

December 2013



The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

The Messenger

Sunday Services

Orthros - 9:00 AM.

Liturgy - 10:00 AM (unless otherwise noted)

2013

2014

Sunday, December 22

*Annual Communion
Breakfast followed by a visit
from Santa Claus
Christmas Pageant*

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Liturgy at 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday, January 1

*New Year's Day Liturgy
at 11:00 A.M.*

Sunday, January 5

Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday, January 12

Cutting of the Vasilopita

Christmas Pageant 2013

The annual Christmas pageant will be held on the Sunday before Christmas, December 22. Sunday School teachers Nikitoula Menounos-Sievers and Karen Ashlaw will be directing all the children of our parish in the annual event, that, like Jesus' birth, attracts an audience from near and far. Unlike Jesus' birth, a rehearsal and costume fitting are



necessary. Pageant rehearsal will be on [Saturday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m.](#) All children are welcome to participate.

Stewardship Reminder

We hope that you are able to take some time for rest and relaxation this holiday season. Please remember that the church still needs your financial support and hopefully you can give some attention to your Stewardship Pledge and bring your contributions up to date.

Luke 2:15-16 *When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.*

FR NICK's 40 Years CELEBRATION!

Father Nick Milas our beloved Priest was recently honored on October 5, 2013, with a fabulous dinner dance commemoration of the 40th anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood. He was surrounded by his family, friends, & parishioners. Some guests traveled great distances from all parts of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to join in the festivities.

Francine Robinson out did even her well-known expertise as Flower Committee Chair, as chief planner & arranger for the extravaganza—she literally transformed our familiar center into an elegant banquet hall. The many exhausting hours of preparation & support by Francine Robinson, Terry Argeris, Fani Haidemenos, Christa & Spiro Haveles, and Anasta-

sia Balis and many others assured a truly memorable occasion.

The grand soiree began with hors d'oeuvres in the breezeway, featuring music by Elisa Haveles on the keyboard. A sumptuous array of tasty entrée selections including grilled lamb chops & chicken skewers, taboulis & hummus, along with the traditional Greek mezethes was offered by Plantation Catering of Newport, RI

Greek (& American) music for dinner and dancing by DJ Meleti was enjoyed by all.

On Behalf of our parish, John Haide-
menos presented to Father Nick an exquisite icon of Saint Nicholas of



Myra. The icon was handwritten by iconographer Laurence Manos, the Pantocrator that restored the dome in our church in September 2012.

Father Nick blessed us with his personal recollections & reflections from his early years, and how he came to be our Priest.

More dancing & socializing concluded the glorious evening.

Christmas Flower Donors Needed

Donations are being accepted for this years Christmas flower decorations in part or in full for the following items:

- 1st Large decorated door wreath—\$135.00
- 2nd Large decorated door wreath—\$135.00
- 1st Large red poinsettia—\$70.00
- 2nd Large red poinsettia—\$70.00
- Total—\$410.00

The church council is seeking an enthusiastic and creative person to chair the flower committee. If you have the time and talent and would like to help with the fundraising and seasonal decorating of the church, see any council member or Father Nick.



Bake Sale Success

Our November bake sale was a huge success! Our community may be small but when needed, we all come together for the good of our church. The generous donations and the delicious pastries that were baked were very much appreciated. Pagona and I would like to thank Angeliki Sezenias for helping us with the set up and sales. A big thank you to all who

participated in whatever manner, we would not be able to do it without you!



Pagona Karambinakis and
Maria El-Samin

\$100 Club Dinner Dance Fundraiser Held on Saturday, November 23, 2013

Our annual \$100 Club Dinner Dance was once again a very nice evening enjoyed by our \$100 Club donors and guests. This program was established many years ago and it continues to be a fundraising success due to the many people who support it. I would like to thank a number of people for making this event such a wonderful success. Spiro Haveles did a nice job overseeing the menu for the evening which was prepared by The Imperial Room Caterers, Trent and Michele Pappas. They provided a delicious meal of appetizers and a Greek-style buffet of prime rib, stuffed chicken breast, and an array of side dishes. Spiro and Christa Haveles provided the beautiful centerpieces for our dinner tables. A special thank you to the ladies in our community who can always be counted on to provide their delicious Greek pastries for dessert. This program would not run without the commitment of our team captains who sold nearly 100 tickets for this event. A heartfelt thank you to their continued dedication and loyalty for selling the \$100 tickets for this program: Thomas E. Moumouris, Michael Leotsakos, George Lakatzis, Arthur Menounos, Carl Pappas, and Toni T. Moumouris. Additional gratitude to Tom Thanas, one of the original founders of this pro-

gram and John Haidemenos, Jr, Church Council President, for assisting me with the cash raffle drawings. Special thanks to Terry Argeris for making all the necessary deposits of funds collected for this event. The Bouzouki Band with "Markos" provided nice dinner music followed by Greek-American Dancing. A fun time was enjoyed by all!

This year we had 5 five hundred dollar cash prizes. The winners were: Alamo, Alberto, George and Carlos from Classic Pizza; Kiki Tsaparis; Andrea Herrick and Doug Murdock; The Jellisons, and John Kazantzis.

Again, we are truly appreciative of all the donors and guests for supporting this year's \$100 Club fundraiser and for making this annual event such a wonderful fundraising success. Please forgive me if I forgot to mention the names of any other volunteers and know that your help in support of our church fundraising efforts is always appreciated.

With heartfelt gratitude to everyone,

Dr. Toni T. Moumouris
Chairperson of the \$100 Club Annual Dinner Dance

*May you have the spirit of Christmas which is peace,
the gladness of Christmas which is hope,
and the heart of Christmas which is love.
Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a healthy
New Year 2014.*

**Thomas E. Moumouris and
The Moumouris Dykstra Family- Ken, Toni, Desi and Thomas**



Desi Dykstra Graduates with Honors

Virginia-Desi Dykstra, daughter of Kenneth Urban Dykstra and Dr. Toni Thomas Moumouris, graduated with honors from Quinebaug Valley in May 2013 with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Desi was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and was elected by a college committee of faculty, staff, and

students to be the QVCC Class of 2013 Commencement Speaker. Desi's speech to her classmates, faculty, and guests included words of praise and encouragement, a personal song that she wrote and sang, and a poem by Victor Hugo that she wanted to share. Desi is currently a junior at Eastern Connecticut State University and is a residential student majoring in

Early Childhood Education and Child Psychology. She is very active on campus in Community Engagement, the Repertoire Dance Club, Student Government Association, and other activities. Ken and Toni and their families are very proud of all of Desi's accomplishments.

Church Capital Improvements Needed

The time has come to replace the roof of our church. The current plastic terracotta shingles are at the end of their life and we'll be very lucky if we get through the winter without any leaks. On display in the Hellenic Center Hallway are several roofing samples. Our choices are not limited to these - they are just a starting point. Preliminary cost estimates to replace the roof range from approximately \$10,000 for standard asphalt shingles to \$25,000 for the standing seam metal roofing. Over the next few months we should work

together to gather all of the information necessary to make an informed decision and to raise the funds needed to bring this project to fruition. George Lakatzis, president of the Planning & Finance com-

mittee has begun the fundraising for this project. Please consider making a pledge to donate to this fundraising effort. More project details will follow as they become available.



Guidelines for the use of the Church Hall

To reserve or use the hall for a parishioner sponsored function, please complete in entirety a 'Hall Use Agreement'. A copy of The Hall use Agreement can be found on the table in the Hellenic Center Hallway, in the church office, or a copy can be downloaded from the church's website www.holytrinitydanielson.com. A hall use agreement is not necessary to sponsor coffee hour.

Fees for the use of the hall are listed in the table below.

	Hall use cost	Partial use of kitchen not using ovens, range, dishwasher	Full use of kitchen with or without caterer
Church & Affiliated Organization (Philoptochos/GOYA/YAL)	\$ 250.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Fraternal Organizations (AHEPA, DOP, etc.)	\$ 250.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Parishioners (Baptisms, Wedding Receptions, Makaria, Showers, Memorials, etc)	\$ 250.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Coffee hour (defined as "immediately following Divine Liturgy" and for the entire community).	\$ 30.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
No fees are incurred for events such as the Greek Festival and Hundred Dollar fundraiser which are sponsored by the church.			



The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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