

September 2015

# KOINONIA



The Koinonia is the monthly newsletter of:  
Holy Trinity - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
307 19th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35233

ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

CHURCH ADDRESS/CONTACT INFO:

307 19th Street South  
 Birmingham, AL 35233  
 (205) 716-3080 – Telephone  
 (205) 716-3085 – FAX  
 Website: [www.holytrinity-holycross.org](http://www.holytrinity-holycross.org)  
 Email: [cathedral@holytrinity-holycross.org](mailto:cathedral@holytrinity-holycross.org)

CATHEDRAL STAFF:

Dean – Rev. Fr. Paul Costopoulos, ext. 302  
 Assistant Priest – Rev. Fr. Micah Hirschy, ext. 314  
 Pastoral Assistant – Alexis Pappas, ext. 322  
 Rev. Fr. Ernesto Obregon  
 Fr. Dcn. Tikhon Cobb  
 Administrative Assistant – Elizabeth Dennis, ext. 0  
 Bookkeeper – Sherry Glover, ext. 304  
 Daycare Director – Katherine Staursky, ext. 303  
 Custodial Supervisor – Frank Ivory - (205) 960-4397

2015 PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Fr. Paul Costopoulos, Dean  
 Rev. Fr. Micah Hirschy, Assistant Priest  
 Jimmy Cosmas, President (205) 999-6577  
 Alex Yearout, Vice President (205) 914-0282  
 Keith Deason, Secretary (205) 382-7559  
 Tommy Yearout, Treasurer (205) 969-1828  
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 Dwight I. Greene (205) 919-7619  
 Alex Kontos (205) 919-3581  
 Leon Tranos (205) 908-4925  
 Joey Valekis (205) 222-9780  
 Dr. George Zaharias (205) 902-1908

CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES:

Acolytes: Mark Mercer (205) 663-5931  
 Sunday School:  
     Kathy Ronderos (205) 915-1780  
 HOPE/JOY: Lisa Miller (205) 427-3927  
 Jr. GOYA: Elaine Lyda (205) 243-9492  
 GOYA: Fr. Micah Hirschy (205) 716-3080  
 OCF: Dcn. Tikhon Cobb (205) 553-2570  
 Athletics: Steve Nickolson (205) 907-7022  
 Philoptochos: Chum Atkins (205) 410-3010  
 Outreach & Evangelism:  
     Penny Kovakas (205) 365-6001  
 Bookstore: Dawn Manakides (205) 612-3038  
 Choir: Tim Vakakes (205) 482-6348  
 Organist: Nicky Velotas (205) 982-2075  
 Assistant Organist:  
     Nadya Bogdan (205) 982-5181  
 Altar Guild and Makaria:  
     Irene Tracy (205) 967-8258  
 Adult Education Enrichment Class:  
     Helen Bekrakis (205) 822-4146  
 Banquet Hall Coordinator:  
     Nick Erben (205) 908-5057  
 Firehouse Shelter:  
     Bill Gulas (205) 985-1518  
     Marilyn Wilson (205) 681-2529  
 Prosforo Committee:  
     Nicki Jovaras 205-942-2681  
 Inquirers:  
     Rev. Fr. Paul Costopoulos (205) 716-3080  
 Bible Studies:  
     Rev. Fr. Micah Hirschy (205) 716-3080  
 Greek Language and Dancing:  
     Katherine Staursky (205) 823-2312  
 AHEPA: Dino Pihakis (205) 276-1131  
 Daughters of Penelope:  
     Kia Paulson (205) 982-0660

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE KOINONIA IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION  
 FOR THE WEEKLY BULLETIN IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY.**



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## FROM THE DESK OF +FR. PAUL COSTOPOULOS

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### OVERCOMING LONELINESS...

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Loneliness is a malady that afflicts young and old alike. Philosophers, religionists and psychologists agree that the sources of loneliness for the most part are two-fold in nature. The one source is the absence of significant others (meaningful relationships) in one's life. The other—and not all agree upon this because all do not believe—is the absence of God from one's life. The two sources, in my opinion, are inextricably linked.

What is loneliness' antidote? To be sure! Being compassionate, loving and friendly toward others can go a long way in helping to eliminate loneliness. But unless one has God in his life, he will never totally overcome loneliness. Why? Because all have an "angst" (an emptiness) in their soul for a relationship with One who transcends human relationships! In the absence of that relationship, one will never be totally un-alone.

Attesting to the power of God to help one deal with loneliness are two wonderful books. I highly recommend you read them.

The one book is the *Philokalia*. The *Philokalia* is a compendium of spiritual writings of the Holy Fathers of our Church dating back to the fourth century. It was first compiled in the latter part of the 18th century by two saints of our Church St. Nikodemos

of the Holy Mountain and St. Makarios of Corinth. The book speaks to us about God, man, sin, the passions, and the ascetic initiatives that one must undertake to become one with God to actualize peace in life. Peace in life is the antithesis of loneliness.

The Bible is the other book. The Bible is the Scriptures of our Holy Orthodox Church. It is liturgically referred to as Wisdom. It contains the Word of God which is unto the cultivation of the Holy Spirit and the actualization of peace and salvation. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. St. Seraphim of Sarov tells us that the acquisition of peace is our purpose in life. One way to acquire peace is to regularly read the Word.

There is a common theme in both the Bible and the *Philokalia*. The theme is that God gives us the peace for which we pray at every Liturgy, and which dispels the loneliness that at times afflicts all. To overcome loneliness, therefore, one must come to an awareness of God through faith, and afterwards experience His grace. Scriptures and the *Philokalia* are replete with examples of persons who illustrate this truth.

In the Gospel of John 5:1-15, for example, we are told the story of the Paralytic read liturgically on the third Sunday after Pascha. To be sure! His story is about the healing power of Christ. But it is also about loneliness and how to overcome it.

The Paralytic had sat by the Pool of Bethesda for 38 years. He like others believed that if he could make his way into the water at a certain time of the day, he could be healed. His response to Jesus' query is a poignant one. Jesus asked, *Do you want to be made well?* (John 5:6). Though surrounded by many people, yet the Paralytic was alone. The sick man answered him, *Sir I have no man to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up...* Jesus said to him, *"Rise, take up your bed and walk."* And immediately the man was made well... (John 5:7-9).

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## FROM THE DESK OF +FR. PAUL CONTINUED...

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No! The Paralytic did not have to read the *Philokalia* nor the *Bible* to come to an awareness of God. He had something better. He had the Incarnate Word of God, God Himself, who brought to him healing, life and peace. In Christ he discovered the truth which the Psalmist through the Holy Spirit found, *The Lord is my rock, and my fortress and my deliverer; my God and my strength in Whom I trust my shield and the horn of my salvation...* (Psalm 18:1-3). Thereafter he was never alone.

Yes! Companionship with and love of others is a powerful cure for loneliness. But in their absence—even in their presence—remember! God is the great antidote to loneliness because of the existential angst that exists in all. Only He can eliminate the angst. Therefore, seek Him through the Word and the *Philokalia*, (and also, through Prayer and the Church). By so doing you will discover Him. Or more accurately, you will be found by Him even as was the Paralytic. Recall if you will the words of St. Augustine. He once said, “He who seeks God has already been discovered by Him.”

+ Fr. Paul

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## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MICAH HIRSCHY

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### THE THEOTOKOS & THE CHURCH YEAR

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The New Year begins September 1st according to our Orthodox Tradition and as we are all aware the first great Feast of the Liturgical year is the Birth of the Theotokos. It is fitting that we begin the year chanting, “*Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life.*” This hymn brings to mind that the Theotokos is the mystical dawn who gave birth to the Sun of Righteousness and the hidden horizon that has brought forth the Light that was with the Father from before the creation of the world. We are reminded that this feast is the dawn of the New Year and that the true significance of this feast-day, the Birth of the Theotokos, and the Church year itself is the coming of Christ the God-Man, His trampling down death and granting eternal Life.

If the Church New Year begins with September and the birth of the Theotokos the year concludes with the month of August which has as its crowning Feast the Dormition of the Theotokos. At this feast we chant, “*Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.*” It is in this hymn we encounter and celebrate the fulfillment of the hymn we sang in September. At the Dormition of His Mother our Lord reveals to us that death has been abolished and has become only a falling asleep.

The setting of the Sun leads us to a new day. The Falling asleep of the Panagia leads us to look forward to the Resurrection. The conclusion of the Church year and the beginning of the New leads us into the eternity that has neither beginning nor end!

By: Father Micah Hirschy

# PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATE

I hope all of you had a healthy, wonderful summer enjoying friends and family. Philoptochos, as usual, has been very busy. In addition to preparing for the Food Festival Philoptochos is always seeking new, and more, ways to help our people. Ever aware, striving to meet the continued needs of the past and seeking to meet the needs of the present.

The results of the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference that took place this summer is evidence of this. Some of the outcomes were:

1. **Amazon Smile:** A program that, when ordering from Amazon, if you specify a particular charity (Philoptochos) that charity will receive a certain percentage of your charges.
2. **Scrip Program:** If you purchase a "Scrip Card", from Target (a pre-set dollar amount credit card to be spent at Target) a percentage of that amount will be sent/credited to the charity of your choice, i.e. Philoptochos.
3. **"Christ the Good Shepherd":** This program began this year over the Memorial Day Weekend. Nine families from our Metropolis were hosted at the Diakonia Center. This year the focus was on families with an autistic child. Each year the focus will differ based on a family struggling with a different health problem.
4. **College Outreach:** Many of us have, had, or know of young people who are continuing their education away from home. These young people come to church to attend the Liturgy, as well as, to seek a base, a family away from home. What better place than Church? I personally have recently met young people from other states and countries. For most, the first step is the Outreach Table in the lobby (Great Job!!). Then they move on into the Banquet Hall for Coffee. I think sometimes this can be quite intimidating. Let us become more aware of, one sitting alone, someone just looking around, someone standing alone. Let us make a habit of approaching

and welcoming them. We are pretty good at it but let us continue and improve.

On an old tombstone in Locke Hill Cemetery located on a small plot off the expressway in San Antonio, Texas there are carved these words by Grace Smith:

*Sleeps, but rests not.*

*Loved, but was not loved.*

*Tried to please, but pleased not.*

*Died as she lived, alone.*

Often, we neglect the suffering of others. Not out of malice or real unconcern, but due to our busy lives and involvements. The desperation of our fellow man (woman) is what Philoptochos tries to make easier and erase through love and works.

- God Commanded, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," Leviticus 19:18
- Jesus Commanded, "Love one another as I have loved you," John 14:34

May the Lord's Blessings be upon each of you during this new Ecclesiastical Year.

God Bless,  
Helen Bekrakis

## SAVE THE DATE!!

PHILOPTOCHOS  
KICK-OFF MEETING



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
6:30 P.M. IN THE  
PHILOPTOCHOS ROOM

# YOUTH NEWS

**Hope & Joy:** On September 11, at 6:30 p.m. Hope & Joy (5k-5th Grade) are invited to join us, together with their parents, at Holy Trinity Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral. We will begin the evening having dinner all together. Following dinner, the youth will enjoy a movie with popcorn and treats and the parents will be invited to join us for a discussion and fellowship. The topic for the discussion will be, "Holy Homes: How our Domestic lives can become Encounters with Christ."

**Youth Sunday's:** Our next Youth Sunday will be on September 20. Youth Sunday's will be observed monthly from September through May. As with previous Youth Sundays, so also will this years' Youth Sunday's focus be upon our youth. Our youth will assist with ushering, taking the collection, serving at the "pangari," and reading the Epistle. They will also hear a youth sermon and/or attend a demonstration Liturgy in the chapel. Youth members of our Parish are encouraged to sit together on Youth Sunday. A number of pews will be reserved for them in the front of the church.

**Sunday School for the New Ecclesiastical Year:** Youth Sunday School began on August 16. Parents, if you have not yet registered your children, do so at your earliest convenience. There are classes for children 2 yrs. old - 12th grade. Sunday School follows Holy Communion and meets until 12:10 p.m. **Parents! Please do not remove your children from Sunday School until class is over.**

## 2015-2016 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

### **Mommy & Me (2 yr. olds):**

Donna Triantos

### **Level 1 Children's Atrium (3 yrs. - 5k):**

Stephanie Cobb, Maria Dikis, Embree Deason, Keith Deason, Staci Graphos, Jennifer Jebeles, Leah Massengale, Brittany Roberts, Suzanne Schoel

### **Level 2 Children's Atrium (1st-3rd Grade):**

Stephanie Knisely, Lisa Miller, Alexis Pappas, Kathy Ronderos

### **4th - 5th Grade (Room 208):**

Marlyse Hirschy, Lauren Walker

### **6th - 8th Grade (Room 206):**

Fr. Ernesto Obregon, Callie Corley, Jake Walker

### **9th - 12th Grade (Youth Room):**

Teddy Hontzas, Dr. Chris Vlachos, Dr. Nerrin Zaharias

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

When we started following up on folks who expressed interest in learning more about Orthodoxy after our first Church Festival in 2010, I never expected that small beginning to grow into a full blown opportunity that share this project with you.

On Monday, August 24 we will Premiere the Demo Video for "A Journey to Fullness" Outreach Project. And we will begin the hard work of funding this project and bringing it to completion!

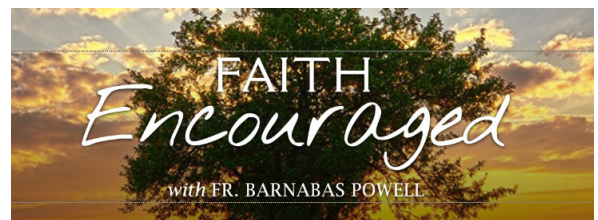
A recent study found that a million Americans will stop going to Church in 2015! Why? With the spiritual hunger that exists in every heart, why are modern Churches losing so many people? What's missing? Well, it could be that the fullness of the Faith is missing and that's where we come in. Our Orthodox Faith has been steady and faithful and providing the timeless wisdom for true life for 20 centuries. Orthodoxy is how Christianity is supposed to be. But folks won't know that unless we share our faith with them.



That's why A Journey to Fullness is a project that has been on my heart for over 5 years, and why I hope you'll join me in making this project a reality.

Would you like to see this Premier? All you have to do is go to [JourneytoFullness.com](http://JourneytoFullness.com) and add your email to the growing list of folks who will see the Premier on Monday the 24th. If you'd like to know more, you can also e-mail Fr. Barnabas at [frbarnabas@faithencouraged.org](mailto:frbarnabas@faithencouraged.org)

**More About Fr. Barnabas Powell:** Fr. Barnabas is the parish priest at Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Greek Orthodox Church in Cumming, Georgia. He is also host of Faith Encouraged Live on Ancient Faith Radio and author of the Faith Encouraged podcast.





## VACATION CHURCH CAMP: GROWING IN CHRIST'S GARDEN



"I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."





## Parish Ministries Registration (Youth & Adults)

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:	Birthdate:	E-mail:	Cell Phone:

**Please register my children for: (circle all that apply)**

- Acolytes (which week: 1<sup>st</sup>& 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Sunday School
- Youth/Youth Adult Music Program (new)
- Nursery Ministry
- Basketball
- Greek Dancing
- Greek Language Class
- Jr. GOYA/GOYA
- Hope/Joy
- Youth Outreach Projects
- Mommy & Me Sunday School (2 yrs. old)

**Please call on me for:**

- Substitute Sunday School Teacher
- Host a Youth Gathering in my Home
- Assist with Youth Outreach Weekend (Jan/Feb 2016)
- Assist with Youth Music Ministry
- High School Chaperone
- Christmas Program Assistant
- Holy Week – Retreat, Mira Fores Girls, Readers
- Sunday School Snacks
- Behind the scenes Sunday School work
- Jr. High School Chaperone

### **Adult Ministries**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Please circle the ministries that you would like to be involved in this year or would like more information about:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Adult Sunday School   | • Women's Bible Study   |
| • Families Affected by Addiction  | • Men's Bible Study   |
| • Inquirer's Class (begins in October – open to anyone who wants to learn more about our faith) | • Young Adult Group   |
| • Music Ministry  | • Grief Support   |
| • Outreach & Evangelism Committee   | • Orthodox Christian Mission Trips  |
| • Philoptochos (friend of the poor)   | • Taking meals to new mothers or the elderly/infirm                       |
| • Sunday Morning Greeter  | • Welcoming newcomers to our community                                    |
| • Sunday Epistle Reader   | • Volunteering for the Men's Firehouse Shelter (1st Monday of each month) |
| • Lenten Retreat Committee  | • Orthodox Book Club  |
| • Marriage & Family Workshops   | • Healthy Diet/Exercise   |
| • Learning how to make Prosforo or Kolyva   |   |

**Please return to the Church office or scan/email to Alexis Pappas (apappas@gocbham.com) by SEPTEMBER 1 !!**



# CATHEDRAL NOTES & NEWS

**September 1 - Beginning of Church's New Year:** The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312, when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1, to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah (61:1-2), the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1). Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September. - *Adapted from OCA Website*

**A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in our Chapel on September 1, to commemorate the New Year.**

**The Church's Feast Day:** The Elevation of the Holy Cross is Monday, September 14. Vespers will be celebrated the evening before (Sunday, September 13) beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

**Inquirers' Catechism Class:** Interested in Learning more about the Orthodox Faith? Contact the church office (205) 716-3080. Father Paul is in the process of organizing an Inquirers' Class. It will meet for 8, sessions on Sunday afternoons at the church, following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. The first class will meet on Sunday, October 11. This class is for both non-Orthodox who know little about the faith, and for Orthodox Christians who wish to learn more. Persons wishing to join the Church through Baptism and/or Chrismation **must** take the class.

**Greek Language Classes:** Will begin on Wednesday, September 9, and will meet weekly. Please let Kathy Sissa Staursky know if you are planning to attend so that she can prepare an adequate amount of materials.

- 4 – 5:30 p.m. 5k – 12th Grade, Room 209
- 6 – 8 p.m. Adult Beginners & Advanced, Room 209

Contact Kathy at: (E-mail) [staursky@bellsouth.net](mailto:staursky@bellsouth.net);  
(Work) 205-716-3083; (Cell) 205-567-8383.

**Women's Bible Study:** Will reconvene on Tuesday, October 13, from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Topic of study: TBA. The class will meet weekly with +Fr. Paul in the Board Room.

**Men's Bible Study:** Will reconvene on Tuesday, September 15, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Topic of study: TBA. The class will meet weekly with Fr. Micah in the Board Room. Lunch will also be provided in the Atrium.



## CAMP VAKAKAS

## DIVINE LITURGY & FALL FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 18 | 10:00 A.M.

R.S.V.P. BY OCTOBER 12TH  
[APAPPAS@GOCBHAM.COM](mailto:APAPPAS@GOCBHAM.COM)

## PARISH REGISTRY:

### **Baptisms:**

**Elijah Papajohn** - August 1, 2015;  
Son of Ashlyn & Paul Papajohn

### **Churchings:**

**Emily Grace Bryant** - August 2, 2015;  
Daughter of Robert & Angie Bryant  
**Adelyn Zoe Polizos** - August 23, 2015;  
Daughter of Pete & Ashli Polizos

### **Marriage Blessings:**

**Wayne & Virginia Rhodes** - August 30, 2015

### **Funerals:**

**Nick Louis Glenos** fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, August 15, 2015; The funeral was Wednesday, August 19, 2015. May his memory be eternal!

## GREEK FESTIVAL NEWS

**Best Wishes for a Successful Festival!!** My personal best wishes and expressions of gratitude are extended to the organizers and workers of this year's Greek Festival. Your work, dedication, and tireless efforts on behalf of our Church and the Festival have been duly noted and are greatly appreciated. May God bless you! And may He grant that our Festival be to His glory and the glory of His Holy Orthodox Church. This year's Festival will take place on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Festival hours are from 10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. +Fr. Paul

**Festival Workshops: Note - All Workshops will take place in the Banquet Hall**

**Pastichio:** Volunteers are very important. Please help if you can! If you have any questions, contact Becky Kampakis (205) 789-8468:

- Monday, August 31 - 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 1 - After Liturgy
- Wednesday, September 2 - 9:00 a.m.

**Koulourakia Baking:** For more information, please contact Sonthe Burge (205) 908-0044:

- Sunday, September 13 - 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 14 - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 15 - 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Melomakarona:** For more information, please contact Stephanie Knisely (229) 854-0141:

- Friday, September 11, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Baklava Cupping:** For more information, please contact Fanoula Gulas (205) 585-2339:

- Tuesday, September 22 - 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 23 - 9:00 a.m.

**Equipment:** Additional equipment has been purchased to insure that food safety will be at the highest level. Also, thanks to an idea by Jimmy Cosmas, we have converted one of our refrigerators into a freezer. This will give us more freezer space and allow us to order more products so that we will not run out of any food items.

**Drive-Thru:** The City of Birmingham is allowing us to block off 19th Street for the entire Festival. This will give us the opportunity to improve the drive-thru service.

**Food Line:** The food line in the garage area has been modified so that efficiency of service can be improved. A special thank you to Teddy Hontzas, Jimmy Dikis, Art Garikes, Jimmy Cosmas, Pete Graphos, Tom Constantine and Neely Denton for their advice in this area.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Festival is fast approaching and as always the most important part of the Festival is all of our volunteers! The valuable time that is donated by our wonderful volunteers is the main reason the Festival has been successful. In addition to the sign - up sheets located in the Banquet Hall during Coffee Fellowship; you can sign - up by way of e-mail. A list of work stations, dates, and times to volunteer are listed below:

**Thursday, Friday, & Saturday (October 1 -3)**

**Morning Shift:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Evening Shift:** 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Work Areas:**

- Banking
- Cashiers - Downstairs
- Cashiers - Banquet Hall
- Cashiers - Take out/Drive Thru
- Church Tours
- Drive Thru/Take Out - Order Takers
- Dive Thru/Take Out - Food Line
- Environmental (Clean-Up) Downstairs
- Environmental (Clean-Up) Banquet Hall
- Food Line - Downstairs
- Food Line - Banquet Hall
- Gift Shop
- Gyros (MORNING SHIFT ONLY)
- Kitchen
- Loukoumathes
- Pastry Booth
- Salads - Downstairs
- Salads - Banquet Hall
- Souvlaki Grill
- Soft Drinks/Water - Downstairs
- Soft Drinks/Water - Banquet Hall
- Wine/Beer - Downstairs
- Wine/Beer - Banquet Hall

Once you have determined when you can volunteer, you can sign-up in the Banquet Hall on Sunday's or e-mail Elizabeth Dennis at the church office: [edennis@holytrinity-holycross.org](mailto:edennis@holytrinity-holycross.org)



## HOTEL INFO:



Downtown UAB

2024 4th Avenue South - Birmingham, AL 35233

For those needing to stay at the SpringHill Suites Hotel during the Festival, the hotel has reserved a block of rooms for us. You can make a reservation by calling (205) 322-8600.

**The room rate is \$99 per night for a Queen Suite and it includes:**

- Complimentary Breakfast
- Complimentary Parking
- Complimentary Wi-Fi

**The DEADLINE for reservations is Tuesday, September 15.**

## 2015 DANCERS

We will meet on Sundays, at 12:15 p.m. Below is a list of locations and instructors:

- **5k - 2nd Grade:** 1st Floor Classroom  
Dance Instructor: Catherine Gerontakis  
(205) 967- 5605
- **3rd - 5th Grade:** Room 207  
Dance Instructor: Kathy Ronderos  
(205) 951-1780
- **6th-8th Grade:** Youth Room (above gym)  
Dance Instructor: Margaret Smith  
(205) 991-6562
- **9th-12 Grade:** Gym on the 3rd floor.  
Dance Instructors:  
Alexis Vakakes: (205) 641-3496  
Nic Gulas: (205) 335-1668

**If you should have any questions, or concerns, feel free to contact your teacher or Kathy Staur-sky:** Cell: (205) 567-8383 ; Home: (205) 823-2312  
E-mail: ksissa@holytrinity-holycross.org

## 2015 GIVING TREE DONATION FORM

Donations to The Giving Tree can be made either by donating towards the cost of an item or by donating the item. The goal amount of \$75,000 does not represent the total cost of expenses for the festival. To make a donation, please fill out the form below, and return it to the Church Office, or contact Irene Tracy: itracy10@gmail.com or (205) 249-0704. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Item to be donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE GIVING TREE (CURRENT AS OF 8/27/15)

ITEM	GOAL	DONATED	NEEDED	DONORS
<b>PRODUCTS</b>				
Spices & Seasoning	1,500.00	1,500.00	0	Katina, Jimmy, & Angela Pappas in memory of Billy Pappas; Eli & Pat Stevens in honor of George Stevens, Tom G. Stevens, & Mary Stevens
Butter & Margarine	1,000.00	300.00	700.00	Toni Nordan in memory of Charles S. Spanos; Jo Ann & Connie Kanakis
Pecans & Walnuts	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	John & Helen Cocoris in memory of The Koikos & Cocoris Families; John & Evelyn Petelos in memory of Angelos Petelos
Grape Leaves	1,000.00	250.00	750.00	George "Yogi" & Margie Kamburis in memory of Nicholas Kamburis
Tiropetas	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Jim & Joanne Pihakis in memory of Dorothy Pihakis
Spanakopetas	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Honey	1,200.00	1,200.00	0	Anonymous; Maria Kantargis in memory of Andrew Kantargis, Athanasios & Maria Kantargis, & Efstratios & Efstratia Variami
Milk	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Filo	500.00	500.00	0	Billy Valekis; John & Linda Balabanos & Gavin Cox; Mrs. Spiro G. Mastoras in memory of Spiro G. Mastoras
Eggs	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Chris P. Tomaras
Flour	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Becky & Bubba Kampakis
Oil	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Charles & Hala Valekis in memory of Bill & Maria Valekis & Rose Liddy
Lemon Juice	250.00	250.00	0	Anonymous
Macaroni	500.00	500.00	0	Georgia Cosmas in memory of Gus D. Cosmas
Sugar	500.00	500.00	0	Patsy Bouloukos in memory of George Bouloukos
Lamb	2,500.00	0	2,500.00	
Chicken	2,500.00	2,500.00	0	Constantine & Barbara Zouboukos
Ground Beef	2,500.00	0	2,500.00	
Gyro Meat	1,000.00	350.00	650.00	Maria & Terry White; Phyllis Ellard; Despina Triantos
Wine	1,300.00	100.00	1,200.00	Anonymous in memory of Jimmie J. Mitchell & Andy Tsimpides & in honor of Cameron
Beer & Truck	3,000.00	3,000.00	0	Harry Kampakis - Birmingham Beverage Company
Rice	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Cheese	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Salad Dressing	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Greek Coffee	400.00	400.00	0	Bella Graphos & Maria Grammas in memory of Hrisanthe Velotas; Mary Calamas in memory of the Scoolis Family
Chocolate Chips	300.00	300.00	0	+Fr. Paul Costopoulos & Family
Pita Bread	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Najwa Bateh in memory of Fred Bateh; Paul Liollio
Bread (Buns)	500.00	500.00	0	Georgia Flesser in memory of James, William, Louis & Zoe
Bread	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Lettuce	1,500.00	0	1,500.00	
Olives	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Mary Helen & Ron McCoy & Tula Hagestratou Fulford in memory of Helen & Xenophone Hagestratou
Onions	500.00	500.00	0	The Orfanon family, in memory of Manny Orfanon
Beef Flavor Base	600.00	100.00	500.00	Lula Christ & Family in Honor of Katherine Melton Koutroulakis
Feta Cheese	2,050.00	2,050.00	0	In memory of Eleftheria Pournaras; Jackie Eastman in memory of her mother Sally Fisher
Romano Cheese	500.00	500.00	0	Helen Bekrakis in memory of John Bekrakis & Nicholas & Despina Christu
Cloves	400.00	400.00	0	May & Souheil Saddekni; Sammy & Nikki Derzis; David & Elaine Michaels; David C. Hufham Orthodontics



# SEPTEMBER KOINONIA

Ground Pepper	200.00	200.00	0	Jane N. Mitchell
Garlic	300.00	300.00	0	Gregg & Michele Gilbert & Thomas Weeks
Fruit Drinks	500.00	500.00	0	The Morros Family
Salad Peppers	500.00	500.00	0	Elizabeth Hontzas
Tomato Puree	500.00	500.00	0	Larry & Rima Deep in memory of Sami & Asma Harb
Ice	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Nerrin & George Zaharias
Cherry Tomatoes	1,500.00	0	1,500.00	
Tzatziki Sauce	500.00	0	500.00	
Coke Products	1,700.00	1,700.00	0	Coca – Cola Company
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Advertising	2,500.00	100.00	2,400.00	Elaine & Larry Lyda
Ad Book Publication	1,000.00	505.00	495.00	Tena Sarris; William C. & Christy Wood in memory of Dean & Christine Sepsas; Elizabeth Carnes in memory of Robert H. Carnes; Patricia Kanellis; Billy Valekis
Computer Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	0	Anonymous
Credit Card Fees	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Festival Parking	2,000.00	250.00	1,750.00	Helen Kampakis in memory of Harry, Irene, Elene & Demetri
Maintenance Repairs	1,500.00	0	1,500.00	
Maint. Supplies	800.00	0	800.00	
Baklava Cutter	200.00	200.00	0	Jimmy & Stephanie Dikis in memory of Georgia Dikis
Equipment Rental	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
T-Shirts	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Michael & Christine Velezis
Meals for Volunteer Workers	1,500.00	1,500.00	0	Mary & Pete Flach; Carol & Steve Zaharias
Publications and Pamphlets	300.00	300.00	0	In memory of Angelica G. Goulielmi, Paul Goulielmi, & Athanasion Krahtopoulon; Gus & Tasia Fifles; Stella Grenier
Police/Security	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	"In memory of Miles Callahan, We love you man!"
Band	3,000.00	3,000.00	0	Julia & Dean Assimios
SUPPLIES				
Beverage Cups & Logo	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Anonymous
Aluminum Pans	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Hala Fawal; Joseph & Zoe Whitaker; Billy Valekis; Dennis & Patricia Pappas; Mary & Don Melof
Glasses	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	Anonymous
Plastic Utensils	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Kitchen Supplies	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Trash Can Liners	500.00	500.00	0	Joe & Susie Fawal in memory of Aziz & Hilweh Fawal & Sami & Asma Harb
Baking Cups	200.00	200.00	0	Elsie Triantos in memory of Arthur Pete Triantos; Lula Christ & Gina, Hal, & Evan Caplan in memory of Chris & Mary Kathryn Christ
Foam Plates	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Clear Plastic Trays	400.00	400.00	0	In memory of Irene & Nick Petelos
Plastic Table Cloths	1,000.00	0	1,000.00	
Charcoal	600.00	600.00	0	Claudia, Dennis, Keith Deason & Embree in memory of Harold Deason. Dwight I. Greene in memory of Benjamin & Annie L. Greene; In memory of E.J. & Frances Vakakes & Sammy Triantos
Dinner Napkins	300.00	300.00	0	In memory of Ted Lafakis & Christo & Maria Vodantis; Dimos Triantafillu
Plastic Take-Out Bags	800.00	800.00	0	Beba & Tasos Touloupis
Paper Towels	400.00	400.00	0	Betty Hontzas
Aprons	200.00	200.00	0	June Matsos & Family
Gloves	100.00	100.00	0	Lula Christ in memory of George, Eugenia, & Constantine Koutroulakis
TOTALS	\$75,000	\$43,755	\$31,245	

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

## PARISH COUNCIL:

**September 6:** B. Valekis, M. Boardman, G. Zaharias

**September 13:** K. Deason, D. Greene, L. Tranos

**September 20:** J. Valekis, N. Erben, P. Lafakis

**September 27:** A. Yearout, G. Burge, D. Gaylard

**October 4:** M. Boardman, G. Zaharias, B. Valekis

**October 11:** D. Greene, L. Tranos, K. Deason

**October 18:** N. Erben, P. Lafakis, J. Valekis

**October 25:** G. Burge, D. Gaylard, A. Yearout

**Bold – early duty**

## EPISTLE READERS:

**September 6:** Teddy Hontzas

**September 13:** Paul Liollo

**September 20:** Youth Reader

**September 27:** Steve Nickolson

**October 4:** Genera Cockrell

**October 11:** Aleksa Babic

**October 18:** Penny Kovakas

**October 25:** Dwight Greene

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

**September 6:** Hala Valekis, Adelle Valekis, Brenda Taylor, & Melanie Valekis

**September 13:** Cathy Boardman, Dawn Crim, Cathy Velotas, & Adriana Morros

**September 20:** Renee McMinn, Alexis Pappas, Elene Giattina, Dorothy McDaniel, & Becky Kampakis

**September 27:** Melodie Kovakas, Penny Kovakas, Thea Kovakas, & Irene Chiotakis

**October 4:** Claudia Deason, Pat Bullard, Lula Kakoliris, Embree Deason, & Denise Oelschlager

**October 11:** Angela Sessions, Katie Sutton, Christina Eady, & Nina McCallum

**October 18:** Melissa Gaylard, Betsy Lefkovits, Marty Kontos & Sherry Tsimpides

**October 25:** Marilyn Wilson, Zoe Whitaker, & Jackie Eastman

## BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS:

**September 6:** Hala Fawal

**September 13:** Deno Jovaras

**September 20:** Presvy. Catherine Kalariotes

**September 27:** Aleksa Babic

**October 4:** Antoinette Papajohn

**October 11:** Beba Touloupis

**October 18:** Tasos Touloupis

**October 25:** Chase Stephenson

## GREETERS:

**September 6:** Cathy Velotas; James Warren

**September 13:** Debra Walters; James Warren

**September 20:** Danny & Kathy Watkins & Zoe Whitaker

**September 27:** Marilyn Wilson & Alex & Karen Yearout

**October 4:** Teddy & Jackie Hontzas; Chum Atkins

**October 11:** Aleksa Babic; Najwa Bateh

**October 18:** Barbara Bolen & Robert Black; Greg & Sonthe Burge

**October 25:** Charles Costas; Nikki Derzis

## ACOLYTES:

<b>Team 1</b>	Arthur Triantos, Alex Gulas, Stavros Pappas, George Kolettis, Brooks Gaylard
<b>Team 2</b>	Parker Hilburn, Nick Lyda, Joseph Kaloc, Luke-Lyda, Paul McMinn, Kamp McMinn, Angelo Kartos
<b>Team 3</b>	John Touloupis, Alexios Touloupis, Dean Triantos, Johnny Leara, Davis Deason, Nick Velezis, Christian Tsimpides, Robbie Edmonds
<b>Team 4</b>	Constantine Hontzas, Eli Pappas, George Kolettis, Kristopher Knisely, George Cothren, Zachary Costopoulos, Christos Argyropoulos

Team 1 – 1st & 5th Sundays; Team 2 – 2nd Sunday; Team 3 – 3rd Sunday; Team 4 – 4th Sunday

Please call Mark Mercer at (205) 663-5931 for any omissions, additions, or deletions.



# SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>* Greek Festival Dance Locations:</b>  <b>5k - 2nd Grade:</b> 1st Floor Classroom  <b>3rd-5th Grade:</b> Room 207  <b>6th – 8th Grade:</b> Youth Rm. (above gym)  <b>9th-12th Grade:</b> 3rd floor Gym</p> <p><b>* Greek School Schedule:</b>  <b>Wednesday Nights</b>  <b>4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</b>  (5k- 12th Grade), Rm 209  <b>6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>  (Adult Beginners &amp; Advanced), Rm. 209</p> <p><b>* Men's Bible Study (Fr. Micah)</b>  <b>Tuesday Afternoons</b>  <b>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b> - Board Room  (Lunch Provided in the Atrium)</p>						
<p><b>6 14th Sunday of Matthew</b>  Youth Sunday School  NO Adult Sunday School  * 12:15 p.m. Greek Dance Practice (See Schedule for Locations)</p>	<p><b>7 Labor Day</b>  <b>Church Office &amp; Daycare Closed</b>    Firehouse Shelter</p>	<p><b>1 Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year</b>  <b>8:30/9:30 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy – Chapel</b>  <b>After Liturgy:</b> Pastichio Workshop – Banquet Hall</p>	<p><b>2 Strict Fast</b>  9:00 a.m. Pastichio Workshop – Banquet Hall    7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. ANASTASI Meeting – Board Room</p>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Strict Fast</b>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>13 Sunday before Holy Cross</b>  Youth/Adult Sunday School  * 12:15 p.m. Greek Dance Practice (See Schedule for Locations)  12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Koulourakia Workshop – Banquet Hall  <b>5:30 p.m. Vespers – Cathedral</b>  6:30 p.m. Young Adult Synaxis – Dinner &amp; Discussion – Cathedral</p>	<p><b>14 Strict Fast</b>  <b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>  <b>8:30/9:30 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy – Cathedral</b>  11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Koulourakia Workshop – Banquet Hall</p>	<p><b>8 Nativity of the Theotokos</b>  <b>8:30/9:30 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy – Chapel</b>  <b>Artoklasia – Helen Cocoris</b>  <b>After Liturgy:</b> Outreach/Evangelism Meeting – Atrium  6:30 p.m. Philoptochos Kick Off Meeting – Philoptochos Room</p>	<p><b>9 Wine/Oil Allowed</b>    <b>Greek School Begins:</b>  4:00 – 5:30 p.m. - (5k-12th Grade), Rm. 209  6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Adult Beginners &amp; Advanced), Rm. 209</p>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11 Strict Fast</b>  9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Melomakarona Workshop – Banquet Hall    6:30 p.m. Hope/Joy Dinner &amp; Movie Event (Parents are invited for a discussion) – Cathedral</p>	<b>12</b>
<p><b>20 Sunday After Holy Cross</b>  <b>Youth Demonstration Liturgy</b>  Youth/Adult Sunday School  <b>Memorial:</b> Nick L. Glenos (40-day)  * 12:15 p.m. Greek Dance Practice (See Schedule for Locations)  6:00 p.m. GOYA – California Pizza Kitchen @ The Summit</p>	<b>21</b>	<p><b>15</b>  9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Koulourakia Workshop – Banquet Hall    <b>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Resumes – Board Rm w/ Fr. Micah</b> (Lunch Provided in the Atrium)</p>	<p><b>16 Strict Fast</b>  7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. ANASTASI Meeting – Board Room    * Greek School (see schedule)</p>	<b>17</b>	<p><b>18 Strict Fast</b>  9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Melomakarona Workshop – Banquet Hall</p>	<b>19</b>
<p><b>27 1st Sunday of Luke</b>  Youth/Adult Sunday School  * 12:15 p.m. Greek Dance Practice (See Schedule for Locations)  5:00 p.m. Jr. GOYA – California Pizza Kitchen @ The Summit</p>	<b>28</b>	<p><b>22</b>  9:00 a.m. Baklava Cupping Workshop – Banquet Hall  * Men's Bible Study (see schedule)  6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting – Board Room</p>	<p><b>23</b>  Wine/Oil Allowed  9:00 a.m. Baklava Cupping Workshop – Banquet Hall    * Greek School (see schedule)</p>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Strict Fast</b>	<p><b>26 Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian</b>  <b>8:30/9:30 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy – Chapel</b></p>
		<p><b>29</b>  * Men's Bible Study (see schedule)</p>	<p><b>30 Strict Fast</b>  7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. ANASTASI Meeting – Board Room    * Greek School (see schedule)</p>			