



# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

### Issue 2 Winter - Spring 2025

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Though the content of this newsletter predates our celebration of Pascha, it is nevertheless arriving at your home after the fact. It is therefore only appropriate that a parish publication acknowledge this glorious fact. As is noted elsewhere in the present newsletter, our recounting of this year’s Holy Week and Pascha observances will be featured in the next issue.

Despite the apparent incongruence of timing, it rather gives us an opportunity to reflect on the truth that “Christ is risen!” is an exclamation for the ages, one for each day and indeed every moment of our life. St. Seraphim of Sarov (+1833) famously greeted people year-round with the Paschal greeting. Why is that? Because it is always true. In fact, it might ultimately be the only thing that really matters.

One of the greatest challenges that the contemporary Christian will face is surpassing the merely anthropological, social, or psychological qualities of his or her religious allegiance, and claiming his heavenly citizenship. The worldly, even if Christian affiliated mind, will only ever exist at the level of dates and seasons and holidays and certain things we’re supposed to say at certain times of the year. It only ever sees these things as cyclical and quaint recurrences. Here, nostalgia and



sentimentality reign supreme.

To the mind and heart that strive for *Christ*, the truth of his incarnation, birth, teaching, miracles, betrayal, passion, death, resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit are *always* present.

*“Christ is risen!” is an exclamation for the ages, one for each day and indeed every moment of our life.”*

This mind exercises restraint and obedience to the Church’s calendar. It is ready to shout “Christ is risen!” in late December, and “Christ is born!” in spring, but it does not, as the wisdom and grace of the Church’s calendar inspire heightened sensitivity to certain aspects of the reality of Christ.

Yet, all we must do to see that this is really at the core of what it means to be a Christian, is to look at

what it is that we do. What is the defining act of the Body of Christ? It is the Divine Liturgy. There we encounter all the aspects of the reality of the providence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We face the incarnation of Christ, and his sacrifice. We engage the Holy Spirit by obedience to the words of Jesus (“Do this in remembrance of me”) and partake of his Body and Blood.

We proclaim these things day in and day out, and they culminate in our participation with God in Holy Communion. Only the mind and heart that strive for Christ will come to see this for what it is, and attempt to live accordingly. May the cyclical whirlwind of the Church’s calendar sweep us off our feet for Christ, meeting us where we are, but drawing us ever deeper into the glory and mysteries of God’s always present love.

In the Risen Christ,

+Fr. Andreas



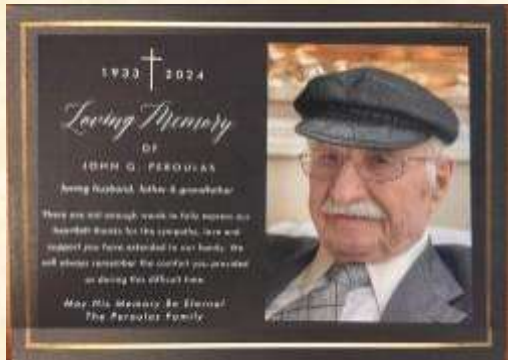
## A Note of Thanks from St. Nektarios Greek Language School



Thank you to all who supported our Greek Language School fundraiser by buying our freshly made loukoumathes. We are very thankful for your support.



## A Note of Thanks from the Peroulas family



*There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family. We will always remember the comfort you provided us during this time. We are so grateful to you and the bereavement group. All of you are so special to us and we cannot thank you enough.*

*May his memory be eternal.*

*The family of John G. Peroulas (1933-2024)*

# FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

*Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support*

## In Our Prayer

Tim John Pat Joe Kim Johanna Edward Tina Theona Helen DG Chuck Handsel Mason Angela Mary Robin & Benny John & Elaine Jennifer & family Eleftheria Mary Shan Dawn Grant Sierra Jack Phyllis Melton family Joanne B.E. Christina Stephen Barbara & Spiro Phil & Ronnie Daniel John Brian MP Michelle & family MSR Ashley Christian Jeff Shannon Glen Tish Cheryl Paul Dina Tom John T. John D. Terry Dorothy Erma (Hermione) Phyllis John Emmanouel Marihiam Helen Debbie Hanna Chris Greg Tim & Missy

## FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Helene Jordan Krassimire Nicholas Michael Cristofer Constantine Zack Matthew Amanda Danielle Anton Jimmy Thomas Seth

## Congratulations and best wishes

To Ioana Costescu and Nolan Atkinson on their marriage and to their sponsor, Jim Keown  
To Arianna Pexos and Giovanni Gonzales for their engagement  
To the Bennett family for their move to California

To our St. Nektarios Philoptochos who were published in South Park and also Ballantyne magazines

## Bir ths & 40th Day Blessings

To Nikki and Chris Ottomanelli for the 40th day blessing of Valentina's brother, Luca Costa  
To Lindsey and Elliott Hillmann for the 40th day blessing of Noah's brother, James  
To Dani and Dan Monroe for the 40th day blessing of Georgia Kate & Daniel's brother, Christian  
To Theresa and Stephen Truesdale for the 40th day blessing of Brynn's sister, Emma

## Chrismations & Baptisms

To Renner St. John for her chrismation and to her sponsor, Bess Vrettos  
To Colin Baker for his baptism and to his sponsor, Michael Choueiri  
To Ahmed, Dorothy and Elijah Elaasar for their baptisms and to their sponsors, Ben and Mary Dresser and Hank Hanegraaff  
To Denise Winston for her baptism and to her sponsor, Kathryn Baker Mason  
To Keiron Berndt for his baptism and to his sponsor, Jim Keown  
To Chad, Kristin, Emily, Aaron, Sabrina, Virginia & Madeline Asvestas for their baptisms and to their sponsors, Gus Gianakopoulos, Deidre Lepkowski, Emilio Brambila, Nicole Goson, Stephanie Scolinos and Christina Bonderer  
To Ehtan Dahmer for his baptism and to his sponsor Mike Scolinos  
To Mariah Weyd for her baptism and to her sponsor, Caroline Mellekas  
To Gabriella Vitale for her chrismation and to her sponsor, Ritsa Neary  
To Nancy & Dick Gates for their chrismations and to their sponsors, Joan Davis & Mike Scolinos  
To Matthew Hedrick for his chrismation and to his sponsor, Dimitri Triantafyllides  
To Jeffrey Gray for his chrismation and to his sponsors, Sharon & Dino Kanelos

## With Sympathy on the Repose of our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

To the Maxwell family for the repose of Peter's father, Archpriest John Maxwell  
To the Katopodis family for the repose of Theodoula's husband, William "Bill"  
To the Giles family for the repose of Richard's mother, Lillian  
To the Bellios family for the repose of Connie Bellios  
To the Karpathakis family for the repose of George's mother, Ann  
To the Katsanos family for the repose of Christina's husband, George  
To the Mentavlos family for the repose of Marian's husband, Nicholas George  
To the Castanas family for the repose of George's wife, Rita  
To the Kazakou and Forniots families for the repose of Dimitra's mother, Elissavet  
To the Copsis family for the repose of Pete's mother, Anthoula  
To the Kyrani, Papasaranti, Coker, and Georgaras families for the repose of Aikaterini's mother, Kyriaki "Kiki" Kyrani

To the Hunter family for the repose of Bill's father, William Nicholas Hunter

## In Appreciation

Thank you to Diane Gilbert and Copy Cat Printing for printing the Church Bulletin and Newsletter.  
Thank you to those who let us use your photos for the newsletter.



# CHRIST IS RISEN!

## *Paschal Greetings from Around the World*

Language	Greeting	Response
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnia! eh harootyunuh kristosee!
English	Christ is Risen!	Truly He is Risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Georgian:	Kriste ahzdkhah!	Chezdmariidet!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskresel!	Voistinu voskresel!
Serbian:	Cristos vaskres!	Vaistinu vaskres!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!



*Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!*

*“Come, receive the light from the never-setting Light,  
and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead.”*

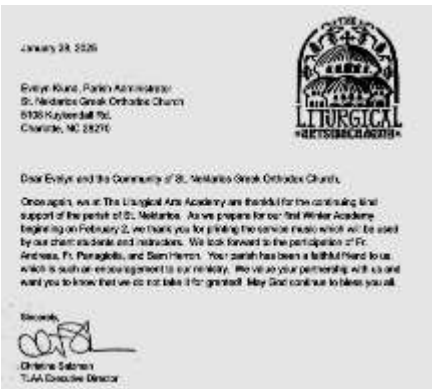
# Music Ministry

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Evelyn and the Community of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church,  
 Once again, we at The Liturgical Arts Academy are thankful for the continuing, kind support of the parish of St. Nektarios. As we prepare for our first Winter Academy beginning February 2, we thank you for printing the service music which will be used by our chant students and instructors. We look forward to the participation of Fr. Andreas, Fr. Panayiotis and Sam Herron. Your parish has been a faithful friend to us, which is such an encouragement to our ministry. We value your partnership with us and want you to know that we do not take it for granted! May God continue to bless you all.

Sincerely,  
 Christine Salzman  
 TLA Executive Director

## The Liturgical Arts Academy



## St. Nektarios Choral Performance Of ORTHODOX SACRED MUSIC AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

On Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Protopsalts Sam Herron led a choir of local and visiting chanters in a presentation of traditional Orthodox Christian sacred music at Queens University. Faculty member and St. Nektarios choir member, Varvara Pasiali, arranged for the event and introduced the choir to those in attendance.

The program, highlighting the period of the penitential Triodion (which began at Vespers on February 8 and ended at Pascha), was narrated by Fr. Andreas. In his remarks to the audience of Orthodox, non-orthodox, and non-Christians he noted how **“these and other hymns usher the believer into a mode of recognition of one’s sinfulness and a desire to enter the struggle to realign his or her will with that of God”**.

The modest program consisted of heirmologic (brief), sticheraric (moderate), and papadic (elaborate) pieces, mostly in English and from a variety of composers, faithfully representing the musical texture of the Great Fast.

Introducing this repertoire, Fr. Andreas remarked: **“This divinely-inspired craft and catalogue will evoke for you this evening the timeless quality of Orthodox Christian worship. It needs to be noted, however, that worship is the proper setting for what you will hear, and so the experience will have its limitations. For those open to it and interested, I invite you to attend our regular 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vespers services.”** ❖



The Department of Art, Design and Music  
 proudly present  
**Come, Let us Purify Ourselves: The Liturgical Journey through Eastern Orthodox Lent**  
 Featuring:  
 Saint Nektarios Byzantine Choir & Guests  
 Samuel Herron, Protopsalts  
 Fr. Andreas Houpas, Αναγνώστης

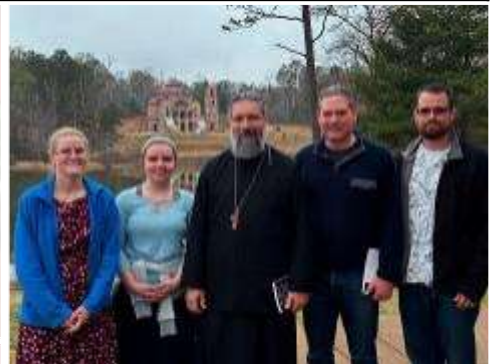
# Council of Ministries

On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, our priests, staff and ministry leaders gathered to discuss our vision for the coming year. Fr. Andreas Houpos, Caroline Mellekas, Chris Mortis, Madalina Lowen, Theodora Sexstone and Tim & Evelyn Klund lead us while reflecting on our strengths and areas for improvement that bring us together to carry out our St. Nektarios Vision & Mission Statements. The group enjoyed a delicious lunch, fellowship and afterward attended the vespers service together. ❖



# Festival of Faith

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, faithful from our parish joined others from around the Metropolis of Atlanta at the **Diakonia Retreat Center** for this year's **Festival of Faith**. The theme was **"Eucharist as the Center of our Life"**, and featured talks from Fr. Paul Abernathy of St. Moses the Black Mission in Pittsburgh, PA, Presvytera Christine Salzman of St. Philothea in Watkinsville, GA, and our own, Fr. Andreas Houpos. Along with edifying discussion sessions, meals, and worship, all participants and speakers gained mutual benefit.



Many thanks to our own Gerry Clonaris, (pictured left) the founder and organizer of the event, and his colleague Dr. Mike Rallis for helping this Metropolis event flourish. As always, the Diakonia Retreat Center staff provided loving hospitality. ❖



# Missions and Philanthropy Ministry

## Samaritan's Feet Shoe Distribution

On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of 25 parishioners volunteered at the Samaritan's Feet facility, helping prepare hundreds of shoes for distribution. The team gathered at Samaritan's Feet's new facility just north of Uptown Charlotte at 9 a.m. and worked diligently for three hours to ensure that shoes were ready for distribution.

This family-friendly service opportunity welcomes children as young as 8 years and older to volunteer alongside a parent or chaperone. Our St. Nektarios volunteers worked beside teams from Clemson University, Good Shepherd Church, and The Links Service Organization. The assignment included unpacking pallets of donated shoes, removing packaging materials, and reboxing them for distribution.

Many members of the St. Nektarios community—both adults and high school students—have also participated in international shoe

distribution missions with Samaritan's Feet. Our parish has been involved in shoe collection and packaging efforts locally since 2014.

Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian aid nonprofit dedicated to providing shoes and spreading hope to those in need worldwide. Since its founding in 2003, the organization and its partners have served over 10.5 million people across 110 countries and over 625 U.S. cities, sharing a message of love, compassion, and encouragement.

Check the e-bulletin for the next Missions & Philanthropy volunteer opportunity.

Katie Caltis



On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, a dedicated group of 16 volunteers from St. Nektarios came

together to serve their community at Nourish Up. From 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., the group worked with energy and purpose, inspecting and sorting nonperishable food donations. This food supply supports more than 40 food pantries across Mecklenburg County and directly benefits neighbors in need.

This volunteer experience was not only meaningful in service but also a wonderful way to build fellowship among parishioners. Working side by side for a common cause deepens connections within the church family. It was a powerful reminder of the impact that faith in action can have on those around us.

Nourish Up is the result of two long-standing nonprofits - Loaves & Fishes and Friendship Trays - joining forces to fight hunger under one name. Together, they provide groceries through the largest network of food pantries in North Carolina, deliver healthy meals each weekday via Meals on Wheels, and ensure that no one in Mecklenburg County faces food insecurity alone.

We invite you to be a part of this mission and join us for the next morning of volunteering at Nourish Up on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 11 am. Whether you're returning or new to the experience, your time and heart can help transform lives - one meal at a time. ❖



# Adult Religious Education

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, our A. R. E. Bible study resumed for a special welcome-back Bible Study Session led remotely by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou, a widely-known and respected student of Holy Scripture, and host of Search the Scriptures (Ancient Faith Radio). Dr. Jeannie offered us a tailored overview of the Torah, including Genesis and Exodus, the subjects of our most recent and current Bible Studies. Thank you, Dr. Constantinou, for your insight and discernment. ❖



Thank you to Brian Clonaris, Bill Gretes, Gerry Clonaris & Evelyn Klund for the audio visual support.



Left and above: Dr. Constantinou speaking with Fr. Andreas and our parishioners by way of Zoom



Fr. Gregory Georgiou

Lent, Lunch and Learn had a terrific year with incredible guest speakers and outstanding attendance. We started our Lent, Lunch & Learn series on March 6<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Gregory Georgiou, M. Div., MA, LCP, Director of Pre-Marital Programming — Metropolis of Atlanta, by way of Zoom. The discussion focused on the opportunities to utilize the themes from our Orthodox Faith for those who suffer and are healing from broken hearts. We learned about the “Ministry of Presence” and were reminded that Christ is present with us.



Left: Fr. Andreas, Gerry Clonaris with grandson and Fr. John Parker



On March 13<sup>th</sup>, our Young at Heart Ministry along with our Adult Religious Education Ministry hosted Fr. John Parker, Dean of

## Lent, Lunch, and Learn

St. Tikhon University who spoke about how we can serve one another as our Lord commanded.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Gerry Clonaris filled in for Caroline Mellekas to give an informative explanation of Lenten period and why we fast.



Gerry Clonaris



Above: Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, presiding presbyter of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church of Marietta, GA spoke of the ways “We know God Exists”. It was an interactive presentation and at the end, he shared a short film of the life of St. Mary of Egypt by, Trisagion Films, of which he is the CEO and theological consultant.

Afterward we sang Happy Birthday to Mike Neary (pictured right) who was presented a Lenten cake of halva to celebrate the day.



Above: Fr. Panayiotis Steele

Our Lent, Lunch and Learn series concluded on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a presentation by our own, Fr. Panayiotis Steele. Fr. Panayiotis spoke about the unique services of Lent and Holy Week and discussed how they are designed to bring us to an experience of active repentance.

We look forward to seeing the creative developments of the organizing committee for Lent, Lunch and Learn for next year. Thank you to all those who have helped us with planning, meal preparation, audio visual support and to our staff. ❖

# Young at Heart

Our January Young at Heart was catered by parishioner-owned Picadeli's as we came back to fellowship after the Christmas holidays.

On February 13th our Young at Heart celebrated Valentine's Day and were serenaded by our St. Sophia School who also made Valentine's Day cards for our members and surprised us by delivering them. Steve Panteliodis lead the bingo game and Rula Poulos led us in a special birthday song for Helen Couchell's birthday.

On March 13th our Young at Heart co-hosted the Lent, Lunch and Learn event (page 7) with Fr. John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhom University who spoke about how we can serve one another in love as our Lord commanded.

Father Andreas reminds us that **"such intergenerational fellowship is key to a healthy community, and this is amplified in the Church, where the young are to learn respect for their elders, and the elders to learn to become child-like, thereby seeing in one another a revelation of the mystery of God's goodness, mercy, providence, and love.** As our parish continues to grow, this becomes more and more important to encourage. Your active participation in the life of our parish ensures that we will continue on this path.

**Let's continue to work to provide opportunities and spaces for love to grow and for grace to extend to more and more people, of all ages, and for generations to come, as God allows."** ❖



Our Young at Heart December and January birthdays and pictured left February birthday cake



Pictured above:  
Our Young at Heart Group celebrating Valentine's Day

# Campus Clean-up

On Saturday, March 15th several parishioners lead by our Facilities Manager, Marko Milich, went to work power-washing, trimming, mowing and planting to beautify our campus in preparation for Pascha. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their time and energy, please email Marko at [mmilich@stnektarios.org](mailto:mmilich@stnektarios.org).

Thank you to all involved and may the Lord bless all of you for your perseverance. ❖

## ✦UPCOMING PROJECTS✦

- Clearing Brush
- Re-building the Fire Pit
- Painting
- Landscaping



## THANK YOU

On Sunday, March 23rd, a fire alarm was accidentally triggered during the Divine Liturgy. We give thanks to God for the men and women who serve at our nearby fire station, and salute their professionalism and bravery. We also express gratitude for our own Safety and Security Ministry Team and the fire safety protocols we have in place.

Finally, we must also be grateful for a congregation that followed the necessary instructions and calmly so. Thankfully, we were able to re-enter the temple in a matter of minutes, and pick up seamlessly with the service, a testament to the competence of our ushers, choirs, acolytes and the St. Phoebe girls. Glory to God for all things. ❖



# St. Nektarios Philoptochos

On March 20th, our Philoptochos gathered to assemble meal packs for those in need. It's one of many ways Philoptochos regularly provides assistance to the community around us. Philoptochos is a philanthropic ministry organized at the Archdiocesan level, and is integral to the charter of each local parish.



Our local chapter strives to collaborate across all our different ministries. Interested in helping others? Inquire about becoming a member of Philoptochos, or participate in the next service opportunity. ❖



## Special speaker, Dr. Georgianne Georgoulas

Our St. Nektarios Philoptochos Chapter together with Life and Family Ministries presented in the Self-Care Speaker Series with Dr. Georgianne Georgoulas. She is a pharmacist, Mediterranean Health Coach and Board Certified STORRIE Wholistic Wellness Coach. She shared her passion for helping others build a healthier, more vibrant future through education,

connection and the power of the Mediterranean lifestyle. We learned actionable steps and lifestyle strategies to create seasonal and nutrient-rich meals that resonate with people on the journey of healthy eating. Thank you, Dr. Georgoulas, for informative handouts and practical solutions. ❖



Pictured above:  
Sharon Koutroumpis and Michaelina Franks preparing spanakopita for Philoptochos Bake Sale



Pictured above: Our St. Nektarios Philoptochos Chapter being honored on the Solea by Fr. Andreas and Fr. Panayiotis

# St. Nektarios Philoptochos



## A Note of Thanks from Christina Nixon

Dear St. Nektarios Philoptochos,

Thank you for your support and donation of 100 backpacks needed for my annual project "Sacks of Hope" benefiting homeless men in the Greater Charlotte area. This was my 7th year for these "Sacks of Hope" backpacks to be given out and our biggest year so far. These bags were full of personal hygiene products, food, lots of socks (one of the most requested items) and things to help keep warm. Because of your donation and from other companies and people, we were able to also buy 100 blankets to give out with each bag.

I truly appreciate the generosity your

Philoptochos chapter has shown to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness. I wanted to share with you all some pictures of donations, filling the bags, content in the bags and then all the bags stuffed until distributed so you can see how big of an impact you made.

With love, Christina Nixon

Each bag has about 85 items from food snacks and meals, personal hygiene products and things to keep warm & 5 pairs of socks along with lunch and blanket.



## First Aid Class

Parishioners, friends and neighbors gathered in the Spiritual Life Center on February 8th to train in the areas of First Aid, CPR and AED.

This was hands-on learning and we received our certification which will be valid for the next two years.

A huge thank you goes out to Sharon Koutroumpis for her hard work in coordinating this event. Thank you to Faye Richardson of the American Red Cross and her daughter for leading the class on that Saturday. ❖



# Financial Matters

## STEWARDSHIP

Orthodox Christianity cultivates vision to see the world as God's gift. It is given to us as a means of communion with Him. We in turn come before him with our own gifts in hand, saying

*"Your own of your own, we offer to you in all and for all".*

### Reflections on Faithful Generosity

- A life of faithful generosity brings about peace, joy and purpose to the giver.
- It is an expression of gratitude to our Lord
- It is an investment in and support of our parish's mission which is

*Dedicated to continue our Lord's Ministry of salvation through the proclaiming and teaching the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and to mankind*

- It is commitment to our parish vision:  
*The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness and fellowship*



### Ways to Give



- You may make your offerings through:
- Your bill pay service,
  - Online giving with this QR code,
  - In person or by mail,
  - Required Minimum Distributions
  - Gifts of Stocks and other securities

TO FUND MINISTRY, OUR  
2025 STEWARDSHIP GOAL IS

# \$1,100,000

549 STEWARDS HAVE PLEDGED

# \$1,044,113

AS OF 4/25, OFFERINGS EQUAL

# \$326,171



As of April 25, 2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Stewardship	\$ 326,171	\$1,100,000	30%
Other Income	<u>116,510</u>	<u>\$ 297,750</u>	39%
Total Income	\$ 442,682	\$1,397,750	32%
Expenses	<u>\$ 456,584</u>	<u>\$1,397,750</u>	33%
Net Income	- \$ 13,902		

#### Notes:

- Four months is 33% of the year
- Income is at 32% & short by \$18K
- Total paid (\$456,584) and accrued expenses (\$29,078 for 2 months Allocation) are at 35% of Budget.

# Outdoor Ministry - Day at Cane Creek



Our Outdoor Ministry is gathered at Cane Creek on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> to welcome the Spring season! This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> outing together. We hiked, fished, fellowshiped together and the children enjoyed a scavenger hunt ending with a picnic under the shelter. What a beautiful day! Thank you to Presbytera Meredyth and the Outdoor Ministry leaders for organizing this event. Thank you to John Cosmas and Kim Braswell for the photos. We look forward to many more adventures to come. ❖



# Greek Language School

The Feast Day of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and the commemoration of the beginning of the Greek Revolution of 1821 were celebrated by the students of our St. Nektarios Greek Language School this year on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at our Spiritual Life Center. Under the vigilant eye of their teachers, the students presented a wonderful program to us that included the chanting of the Kontakion and Apolytikion of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, singing patriotic songs and anthems, reciting poems, and dancing! We congratulate all the students for their excellent performance!

We thank both Priests of our community for their constant support. We offer special thanks to

Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Steele, who made the opening and closing remarks of the program. We also extend thanks to our Greek School parents who supported their children in learning their parts! We are grateful to Amanda Demopoulos, Kristy Kleto, Maria Mortis, Stephanie Tsahakis, Kim Tzefos, and Vickie Wixon who graciously sponsored coffee hour for parishioners in honor of the Feast. Warm thanks to Presbytera Meredyth Houpos, Presbytera Maria Dalber, and Presbytera Sandra Stanar, as well as all the parents, grandparents, and parishioners who honored us with their presence at our festive event. We would like to thank Mrs. Ariadne Zitsos, Founder and Head of The St. Sophia School for her assistance during the rehearsals and the celebration. We are grateful to Mrs. Helen Giles, accomplished educational consultant, for her help prior to the program and the wonderful website she has created for our students. Warm thanks to anonymous donors who gifted blue scarves for the children! May God always bless them! A great big thank you to Mr. Dimitrios Andritsogiannis for his help and the donation of three microphones for our events. We also express our gratitude to the president of our community, Mr. Chris Mortis, who always assists us with microphones and music. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated teachers of



our school, Presbytera Lea Tsahakis, Catherine Giles, Sophia Shinas, and Katerina Coker, who teach the Greek language and Greek Orthodox Christian religion to the children with love and enthusiasm. We also thank the youth coordinator, Ms. Caroline Mellekas, and all the members of the community office staff who supported us prior to this celebration. A great big thank you to our church community for sharing in our 25th of March celebratory program!

Με την ιερότητα και τη λαμπρότητα που αρμόζει στη μέρα, μαθητές και μαθήτριες του ελληνικού μας σχολείου γιόρτασαν τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτόκου και την 204η Εθνική μας Επέτειο από την κήρυξη της Επανάστασης του 1821 την Κυριακή 30 Μαρτίου 2025 μετά το τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας.

Ο εμπνευσμένος πανηγυρικός λόγος που εκφώνησε ο εφημέριος ιερέας της κοινότητάς μας, πατέρας Παναγιώτης Στιλ, το κοντάκιο του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου που έψαλε η μικρή Χαρίκλεια Ανδριτσογιάννη, ηλικίας μόλις 5 ετών, οι γαλανόλευκες σημαίες που κυμάτιζαν ολόγυρα μας μέσα στην κατάμεστη από γονείς και ενορίες αίθουσα του Πνευματικού κοινοτικού μας κέντρου, τα ποιήματα που απήγγειλαν οι μικροί μας μαθητές ηλικίας 5-12 ετών και το Απολυτίκιο

# Greek Language School

του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου που έψαλαν με ευσέβεια τα παιδιά άγγιξαν τις καρδιές όλων μας. Τα τραγούδια, οι ύμνοι και οι χοροί μαθητών ανέδειξαν την αδιάλειπτη συνέχεια της εθνικής και θρησκευτικής μας παράδοσης. Είναι αυτή η κληρονομιά που φέρνει κοντά τις γενιές, εμπνέει υπερηφάνεια, και προτρέπει όλους μας να αναλογιστούμε τη σημασία της θρησκείας και της ιστορίας στην καθημερινή μας ζωή.

εκδήλωση της 25ης Μαρτίου! Πολλά συγχαρητήρια σε όλους τους μαθητές μας για την εξαιρετική παρουσίαση! Χρόνια πολλά και του χρόνου με υγεία να γιορτάσουμε και πάλι όλοι μαζί!

Anastasia K. Holevas



Θερμές ευχαριστίες στους ιερείς, ιδιαίτερα στον Πρεσβύτερο Παναγιώτη Στιλ, τις εκπαιδευτικούς για το διδακτικό τους έργο, τους γονείς και ενορίες, που μας τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους στηρίζοντας τους μαθητές μας στην εορταστική αυτή



# Youth Ministries ~ Oratorical Festival

Our local Parish Oratorical Festival took place on March 29th, where we heard wonderful speeches by Rita Saad, Kristina Nagorny, Aaron Asvestas and John Scott Matheny (of Boone, NC). Special thanks to our helpful judges and supporters: Peter Reinhart, Missy Davis, Mike Scollinos, Jim Keown, Emilio Brambila and Theona Gallis.



On April 5th our parish hosted the **Metropolis of Atlanta's Northeast District St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**. We welcomed 16 orators - from Knoxville, TN to Wilmington, NC - as well as our district vicar, Fr. Sarantis Loulakis. Upon arrival the speakers and their families were treated to a Lenten lunch buffet prepared by our hospitality team.



We thank God for a beautiful afternoon of powerful orations on the Christian life. We especially thank the judges and hospitality volunteers for their sacrifices.

At the district level, we also thank our hospitality volunteers and judges who served — Mary Dresser, Kathryn Baker-Mason, Maryann Zitsos, Dr. Vladimir Karteyev, Scott Cameron, Michael Ekonomakos, and Ayoub Ayoub. ❖



Special congratulations go to our own, Kristina Nagorny, (pictured above) who will advance to the regional festival this May, in Savannah!



On Friday, April 4th our K-1 youth gathered for another family night and took time learning the hymn to greet Metropolitan Sevastianos on Palm Sunday. Many years, Master!

# Hospitality Lenten Meals

Thank you to the many parishioners who provided meals during Lent.

## Wednesday Night Soup Supper

Ritsa Neary

Vivian Pitsikoulis

Salma Qushair

Svitlana Dixon

Dana Timchenko

## Thursday Lent, Lunch & Learn

Safwat Wassef

Ayoub Ayoub

Anastasia Holevas

Friday Night

Evelyn Klund

Sharon & George Koutroumpis

**Please see Next issue:**

Journey through Holy week photos

\*\*\*NEW EMAIL ADDRESS\*\*\*

If you have information or photos for the newsletter, please contact Kim Braswell in the office at [ksbraswell@stnektarios.org](mailto:ksbraswell@stnektarios.org)

### OUR MISSION:

*St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel: through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and to mankind.*

### OUR VISION:

*The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness, and fellowship.*

## DIRECTORY

Church Office: 704-708-4669  
Email: [office@stnektarios.org](mailto:office@stnektarios.org)  
Website: [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org)  
5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

### Clergy

Father Andreas Houpos, Proistamenos  
Mobile: 980-333-9563  
Email: [fr.andreas@stnektarios.org](mailto:fr.andreas@stnektarios.org)

Father Panayiotis Steele, Ephemerios  
Cell: 703-964-1112  
Email: [fr.panayiotis@stnektarios.org](mailto:fr.panayiotis@stnektarios.org)

Father Steve Dalber, Pastor Emeritus  
Mobile: 704-451-6524  
Email: [frdalber@stnektarios.org](mailto:frdalber@stnektarios.org)  
Father Paul Tsahakis, Presbyter  
Mobile: (704) 608-1112  
Email: [frtsahakis@stnektarios.org](mailto:frtsahakis@stnektarios.org)

### Parish Staff

Parish Administrator - Evelyn Klund  
Administration Staff -  
Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell,  
Sharon Koutroumpis, Sofia Nicolopoulos  
Director of Youth and Young Adults -  
Caroline Mellekas  
Facility Manager - Marko Milich  
Sexton - Jim Keown  
Protopsaltis - Sam Herron

### 2025 Parish Council

President: Chris Mortis  
Vice President: Andrew McCullough  
Treasurer: Elie Azar  
Assist. Treasurer: David Hanegraaff  
Secretary: Gene Borowski  
Assist. Secretary: Manal Choueiri  
Members: George Bacogeorge, Zack Hair,  
Katherine Mason, Peter Reinhart,  
Patrick Taylor

### Philoptochos Board

President: Madalina Lowen  
1st Vice President: Kathrine Cestrone  
2nd Vice President: Deidre Lepkowski  
Recording Secretary: Missy Davis  
Corr. Secretary: Christine Malatras  
Treasurer: Evelyn Klund

**Ass't. Treasurer:** Sharon Koutroumpis  
Members: Helen Bakos, Michaelina Franks  
Phyllis Giannakopoulos, Renee Keretses,  
Ana Levantis and Stephanie Scolinos  
(Email: [philoptochos@stnektarios.org](mailto:philoptochos@stnektarios.org))

## SUNDAYS AT SAINT NEKTARIOS

### Worship on Sundays

Matins 7:45 a.m. and  
Divine Liturgy 9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship Coffee:  
Following Divine Liturgy

### Prospora

Please contact the church office or  
Christie Asimos at 704-756-1512 if  
you would like to provide or sponsor  
Prospora.

### Coffee Hour

Please contact the church office if you  
would like to host or co-host a Coffee  
Hour on Sunday. Your Stewardship  
pays for the coffee hour refreshments  
provided by the Hospitality Ministry  
Team.

### Flowers

You may donate flowers in honor of a  
**family member's feast day, in memory**  
of a loved one or friend, on the  
occasion of a holiday, or simply as a  
gift to the community of St. Nektarios.  
To donate flower arrangements to be  
placed at the Iconostasis, St. Nektarios  
Shrine or in the Narthex for Sunday  
Services, please contact the church  
office to reserve a Sunday.

### Sacramental Wine & Pure Olive Oil

You may make a financial gift to help  
defray the cost of the sacramental wine  
that is used for Holy Communion.  
Please note on the memo line of your  
**check or on the envelope "Communion  
Wine". You may also donate a bottle or**  
can of pure olive oil which is then  
blessed at the Shrine of St. Nektarios  
and is offered in the anointing kits.  
Please feel free to bring this with you to  
any of our services and give to an  
usher on duty. For additional  
information contact the church office.

### UPCOMING DEADLINE

Newsletter & Bulletin Due Dates:  
Information Due: May 13, 2025  
Published: May 20, 2025