My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

CoVid-19 has certainly played a number on us. It has utterly changed our lives in the way we move about, by the things that we do, and with what we wear. It has painfully kept us from friends and limited our church attendance. It has put us in a trance-like state, not knowing what to expect next from this disease.

But now I believe it is time for us to wake from the long CoVid-sleep and to commune with the Lord, God Almighty, to be present in His house of worship. By way of analytics, it has been a consolation looking at the number of parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity who watch services online. But I think it’s time to move beyond this and slowly return to normalcy. We are certainly seeing signs of this as many places are opening up, including restaurants, gyms, and our local school districts.

One evening I was contemplating the reopening of these places. I thought which place in our towns is the safest to visit during this present crisis. The first place that immediately came to my mind was the church. But then I paused saying to myself, well you’re a priest, that’s what you’re supposed to say.

But thinking critically, I came to the same conclusion. The church is definitely the safest place for us to be. I mean look at all the places we visit over the course of a week: schools, grocery stores, restaurants, doctor’s offices, wine shops, etc... In these places, not only are we with other people, we touch a multitude of things recently handled by them. We sit in places where moments before another person was sitting or eating. We navigate blocked grocery store aisles trying to get around a person or shopping cart. We fiddle with the produce holding it in our hands and pack our carts with boxes, cans, bottles and an assortment of cleaning supplies. We touch menus and handle utensils set before us at tables just moments before previously occupied. We put our faith in the server or other employee who cleans the space that is now made ready for us.

Church is entirely different. If you’ve been recently, you’ll see many controlled measures implemented to keep us safe. We handle nothing except a candle that was laid out days before on the pangari. We sit in pews that have been disinfected and that adequately provide spacing for us. We wear masks when moving about. In my opinion, the safest place to be, outside our home, is the church! That’s why as we begin the month of September, I’m inviting all of you back. Let us shake off that sluggishness that has kept us away and wake from this terrible dream. Let us receive the breath of God by entering the refreshing and joyous abode of God.

The Parish Council has implemented measures to make your visit as safe as possible. The lead verse of my message is taken from Ephesians 5:14. “Awake, O Sleeper! Arise…” This verse is your invitation to come to Christ and attend church once again. The verse that immediately follows describes how your safety will be safeguarded when you come, “see then that [we] walk circumspectly,

Continued on page 2
not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” – 5:15

The Corona Virus has displaced and scattered us. It is an evil entity which has taken loved ones from us and filled us with uncertainties. But just as verse 15 states, we are wise towards our approach of attending the Divine Liturgy and dealing with this current predicament. As we are cautious and careful, let us take up the mantle of faith and walk towards Christ. Let us arise and being mindful of His Commandments come together as the family of Holy Trinity to receive His light.

“I am grateful to have met with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House and communicated our grave dismay at the re-conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque, as well as ongoing security concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and issues of religious liberty. In view of tomorrow’s day of mourning, we persevere in prayer but also bring our struggle to the highest levels of government for action and consideration.”
Turkey seems to be determined to erase all forms of Christian culture from their land. Two important and venerable churches, Agia Sophia and Christ the Saviour Church in Chora both have been converted into mosques. Add to this the Turkish provocation by surveying for oil and natural gas in the Mediterranean Sea in Greek and Cypriot waters, it has become apparently clear that Turkey has contempt for its neighbors.

On July 10, 2020, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan formally re-converted Istanbul’s sixth-century iconic Hagia Sophia into a mosque, hours after a high court annulled a 1934 decision that had turned it into a museum. Erdogan signed a decree handing over Hagia Sophia to Turkey’s Religious Affairs Presidency and declaring it open to Muslim worship.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has demanded that the hugely symbolic World Heritage Site should be turned back into a mosque despite widespread international criticism, including from the United States and Orthodox Christian leaders. The move could also deepen tensions with neighboring Greece.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians, warned in late June that the building’s conversion into a mosque “will turn millions of Christians across the world against Islam.”

Patriarch Kirill, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, called for “prudence” and the preservation of the “current neutral status” for the Hagia Sophia, which he said was one of Christianity’s “devoutly venerated symbols.”

U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo said last month that the landmark should remain a museum to serve as bridge between faiths and cultures. His comments sparked a rebuke from Turkey’s Foreign Ministry, which said Hagia Sophia was a domestic issue of Turkish national sovereignty.

Agia Sophia was built in 532–537 A.D under the direction of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I. It served as the cathedral of Constantinople and largest Christian church in the world for nearly 1000 years. It was the shining example of Orthodoxy until the Ottoman conquest on Tuesday, May 29, 1453. The name Agia Sophia, by itself, defines the reason and purpose for which it was built. Agia Sophia or Holy Wisdom is the Christian name for Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. This church was built for the glorification of Jesus Christ the Wisdom and Word of God.

This grand structure and architectural wonder is still the majestic symbol of Orthodoxy Christianity and the actions of President Erdogan is a great insult upon all Orthodox Christians and people of good will.
The Great Monastery of Christ the Saviour in Chora is converted into a mosque

Originally built in the 4th century, the Church and Monastery in Chora was comprehensively rebuilt around 1077-81 and again after a partial collapse following an earthquake early in the 12th century and, like Aghia Sophia, is a world UNESCO heritage site.

Chora, which had been turned into the Kariye Museum after WWII and was then extensively restored, is covered with some of the finest Byzantine mosaics and frescoes that likely will be covered over for Muslim prayers as were those in Aghia Sophia.

The Greek Foreign Ministry in an announcement on Friday characterized the Turkish authorities’ decision to turn the Monastery of Chora into a mosque another provocation against the religious people everywhere in the world and of the international community that respects the monuments of the human civilization.

The Greek Foreign Ministry in an announcement on Friday characterized the Turkish authorities’ decision to turn the Monastery of Chora into a mosque another provocation against the religious people everywhere in the world and of the international community that respects the monuments of the human civilization.

On the day when the Hagia Sophia basilica was first opened in 537 A.D., the Byzantine emperor Justinian is supposed to have entered the building and cried out, “Solomon, I have surpassed you.” The reference in the Bible is to the building by King Solomon of a temple in Jerusalem.

The Great Church, as the Greeks called the Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, is the spiritual center of the Byzantine world. The Church’s survival during the four centuries of Ottoman Turkish rule which followed the Fall of Constantinople bore witness to its strength and to the unquenchable vitality of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

The Tuesday morning of 29 May, 1453 was given over to rape, pillage and destruction. Those that could headed for the harbor where Genoese and Venetian ships were desperately preparing to leave the city. Hundreds of refugees joined the sailors and made their way down the Bosporus. Those that remained behind to defend their families were cut down, their houses ransacked, their children sometimes impaled, their wives and daughters raped repeatedly. Churches were sacked and burned, icons smashed, and statues torn down. The streets ran with blood and would have been slippery from the blood and bodily parts that littered the streets. Citizens who had sought sanctuary in Hagia Sophia were dragged out, the best looking of both sexes were tied up and lead away, the poor and unattractive by two support research vessels and several Turkish warships.

“The Turkish leadership is unleashing, on a near daily basis, threats of war and makes provocative statements against Greece,” Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said. “We respond with political, diplomatic and operational readiness, determined to do whatever is necessary to protect our sovereign rights.”

“Solomon, I have surpassed you.”
massacred. The priests who continued the Liturgy were murdered at the altar. This was just the morning of day one of the promised and customary three days of pillage a victorious army could expect after a siege. However, the ferocity of the fighting and the fury of the initial orgy had exhausted everyone.

During the conquest of Constantinople, the Divine Liturgy was being celebrated in Agia Sophia (the last Christian service to be held in the Great Church). So that the Holy Gifts would not be defiled and desecrated by falling into the hands of Muslims who had passed through the Church’s doors to ransack and pillage, the celebrant priest took the Holy Eucharist and miraculously disappeared into the rear apse of the Altar. Muslims who saw him pass through the wall went to follow him, but suddenly the wall turned into stone. Legend says that when the Church is taken back, this priest will reappear from the Altar walls to finish celebrating that Divine Liturgy.

The Ottoman conquest was the end of the Byzantine Empire. But it was not the end of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, far less the end of Orthodoxy.

Folk Song

Στην Αγιά Σοφιά αγνάντια βλέπω τα ευζωνάκια (2)
Τα ευζωνάκια τα καημένα στους πολέμους μαυρισμένα
κλέφτικο χορό χορεύουν και τ’ αντίπερα αγναντεύουν.

Κι αγναντεύοντας την πόλη τραγουδούν και λένε: (2)
Τούτοι είν’ οι χρυσοί της θόλοι, αχ κατακαημένη πόλη
να η μεγάλη εκκλησιά μας, πάλι θα γενεί δικιά μας.

Στην κυρά τη Δέσποινά μας πες να μη λυπάται
στις εικόνες να μη κλαίνε, τα Ευζωνάκια μας το λένε.(2)

Κι ο παπάς που ’ναι κλεισμένος μέσα στ’ Αγιο Βήμα (2)
Τά Ευζωνάκια δε θ’ αργήσει, νά ’βγει να τα κοινωνήσει
και σε λίγο βγαίνουν τ’ Αγια μέσα σε μυρτίες και
βάγια.(2)

Translation of Folk Song

From Agia Sophia across, I see the Evzones
The poor Evzones, dirty from the wars
Kleftiko dance they dance as they look across.
And seeing the City [Constantinople] across, they sing and say:
Those are the golden domes, oh poor City
There our Great Church is, it will become ours again!
To our Lady Despina [Theotokos] tell us not to be sad
To the icons not to cry, our little Evzones say so
And the priest that is hidden in the Holy Sanctuary [who disappeared during the liturgy] will soon give Communion to the little Evzones
And in a little bit the Holy Gifts will come out [from the altar wall of Agia Sophia] with myrtle and bay leaves.

Hear the folk song: agiazoni.gr/audios.php?audioid=49548755265746909770

Patriarchal Divine Liturgy as celebrated in Agia Sophia
Importance of Buildings and Monuments

People are fixated on their buildings and monuments. Buildings and monuments help define a nation and the people who designed and built them. They are oftentimes a source of pride and can possess an identity all their own. They capture the history of a country, its associated glories, and its victories over oppression.

For the Greeks, we can look to the Parthenon or many of the other wonderful ancient temples or statues as a source of pride. “Yet only one building, standing outside the borders of present-day Greece, elicits a far deeper surge of wonder, emotion, and nostalgia — the Church of Agia Sophia or “Divine Wisdom.”

“Greeks, like other Orthodox Christians, are fixated on their churches, which are not only places of worship but treasure houses of their material culture that survived the awful centuries of Ottoman rule.” As Greeks, we still maintain an emotional connection to the Great Church of Christ, Agia Sophia, in ways that move beyond any other ancient temple. Perhaps because Agia Sophia is a symbol of our Orthodox Faith as well as our inherited history. It is a symbol of our glory and the painful struggle to stay united in the Faith of our Fathers. “Even today, stripped of its gold and silver, with its frescoes faded and begrimed, there is arguable no building in all the world whose interior conjures up such a sense of boundless wealth and mystical power.”

“Although Greek tourists travel to Turkey to visit the Museum of Aya Sofya, many come home unsettled by the experience, and the overwhelming majority of Greeks cannot bring themselves even to go. “The idea of going to our church in what for us was the greatest of Greek cities and seeing those Muslim signs, I cannot tell you how it would make me feel. It is something terrible.”

*Italics quotes from Robert Kaplan’s, Balkan Ghosts*
Dear Holy Trinity Family

I hope that you are doing all as well as can be expected during these unprecedented times. In our large Holy Trinity family, we have experienced the full spectrum of impacts from this pandemic. We pray for those us who have succumbed to the virus, those who have been stricken, and for those who are healthy so that they remain that way. Most importantly we should always stand in prayer for each other. One comment I have heard repeatedly is that although the dynamics of our lives have changed, our families are spending more time together and building stronger bonds. We have been forced to spend more time at home with each other as well as video calling friends and loved ones. The Parish Council has strived to bring our second home of Holy Trinity to you via digital platforms and we hope that we have been able to keep you connected from your homes. Now, as the phases of re-opening have been identified and followed, there is opportunity for more of us to physically return to Holy Trinity, to our second home, and to our Orthodox family. The church has persevered. Father Peter has conducted services and has been praying for each and every one of us. The church has followed all safety and cleanliness protocols and parishioners, young and old, have attended. We hope to see more of our Holy Trinity family soon, especially now with summer passing and the ecclesiastical year beginning. Religious Education and Greek School teachers are planning for the year to offer classes with as much in person instruction that we can safely provide.

When we return to church, we must respect everyone’s personal space and especially yield to those who need a bit more distance. We are doing our best to stay safe and offer the Divine Liturgy in the safest possible manner. Our procedures are imposed by both the State of NJ, the Archdiocese, and the Metropolis.

As we all know, many of our social and fundraising events have been cancelled. The church and the organizations that operate and do their charitable work. I have heard repeatedly is that although the fundraising. Please help us narrow and eliminate that gap.

I want to thank everyone; from the folks who have been present and active helping to plan any reopening, to those who have participated by celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us from home. It is rewarding to see the number of people who have activated the livestream and it is gratifying to know that we are all together in this new way. I encourage everyone to call the church office whenever you are ready to attend in person and register to come in on Sundays. We ask this so we are sure to stay within legal limits and to have a record of attendees.

We will slowly and safely plan our reopening. We thank you for your ideas, your patience, your understanding and your support.

HOly Trinity Greek School

Beloved parents and guardians,

I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer vacation, despite our recent hardships which have been brought forth by the Covid-19 pandemic in the past months. The autumn season has begun and thus we too have slowly begun entering the academic school season with educational priorities and purpose of learning. This year will undoubtedly be a very difficult transition into the new academic school year. There will be many heartfelt sacrifices from all involved within the school community, which includes our parents/guardians, faculty and staff, as well as from the wonderful students. We will have to go beyond the norm, beyond our comfort zone, if we would like to achieve the spectacular!

Our Greek School will have to open its arms and embrace our wonderful children, in open love and gratitude, with all the necessary precautions, in order to keep our students on the educational path, as well as keeping them safe. Most importantly, safety for all the children’s health and the health of our teachers as well is paramount. Registration, for student enrollment for this upcoming academic school year, has begun. I, along with the fellow teachers and our parish council, will do our absolute best work in order to ensure that the education of our children continues to be the best (whether this is virtual one-to-one instruction, virtual group instruction and or in-person instruction). I wish to all a happy start to our Greek School Academic Year of 2020-2021. May the Holy Trinity of the Living God bless you all and keep you safe!
FUNERALS

8/6/19  +Thomas Pagoulatos
10/3/19  +John Fotios Sipsis
10/28/19 +Dimitrios Zafiriou
11/21/19 +Helen D. Mavraganis
12/15/19 +Fotini Mavros
12/13/19 +Panagiotis Vassopoulos
12/23/19 +Andrew H. Philippou
1/2/20  +Euphrosyne Levas
1/28/20  +Loretta M. Garo
1/29/20  +Christine Kyritsis
3/5/20  +Costas Paisis
3/12/20  +Evelyn Skorinko
3/19/20  +James T. Baboukis
3/27/20  +Stavroura Grafas
4/9/20  +James Dokas
4/9/20  +Barbara M. Manos
4/16/20  +Joseph Conti Jr.
4/24/20  +Mary Coutros
4/28/20  +Peggy Demas
5/5/20  +Dorothy Greberis
5/18/20  +Petros E. Litos
5/18/20  +John Hadzitheodorou
7/21/20  +Constantinos D. Xarhoulakos
7/22/20  +Mary Thomas
8/5/20  +Sylvia T. Lucarelli
8/7/20  +Frieda Anast

10/19/19  Alexandra A. Apruzzese and Bradley W. Butkowski, Dana M. Apruzzese as sponsor.
6/27/20  Jessica M. Rios and Lucas J. Kallinosis, Diana and Christina Kallinosis as sponsors
8/16/20  Lauren Micchelli and Scott Sperone, Christina Micchelli Young as sponsor.

CHURCHINGS

8/18/19  Katherine Sophia, daughter of Ioanna and Gerry Kitsopoulos
10/13/19  Katerina Dale, daughter of Andrea Roscoe and Jon Quintanilla
10/19/19  Anastasia, daughter of Athena Danalakis and David Burke
3/1/20  Emilia Jade, daughter of Ariana Banos and Blake Anderson
8/7/20  Ella, daughter of Carolyn Roscoe and Joshua Navikonis

BAPTISMS

11/9/19  Oliver Michael Sharma, son of Nicole Kounalakis and Ashis Sharma, Godparents are Michael and Catherine Mantinaos
11/9/19  Nicholas Santino Rentas, son of Maria Barberi and Nicholas J. Rentas, Godparent is Nikki Murale
11/16/19  Patrick Kevin Fontana, son of Andrea Yeager and Kevin Fontana, Godparent is Diane Hiotakis Narvaez
11/24/19  William (Liam) A. Faella, son of Stacey O’Sullivan and Jude Faella, Godparent is Christopher O’Sullivan
11/30/19  Kylan Alexander Kiprotich, son of Elizabeth Kyriakoulis and Ronald Kiprotich
11/30/19  Anthony James Gavakos, son of Marguerite Porfiris and Antonios Gavakos, Godparent is Depina Gavakos
11/30/19  Billy John Gavakos, son of Marguerite Porfiris and Antonios Gavakos, Godparent is James Porfiris
1/11/20  Nicholas Theo and Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas, twin sons of Irenise Hernandez and Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas, Godparent is Stephen Liakas

WEDDINGS

8/17/19  Daniela R. P. Weiner and Thomas V. Karathanos, Evangelia Spyrou as sponsor.
9/28/19  Caitlin J. Harmon and Andrew M. Rose, Kaliope M. Rose and Michael Triantafellou as sponsors.

8/17/19  Daniela R. P. Weiner and Thomas V. Karathanos, Evangelia Spyrou as sponsor.

WEDDINGS (continued)
### BAPTISMS (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Godparent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/22/20</td>
<td>Katerina Dale Quintanilla</td>
<td>Andrea Roscoe and Jon Quintanilla</td>
<td>Penelope Malakates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12/20</td>
<td>Emilia Jade Anderson</td>
<td>Ariana Banos and Blake Anderson</td>
<td>Cassandra Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/23/20</td>
<td>Tyler David (Gregory)</td>
<td>Christian and Michael Bohmerwalk</td>
<td>Gail Cavallaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/5/20</td>
<td>Jackson (Stylianos) Ford</td>
<td>Jason and Jessica Wacker Lohner</td>
<td>Zachery Wacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6/20</td>
<td>Zacharias and Georgios</td>
<td>Paul and Alyssa Gentile Salvesen</td>
<td>Thomas Andresakes and Andrea Roon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHRISMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/23/20</td>
<td>Allison Arethas; sponsor Lauren Karanikolas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/23/20</td>
<td>Mary O’Brien</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carayannopoulos; sponsor Kim and John Mellas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/23/20</td>
<td>Audrey Lowe, sponsor Lia Lewis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Murale</td>
<td>57 Manitou Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westfield, NJ 07090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christos and Sophia Koutzoulis</td>
<td>234 Myrtle Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Garwood, NJ 07027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEW MEMBERS (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennie Anast</td>
<td>130 Winding Hill Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hacketstown, NJ 07840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen and Michelle Voice</td>
<td>1742 Florida St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westfield, NJ 07090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew and Caitlin Rose</td>
<td>330 Mt. Kemble Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morristown, NJ 07960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph and Angela Fisher</td>
<td>6 Heritage Ct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Randolph, NJ 07869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher O’Sullivan</td>
<td>232 Kings St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountainside, NJ 07092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Porfiris</td>
<td>28 Greenwood Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millington, NJ 07946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony and Alexa Ciccone</td>
<td>27 Deer Path Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green Brook, NJ 08812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Bosco</td>
<td>65 Price St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denville, NJ 07834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry and Amanda Hatzikyriakou</td>
<td>28 Cedar Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watchung, NJ 07069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraskevi Vlassopoulos</td>
<td>900 South Ave. W #11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westfield, NJ 07090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas</td>
<td>2459 Stuart St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY 11229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom and Alexis Bannos</td>
<td>110 Lawrence Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikos and Sophia Saketos</td>
<td>68 Ellisen Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watchung, NJ 07069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ioannis Sasopoulos</td>
<td>310 East 44th St. Apt. 1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New York, NY 10017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard and Karen Roscoe</td>
<td>19 Magnolia Terrace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Springfield, NJ 07081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean and Fotini Handrinios</td>
<td>114 Glenmere Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chatham, NJ 07928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris and Anna Georgiou</td>
<td>330 Rolling Rock Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountainside, NJ 07092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip and Maria Gaito</td>
<td>219 Greenbrook Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenbrook, NJ 08812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Baurkot</td>
<td>28 Flintlock Ct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEW MEMBERS (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Kouloudhros</td>
<td>625 Chandler Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roselle, NJ 07203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Kallinosis</td>
<td>479 Sampton Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Plainfield, NJ 07080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Kallinosis</td>
<td>1065 Madison Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rahway, NJ 07065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our world has been turned upside down, but this time has led many of us to realize important life-changing truths.

The coronavirus has destabilized the economic, political, and social life of many countries around the world and has affected the way of life of millions of people. The changes it has brought have led us to a greater awareness of the lack of control we have over our lives.

This disruption reminds us that something very small and invisible can make us vulnerable, and it forces us to think about where we stand and how we're facing this challenge. Looking forward in the light of this experience and the lessons it can teach us, should we persevere in familiar habits and patterns of life, or commit ourselves to a change of course?

Here are some symbols that reflect the experiences of this period, which can point to lessons for our future.

1. **Staying at home: Returning to the intimacy of family life.**
   By staying at home, we've regained the courage to look inward, to share more with our loved ones and to live the sacrifice of being part of a greater good as a family. It's helped us to understand that there's a whole universe to be discovered in the intimacy of our homes and within ourselves, a universe that we could easily ignore before because of our busy daily routines.

2. **Face masks: Learning to keep silent.**
   Spending more time at home could motivate us to talk more, but face masks help remind us to keep our mouths closed. Instead of rushing to talk, interrupting or ignoring others while pretending to listen, we're being invited to practice a little silence. Being silent gives us the opportunity to discover and understand other people's point of view. Listening more closely takes us away from our own egos to let in the hearts and minds of others.

3. **Places transformed into hospitals: Making room for everyone.**
   This period has been a time of change in favor of common objectives. Buildings such as schools and hotels have been transformed into hospitals, providing space to help others. We learned that we need to cultivate mutual help and practice solidarity in order to take care of each other and assume more responsibility.

   It’s helped us, in a way, to see that loneliness is inhuman and destructive, and that we are more than a set of random individuals; we are a society, a human family. Our personal good is inseparable from the common good: we cannot really progress if each one of us seeks solutions totally independently and without regard for the whole community.

4. **Deserted streets and famous places: Leaving aside the superficial.**
   The virus has brought down many of our plans, programs and scheduled trips. We've had to abandon some pleasures we were used to: comforts, places and spaces with which we filled our lives, but which in the end offered us nothing that would last.

   Stay-at-home orders have been an occasion to abandon the bad habit of making plans as ends in themselves, and to free ourselves from ‘doing for the sake of doing’ without finding the true meaning of things. It’s taken us away from distractions, and has helped us to put the focus back on what really matters. This brings us closer to understanding the true purpose and value of things.

5. **Fewer cars on the road: A moment of rest on the way.**
   The period of staying home seems to have taught us that when we stop for a moment on the journey of life, it can serve as an opportunity to reflect and renew our plans for the future. There are benefits in breaks!
It’s summertime! Remember back in March, when time was moving as slow as molasses and the uncertainty of what was to come in the months ahead convinced us summer 2020 was doomed? Flash forward to the present; I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful summer by practicing social distancing.

The majority of our GOYA responsibilities and activities are carried out in-person. Although Covid-19 cancelled the end of our year, our Olympics - in addition to other events such as our Sights & Sounds Post-Show - we managed to find new ways of doing what we do best with the help of modern technology. Firstly, I’m sure I can say that we’ve all become zoom experts - we’ve held several zoom calls to have meetings and elections, and I think we all really enjoyed getting to see and talk to each other, for being separated so suddenly after Sights & Sounds.

As I mentioned earlier, we held elections during our meetings and here are the results:

President: Thomas Savorgiannakis
Vice President: Julia Love
Treasurer: John Colonias
Recording Secretary: Francesca Kastanos
Corresponding Secretary: Despina Tarhanidis
Board Members: Athena Ioannou, Bobby Liberatos, Molly Love, Matt Sales, Niko Skalkotos, Alex Tauber, Alexandra Vasilopoulos, Maggie Vasilopoulos

Outreach Coordinators: George Leunes & Lia Ioannou
Outreach Committee: Catie Carayannopoulos, Nadia Tarhanidis, Maria Vitoroulis
Mr. Westfield Goya: Nicholas Zotos,
Miss Westfield Goya: Despina Tarhanidis

As restrictions eased, we were also able to surprise Mr. Ron Cerini by presenting him with the Good Friend Award on May 20th. The Executive Board and Advisors gathered in the Cerini’s backyard, where Stamati Angelides and John Colonias presented Mr. Cerini with the plaque that would have been presented to him at our Sights and Sounds Post-Show in March. We thank you Mr. Cerini for all of your hard work and contribution to our GOYA; especially with our band and in the kitchen, putting smiles on our faces and keeping us well-fed with your delicious food.

On May 9, our GOYA held a Clothing and Food Drive. The clothing (including bedding, blankets, sheets, towels, shoes and toys) will go to people who are in need, and the food that was collected was delivered to The Cranford Family Care and the Food Bank Network of Somerset delivering to Cranford, Bound Brook, North Plainfield and Bridgewater areas. It was a huge success - we received $843.53 that will be used for the 2021 Mission Trip. Safe distancing was practiced and everyone was happy to reconnect with some of our Church family!

On June 4, GOYA delivered $340 worth of frozen food and diapers to the Holy Trinity Catholic Church Food Bank in Westfield, NJ. They were very appreciative. Due to the high volume of people that are in need now, they are having a hard time keeping up with inventory. We also donated $500 to ASP (Appalachia Service Project). This money will be used to help ASP complete some of their more critical home projects in West Virginia.

During these troubling times, it is important that we remember those who are struggling - those who started recently or who have been for a while - and give back in any way we can, whether it be by volunteering or making monetary or material item donations. We thank those who donated and those who helped us hold these successful, social-distancing style events!

As this is my final Promise article, I would like to take a moment to reflect and share my gratitude for leading this exceptional GOYA. I am proud of what we have accomplished under these distressed times. I am humbled by being around a community that is so supportive and will help me and my fellow seniors in our future endeavors. I hope to see our GOYA flourish under new leadership next year and continue to build on the foundation of the GOYA mission.
2020 Holy Trinity Graduates,
below
Senior Speakers
Sophia Carayannopoulos, left
Christian Agathis, right

2020 Holy Trinity Graduates, below
I would like to commend all those faithful individuals who selflessly have given of themselves in service to the church during this CoVid-10 Pandemic. While the chanters and I have not missed conducting a single service in face of this disease, these key figures also have been constantly here ensuring that you, the faithful, do not miss any service celebrated at Holy Trinity. Even in the early days of this pandemic they braved the uncertainty of this virus and were present in church doing their Christian duty undeterred.

It is important that we stay connected with each other during these difficult times. And there is no better way to do this than through prayer. When we pray to our merciful Lord asking for His grace, not only are we protected by His care but also are mystically connected to each other. The very definition of the Church is the Body of Christ - each of us connected to one another and the whole body connected to Christ as the Head. The Church uses the imagery of a Bridegroom and the Bride to illustrate this intimate and joyous relationship. This is the Eucharistic Assembly.

The divine services use prayer to keep us united. In recent months, the faithful were unable to attend services. I cannot thank these people for stepping forward to make sure every service was conducted and live-streamed. It would do us well to thank our chanters, parish council members, and faithful parishioners who have been here filling the church with their love and commitment.

Additionally, many of these same people helped me develop procedures that adhere to state and federal guidelines for reopening. Currently now that the church is open, they help guide the faithful when attending services, maintain logs and registration platforms, in addition to their regular responsibilities. Each of us are indebted to them and thank them profusely for their faithful works.

Tremendous Thanks

BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS

Contact the Church Office if you would like to advertise in the next issue of The Promise!
Ioanna Tsolaki, DDS, DMD, MS
Board Certified Periodontist
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
135 Somerset Street, Suite A
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
p. 732-235-5050  f. 732-220-0045
it120@sdm.rutgers.edu
rutgersdentists.org Permit #: 6526

Chris L. Vasilev
Lic.#17364
vasilevlectric@gmail.com

Rutgers Health
University Dental Associates
Ioanna Tsolaki, DDS, DMD, MS
Board Certified Periodontist
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
135 Somerset Street, Suite A
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
p. 732-235-5050  f. 732-220-0045
it120@sdm.rutgers.edu
rutgersdentists.org Permit #: 6526

Kenneth W. Arida, DDS
WHERE PERSONALIZED CARE & HEALTH BEAUTIFUL SMILES MEET
111 South Excelado Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
WWW.PRAHADA.COM
CALL (908) 654-6262

LEVS Construction
Roofing • Siding
Somerville, NJ
Tel: 908-393-4723
Email: levsconstruction@yahoo.com
www.levsconstruction.com

PARAS & PARAS
METRO APPRAISAL

Dr. Spirio Antonacos
Optometrist
Eye Diseases, Infections & Disorders
Eyeglasses - Contact Lenses
461 Pemberly Avenue (Route 23)
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
Tel: (973) 239-5311
Text: (862) 410-1504
www.drnfranco.com

Michael T. Paskas
Manager NJ Lic. No. 993
The “Funeral Home of Choice” specializing in Greek Orthodox funerals for over 65 years.
For help & information contact Michael T. Paskas at (973) 467-1882
Fax: (908) 467-5157 or E-mail: paskasfuneralhome@aol.com
The Greek Store
LIBERTY FOOD MARKET
612 Boulevard
Kirtzhall, NJ 07033
Tel: (908) 373-2953
F: (732) 282-2894

GERRY KITSOPoulos, ESQ, MEMBER NJ & NY BAR
KITSOPoulos LAW FIRM, PC
63 Mountain Blvd
Watchung, NJ 07069

Gerry klaw@gmail.com  Phone: (908) 222-3737

Allyson Agathis, M.D.
Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics
Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
359 Main Street
Bedminster NJ 07921
(908) 799-2626
Fax (908) 799-2621

Orthodox Christian Cemetery
Hilsborough, NJ
Serving All Orthodox Christians
918-685-1452, Fr. James
www.orthodoxchristiancemetery.org

Paskas Funeral Service
140 MAIN STREET
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

The Promise  September 2020  Volume 44, Issue 4
Contact Information

Mailing Address: 250 Gallows Hill Rd.
Westfield, NJ 07090-1109
Phone: 908-233-8533
Fax: 908-233-0623
E-mail: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org
Web site: holytrinitywestfield.org
Presiding Priest: Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis
E-mail: FrPeter@htgocnj.org

Schedule of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Weekdays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthros</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office Staff

Office Manager: Diana R. Waltsak
Admin. Assistant: E. Joy Daniledes
Caretaker: Madalena Czachor

Worship

Lead Psaltis: Pascalis Kuvalakis
Choir Director: Kathrynn Athanasoulas
Organist: Phyllis Verenes
Head Acolyte: Elias Carayannopoulous

Ministries

Parish Council
Stavraopa Mergoupis
Melissa Krikos

Philoptochos
Ariana Tarhanidis
Kathy Drivas

Religious Education
George Colonias
Ellen Manos-Athenson

Greek School
Anthony Bosco

Greek School PTO
Stavrula Mergoupis

Youth (GOYA)
Ariana Tarhanidis
Kathy Drivas

JOY / HOPE
Valerie Comprelli

TOTS
Sandy Mouratoglou

Bookstore
Celia Kapsomeras, Co-chair

Cultural
Nitsa Bruno, Co-chair

Trinity Circle
Avi Kiriakatis

Fellowship
Lauren Karanikolas

The Promise: Volume 44, Issue 4

10 issues published annually.
No subscription fee.
Article deadline - 10th of the preceding month

Non Profit Org.
US postage
PAID
Rahway, NJ
Permit No 654