

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

VOL. 23 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2025

Dear Holy Trinity family,

It's no secret that our church has been growing rapidly since I began my tenure here in August of 2023. Between the strong and motivated core community, the lifting of COVID restrictions, and the nationwide influx of inquirers into the Orthodox Church, the conditions were ripe for our community to grow by the time I arrived. And the pace of this growth does not seem to have slowed: this past month alone we hit record Sunday attendance numbers twice. I'll admit that I am very excited about all of this, and it feels very gratifying to preside over a community that appears to be flourishing. But Lent is a period for sober reflection, and I believe there are two important considerations to keep in mind which should temper our excitement.

The first is that numbers don't *necessarily* mean anything. While it's nice to have a large and growing community, people join churches and other organizations for all sorts reasons, be they spiritual, social, cultural, political, psychological or even financial. Just because someone is in the pews (or even before the altar) of an Orthodox Church every Sunday does not *necessarily* mean he is seeking union with Christ, or repenting of his sins, or sincerely struggling to love his neighbor. The state of every human heart is known to God alone, and will only be revealed at His Second Coming. On that day we may discover that some small, forgotten country chapels were glorious havens of repentance and spiritual life, while some large, crowded cathedrals housed very few true Christians. Until then, we should cling to our church whether it is full or empty, paying attention to our own spiritual development and trusting that whatever the outward circumstances, God's will is being enacted.

The second consideration is that even if people are coming to real repentance and spiritual life at our little church, it is not because of me or anyone else at the parish, but it is exclusively due to the Holy Spirit of God. God alone converts people and brings them to repentance, in accordance with Jesus Christ's pronouncement to His disciples: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:16); likewise St. Paul tells the Ephesians, "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). God calls people to Himself at His time on His terms. Even very charismatic and devoted pastors can be unsuccessful (in the worldly sense) if the timing is not right according to God's plan: St. Nicholas (Kasatkin), the first Orthodox missionary to Japan, made three converts in the entire country during the first ten years of his ministry. But even during those difficult, dry years God was with him, supporting him and guiding him according to His purposes.

May God bless all of us to understand that He does not desire large, active churches the way He desires truly, deeply converted human hearts. May we all channel our excitement and energy to love and desire Him sincerely, so that we may encounter Him fully on the day of His glorious Resurrection.

God bless you all! Fr. Theodore



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



30 Huntington Boulevard, N.E.

Roanoke, Virginia 24012

PHONE: (540) 362-3601 FAX: (540) 362-3638

www.holytrinityroanoke.com

Priest: Fr. Theodore Lyketsos E-MAIL: frtheohtroa@gmail.com
Church Administrator: Diane Simmons E-MAIL: htrinityroa@verizon.net

2025-2026 PARISH COUNCIL

Matt Mandros President

Frances Simopoulos Vice President

Carol Royal Secretary

Maria Apostolou Assistant Secretary

Van Kakouras Treasurer

Angela Flegas Assistant Treasurer

Board Members

Voula Dallas Dr. Maria Hatzios Beth Gianakouros Juan Martinez Mike Greenwood Nada Melki

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos President – Danna Owen

Religious Education – Carol Royal Youth Director – Mike Greenwood

Greek School – Georgia Liagki, Tom Contos Chanters – Dr. Paul Dallas, Fred Gianakouros,

& Demos Tsiakos

Dance Troupe – Dina Martinez

Bookstore - Voula Dallas

Megdova President – Dr. Paul Dallas

Webmaster - Mark Bonds

COMMITTEES

Archives – Dr. Maria Hatzios, Caitlin

DeMarco

Finance – Mike Greenwood, Jack White, Greg

Apostolou

Grounds, Planning, & Projects – Juan

Martinez, Dr. Charles Tarasidis, Dr. Paul Dallas, Terry Tomaras, Jack

White, Pete Simopoulos, Chris Flegas

Roanoke Greek Festival – Pete Simopoulos

Stewardship – Nada Melki

Ushering & Welcome – Maria Apostolou,

Naji Karim, Irene Karageorge

SERVICE SCHEDULE APRIL 2025				
No Vespers During Lent				
Wed. 4/2/2025	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00 PM		
Fri. 4/4/2025	The Akathist Hymn	6:00 PM		
Sun. 4/6/2025	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt			
Epistle:	St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14	Gospel: Mark 10:32-45		
Usher(s):	Mike Greenwood	9:00 AM Orthros		
	Naji Karim, Larry Owen	10:00 AM Liturgy		
Mon. 4/7/2025	Great Compline	6:00 PM		
Wed. 4/9/2025	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00 PM		
	HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SERV	VICES		
Sat. 4/12/2025	Saturday of Lazarus			
Usher(s):	Larry Owen	8:00 AM Orthros		
	Voula Dallas, Georgia Liagki	9:00 AM Liturgy		
	Palm Folding	10:00 AM		
Sun. 4/13/2025	Palm Sunday			
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9	Gospel: John 12:1-18		
Usher(s):	Frances & Pete Simopoulos	9:00 AM Orthros		
	Beth Gianakouros, Van Kakouras, Juan Martinez	10:00 AM Liturgy		
	Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM		
Usher(s):	Voula Dallas			
4/14/2025	Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM		
Holy Monday				
Usher(s):	Carol Royal			
4/15/2025	Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM		
Holy Tuesday				
Usher(s):	Maria Apostolou			
4/16/2025	Presanctified Liturgy	9:00 AM		
Holy Wed.				
Usher(s):	Georgia Liagki			
	Holy Unction	6:00 PM		
Usher(s):	Mike Greenwood, Matt Mandros, Nada Melki, Fran	nces Simopoulos		
4/17/2025	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 AM		
Holy Thurs.				
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros			
	Matins of The Lord's Passion	6:00 PM		
	(12 Gospel Readings)			
Usher(s):	Voula Dallas, Angela Flegas, Maria Hatzios, Van Ka	akouras, Larry Owen		

4/18/2025	Great Hours (Readings and Prayers)	9:00 AM
Holy Friday		
Usher(s):	Maria Apostolou	
	Apokathelosis	3:00 PM
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros	
	Lamentations (Epitaphios Threnos)	7:00 PM
Usher(s):	All PC Members Present	
4/19/2025	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 AM
Holy Saturday		
Usher(s):	Mike Greenwood, Matt Mandros, Lampros Panogeorgos	
	Pre-Resurrection Service	11:00 PM
Usher(s):	All PC Members Present	
Sun. 4/20/2025	Holy Resurrection	12:00 Midnight
Usher(s):	All PC Members Present	
	Sunday of PASCHA – Agape Service	11:00 AM
	Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8	Gospel: John 1:1-17
Usher(s):	Maria Apostolou, Beth Gianakouros	
4/23/2025	St. George	8:00 AM Orthros
Renewal Wed.		9:00 AM Liturgy
4/25/2025	St. Mark / Life-Giving Spring	8:00 AM Orthros
Renewal Fri.		9:00 AM Liturgy
Sun. 4/27/2025	St. Thomas Sunday	
	Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20	Gospel: John 20:19-31
Usher(s):	Frances Simopoulos	9:00 AM Orthros
	Nada Melki, Pete Simopoulos	10:00 AM Liturgy

USHERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE FIFTEEN MINUTES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF LITURGY! THE USHER LEADER IS TO ARRIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF ORTHROS. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO USHER AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT ANOTHER USHER FROM YOUR LIST TO REPLACE YOU. In case of a discrepancy between printed announcements and electronic listings, electronic listings will be considered as the official times and will be adhered to. The online Bulletin and website are updated as needed and are where the services' official times are listed.

Weekly Classes & Worship

Path to Eternity with Fr. Theodore is after Divine Liturgy in the

Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join, whether they are just curious about Orthodoxy, or they have been part of the Church their whole life! You do not need to have attended a previous class in order to come.



Bible Study with Fr. Theodore is on Wednesdays at 7:30pm after Presanctified Liturgy.

Come in person to the conference room or attend online through:

Meet - Bible Study (google.com)

Holy Trinity Roanoke is on YouTube! God willing, we will soon have the capability to broadcast services as well.

Check it out: https://www.youtube.com/@HolyTrinityRoanoke





The 2025 calendar is posted in the church hall; please show your hospitality by signing up to be a host.

Fellowship Hour Hosts for March 2025

March 2	Potluck	
March 9	John & Patrice Sadler	
March 16	Julie Williams	
March 23	Philoptochos - Spaghetti Luncheon / Celebration for March 25 th	
March 30	Greg & Daniela Topasna	

Coffee Hour Announcement!

Beginning March 2025 if there is no sponsor, we will designate every 1st Sunday of the month *PotLuck Sunday*.

Any parishioner may bring a dish. Check your Friday email to see if the 1st Sunday is Pot Luck. If you have questions reach out to Danna Owen at Philoptochosroanoke@gmail.com

Announcements

Welcome To Holy Trinity!

Congratulations to Joe and Grace Knoble on their wedding. And congratulations to Aaron, Jackson, and Tucker on their baptisms.

Also, welcome all new church members and catechumens. We wish everyone a blessed and holy Lenten season.

- from the Ushering and Welcome committee (Maria Apostolou, Naji Karim & Irene Karageorge)

Baptisms

Samuel Aaron Goad was baptized as Ioannikios on Saturday, the 22nd of March, at 11am. His sponsors are Peter & Frances Simopoulos.

Tucker Hixon was baptized as Paul on Saturday, the 22nd of March, at 11am. His sponsor is Fred Giannakouros.

Jackson Lee Songer was baptized as Stylianos on Saturday, the 22nd of March, at 11am. His sponsor is Larry Owen.

Congratulations to the newly illumined and may God grant them many years!

Religious Education

Classes continue to focus on Lent and preparing for Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

Congratulations to Nikki and Vasiliki Parogeorgos for excellent presentations in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Their preparation was very evident in their presentation and the experience of presenting publicly to a large gathering will serve them well later in life. Additionally, we all were blessed with some enlightening insight into topics about our church and Holy Scriptures.

The elementary students also presented about the vestments worn by priests in our churches. Thank you, Dr. Wendy Larson-Harris, for organizing the Festival and our teachers for coaching and encouraging our students.

Please come to the Lenten services and bring your children!

In His Service, Fred Gianakouros

Myrrhbearers

Dear Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Families,

If your daughters are interested in serving as Myrrhbearers on Holy Friday please see Georgia Liagki or contact her at georgialiagki@gmail.com.



Parish Council News

Lenten Greetings from the Parish Council

Dear Church Family,

As we journey through this Lenten season, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement for the spirit I see in our congregation. It is truly a joy to stand in the narthex on Sunday mornings and look out into the pews. The numbers we once only saw at Easter are now part of our weekly attendance.

Lent invites us to reflect on our faith and how we can serve God and one another. One simple way to make a difference is to say hello to someone you don't know each Sunday. As we continue to grow, it's important that we not only welcome new faces but also take the time to strengthen the bonds that make us a church family.

The growth we are experiencing brings with it new needs. As much as we are grateful for your financial support, we also ask you to consider the unique talents and gifts you can offer. The

church is more than just a place we visit—it's a community we build together, and everyone has something to contribute.

Our Sunday School program is a great example of this need. We're lucky to have several classrooms full of energetic kids eager to learn and grow in their faith. However, we're in need of a Sunday School Director. If you're passionate about kids and want to help guide them on their spiritual journey, we'd love to chat with you. Your leadership could make a real difference.

Your presence, your prayers, and your contributions—whether through time, talent, or treasure—are what make our church a place of renewal. Together, let us continue to grow in faith and fellowship as we prepare for the joy of the Resurrection.

In Christ's love, Matthew Mandros Parish Council President

Philoptochos News

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Kali Sarakosti! Good Lent!

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation for your enthusiasm and support for the programs of Philoptochos.

Our annual Palm Sunday fundraiser costs remain the same as last year. \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and under (pizza).

Special thank you to Frances Simopoulos who tirelessly promoted and organized Pack A Snack with precision! 60 children from Round Hill Elementary School will be very happy when they receive their very full snack bags!



Greek Orthodox Ladies' Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity Church

In order to make things a bit more understandable pay attention to the events you are encouraged to support:

- April 12 Lazarus Saturday Making palm crosses immediately after services. Setting up for Sunday's dinner
- April 13 Palm Sunday- Annual Philoptochos Fundraiser. Need help selling tickets, set up, serving and clean up.
- April 17 Holy Thursday- Dying and wrapping eggs
- April 18 Holy Friday- Decorate the Epitaphios

Sincere appreciation to Irene Karageorge for her world famous marinara, Vickie Tsiakos for her dedication to our Palm Sunday dinner and her Sous Chefs Larry Owen, Naji Karim and Chris Flegas. Also, thanks to Nada Melki for donating the pizza for the kids.

We also appreciate Voula Dallas and Angela Flegas for decorating the icons every year during lent and Della Ann Bryant for her dedication to the eggs for Pasca and the gigantic job of planning, ordering, trimming, placing flowers to the Epitaphios. Thank you!

As always,

If you have questions or concerns regarding Philoptochos, do not hesitate to let me know at 540-581-5695 or Philoptochosroanoke@gmail.com

Pray for Peace Danna

PACK-A-SNACK SERVICE PROJECT

On behalf of Philoptochos, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who contributed nonperishable snacks or made monetary donations to our Pack-a-Snack Service project! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to fill 80 bags! Our community's support for this ongoing partnership with Roundhill Elementary has been incredible, and once again, the faculty and staff at Roundhill were moved by our kindness. A special thank you to Angela Flegas for her assistance in delivering the bags and Maria Stamus for helping pack the bags. This service project continues to provide much needed support to underprivileged children during their long breaks from school.

With gratitude,

Frances Simopoulos



HOLY TRINITY BOOKSTORE

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH WE HAVE BOOKS FOR ALL AGES, ICONS, PRAYER ROPES, PRAYER BOOKS, CHARCOAL, INCENSE, CENSORS, AND OTHER ITEMS.

PLEASE VISIT US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS. THANK YOU!



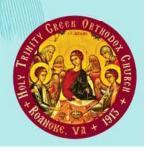
Invites you to our annual

PALM SUNDAY WEISH W LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

\$15 Adults \$7 Children (Pizza)

Tickets for sale on the day of the luncheon



2025 GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK FLOWERS

Epitaphios Flowers and/or Pascha Lillies – designate on envelope

Lpitapinos Howers and/of Lasena Linies – designate on enver	ope
Flowers for Theotokos Icon – 1st Salutation – Mar. 7 th	\$45.00
Flowers for Sun. of Orthodoxy Icon – Mar. 9th	\$35.00
Flowers for Theotokos Icon – 2nd Salutation – Mar. 14 th	\$45.00
Flowers for St. Gregory Palamas Icon – Mar. 16 th	\$35.00
Flowers for Theotokos Icon - 3rd Salutation - Mar. 21st	\$ 4 5.00
Flowers for Ven. of Holy Cross Icon - Mar. 23rd	\$35.00
Basil for Holy Cross - Mar. 23rd	\$30.00
Flowers for Theotokos Icon - 4th Salutation - Mar. 20th	ф 4 5.00
Flowers for St. John Climacus - Mar. 30th	\$35.00
Flowers for Akathist Icon - Apr. 4th	\$45.00
Flowers for St. Mary of Egypt Icon - Apr. 6th	\$35.00
Flowers for Sat. of Lazarus Icon - Apr. 12th	ф35.00
Flowers for Palm Sun. Icon - Apr. 13th	\$35.00
Palms for Palm Sunday - Apr. 13th (church)	\$100.00
Flowers for Nymphios Icon - Apr. 14th	\$35.00
Flowers for Nymphios Icon - Apr. 15th	\$35.00
Flowers for Nymphios Icon – Apr 16th	\$35.00
Oil for Holy Unction Service Apr. 16th (church)	¢10.00
Flowers for Last Supper Icon - Apr. 17th	\$50.00
Flowers for Crucifixion Icon - Apr. 18th	\$35.00
Crucifixion Wreath Apr. 18th	Ф45.00
Candles for Candelabra – Apr. 17 th (church)	\$80.00
Rose Petals – Apr. 17 th	\$100.00
Rose Water Apr. 17th	\$10.00
Cross for Epitaphios	\$250.00
Flowers for Apokathelosis Icon – Apr. 18 th	\$35.00
Good Friday Candles - Apr. 18th (church)	Ф30.00
Bay leaves for Holy Saturday, Apr. 19th a.m. service	\$30.00
Flowers for Resurrection Icon - Apr. 20th	\$45.00
Resurrection Candle for Priest - Apr. 20th (church)	Ф 05.00
Pascha Red Eggs – Apr. 20th (20 Dozen) (church)	\$120.00

*Please note: the Flower Donations are to be made payable to Philoptochos.

The ones in parenthesis (church) are to be donated to the Holy Trinity Greek

Orthodox Church

Roanoke



As we continue the Lenten period, the Hellenic Club will not meet in April. Our next outing will be after Easter.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our Club, please contact me at francessimopoulos@gmail.com or 434.851.6830.

Frances Simopoulos

SAVE THE DATE!

"GREEK TO GO"

SEPTEMBER 26, 27 & 28, 2025

DETAILS TO COME



Information

NAME	<u> </u>
NAME OF SPOUSE	(IF MARRIED)
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY / STATE / ZIP	CODE
HOME PHONE	
MOBILE PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
EMAIL ADDRESS (OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)
	ildren's names and birthdates
	* *
May was in all a	1
in the parish d	le your contact information irectory?
\square yes \square no information yo	If yes, please indicate any nu would like excluded:
5 2	
(c	
May we add yo □ yes □ no	ou to our parish email list?



treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

each week

planned giving

" ____ I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan."

We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

time & talent

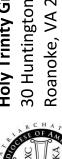
Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (\checkmark) .

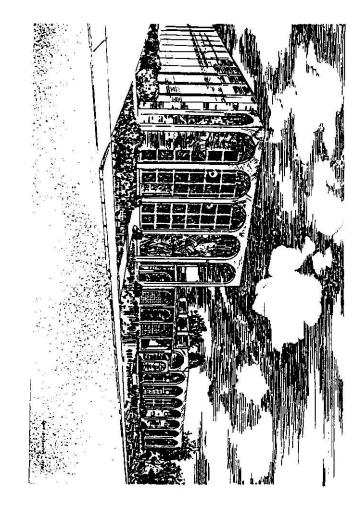
Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

N LITURGICAL
y Sanctuary & Altar Care
gious EducationAltar boys / Acolytes
thodoxyBaking Prosfora
nsChoir
Reader
Greeter Usher
MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS
Campus Ministry
hool Teacher Welcome Team
hool Administration New Member Events
der Outreach
hurch School Stewardship
nselor Sunday Fellowship / Coffee
Visitation - Hospital
& GROUNDS Visitation - Shut-ins
Landscape Feed the Hungry
Prison Ministry
Grief Bereavement Group
Disaster Relief Projects
pairs Blood Drives
epairs Project Mexico
Int'l Orth Christian Charities
als OCMC Mission Center
Seniors Ministry
RATION Counles Ministry
t/Review Singles Ministry
Military: Minister
ent / Fundraising
COMMUNICATIONS
/ Technical Web site & E-mail
Bulletin & Newsletter
Public Relations
lents or information on items listed above:
llents or information on items liste

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH







TIME VALUE MATERIAL

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 392
ROANOKE, VA

30 Huntington Boulevard, NE Roanoke, VA 24012 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ROANOKE, VA