IN THIS ISSUE:

1 | Welcome Archbishop
2 | Greek School Ministry
2 | A Gift
3 | Stewardship Summer
4 | Angels on My Shoulders
4 | Building Committee
5 | Soak Up the Sun
6 | Sunday School
7 | Preschool
7 | St. John The Merciful
8 | Prison Ministry
9 | Musings From the Library
11 | Fulfillment

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
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.

In the months ahead, we are reaching out to our friends and family and the communities we serve, to invite them to contribute to supply copies for the pews of the new Eucharistic Liturgy book that the Greek Archdiocese has recently published.

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 / 919-339-3169) or George Georgallis (ggeorgallis@hotmail.com / 773-251-8127).

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 holytrinityraleighgreeschool@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!

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

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

In his address during the Lesser and Greater Minima Initiative program, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has said, "Brother Archbishop of America, you have many, too. All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stated, "We trust your support and we look forward to a great Greek School year!“

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!
Metropolis and Archdiocese.

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As the President of our Parish Council Jim Klemes always says, ’We

night Grand Banquet where we all got to see and meet the new Archbishop

Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans, found it amusing that my back was turned to das 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 then 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 (Choiro), 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.

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 das 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 das 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 then the ’live performance’. By the way, the ’Angel’ over my left shoulder sent word to Fr. George to turn me around!

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BUILDING COMMITTEE/ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As you are aware, our Church family voted unanimously to purchase the adjacent property that was owned by Pota Vallas – many years ago.

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.’ I 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 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 drenched, 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 stress? Our faith cannot stop or ’take a break!’

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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 came 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.)

ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL

Alms giving and kids: Kids are ready to share whey 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 Francesco 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

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!

One such realization came with the initiative of our last year’s GOYA officers. This group of young women took it upon themselves to be accountable for the activities, events, and the overall ethos of the group. Under the leadership of the hard working and capable Kaeli McEnteer as President, they were able to raise $500.00 for the capital campaign, feed the homeless, host movie nights, and even had an end of the year dance. This is all excluding the metropolis-wide events where they brought honor to our Parish at Winter Youth Rally, The Hellenic Dance Festival, and two basketball tournaments in Norfolk, VA, and Charlotte, NC. Our head Basketball Coach, John Dombalis, when reflecting on the last basketball game of the season, remarked “It’s as if I saw these boys, who I worked with all year, leave it all on the 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
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 Nicholas, 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.

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 “fulfilment” 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!

Continued from page 9

From top left clockwise: Oratorical Festival; Making Psaltirio, Winter Youth Rally, Winter Youth Rally
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS!
BEST OF LUCK IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!