this year, please contact **Zoe Pusic** at [holytrinityraleighgreeksschool@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityraleighgreeksschool@gmail.com) or by phone at 919-803-2699. Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to a great Greek School year!

## 2019 HOLY TRINITY STEWARDSHIP SUMMER UPDATE

DO YOU KNOW...  
WHEN YOU MAKE A PLEDGE TO HOLY TRINITY,  
WHERE EXACTLY DO YOUR DOLLARS GO?

As many of you know, this year's stewardship campaign titled, Stewardship of the Faith: All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ, launched in early December 2018. Thanks to the incredible generosity of many Holy Trinity members, we are inching closer to reaching our ambitious goal of \$422,000, with just five short months to go in this year's campaign. As of June 30th, we have received \$312,000 in pledges from more than 242 members. Thank you!

We are grateful and humbled that our church family gives abundantly, gives sacrificially, and gives with great joy. Each dollar given to the church is an act of love for the community and the ministries built over the years, through the hard work of so many generations.

We are blessed at Holy Trinity to have 14 ministries and growing – GOYA, Sunday School, Greek Dance Troupe, Events & Picnics, Joy/Hope/Angels, Choir, Archangel Michael, St. Anthony's Senior Group, Mothers of Little Ones, CCCM Ministry, Prison Outreach, OCF, Welcome Committee, Lecture Series, and Bible Studies, etc. These ministries enrich each one of us and our community-at-large, and most importantly, they also create a legacy from which we further strengthen our foundation in Christ. This year's stewardship campaign is asking that you help put the church in a position to expand our commitment to these ministries from the \$25,000 budget we currently have to meet, in order to keep them operating successfully.



Our needs go well beyond our ministries. In order for the church to function normally, we have bills to pay as well. We have to spend over \$152,000 annually to cover essential facilities and administrative expenses, which include: Power/Water/Gas/Waste, Custodian & Cleaning Supplies, Facilities Insurance, Building Maintenance & Repairs, Accounting & Legal Fees, Office Machines, Office Supplies, Computer & Internet Expenses, necessary Liturgical Supplies, Candles and Flowers, and Telephone Services. For the size of our church, and the magnitude of community we serve, these expenses are extremely well-contained and

managed by our Board of Directors and Committees. The daily expense of running the church is approximately \$1,300. When we say your financial contributions are essential in helping keep Holy Trinity's doors open each and every day, we mean it!

Please join your church family in keeping our beacon of love, Holy Trinity, thriving. Please submit your stewardship commitment form today. Every pledge truly does count!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stewardship Co-Chairs:

Angela Georgallis ([acgeorgallis@gmail.com](mailto:acgeorgallis@gmail.com) / 919-339-3169)

George Georgallis ([ggeorgallis@hotmail.com](mailto:ggeorgallis@hotmail.com) / 773-251-8127)



## ANGELS ON MY SHOULDERS

Sort of a funny story about this photo. It was taken at the Grand Banquet of the 2019 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference in Jacksonville, FL. Part of the dais that evening (as you can see) is Presbytera Mary and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. My good friend, (at least I thought he was my friend) **Fr. George Wilson** of the Holy

Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans, found it amusing that my back was turned to dais and unbeknownst to me, he snapped that picture. In my meager defense, the reason my back is turned is because there was a giant TV screen behind me that was easier for me to watch than the 'live performance'. By the way, the "Angel" over my left shoulder sent word to Fr. George to turn me around!

Well besides this 'minor' etiquette gaffe we all had a wondrous, magical and meaningful time at the Metropolis Clergy-Laity, Philoptochos and Choir Conference which took place from June 25 – June 29.

This was the first such conference since we hosted it so beautifully and skillfully back in 2017. The St. John the Divine community in Jacksonville did an outstanding job, but their leadership would be the first to tell you (in fact they did several times over, to the entire assembly) that the reason for their success was because they modeled their conference after Holy Trinity in Raleigh. In other words (after two years of preparation and communication with our leadership) they used the Raleigh blueprint because our conference was so successful on so many levels.

Representing our community were **Diakonissa Mary (Rhonda) Milkovich** (for Philoptochos), **Kathy Frankos** (Choir), **Mitch Owen** (presenting a Workshop on "Parish Strategic Planning"), **Lekita Essa** (who is on the Metropolis Council and also led a workshop on "Seniors: Revitalizing Your Well-Being") as well as Presbytera Mary and myself (also on the Metropolis Council).

For me personally, the culmination of the entire week was at the Friday night Grand Banquet where we all got to see and meet the new Archbishop of America, **His Eminence Elpidophoros**, whose very name means, 'bearer of hope'. His smile lit up the room.

As the President of our Parish Council Jim Klemes always says, 'We have a great community,' but after experiencing the week in Jacksonville with representatives from some 70 churches in the Atlanta Metropolis as well as our new Archbishop I was reminded that we also have a great Metropolis and Archdiocese.

Grant thy Church O Lord great mercy.



## BUILDING COMMITTEE/ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As you are aware, our Church family voted unanimously to purchase the adjacent property that was owned by Pota Vallas - memory eternal. We have received the signed contract from the Vallas family and the letter of approval to purchase from Metropolitan Alexios to move forward with the purchase. At this point the new property lines are in review with the City of Raleigh. This is a major milestone for Holy Trinity, and by expanding our land we have dramatically improved our building options.

Our Capital Campaign is active, and parishioners are faithfully fulfilling their commitments - your continued generosity is appreciated. Please consider making a sacrificial gift that fulfills the call of the Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, which says, "Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." 1 Corinthians 14.

If you would like to discuss the Holy Trinity Capital Campaign, please contact Father Paul, George Pappas, or complete a pledge form. The pledge form is available on [www.holytrinityraleigh.org](http://www.holytrinityraleigh.org) or in the Church Office.

## SOAK UP THE SUN OF THE SON

by Fr. Demetrios Kazakis

It's a play on words, but I'm not playing around. As a priest, there is nothing more depressing than seeing the joyous faces of our youth in Church one week, and then NOT seeing them the next simply because Sunday school has ended for the school year. There is no such thing as a 'vacation' from Church!

There is the old adage, "Children are like sponges; they soak everything up!" This is true! What is a sponge? A real sponge is a multi-cellular organism with pores and channels, so when it's dried, any liquid or dry material will be naturally soaked up into its crevices. A sponge will forever maintain the elements of that with which it first comes into contact. If our children are sponge-like, they will soak up the first thing they are exposed to, and it will remain with them for the rest of their existence. Can we look at our children and be satisfied with that which they have been 'soaking up?' What have they been exposed to? What is the first thing with which they may have come into contact?

We are products of our own environment. Our main environment should be our Church! Like the sponge, we must soak up Jesus Christ and His Church to our full capacity! Our entire lives should be immersed into the Church and we will maintain its elements, properties and fragrances. When we are surrounded by the beauty and love of Christ, we will be changed and affected for the better!

There is a danger when people want their Church only when it's to their convenience. This inconsistency is a detriment to our faith and our growth towards Christ. The Church is constant and will last forever – but just because the Church is always available to us, does not mean that we should stroll in haphazardly. Summer vacation, for example, may be a time of rest and relaxation, but does not mean that we take a 'vacation' from our faith and prayer life in the Church. Vacation means the action of leaving something which preoccupies.

Does church preoccupy you? Is it something that causes stress? Our faith cannot stop or 'take a break!' Imagine if God took a break from answering our prayers and blessing us! Imagine if the Holy Spirit took a vacation from carrying out God's will. Where would we be? Why do we come to church in the first place? People say, 'I come because I was baptized in this church.' 'I come to church because I like seeing people.' 'I come to church because I have nothing better to do,' etc. There are

many misguided reasons for coming to church.

The correct reason we come to church is because the Church is the Body of Christ! The Church is our liturgical family. St. Paul says to the Corinthians: "When one suffers, the whole body suffers. You (the Church) are the Body of Christ!" (1 Cor. 12:26-27). You should not leave this body! Even if it's during summer vacation, our place is to be in Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is the 'work of the people' and therefore when someone is missing the work is not complete!

Our priorities are often ill advised and incorrect. Sports, school, career, so-called 'family functions' all replace the Divine Liturgy throughout the year, and when it comes time for vacation, Divine Liturgy makes its way to the lowest point in the priority pole -- if it wasn't there already. We are all sponges in the presence of Jesus Christ, through His Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are products of His Church. We are a result of the work and sacrifice of the Saints. We are the continuation of this ministry and faith!

As parents, it is our responsibility to expose our children to our precious Orthodox Faith but exposure is not enough. Our children will also be soaking up our attitude towards our faith and Church. If our opinion of the church is that it's only a 'place to congregate socially' and something that we can take vacation from, our children will grow up with the same mindset.

This summer, SOAK UP JESUS, AS THE SON. I'm not saying don't enjoy the time with family, enjoy them and thank God for blessing your with this precious time together. I'm not saying you will be in church every waking second of the summer, but I am asking you to make it the foundation on which your summer is planned. Church attendance should be constant, meaningful and prayerful whether we are at our home parish or an Orthodox Christian parish where we are vacationing (see [www.assemblyofbishops.org](http://www.assemblyofbishops.org) to find canonical Orthodox Christian parishes throughout the United States). Surround yourself with the beauty that is the Orthodox Church! Be a part of the Body of Christ's Church and grow in the Church as part of your parish family! Be in the presence of Christ and His Church and soak up the SON!

Fr. Kazakis is the presiding priest at St. Nicholas Church in West Babylon, N.Y.

## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to start a new Sunday school year. We will have registration open for all students August 11, 18, and 25. Both new and previously enrolled students are asked to register to ensure all information is up to date. Sunday school will start on Sunday, August 25 2019. Following the Gospel Reading, Father Paul will welcome and bless our students and teachers.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

**Our Mission**  
Minister to and inspire our youth to assimilate Orthodox thought and theology and participate in the liturgical, sacramental, and communal life of the Orthodox Church in order to build up the Body of Christ..

PARENT(S) NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ST, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*We welcome students ages 3 (as of August 31 of the current year) through age 18*

1ST CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTIZED OR CHRISMATED ORTHODOX: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

NOTE FOOD ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS \_\_\_\_\_

2nd CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTIZED OR CHRISMATED ORTHODOX: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

NOTE FOOD ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS \_\_\_\_\_

3rd CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTIZED OR CHRISMATED ORTHODOX: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

NOTE FOOD ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS \_\_\_\_\_

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

2019-2020

*Sunday School registration will be on August 11, 18 & 25th*

Youth Sunday will be the first Sunday of each month. Children in grades PreK-Fifth come forward and sit on the Solea during the Sermon.

### AUGUST

25 Sunday of Matthew – First day of Sunday School-  
Sunday School Blessing

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Ecclesiastical New Year(No Sunday School)
- 8 Greek Festival -Sunday before Holy Cross (No Sunday School)
- 15 Sunday after Holy Cross –All classes in Session
- 22 1st Sunday of Luke- All classes in Session
- 29 2nd Sunday of Luke- All classes in Session

### OCTOBER

- 6 3rd Sunday of Luke (Youth Sunday) –All classes in Session
- 13 7th Ecumenical Council – All classes in Session
- 20 6th Day of Luke – All classes in Session
- 27 7th Day of Luke – All classes in Session

### NOVEMBER

- 3 5th Sunday of Luke (Youth Sunday) - All classes in Session
- 10 8th Sunday of Luke- All classes in Session
- 17 9th Sunday of Luke - All classes in Session
- 24 13th Day of Luke – All classes in Session

### DECEMBER

- 1 14th Sunday of Luke (No Sunday School)
- 8 10th Sunday of Luke - All classes in Session
- 14 Christmas Pageant practice
- 15 11th Sunday of Luke – Christmas Pageant
- 22 Sunday before Nativity – No Sunday School
- 29 Sunday after Nativity – No Sunday School

First Sunday Of Month:  
(Youth Service Sunday/Family Worship 7th-12th)

Fourth Sunday Of Month:  
(Family Worship for PreK – 6th):

(Please refer to the calendar each week as there will be some exception.



### PRESCHOOL

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool is having open enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year, for children ages 2-4, 9am-1pm, 2-5 days a week.

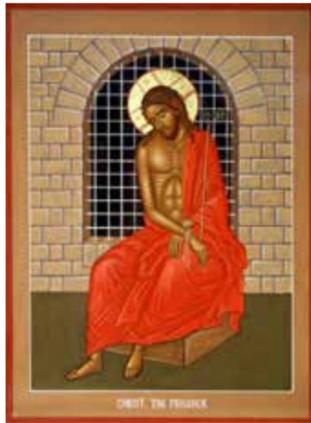
Our classes follow a daily schedule, providing a predictable routine which includes guided play,

free play, arts & crafts, circle & story time, music and computer time. We have chapel once a week and enjoy pizza lunch one day a week. The curriculum focuses on social and emotional development, encouraging independence, confidence and communication.



### ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL

*Alms giving and kids: Kids are ready to share when they witness generosity from their families. No matter what age it's simple to involve them in almsgiving during Lent to demonstrate how to go beyond themselves to invest in others. Angels Hope and Joy - well said and done as our Angels Hope and Joy group came up with a Palm Sunday event which will become annual. They took collections for our welcome baskets that STJM distributes to the families that we provide beds and furniture for. Thank you again Francesca and Ana for chairing this and all the families who took the time to invest in others! God bless - STJM*



### PRISON MINISTRY

We honor St. Silas – patron saint of prison ministry - on the 30th of July. On pages 17 & 65 in our Divine Liturgy books, we are asked to remember & pray for captives. Gathered at our summer event, we read from Lynden Harris's script, Hidden Voices. While ours was not a dramatic interpretation, words of death row inmates reverberated.

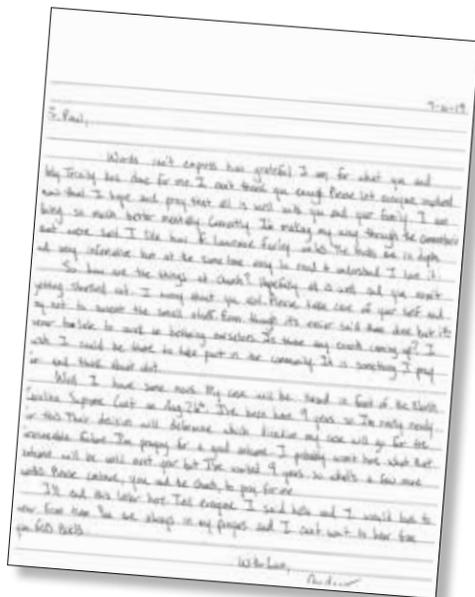
Ms. Harris could not join us, but if you ever get an opportunity to experience her work, I highly recommend it! Lynden is a founding member of the Duke Transformative Prison Project. Her background speaks for itself:

<http://playmakersrep.org/artists/lynden-harris/>

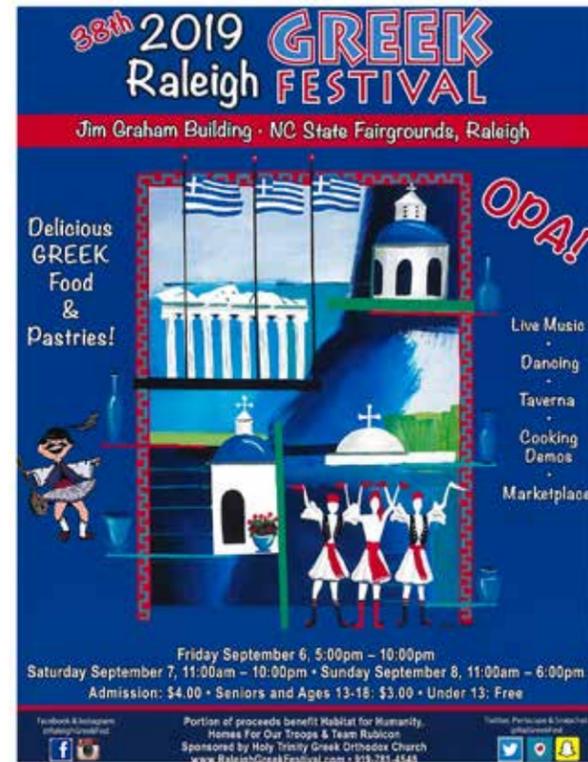
Finally, a message our beloved Deacon sent around just before our event:

“Even the blind, the leper, the mentally insane, the child at the mother’s breast, the convicted criminal – all of these you must honor as the image of God. What business do you have with their diseases and their deficiencies? Watch over yourself, so that you might not be deficient in love.”

Respectfully,  
Cynthia Gallion



## 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL



2019 Greek Festival Menu		
<b>GREEK PASTRY SHOPPE</b>		
<b>BAKLAVA</b> - Walnuts and delicate spices layered in buttered filo pastry in scrumptious syrup \$2.75	<b>FLOGERIS (Baklava Rolls)</b> - Walnut stuffed filo pastries sprinkled with warm spiced syrup & chocolate \$3.75	<b>ROCK</b> - Two cake like cookies dipped in syrup & filled with cream, coated with a chocolate glaze \$2
<b>GALANTHOKOUREDO</b> - Greek cream custard between crisp filo layers topped with spiced syrup \$3	<b>KARITHOPITA</b> - Crushed walnut cake lightly spiced with special syrup \$3.75	<b>YIOURTOPIA</b> - Greek yogurt butter cake with whipped cream \$2
<b>KOULOVRAKIA</b> - 5 Butter cookie twists sprinkled with sesame seeds \$4	<b>KOURAMBETHES</b> - Butter shortbread cookies, with almonds, topped with confectioner sugar \$3.5	<b>PASTA FLORA</b> - Apricot or raspberry fruit topped tarts with a rich pastry dough \$3
<b>ENEDIA</b> - Honey dipnet, served with cookies and sprinkled with crushed nuts \$3.25	<b>KATAIFI</b> - Shredded filo dough wrapped around crushed walnuts dipped in honeyed syrup \$2.75	<b>ALMOND COOKIES</b> - Almond butter cookies covered in silvered almonds \$3.75
<b>ALMOND COOKIES with Chocolate</b> \$4		
<b>The Great Greek Shakes</b>	<b>Greek Coffee Shakes</b>	<b>Ice Cream Shakes</b>
<b>LEUKOMATHES</b> \$4.5 Piping hot, deep fried, honeyed doughnuts dipped in hot syrup and dusted with cinnamon	<b>SAFIRON</b> Featuring hot cinnamon and cardamom	<b>BAKLAVA GUNDAE</b> \$4 Vanilla ice cream, covered with baklava crumbs and a choice of honey or chocolate syrup
<b>SOUVLAKI</b> (Served with pita bread and tzatziki sauce) <b>CHICKEN SOUVLAKI</b> Marinated grilled chicken kabobs \$4.5	<b>GREEK FOOD COURT</b>	<b>GYROS</b>
<b>BEER SOUVLAKI</b> Traditional marinated Greek kabobs \$7	<b>LAMB BURGER</b> Greek style lamb burger spiced with herbs & served on a bun with lettuce and tzatziki sauce \$7	<b>CHICKEN GYRO</b> Grilled chicken in a Greek marinade served on pita bread with lettuce, tomatoes and tzatziki sauce \$8
<b>PIZZA</b>	<b>GREEK FRIES</b> Deep fried potatoes with special Greek seasoning \$3.5	<b>GYRO SANDWICH</b> A blend of beef and lamb, spiced with Greek herbs, served on pita bread with lettuce, tomato and tzatziki sauce \$8
<b>ATHENIAN</b> \$7.5 <b>PEPPERONI</b> \$7 <b>CHEESE</b> \$6.5	<b>GREEK TAVERNA</b> Try some Ouzo or Metaxa!!!	<b>GREEK (Kottles) &amp; DOMESTIC (Draft)</b>
Imported Greek Table Wines GLASS = BOTTLE		
<b>SPECIALTY DINNERS</b>		
38th Annual Greek Festival Greek Style Dinner (Menu subject to change)		
<b>OVEN ROASTED LAMB SHANK</b> The pride of Dorian cuisine. Mouth-watering, bone in fresh lamb shank braised with olive oil, garlic, and a delicious tomato sauce served on a bed of rice pilaf. \$18.75		
<b>CHICKEN RIGANATO</b> Greek style baked chicken, breaded in a marinade of olive oil, garlic and special spices served on a bed of rice pilaf. \$12		
<b>MOUSSAKA</b> Internationally famous Greek casserole dish featuring layers of eggplant, seasoned beef and parmesan cheese, topped with a creamy bechamel sauce. \$12.75		
<b>PASTITSIO</b> Delicious layers of macaroni and seasoned beef blended with parmesan cheese and topped with a creamy bechamel sauce. \$12		
<b>SPANAKOPITA (Vegetarian)</b> It is out of this world, even if you're not vegetarian! Layers of filo pastry with a blend of spinach, Greek feta and spices, all baked into a delicious pastry. Served with a flavorful dolmades. \$12.5		
<b>SALATA &amp; MEZEDAKIA</b>		
<b>GREEK SALADS</b> Lettuce, tomatoes, Kalamata olives, feta, pepperoncini and special Greek salad dressing. Small \$3 Large \$7.5	<b>MEZEDAKIA (Greek Sampler)</b> Greek mezeballs, spanakopita, feta, olives, tomatoes, pepperoncini, stuffed grape leaves and bread. \$11.75	
<b>Spanakopita</b> \$6	<b>Greek Style Meatballs</b> \$3.5	<b>Dolmades (stuffed grape leaves)</b> \$3
<b>BEVERAGES</b> Soft Drinks, Tea, Water & Coffee \$1.75		

## MUSINGS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Robert Shand, Pastoral Assistant



A new year is upon us with so many wonderful events planned for this year! Our children truly set an amazing trend last year with Halloween parties, fundraisers, excellence in scholarship,

athletics, knowledge of the Church, and most importantly through growing closer to Christ. Being the Youth Director it is a great honor to participate in these powerful years in a young Christian's life. Over the past four years I have been able to serve the Holy Trinity GOYA with great joy and this year brought with it some very revealing discoveries about our future: it is in good hands. Four years is an important number because it is the first time that I have been able to serve a full class of GOYAns from year one to college. It was startling to see these young boys and girls grow into young men and women. Their character, discipline, and spiritual life have grown so much it's humbling to see how they've changed!



line in their last game, and grow to become the men I had hoped they would be.”

Apart from their stellar representation to the greater communities of Raleigh and beyond, our children grew closer to Christ. They learned how to make prosfora and had powerful and meaningful discussions with our own Fr. Paul Christy. Through his own personal coaching they demonstrated the importance of Christ in their lives in the St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival. The Oratorical Festival asks our youth to tackle some of the most difficult theological questions of our time ranging from climate change to the importance of bringing people into the Orthodox Church. Defeating the competition, two of our own GOYAns, Kristina Hixson and Irini Kaffenes represented not only our Parish, but our district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival in New Orleans!

Continued on page 10



*Continued from page 9*

Our final chapter of the 2018-2019 GOYA Season was crowned with St. Stephen's Summer Camp. This is a week-long camp in South Carolina at the Diakonia Retreat Center where hundreds of Children from around the Metropolis come to live a truly Christ Centered life. I was astounded to learn that registration for this camp sold out in less than 10 minutes! (Week Five was less than three!) The camp was forced to extend every reserve they had to house the children who were so hungry for this transformative experience. There are five weeks of camp and each week a new batch of 120+ children fill the cabins, fields, cafeteria, and the Panagia Chapel to learn more about the church and themselves than they ever thought would be possible in a single week. They bond with fellow Orthodox Christians their age in a way that only Christ can provide. They sing, they pray, they go to confession, and they absolutely love it. Yes, I said it!

The kids encounter Holy Confession which is held each Thursday of camp, with clergy from around the Metropolis. Confession isn't even mandatory but the children, seeking relief from the weight the world puts on them, love it; so many souls healed, so much faith renewed, and hope and inspired!

I would be remiss if I didn't say that this year was emotional for me. Seeing oldest and first GOYAns moving onto college (and OCF!) really put a firm love in my heart for the bright futures of each and every kid I've seen grow throughout the past four years. I even had the surreal experience of having one of my first GOYAns, Emily Nicholos, serve at St. Stephens as a colleague and co-counselor. Seeing the love these children have for the Church reminds me just how much I love the Church and being involved in GOYA has made me a better Christian. Helping the youth is an experience which I would not want any member of our parish to miss.

## FULFILLMENT

Every January, the Hellenic Dance Ministry embarks on a trip to the Metropolis Hellenic Dance Festival. Throughout the year, the youth of our church have the opportunity to attend various Metropolis events, HDF being one of them. While HDF is a competition for traditional Hellenic dances, it's become so much more to our community. It allows for spiritual growth in the form of meeting other priests, our metropolitans, and even spiritual workshops. It allows for friendships from other Metropolis events to be nourished and for connections to be made with the youth of other parishes. Most importantly though, it allows for deeper relationships within our own parish. Over the course of four months, we grow closer as a family - dancers, instructors, chaperones, and parents. This past year, we decided to set a word as our goal for the weekend of competition; the focus was on something that we could take pride in, win or lose. The dancers chose the word "fulfillment" as their theme for the weekend. Though we didn't come away with a medal this year, the instructors and dancers were proud of their accomplishments and had a great time, and we are so excited for this coming January!



*From top left clockwise: Oratoracle Festival; Making Psforos, Winter Youth Rally, Winter Youth Rally*



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