MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2025
VOL. 29, NUMBER 1

Published for 73 years by the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church:

The Hellenic Highlighter (1950-53), The Voice of Holy Trinity (1954-64),

The Voice of Trinity (1964-81), Uplift (1981-96), The Trinitarian (1996-)

TRINITARIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

4705 FAIRHAVEN AVENUE NW • CANTON, OHIO 44709

Parish Priest:
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias
Home: 330-956-9039 **email:** frnick@htgoc.net
Deacon: Michael El-Bardawil **Cell:** 330-209-7235
Church Service Hours:
Orthros 8:30 AM - **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 AM

Church Office Administrator: Lori Hohman
Office Phone: 330-494-8770
Office Fax: 330-305-9133
Church E-mail: office@htgoc.net
Office Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Office Closed 12 Noon - 1 PM for Lunch)

Parish Council President: Dan Speece
240-483-6930 or djspeece@aol.com

Church website: www.htgoc.net
Trinitarian email: htmonthlynews@yahoo.com

Σύναξις τοῦ τιμίου Ιωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου



Ιανουαρίου 07
Reading

Ἀπὸ πολὺ παλιὰ ἔχει καθοριστεῖ νὰ ἑορτάζουμε κατὰ τὴν ἑπομένη ἡμέρα τῶν Ἁγίων Θεοφανείων, τὴ Σύναξη τοῦ Προφήτου, Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου, γιὰ τὸν λόγο ὅτι ἀξιώθηκε νὰ βαπτίσει τὸν Ἰησοῦ Χριστό. Ὁ Τίμιος Πρόδρομος ὑπῆρξε ὁ Ὄρθρος ποὺ ἀνήγγειλε τὸν ἐρχομὸ τῆς ἡμέρας τοῦ Κυρίου. Ὁ Ὄρθρος ποὺ προηγήθηκε τῆς ἀνατολῆς τοῦ Ἡλίου τῆς δικαιοσύνης. Ἔτσι τὸν ὀνομάζει ἕνας ὕμνος τῶν Θεοφανείων. «Φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἑτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου». Ὁμιλεῖ τὸ στόμα τοῦ Ἀσκητοῦ. Ὁ χαρισματικὸς ἄνθρωπος ποὺ ἀναδείχθηκε «μείζων ἐν γεννητοὶς γυναικῶν». Ὁ Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Πρόδρομος κηρύσσει προδρομικὰ μέσα στὴν ἔρημο τὸ μήνυμα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ξαναθυμίζει τὰ προφητικὰ λόγια τοῦ Ἡσαΐου, ὁ Εὐαγγελιστὴς Μάρκος, ποὺ βεβαίως ἀναφέρονται στὸ μεγάλο ἐρημίτη τοῦ Ἰορδάνη. Ὁ Ἰωάννης ὁ Πρόδρομος κηρύσσει, μὲ πέντε βαρυσήμαντες λέξεις, ὅτι θὰ διδάξει ἀργότερα ὁ Ἰησοῦς: «Μετανοεῖτε, ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν». Λίγες σὲ ἀριθμὸ οἱ λέξεις του, ἀλλὰ βαριὲς σὲ δύναμη μαρτυρίας. Ὁ ἄγγελος τῆς ἐρήμου προετοιμάζει τὸν ἐρχομὸ τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ κηρύσσει συνοπτικὰ τὶς διαστάσεις τοῦ λυτρωτικοῦ Του ἔργου. Τὸ προδρομικὸ αὐτὸ ἔργο τοῦ Ἰωάννη καθαγιάζεται καὶ ἐπικυρώνεται ἀπὸ τὸν ἓν Τριάδι Θεὸ στὸ γεγονὸς τῆς βαπτίσεως τοῦ Κυρίου. Ὁ Ἰωάννης ὁ Βαπτιστὴς ἦταν ἀναμφίβολα μία ἀσκητικὴ φυσιογνωμία, «εἶχε τὸ ἔνδυμα αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τριχῶν καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερμάτινην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, ἡ δὲ τροφὴ αὐτοῦ ἦν ἀκρίδες καὶ μέλι ἄγριον». Αὐτὸ σημαίνει πὼς ὁ Ἰωάννης ἦταν συγχρόνως καὶ πρόδρομος, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὑπόσχεση ὅλων τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀσκητῶν τῆς χριστιανικῆς ἐρήμου. Εἶναι πολὺ χαρακτηριστικὸ ὅτι τὸ βασικὸ ἔργο τοῦ Ἰωάννη ἦταν νὰ ἀφυπνήσει τὶς συνειδήσεις τῶν ἀκουόντων τὸ κήρυγμά του καὶ ὄχι νὰ θωπεύσει τὰ αὐτιά τους. Τὸ κήρυγμά του, κήρυγμα μετανοίας, σκόπευε στὴν συνειδητοποίηση καὶ ἐξαγόρευση τῆς ἐνοχῆς τους, τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν τους. «Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πάσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν». Ἡ ἁμαρτία, ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ ἀγγέλου τῆς ἐρήμου, εἶναι ἡ ἴδια ἡ φωνὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ποὺ βοηθάει τὸν ἄνθρωπο νὰ ἀναγνωρίσει στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὸν Μεσσία μέσα στὴν ξερὴ καὶ ἄνυδρη ἔρημο τοῦ παρόντος κόσμου. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας καλεῖ στὴν σημερινὴ ἑορτὴ νὰ ἀκούσουμε τὴν «φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ…» καὶ νὰ προετοιμάσουμε ὅλοι μας «τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου», γιὰ νὰ ἐξανθήσει ἡ ἔρημος ποὺ ζοῦμε καὶ λέγεται σύγχρονη κοινωνία καὶ ὁ καθένας μας νὰ βιώσει τὸ βαθύτερο καὶ πολυδύναμο νόημά της μὲ τὸ «ἀπελθείν» ὄχι σὲ τόπο ἔρημο, ἔξω τοῦ κόσμου, ἀλλὰ «ἀπελθεῖν εἰς ἐρημίαν τῶν παθῶν του». Ὅμως, τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ ἑορτάζουμε καὶ τὸ γεγονὸς τῆς μεταφορᾶς στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη τῆς τιμίας Χειρὸς τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου, ποὺ ἔγινε κατὰ τὸν ἀκόλουθο τρόπο: Ὅταν ὁ Εὐαγγελιστὴς Λουκᾶς μετέβη στὴν πόλη Σεβαστή, στὴν ὁποία εἶχε ἐνταφιαστεῖ τὸ τίμιο λείψανο τοῦ Προδρόμου, παρέλαβε ἀπὸ τὸν τάφο τὴν δεξιὰ Χείρα τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἰωάννου καὶ τὴν μετέφερε στὴν Ἀντιόχεια. Δία τῆς δεξιᾶς Χειρὸς τοῦ Προδρόμου γίνονταν στὴν Ἀντιόχεια πολλὰ θαύματα. Λέγεται μάλιστα ὅτι κατὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ τῆς Ὑψώσεως τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ, ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος ἀνύψωνε καὶ τὴν τίμια Χείρα. Τὴν ὥρα τῆς ἀνυψώσεως ἄλλοτε ἐκτεινόταν καὶ ἄλλοτε συστελλόταν. Μὲ τὴν ἔκτασή της δήλωνε εὐφορία καρπῶν, ἐνῶ μὲ τὴν συστολὴ τῆς δήλωνε ἀνέχεια καὶ φτώχεια. Γιὰ τὸ λόγο αὐτὸ πολλοὶ αὐτοκράτορες τοῦ Βυζαντίου ἐπιθυμοῦσαν νὰ τὴν πάρουν καί, κυρίως, οἱ Κωνσταντῖνος καὶ Ρωμανὸς οἱ Πορφυρογέννητοι. Ἔτσι λοιπόν, κατὰ τὴν περίοδο ποὺ διετέλεσαν αὐτοκράτορες αὐτοὶ οἱ δυό, κάποιος Διάκονος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῶν Ἀντιοχέων, Ἰωὴβ ὀνομαζόμενος, ἕνα βράδυ, ποὺ κατὰ τὴν παράδοση οἱ χριστιανοὶ ἐτελοῦσαν τὴν ἀκολουθία τοῦ Ἁγιασμοῦ, ἅρπαξε τὴν Ἁγία Χείρα τοῦ Προδρόμου καὶ τὴν μετέφερε στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη. Ἐκεῖ ὁ φιλόχριστος αὐτοκράτορας, ἀφοῦ τὴν ἀσπάστηκε μὲ πολὺ σεβασμό, τὴν τοποθέτησε στὰ βασιλικὰ ἀνάκτορα. Ἡ σύναξη τῶν πιστῶν, σὲ ἀνάμνηση τοῦ γεγονότος τῆς μετακομιδῆς τῆς τιμίας Χείρας τοῦ Προδρόμου στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη, ἐτελεῖτο στὴν περιοχὴ τοῦ Φορακίου (ἢ Σφωρακίου).

HOMEBOUND/NURSING HOME PARISHIONERS

Below is a list of our Homebound/Nursing Home members. Drop them a card or note to let them know Holy Trinity and its members are thinking of them. They will appreciate it!

First	Last	Church	Facility	Address	City	State	Zip
Clara	Fakelis	ST H	Altercare of Nobles Pond	7006 Fulton Dr NW	Canton	OH	44718
Lisa	(Cotopolis) Ferencz	ST H	Bethany Nursing Home	626 - 34th St NW	Canton	OH	44709
Mary	Nash	HT	Bethany Nursing Home	626 - 34th St NW	Canton	OH	44709
Georgia	Kirman	HT	McKinley Health Care Center	800 Market Ave N Rm 209	Canton	OH	44702
Mike	Nichols	ST H	Rose Lane Nursing & Rehabilitation	5425 High Mill Ave NW	Massillon	OH	44646
Diane	Foradas	ST H	The Inn at Belden Village	3927 - 38th St NW	Canton	OH	44718
Anna	Kieselat	HT	The Inn at Belden Village	3927 - 38th St NW	Canton	OH	44718
Joann	Rath	HT	The Inn at Belden Village	3927 - 38th St NW	Canton	OH	44718
Patricia	St. Jean	HT	The Inn at Belden Village	3927 - 38th St NW	Canton	OH	44718
Bessie	Vlahos	ST H	The Inn at Belden Village	3927 - 38th St NW	Canton	OH	44718
Steve	Basiakos	ST H	The Inn at Whitewood Village	3146 Whitewood St NW	N Canton	OH	44720
Ann	Thomas	HT	The Inn at Whitewood Village	3146 Whitewood St NW Rm 106	North Canton	OH	44720
Stevie	Abraham	ST H	The Regency	4515 22nd St NW	Canton	OH	44708
Irene	Gianakis	ST H	The Regency	4515 22nd St NW	Canton	OH	44708
Paula	Macris	ST H	The Regency	4515 22nd St NW	Canton	OH	44708
Helen	Dimos	HT	The Sanctuary Grande	850 Applegrove St. N.E Apt. 318	N Canton	OH	44720
Semala	Milano	HT	Windsor Nursing Home	1454 East Maple St NW	North Canton	OH	44720
Pete	Lambros	ST H	Windsor Nursing Home	1454 East Maple St NW	North Canton	OH	44720
Kathryn	Costi	HT		7490 Ayrshire Ave NE	Canton	OH	44721
Esther	Cross	HT		1120 15th St NW Apt 207	Canton	OH	44703
Eleni	Fotiadis	HT		119 Stone Crossing St NE	Canton	OH	44721
Dimitra	Kefalas	HT		4041 Heritage Center Dr Rm 18 Memory Care	Copley	OH	44321
Bertha & George	Macrides	HT		1454 New England Dr SE	North Canton	OH	44720
Jim	Margaritakis	HT		5659 Strausser St NW	N Canton	OH	44720

2024 Parish Council

Dan Speece, **President** • Denise Bellas, **Vice-President**
Diana Pittman, **Treasurer** • Lisa Georgiades, **Asst Treasurer**
Kelly Antoniades, **Secretary** • Kathy Koufos, **Asst Secretary**

Eliana Antoniades
Nick Aslanides
George Karnavas
Elaine Kontogianes
Chris Macrides
Debbie Memmer
Julie Sandru
Gus Semertsidis
Roula Stern
Joe Ostrowske

Organizations of Holy Trinity Church

Altar Boys - John Steed
Athletic Director - Chris Macrides
Care Ministry - John Bellas
Choir - Joyce Spanakis
Dance Troupe - Eliana Antoniades & Jimmy Amentas**, Sr. Dance**
Rachel & Nicole Israel, **Jr. Dance**
Daughters of Penelope - Joanna Volas**, President**
GOYA - Diana Kuty and Vicki Jordanides
HOPE - Mary Ann Rundo and Calista Welling
JOY - Dee Dee Amentas, Marissa Giavasis
Koraes Ladies Society - Annamarie Spondyl**, President**
Men's Club - Phil Tsaftarides**, President**
Order of AHEPA Chapter 59 - John Karipides**, President**
Sunday School - Kelly Antoniades
Young At Heart Club - Karen Kotanides**, President**
Youth Director - Dina Grunder

2024 Committee Chairpersons

Bookstore - Diana Pittman
Bylaws - Diana Pittman
Catering - Lisa Georgiades
Church Operations - Denise Bellas
Eternal Light - Diana Pittman
Executive - Dan Speece
Finance - Diana Pittman
Fine Arts - Ellen Romeo/Kathy Koufos
Information Technology - Jim Aslanides
Long Range Planning - Dan Speece
Maintenance - Tom Papadopoulos
Public Relations - Nick Spondyl
Scholarship - Nancy Greenbaum
Social Activities - Ellen Romeo
Stewardship - Chris Macrides
Youth & Education - Dina Grunder

From the desk of Fr. Nick...



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ! ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!

We have such joyous new beginnings, Beloved in Christ. We have a new year. We have newness in our Lord (I hope so, because every day with Christ is a new chance to begin again and become better). Unfortunately, there are those who struggle to see the blessings in everyday living – that somehow this beautiful new year, which is blessed by the Lord, is going to begin the worst cycle of their lives.

Have you ever noticed that when the meteorologist gives the weather, they give two temperatures? One is how cold it is outside, and the other is how cold it feels when the wind blows. The second temperature is not the actual temperature. They call it the "Wind Chill Factor."

It seems like for many of us, we feel as if we are in the midst of a constant Wind Chill Factor. It just always feels cold and windy out there for us. We can't seem to calm it down. Our resort is to isolate ourselves inside our safe places, and almost cut ourselves off from others. At least there we won't feel the wind blow.

We have done this because of disagreements, family squabbles, politics, etc. It just seems like we can't make it stop. And because we fear the "weather" outside of our bubble, we dare not go outside of it.

The problem is that we are letting others determine how big or, in many cases, how small our bubbles will get to be. There are some whose bubbles have gotten dangerously too small. They have cut themselves almost completely off from friends and family.

So, how do we do it? How do get over this fear? Why risk it in the first place? Well, we risk it because growth never happens by staying within ourselves. A lobster never grows if it remains in its first shell. It can shed its shell almost 25 times in its first 7 years. It has to do this, so that it can grow into its new one. Otherwise, it will never grow.

But also, we risk it because when we grow, we find that the Wind Chill Factor isn't as bad as we thought. Sometimes we go outside and the wind isn't blowing at all. Or we allow ourselves to experience it and the chill isn't powerful enough to overtake us.

Nevertheless, the fear of the world's 'Wind Chill Factor' is real for many of us. We like our bubbles. It's warm and safe there. But that is not the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He left His bubble (His throne on high, sitting glorified on the right side of the Father) and He came down to us to save us. And He didn't come down in glory… He came down to our world, and was born in a cave and He was laid in a manger – for the animals to see. And He asks us to deny ourselves (our comfort, especially) and follow His example.

The beautiful part is that with Christ… it is, in fact, warmer outside than the Wind Chill makes it feel. It is brighter than the gloom of all the naysayers in our sphere. With Christ, we can endure it, and even overcome it.

So, in this New Year, as we celebrate the season of Jesus' birth, let us remember how much He 'risked' for us to be safe with Him. Let us not fear anything, least of all the Wind Chill Factor of our lives. And let us, with Christ, create a fire of warmth for others who are also struggling to overcome those same fears in their lives.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Χριστὸς Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε! God bless you all!

+Fr. Nicholas M. Halkias
Proistamenos

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



	Wedding Date	Years
Joe & Georgene Powell	1/6/1979	46
Jason & Kay Colon	1/18/2003	22
Lee & Marissa Giavasis	1/26/2008	17

Condolences

Sophie Adams, age 91, fell asleep in the Lord on November 19, 2024.

Aristides (Art) Amentas, age 85, fell asleep in the Lord on December 9, 2024.

May their memory be eternal!



Special Note of Thanks



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making John's one-year memorial meaningful. Your generosity and support have touched our hearts deeply.

A special note of thanks goes to Father Nick for his guidance, prayers, and comforting words, which brought so much solace to us all. We are also incredibly grateful to the wonderful Koraes ladies, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in bringing everything together so seamlessly.

Thank you all for honoring John's memory with us in such a thoughtful and loving way. May his memory be eternal!

~ Anne, Sydney and Eli Papadopoulos

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation 2024/2025

Applications from eligible college students accepted through January 31, 2025. The application and qualification criteria, requirements and guidelines are available at ….. **https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply**.

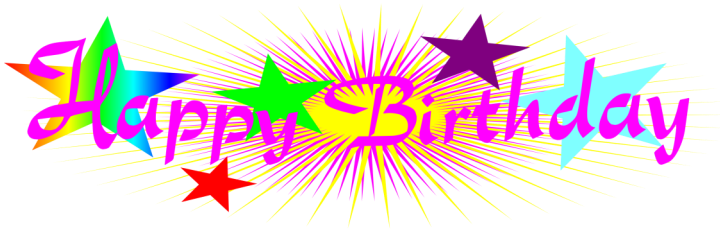
PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation

SOMETHING NEW

On the first Sunday of each month, the first 3 rows of pews on the left side of the church will be roped off for our new Youth Sermon Dates.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

		Month	Day
Steve	Fronimopoulos	1	1
Gust	Karvounides	1	2
Michael	Manos	1	3
Joanne	Prodafikas	1	4
Michael	Stamatelopoulos	1	4
Ellena	Stamoules	1	4
Alexander	Gilbert	1	5
Odysseus	Stamatelopoulos	1	5
Alexandria	Amentas	1	6
Kostas	Kalantzis	1	7
Zoey	Aslanides	1	8
Sophia	Giavasis	1	8
Yianni	Kiriakou	1	8
Patricia	Vargo	1	8
Norman	Walker	1	8
Parthena	Draggett	1	9
Jimmy	Lambos	1	9
Sophia	Pitinii	1	9
Alexandra	Bourlas	1	10
Douglas	Draggett	1	10
Jonathan	Gentsch	1	10
Dena	Scrimo	1	10
Sophia	Semertsidis	1	10
Nick	Spondyl	1	10
Harry	Zantopulos	1	10
Vasili	Barbera	1	11
Konstantina	Grunder	1	12
Logan	Janidas	1	12
Christopher	Macrides	1	13
Maria	Beyes	1	14
Katherine	Fronimo	1	14
Anna	Ganios	1	15
Maria	Jordan	1	15
Bill	Stathakaros	1	16
Andrew	Welling	1	16
Thomas	Helmick	1	17
George	Karnavas	1	17
Gust	Pantelas	1	18
Sam	Anastas	1	19
Pete	Pappas	1	19
Sofia	Spondyl	1	19
Alexis	Fricker	1	20
Mary	Helmick-Papadopoulos	1	20
Karen	Kotanides	1	22
Kalliah	Stilianos	1	22
Ariana	Yelichek	1	22



Peter	Kazakis	1	23
Douglas	Babb	1	24
John	Huntsman	1	24
Kelly	Kalagidis	1	24
Barbara	Mottas	1	24
Sophie	Slavik	1	24
Stavros	Spanakis	1	24
Calista	Welling	1	24
Mark	Macrides	1	26
Mareena	Fotiadis	1	27
Astoria	Welling	1	27
Hope	Halkias	1	28
Angelina	Hardy	1	28
Elena	Kandis	1	28
Bertha	Maragakes	1	28
Nick	Margaritakis	1	28
Jim	Amentas	1	31
Peter	Cazantzes	1	31

OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE READY!



If you had Offering Envelopes in the past, they are labeled for pick up in the hallway across from the bathrooms.

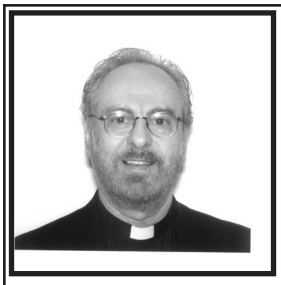
If you would like to use Offering Envelopes this year, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

2025 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS



The 2025 Ecclesiastical Calendars are available. There are no pocket calendars this year. Pick up a copy at the Pangari or in the shelves outside the Church Office.

Message From DEACON MICHAEL



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, May the blessings of the Lord be with us always!

I would like to share with all of you that in October I went to Saint Anthony Monastery in Arizona for a week. That was a blessing from the Lord. I shared my time with seventy monks. I did what their everyday routine, praying, working, etc. Spirituality was very high, plus the place, churches, the landscaping, all just beautiful. I spent many hours praying!

What is prayer? Why do we need to pray? This is an important question. Prayer is a way to connect with God and with others as well. There are two kinds of prayer, individual and communal. Through prayer we acquire from God power and consolation. Prayer is a personal experience for the soul of each human being. It is also of foretaste of the kingdom. It calls for the love of God or never to descend upon all. This is our responsibility. The miserable suffering world awaits daily our prayer because it longs for the mercy of God. Man cannot accomplish anything without divine grace. With practice, prayer becomes spontaneous. Then the Holy Spirit gives one a strong desire for prayer and it is no longer man who prays but the divine spirit who prays through Him. As the Holy Spirit continues His work, prayer becomes continuous, day and night. The practice of "the Jesus Prayer, Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner", can save man, through His journey to the Lord, or with the Lord. Prayer is man's fellowship with God. Prayer unites man with God and with others. Through prayer the individual enters into communion with God and others. Prayer can restore the unity of opposites. Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth". Through prayer we can preserve the universe.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Michael

Deacon Michael
I wish all of you a blessed New Year!

CATERING

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!



George & I are looking forward to having an amazing year!

Thank you to all who have supported us in 2024! Our Koraes, our Parish Council, our Senior Citizens, and the many of you, our Parishioners. We love you All!

May we all have a terrific 2025!

Blessed to be your caterers,

George & Paula
Catering by George
330 704-0752





Sunday school is asking our friends and family here at Holy Trinity to help take care of our furry friends over at Stark County Humane Society this holiday season!

How to help

Donate your time or the following supplies:

- Dry Dog & Cat food
- Dry Puppy & Kitten food
- Rabbit feed & bedding
- Cat Litter
- Metal Cake pans 9x13
- Clothe Towels & Wash Clothes
- Dish Soap
- Clorox bleach
- Canned Dog & Cat Food

We will be collecting items through January 26th. Please put your donations in the bins under the coat racks.

From Our Parish Council President

The New Metropolis Center: Let's Finally Get Onboard



As you probably have heard, the Church is building a new "headquarters" for the Metropolitan, his staff, and the many volunteers who conduct the important business of our diocese. The current building in use is actually a home located in a neighborhood in Pittsburgh, and from what I can tell it's like trying to work out of a fraternity house – cramped, difficult navigation, lack of secure storage, and so forth but without all the partying. I'd encourage you to visit the Metropolis website and click on the "New Metropolis Center" tab at the top of the landing page to review construction progress and our financial situation. If anyone has difficulty or doesn't have a computer, let me know and we can meet at the Church and visit the website on my laptop. And by the way, I write here only for myself as President of the Parish Council.

I've come to expect controversy in nearly every decision we make here at Holy Trinity. I'm told by reliable sources that this is "The Greek Way" and I have come to embrace it. We will discuss the issue of donating to this cause at our February 9, 2025 General Assembly. It will be the main agenda issue so please plan on attending. I can't possibly cover all the details here, but here are a few important issues to consider. I ask only that you come to the General Assembly with an open mind and with the intent to listen carefully to what others have to say.

Historically, ground breaking for the new Metropolis Center occurred in July 2023 and construction should be complete in the Spring/early summer 2025 (i.e., months from now). Total cost is about $14M and while I have some experience, I am not any sort of expert in commercial real estate -- but the cost seems reasonable for what is being built and how it is being furnished (again, check out the website.) From what I have learned the furnishings are not top of the line nor are they from the bargain basement.

The good news is that nearly all the fundraising is complete. **What donations are needed now is for the creation of an endowment fund from which earnings would be used to pay for the increased costs of operation** (e.g., lawn maintenance, utilities, etc.) thereby (hopefully) sparing parishes from having to pick up these expenses.

Keeping in mind the state of parish budgets, the Metropolis is allowing parishes to spread their donation over 5 years. This enables the parish to plan accordingly and not take a big bite all at once. Here are some of the issues surrounding this controversy:

1. Perceived lack of transparency from the Metropolis in how healthcare costs are established for the clergy and their families. This issue is of concern with other parishes, and the Archdiocese is working on ways to reduce the costs. But keep in mind, the clergy population is an elderly, higher risk population which are reflected in healthcare costs. I believe this is a completely separate issue from the construction of the new Metropolitan Center.
2. Currently we are running a deficit on our operating budget, which while shrinking remains significant. However, we have been blessed by your hard work with an annual festival profit of about $148K which helps us keep the lights on. We've run a deficit for years, if not decades so we must be smart about how we spend our hard-earned dollars. But consider that a $5K donation per year would represent only a 3% hit to our typical festival profit.
3. **Here's something you probably didn't know:** When Fr. Nick arrived at Holy Trinity, the Metropolis generously gave Holy Trinity a $10K reduction in our annual allocation (payments we make to the Metropolis each year) for two years in order for us to accommodate Fr. Nick's higher compensation package. They are also very meticulous in auditing our allocation forms to ensure that we are not overpaying each year. The Metropolis is not our enemy.
4. Perception that some parishes are permitted to hold raffles while we maintain our obedience to the Metropolitan's dictum of no gambling. We hope to dispel this at the General Assembly.
5. Of course the Church is more than just Holy Trinity, we are part of a larger community and perhaps we should focus more on Christ and on our mission as Orthodox Christians and less on the "what have you done for me lately" sort of mentality.
6. Of the 23 parishes in our diocese, only 5 have made no contribution or pledge, including Holy Trinity. I am not sure we want to be singled out in that manner, frankly. We have been blessed in many ways – as have many of you. We have superb leaders and volunteers who ensure our festival is successful and who reflect all of the best that Holy Trinity has to offer. Our Koraes Ladies Society epitomizes service to God and remains as the right hand of the Church. The Youth and Education consortium carries on the tradition with great energy and dedication. Those serving with me on the Parish Council are as good as it gets. I feel personally thankful for all my gifts – my children, grandchildren; my health and ability to haul garbage at our events; my (mostly) normal mental health; a wonderful and rewarding career, and especially for all of you who welcomed me when I was a stranger to the Church and then of course who then put me to work in short order.

This is our time to demonstrate our thankfulness, leadership and support of the **C**hurch.

In closing, just let me say that I feel the eyes of your ancestors upon me each and every time I enter the building; at every meeting I conduct, and during Divine Liturgy in which I pray for guidance, a measure of wisdom, more patience, and the courage to always do what is best, and not what is the easiest.

Daniel J. Speece RN, MSN

Did You Know? A Short Primer on Parish Funds!

Daniel J. Speece, President of the Parish Council

Recent conversations and interest during our latest General Assembly revealed a general lack of awareness of the various funds that exist at Holy Trinity. Hopefully this will increase your understanding, and perhaps pique interest in donating to specific funds! Funds at Holy Trinity are derived from our Stewardship program, donations, Parish-sponsored events, and bequests. At our next General Assembly February 9, 2025, we will provide actual fund balances. The following descriptions are referenced in our Parish By-Laws, available for your review in the Parish Office.

Capital Improvement Fund: As the name suggests, this funds major repairs, improvements, or even additions to Church properties.

Charities/Missionary Fund: This serves to fund worthy charitable endeavors or missionary projects at all levels: local, state, and even international. Through this we hope to share the Orthodox faith by nurturing a deeper understanding and commitment to the Lord.

Christian Fund: The most confidential of all funds, this one is administered by Fr. Nick, the Parish Council Vice President, and the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee. It serves to assist Christians in need – within the Parish and beyond.

Education and Youth Fund: Provides financial support to Sunday School, GOYA/JOY/YAL events as well as other Parish youth-related activities that promote spiritual, religious, and cultural growth.

Eternal Light Fund: This is a permanent fund created to support and protect the ongoing ministries of our Church through our parishioners' planned charitable gifts, real estate, life insurance policies, securities, and trusts. The principal amount is to be vested and only the investment earnings spent.

Festival Fund: This is currently used to fund the festival, with the net proceeds distributed to the Capital Improvement Fund (90%), the Education and Youth Fund (7%), and the Charities/Missionary Fund (3%).

Operations Fund: This is the fund that keeps the ship afloat, paying for the day-to-day expenses (e.g., salaries, utilities, supplies) and is administered by the Financial Committee.

Scholarship Fund: This fund is intended to support financially needy or academically worthy parishioners and Stark County Greek Orthodox Christian high school graduates and college students.

And finally, all financial funds shall be reconciled and audited by the Board of Auditors (we report on this each year at a General Assembly.)

MISSION FUND DONATIONS FOR 2024

The following donations were made out of the Mission Fund for 2024:

FOCUS - St. Herman's House - $400
Hellenic College Holy Cross - $500
Refuge of Hope - $400
St. Basil Academy - $400
Stark County Hunger Task Force - $400
Zoe for Life - $400
ICAN - $400

TOTAL MONETARY DONATIONS: $2,900.00

YEARLY SACRAMENTS

January – December 2024



Baptism

Constantine Kmetz Caripides - May 26, 2024
Parents, Paul Caripides & Brooke Kmetz
Koumbaro: Paul Cugini

Kalliope Maria Koufos – June 8, 2024
Parents, Kostantine Koufos & Eleni Bourlas
Koumbari: Maria Varonis & Justin Seeker

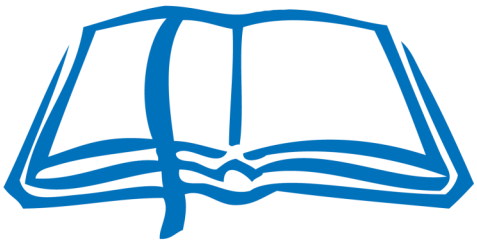
Elianna Kristine Bolyard - June 16, 2024
Parents, Kyle Bolyard & Theresa Waseity
Koumbaro: John K. Grunder

Melina Elisabeth Manolas - August 10, 2024
Parents, Joseph Manolas & Megan McNicholas
Koumbaro: Michael Morakis

Ariana Georgia Yelichek - August 18, 2024
Parents, George Yelichek & Daisy Tsaftarides
Koumbari: Georgia Tsaftarides & Derek Dawson

Timothy Eldon Bowsher - November 16, 2024
Parents, Brandon Bowsher & Angela Harrison
Koumbara: Steffanie Harrison

Vasilios George Karnavas - November 17, 2024
Parents, George Karnavas & Kalliopi Kontoveros
Koumbari: Vivian Kontoveros & Dimitri Karnavas



Chrismation

Amanda Good - May 19, 2024
Koumbara: Melanie McCauley

Evan Monnot - October 13, 2024
Koumbaro - Rick Pitinii

Andrew Welling - December 1, 2024
Koumbara - Nina El-Bardawil



Marriage

Steve Hatzarides & Heather Rothacher - March 2, 2024
Koumbaro: Emanual Sakolevas

Zachary Slates & Amanda Good – June 22, 2024
Koumbari: Pete & Aris Eliades

Evan Monnot & Eliana Antoniades – December 28, 2024
Koumbara: Alexi Antoniades

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB - SENIORS

JANUARY 2025



Εύχομαι Καλή Χρονιά!

Cheers to health, happiness, and prosperity in 2025!

Great to start the new year with all of us getting together on **JANUARY 14, 2025** for our annual combined Christmas luncheon with our sister church St. Haralambos Silver Liners in our church hall at NOON.

Our dinner buffet comes with a tossed salad bowl, beef burgundy and baked scrod, roasted vegetables, red skin potatoes, rolls and dessert (baklava sundae). This is **free** if you paid your 2024 dues. **If your dues for 2024 were <u>not</u> paid, the price will be $25.00**. George and Paula are donating the ice cream in memory of Tim, Kathryn & John Kalenterides.

Please **RSVP to KAREN @ 330-412-5504** by **<u>December 29, 2024</u>**.

<u>ENTERTAINMENT</u>: We are pleased to announce we have the **fabulous & talented**, "**Enrico Amato**"

Reminder: 2025 dues are $15.00 and it is *preferred* to get them paid by end of first quarter.

Romans 12:12: Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer**.

May this New Year bring you an abundance of love to GOD, family, and friends.

Melanie McCauley

FINANCIAL MATTERS

STEWARDSHIP CALLING

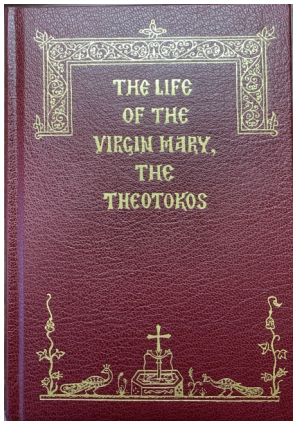
Finish up the year by completing your 2024 Giving! Giving must be in to the office before December 31, 2024 to credit to 2024.
"God loves a cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9:7b

2024 OPERATING BUDGET**

As of November 30, 2024	
Stewardship Received	$244,464.00
Other Income	$142,111.00
Total Income	$386,575.00
Total Expenses	$434,492.00
Deficit	($47,917.00)

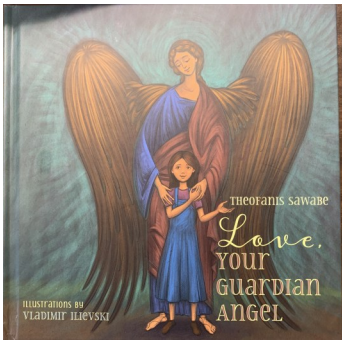
***The daily cost to run our church is approximately $1,100 per day*

AGAPE BOOKSTORE NEWS

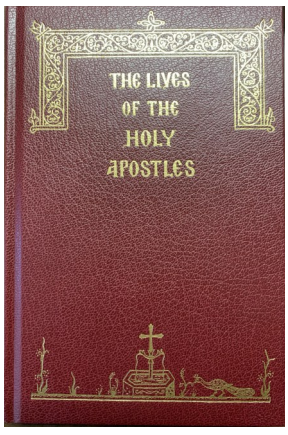


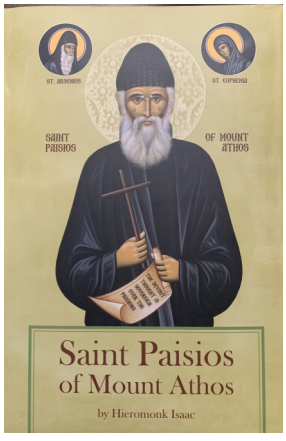
The Agape Bookstore staff thanks everyone who purchased items over the past year. We appreciate your continued support.

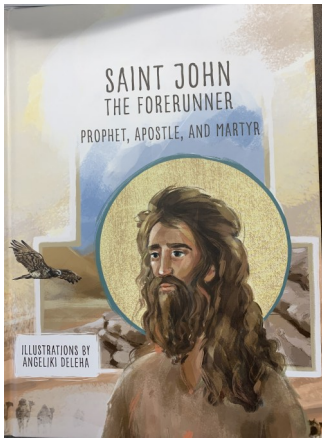
In January, we have several new books featured, including the children's book for St. John the Forerunner, whom we celebrate on January 7th. Stop in and look at these new titles and browse around too! We have expanded our children's book section and invite you to take a look around.

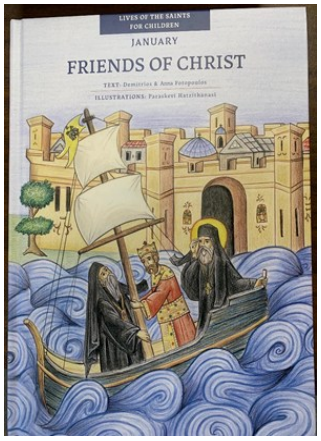


Thanks again for another year to serve you!







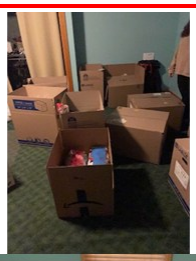


BIG THANK YOU'S

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS THANK YOU



Thank you all for participating in Community Christmas this year with gusto! All the tags on the tree were gone within two weeks of putting them up! Holy Trinity adopted four families - each with at least 4 children. It is so wonderful that we provided a bountiful Christmas to each of these families, including grocery and gas cards. Thank you, Holy Trinity, for the generosity and for the joy brought to these families this Christmas!





In addition to the Christmas gifts, we collected hats, mittens and scarves, along with Layers of Hope coats to keep families warm this winter - all through Community Christmas.

It is truly the season of giving!

Thank you to Kelly Antoniades and Eliana Monnot for all their help in preparing the tags, organizing the gifts and delivering them to be distributed again this year!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA THANK YOU



Another Breakfast with Santa has come and gone! Every year it's growing and becoming a community favorite event.





We look forward to seeing so many people from the community come to enjoy themselves and support our church. Steve and I love chairing this event. We love spreading Christmas cheer to all!

It gives us such joy to see the kid's faces light up to see Santa and have so much fun decorating cookies and enjoying the activities.





This event could not be successful without the help we get from parishioners. We would like to thank everybody that helped with this event. Special thanks to the Spanakis family for their food donation and cooking, Evan Monnot and Eliana Antoniades for their donation of their farm fresh eggs for the casseroles, Ellen Romeo, Eugene Cazantzes, Deanne Semertsidis, Rick Pitinii, Bob and Debbie Memmer, Roula Stern, Denise Bellas, Mark Macrides, Chris and Karen Macrides, Dino and Dawn Costi, the Yatras family, AC Halkias, Torrie Nohl, Nicole and Rachel Israel and GOYA kids. Thank You for all your hard work and monetary donations. Can't wait for next year!

Steve and Kelly Antoniades and Family

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTICE

This is a notice of a General Assembly for all members in good standing. We appreciate and urge your attendance and participation.

A General Assembly will be conducted Sunday, February 9, 2025 immediately following Divine Liturgy. The tentative agenda for this meeting is:

1. Opening prayer
2. Election of the Chairman of the Day
3. Approval of Past Minutes
4. Priest's Report
5. President's Report and Short Update on Background Checks
6. Election of 2025 General Assembly Committees
7. Donating to the New Metropolis Center
8. Financial Update
9. Stewardship Update
10. Other Business from the Floor
11. Closing Prayer

See you following Liturgy on Sunday, February 9, 2025.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

These are the donations made through December 18, 2024 for the Poinsettias.

Flora Anderson	In memory of John Anderson & Family Members
	In honor of Deceased Family Members & the Turnides Family
Nick & Pam Aslanides	In memory of Our Parents
Doug Babb	In memory of Harold, Rozalia, Larry, Rarita, Michael, Margaret, Michael, Cathy, Vicky
Anna Coulas	In memory of Constantine, Ellias, & George
Cynthia DeMuesy	In memory of John & Anna George, Helen George, and Steve & Mary Klus
Marvin, Fransaia & Michael Dietrich	In memory of our beloved Parents, Grandparents, Siblings and Family Members
	In Honor of God's blessings for all our family and friends
Jeffrey & Angela Dimos	In memory of Nick Dimos, Dixie Dimos, & Marc Dimos
Chris Gonzales	For the health of Andrew Gonzales
Tina Fortune, Diana Kuty & Family	In memory of Jerry Fortune and Rick Kuty
Helen Harsh	In memory of Aris & Esther Kaplanis
John & Maria Hatzarides	In memory of Deceased Loved Ones
Kitsa Jordanides	In memory of John Jordanides, parents and sisters
Afro Karasarides	In memory of Christos & Pete Karasarides
Kalliope Kelesidis	In memory of Nick Kelesidis and Loved Ones
Karen Kotanides	In memory of John, Evelyn & PJ Kotanides
Mike & Stacy Lawson	In memory of Alex and Anna Zouncourides; Loni Lawson & Ricki Lawson
Betsy Lazaris	In memory of Andrew Lazaris, Tom & Meta Hasiotis
Lazor & Loretta Manos	In memory of Deceased Family Members
Bob & Debbie Memmer	In memory of Harry & Fifi Manos and Harry & Pamela Manos
Leslie Mydock	In memory of my husband, Paul and Family Members
Anne Papadopoulos	In memory of my husband, John
Jim Pergins	In memory of Athena Pergins
Gust Petrakis	In memory of Helen Petrakis and Alex Petrakis
Jackie & Dimitrios Pousoulides	In memory of Cathy Shincovich and Magdalene & George Pousoulides
Georgene & Joe Powell	In memory of Clara & George Beoglos and Stephanie Bartuseck
Sophia Semertsidis	In memory of Angelo Semertsidis
Mary (Molly) A. Sharish	In memory of Jerome C. Sharish
Kay Smith & Greg	In memory of David Smith
Patricia St. Jean	In memory of Norman St. Jean, Tom & Meta Hasiotis
Patricia Vargo	In memory of John Vargo & Fay Dasouras
William T. Zantopulos	In memory of John & Despina Zantopulos

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
No Sunday School 11:30 AM Parish Council Coffee Hour	6:00 PM Girls Basketball	11:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Closed - 1/2 Day 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Circumcision of Christ/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	OFFICE CLOSED 	7:00 PM Koraes Board Meeting 7:30 PM Young Adult Basketball	9:00 AM Royal Hours	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11:00 AM Great Water Blessing Service 5:00 PM Great Vespers	Holy Theophany 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy 11:00 AM Great Water Blessing Service 6:00 PM Girls Basketball	St. John the Baptist 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy 11:00 AM Senior Board Meeting 6:00 PM Ladies Exercise Class	11:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Paraklesis 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	7:30 PM Young Adult Basketball		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Parish Council Swearing In Vasilopita Cutting  11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Trisagion - Aris Kaplanis (3 Yrs) 11:30 AM Koraes Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Baptism	6:00 PM Girls Basketball	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Combined Seniors Lunch with St. Haralambos 6:00 PM Executive Board 6:00 PM Ladies Exercise Class	11:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Paraklesis 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	7:30 PM Young Adult Basketball	St. Anthony the Great 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:30 AM 1-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Justin Gesquiere	6:00 PM Girls Basketball	St. Maximos the Confessor 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy 6:00 PM Ladies Exercise Class 6:00 PM Parish Council	11:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Paraklesis 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	7:30 PM Young Adult Basketball		St. Gregory the Theologian 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
	6:00 PM Girls Basketball	6:00 PM Ladies Exercise Class	11:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Paraklesis 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	Three Hierarchs 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Liturgy 7:30 PM Young Adult Basketball		GOYA Basketball Tournament 

Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for any changes to these dates and times or the online calendar at www.htgoc.net, click on “Calendar of Events”.



ATHENS RESTAURANT
WE GIVE FAST SERVICE, NO MATTER, HOW LONG IT TAKES!
Sun & Mon ..... Closed
Wed thru Fri ..... 6am - 3 pm
Sat ..... 6am - 2 pm



ROSSI FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, INC.
"Serving Greater Canton for Over 100 Years"
730 - 30th St. NW • Canton, OH 44709
Phone: 330-492-5830 • Fax: 330-492-9139
Pre-Arrangements
Robert J. Forchione, FD • A. Jim Rossi, III • Angela Forchione, FD

Ted A. Rath, O.D.
Megan Slavik, O.D.
4233 Fulton Dr. NW
Canton, Ohio 44718
(330) 494-5020
Family Optometric Practice

PAPA GYROS
GREEK GRILL
Steve & Kelly Pacos
www.papagyros.com
AKRON
ALLIANCE
BELDEN
CANTON
GREEN

AULTMAN
MEDICAL GROUP
FAMILY MEDICINE OF STARK COUNTY
6512 Whipple Ave. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-499-5600
AultmanDocs.com

Pitinii, Davies & Cazantzes
101 Central Plaza South
Suite 1000
Canton, Ohio 44702
p. 330-458-2411
f. 330-458-2414

ATLANTIC
FOOD DISTRIBUTORS
Quality you expect... Service you deserve!
Family owned and operated by The Manolakis Family since 1960
430 4th Street S.E., Canton, Ohio 44702
phone (330)454-1307 ~ fax (330)453-6622

Pousoulides Law Offices
Dimitrios Pousoulides
931 North Main St., Suite 201
North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 499-4121

ProTech
SECURITY
"Protecting your Church. May We Protect Your Home?"
www.protechsecurity.com
330-499-3555

STARK
Federal Credit Union
Better rates and fewer fees since 1961
330.493.8325
www.starkcu.org

C.H. Vallos & Associates
Insurance Services
Phone (330) 494-2776
Fax (330) 494-3243
www.chvallosinsurance.com

SLIMAN'S PRINTERY INC.
SINCE 1948
624 - 5TH STREET NW • CANTON, OH
330-454-9141
slimansprintery.com

Canton Hotel & Restaurant Supply
BILL SMUCKLER
Councilman-At-Large
Bus (330)456-4707
Home (330) 305-9640

FINALLY HEAR
Hearing Aid Center
FREE HEARING TEST
CHRISTOPHER G. MACRIDES
330-492-1212

A Big Thank You For Your Continued Support!

Steve and Kristi LoDico & Family
Thinking of Our Holy Trinity family and praying for everyone's good health and happiness!

HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
4705 FAIRHAVEN AVENUE NW
CANTON, OHIO 44709

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
CANTON, OHIO
PERMIT #965

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

