



**Volume 26, Issue 6
September 2022**

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THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

REMARKS TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY ~ OCTOBER 2ND

By Fr. Andreas G. Houpos

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I thank you for taking the time today to be present for this parish assembly. When we consider the ways in which the Church customarily gathers, we think primarily of worship, since the center of our life is the Eucharist, and the praise and supplication of our God. However, there are other ways and reasons the Church assembles. One is to provide for the needs of the members of the parish, or of society more broadly. Another is to bear witness to the Love and Glory of God and our Orthodox Faith in the world. Yet another is to spend time together in fellowship, nurturing our bonds in Christ and forming new ones.

Indeed, these four ways of coming together constitute the four pillars of the vision statement of our parish: Worship, Service, Witness, and Fellowship. And on days like today, our gathering summarizes all four. On days like today, we are called to take a bird's-eye view of our place in the world—quite literally—to consider how we and our very campus express these elements of our vision.

Is our campus a place that lives out Worship, Service, Witness, and Fellowship? I think we would all agree that it does, but we might not have a uniform assessment of how it does—and to a degree, this is natural and is to be expected.

Our parish has reached a point in its short life that we might call a "phase-shift". As we approach our community's twenty-fifth anniversary, we are no longer a

small mission with dreams to build basic facilities to fulfill basic needs. We are no longer composed of a small group of intimately connected individuals and families intensely focused on the establishment of a new parish. We are no longer a community headed by its founding pastor, who, like the good planter that he is, fertilized a young sapling and kept its rapid growth staked to grow straight.

*If we run forward
with faith and hope and
love, God will arrange to
have the supposed
obstacles removed and
our wildest expectations
exceeded.*

And what a lovely tree we behold today! Yet, for those of you who have been part of its growth to this point, if you were to pause and reflect, I would imagine you would admit that it no longer has supple bark and shoots, but a rougher, sturdier feel. For those who have recently come, you have walked into a field boasting a handsome tree, good for shade and fruit ready for picking, not having had to plant and tend to it yourself.

This point of life is a new phase in the maturation of our "tree". It has many families gathered under it, some that were here when it was planted, and others that have since come under its spreading canopy, and a new person has since been appointed to tend to its growth.

In addition to this shift to a new phase of life—which will

continue to experience the regular seasons of gentle rains, strong storms, droughts, and winters—our community has also recently faced the blight of a pandemic.

Nevertheless, our tree stands proudly in its field, ready for fertilizing, pruning, thinning, grafting, and shaping. Those who have watched and helped it grow can marvel in its maturity, like parents seeing a son or daughter graduating or being married or becoming a parent, being struck for the first time that their child is no longer a child, but an adult like them. Those who are new to the shade and fruit of this tree can learn from its planters, and gratefully join them in their sacred work to cultivate what is good and true, with both groups learning the importance of humbly sharing knowledge and taking on responsibility.

So, allow me to climb down from this metaphorical tree, back to this present moment in this hall. I want each of us to take a look at the well-worn carpet beneath our feet, and to breathe in the scent of the room. Take your thoughts back to our magnificent temple and let your mind's eye wander its walls and various spaces. Let it also look out across the plaza and take in the acreage we have been blessed to occupy for a quarter-century. Remember now that each of these elements are ours to contemplate because of faith, hope, and love. They are the product of inspiration and of sacrifice and are worthy of our gratitude to God and those who have contributed to their materialization.

(Continued on page 3)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT SUMMER VISITORS



Fr. John Cox
pictured with Fr. Andreas



Fr. Andreas & Presbytera Meredyth pictured
with family



Fr. Nektarios pictured with his parents,
Betsy & John Karantonis

On September 15th, we welcomed students, teachers, and parents of Walnut Grove Christian School in Fort Mill, SC. They received a guided walkthrough of our temple and its architecture and iconography. We thank them for their respectful presence and questions, our faithful stewards for erecting this temple to the glory of God and to be a sign for our neighbors, and the Lord himself, for desiring that all people be saved and come to know the Truth.



FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support

IN OUR PRAYERS

Tim Aphroula John Pat KS Joe Kim Johanna Edward Tina Theona Helen DG Chuck
Handsel Mason Robin & Benny John & Elaine Jennifer & family Eleftheria Mary Shan Dawn
Catherine Grant Jack Phyllis Melton family Tish Joanne Christina Stephen Barbara & Spiro
Gloria Phil & Ronnie John & Michelle & family MP MSR Ashley Glen Cheryl & Brian Paul Dina
John T. John D. Terry Dorothy Erma (Hermione) Phyllis John Emmanoeuel Mariham
Helen Debbie Hanna Chris Greg

We started a new list for October. If you would like to stay on the list, please re-submit your names.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

NEWLY INDUCTED CATECHUMENS

Garland Cassada; Kevin, Camille, and Kacey Deisenroth;
Luciana Faraci; Dustin Johnson; Justin Kappauf; Joseph Marquard; Alexander Marvin;
Lee, Trish, Ellie and Levi Millsaps; Corey and Christina Mullis;
Matthew Sharp; Daniel Siragusa; Kennedy and Kelsi White-Parker

CHRISMATIONS & BAPTISMS

To Maria & Daniel Siragusa on the baptism of Sophia & Giulia's, brother, Thomas Daniel and to the
godparents, Ariadne and Bryan Steel

To Nabeeh Muammar on his chrismation and to his sponsor, Elie Azar

To Joseph Montgomery on his chrismation and to his godparent, Jeremiah Courter

MARRIAGES

To Vianca Valadez-Jaramillo and Pavlo Triantafyllides on their marriage
and to their sponsor, Nicholas Triantafyllides

WITH SYMPATHY ON THE REPOSE

OF OUR BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

To the family of Metropolitan Ilia on his repose

To the Karras, Triantis, Tsiabassis, Oxendine, Ballas & Richards families on the
repose of Patricia (Voula) Karras Triantis

To the Sikiotis, Holevas, Mikronis, Koucouliotis & Katopodis families on the repose of Maria's husband,
Philip Katopodis

IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to Diane Gilbert and Copycat for printing the Church Bulletin and Newsletter.

Thank you to all who allowed us to use your photos for this month's newsletter, Fr. Andreas, Presbytera Meredyth,
Fr. Nektarios, Presbytera Ellia, Fr. Paul, Kim Braswell, Caleb Clewell, Jim Keown, The Azar family, Stavroula
Koutsoupas, Trisagion Films,

Please contact Kim Clewell at kclewell@stnektarios.org with information we may
share with the community, to request a photo from or submit a photo to the
newsletter or to add someone to the prayer list.
Please contact the office to request a clergy visit.

Please check the upper level elevator lobby to claim your lost items
by **November 27th**.

REMARKS TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

(Continued from page 1)

And yet to offer a thought or word of gratitude is not enough. This carpet is old. Our bookstore is still encased in a temporary wood lattice. Our temple yearns to have her beautiful body properly clothed in holy icons and adorned with fine furnishings, and to pulse constantly with rich, resounding worship. Our campus remains undeveloped, with a garishly fenced-off retaining wall, flanked by an aging house, marking out the boundaries of a dream. We have no full-time director of music and worship, and as of this year no full-time youth director, two things unthinkable for a parish of our size and potential.

Why this far and no further?

Have we made it as far as we can make it?
Have we reached the alarming spiritual state known as comfort and routine?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, while the latter

is certainly possible, the former is not. We have a divine calling and the awesome possibility to respond to it. We cannot stop here. Perhaps we have taken our rest, but now it is time to pick up and keep going, and to keep going with faith.

When the women were hurrying early in the morning to the tomb of Christ, to anoint him, they wondered to themselves along the way, “who will roll away the stone” of the tomb, for it was very large. Yet this did not deter their mission. They did not sit and deliberate. They just ran. They ran to Christ. And that large stone? When they arrived, it turns out it had already been rolled away, and the one they ran to anoint was not even there. What mattered was their faith, hope, and love. God provided everything else and gave them a life-giving experience far beyond what they expected.

So, when we find ourselves asking, “Who will roll away this carpet?” “Who will complete

the wardrobe of the bride of Christ?” “Who will finally tear down that fence and build?” “Who will pay for salaries?” are we asking as we at least continue to run forward to the Lord? Or are we stagnating in our human logic? If we run forward with faith and hope and love, God will arrange to have the supposed obstacles removed and our wildest expectations exceeded. If we languish in human expectations and logic, we will have squandered the faith, hope, and love that led us this far—and God is not a fan of squandered gifts.

We exist for Worship, Service, Witness, and Fellowship. As we gather today to consider how we do these things, we must remember to not let our vision be impeded by mundane and trivial concerns, and dulled by comfort, but rather to be illumined by the light of our heavenly calling, the light that radiates from that empty tomb, opened by God, with whom all things are possible. ❖

FAREWELL TO CALEB CLEWELL

On September 18th, we said farewell to our own Caleb Clewell, who departed for and arrived safely in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he will study Greek in preparation for theological studies at Aristotle University—please keep him in your prayers! May God grant all our students fruitful studies, to his glory! ❖



To the St. Nektarios Community:

I thank God for bringing my family and me to the community of St. Nektarios 11 yrs. ago. We’ve been blessed to become a part of the community—part of the church—and call it our home.

I thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and good deeds through the years. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making St. Nektarios my home and showing me God’s love.

I also thank the clergy, beginning with His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, for the wisdom given to him through the Holy Spirit to bless me in this pursuit. Fathers Steve, Andreas, Nektarios and Paul I thank for all their wisdom, guidance and prayers. They helped me see the potential that God has placed within me and to discern the calling

that God has placed upon me. Finally, I express my thanks to my family! To my parents, for raising me to be strong in the Faith; my siblings for their everyday encouragement; my uncle, Jeff, for his role in bringing us to the Orthodox Church, and my Mimi and Papa, for being roots that are so deeply set in love and faith.

I continue to pray for all of you as I know you all pray for me. Thank you for all you do as a community in serving God. Glory to God for everything! I pray that He will continue to guide me to do His will and that I can continue to be His servant in all I do.

Love,

Caleb Clewell



FEAST DAY OF ST. PHOEBE

On September 4th, our St. Phoebe Girls' Ministry offered festal kollyva in honor of their patroness (September 3), and we offered it in honor of St. Hermione (September 4) as well, who is the patroness for the Home being established in the city that is named after her. We took a moment to recognize the hands that prepare the lovely kollyva dish (boiled wheat) and so many other such traditional offerings in our parish. Also presented was a prayer box to be placed in the Fellowship Hall to collect prayer requests. ❖



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT ~ MICHAEL AZAR

We have an active Scouts community, and one of our Eagle Scouts, Michael Azar, took on the project of rebuilding a much beloved and well-used shrine on our property. Our faithful, and neighbors who often walk the property, will stop here for quiet and prayer. The completed shrine was delivered, and with God's help was installed on September 4th.

We thank Michael and his dedicated team for taking on this blessed and beautiful work. It naturally attracted a gathering, and we performed a blessing just as the last screw was tightened. May it stand for many years. Come and see! ❖



Above left to right: Our well-worn shrine and Michael Azar & Fr. Andreas pictured with our new, improved shrine



Thank you to everyone who came out to help and to be a part of this special dedication.

ST. NEKTARIOS ENDOWMENT

2021 Annual Report to Parish Assembly October 2, 2022



Goal:

To provide opportunity for people to make planned gifts to the Church that will support a lasting legacy of financial support and living memorial by:

- ◆ Investing Principal for long-term growth
- ◆ Making interest income available for ministry work

Planned Gifts Include:

- ◆ Bequests made in donor's will or trust
- ◆ Gifts of Cash, Securities, Life Insurance,
- ◆ Real Estate, or Qualified Retirement Plans, 401K IRA

Planned gifts begin at \$5,000

The Endowment is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

2021 Grants Awarded in accordance with the Fund Agreement

- ◆ **First Annual Scholarship Program**
\$11,000 for 8 scholarships awarded to youth of St. Nektarios
- ◆ **Additional Grant in Support of Ladies Philoptochos of St. Nektarios**
\$1,000 for Allegro Foundation

2021 Annual Financial Report

The Cockinos Family

Youth Ministry Development Fund

Portfolio Balance

January 2021	\$498,247
December 2021	\$524,075

Interest and Dividend Earned \$ 16,760

Expenses and Distributions \$ 13,729

Grants \$ 12,000

Annual Administrative Fee \$ 1,200

Liability Insurance \$ 529

Management Fees \$6,000 annually

Managed by First Citizens Wealth Management

Initiatives

- ◆ St. Nektarios Endowment registered with Amazon Smile. 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be donated to the Endowment when it is designated as the charity of choice. These funds are earmarked for our scholarship program.
- ◆ "Planned Giving" Education Workshops

Thank you to our Committee Members

Emile Khuri, Sam Kleto, Chris Levantis, Julie Milich, Maria Mortis, Peter B. Pappas, and Theodora Sexstone, Chair

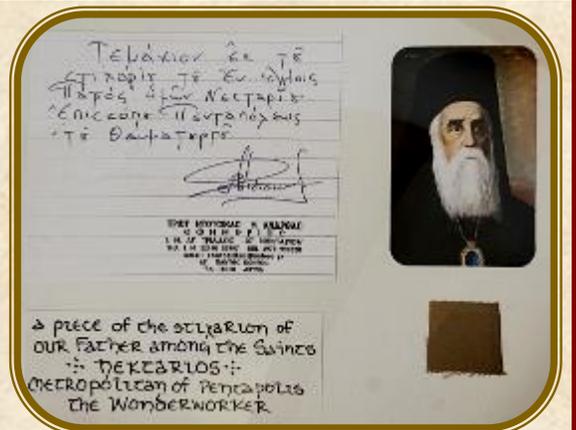
Please contact a Committee Member for more information.

SPECIAL GIFT FROM AEGINA ~ A PIECE OF ST. NEKTARIOS' GARMENT

In welcoming back Fr. Paul Tsahakis from his summer in Aegina, on September 15th, we also welcomed a piece of a sticharion worn by St. Nektarios, gifted to our parish from



his sacred monastery.



Much like the personal effects of the Apostles, this garment of St. Nektarios has worked healings. This is a welcome and most blessed addition to our community, for which we give thanks to God. ❖

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ~ SEPTEMBER 14TH



Orthodox Christians recently celebrated the Worldwide Elevation of the Precious Cross (Sep 14). Many often wonder why we say "Lord, have mercy!" so frequently, and with differing frequency of repetition in our services—and particularly so many times during this magnificent feast of the Cross. I translated a question-and-answer by the late, great Professor of Liturgics, Ioannes Phountoules on this very topic, and share it here for your edification.

In the various services, why is "Lord, have mercy" said sometimes once, others thrice, twelve and forty-fold, and one hundred times at the Elevation of the Precious Cross? Some things in divine worship are not understood unless we know the manner and presuppositions with which the people of the ancient era thought. Today, the numbers (with some exceptions) do not have the significance that they had at that time. They do not shape our inner life and piety—at least, not to the degree and extent that they influenced it nearly two thousand years ago, when the foundations of our liturgical actions were laid. The Pythagoreans had developed an entire theology concerning numbers, the echo of which we still find in the Christian tradition. And, in the Old Testament and New (particularly in the Apocalypse of John), and in Christian theology and popular piety, certain numbers are laden with certain sacred properties and symbolism—such as 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 40. Even today, despite the effects of the change in scientific thought, the numeral "3" still maintains its sacredness as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, and "13" is seen by many as an ominous magical number. And, let's also remember the clamor that arose over the number "666". Specifically, as regards saying "Lord, have mercy" 3, 12, and 40 times in our services—numbers that certainly cannot be random—we will refer only to the commentaries given by Mark Eugenikos [of Ephesus] and Symeon of Thessalonike. They do not only reveal to us the meanings that were given over time, with respect to the preference for these numbers, but indeed also what it was that caused their being chosen. Thus, St. Mark explains that the twelve-fold "Lord, have mercy" after the Lord's Prayer is said "as a typos [...] of the Apostles, to whom this prayer was first given", and the forty-fold because "it is an honorable number since it is

for this many days that God propitiated for us by fasting" (Explanation of the Ecclesiastical Services, Concerning the Midnight Office). According to St. Symeon, "the twelve-fold 'Lord, have mercy' is said on account of the twelve hours of the day and the twelve hours of the night, unto our sanctification and purification for the offenses we commit during them" (Dialogue, ch. 326 & 305); and "the forty-fold for the sanctification of the entire duration of our life; and, as some say, for the tenth [or 'tithe'] of the three hundred sixty-five days [of the year], those forty we spend in the Great Fast; and at every time of prayer, we say 'Lord, have mercy' forty times in propitiation for our unknown sins committed every hour of every day" (Dialogue, ch. 325), or "as a tithe-offering to the Lord, from the hours days of our life" (Dialogue, ch. 308). They share common ground saying that the three-fold repetition is in honor of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. "Lord, have mercy" is said one hundred times at each of the five elevations of the Precious Cross, as well as at the petitions of the liti of Great Vespers. This number is derived from, or declares, infinity, just as do the contemporary popular [Greek] expressions "I said it" [«τό είπα»] or "I did it a hundred times" [«τό έκαμα έκατό φορές»], or it has pre-Christian origins. The terms "for good" [«έπ' αγαθά»] or "help" [«βοήθ(ε)ια»] when calculated give us one hundred: $(\epsilon')=5 + (\pi')=80 + (\alpha')=1 + (\gamma')=3 + (\alpha')=1 + (\theta')=9 + (\alpha')=1 = 100$ and $(\beta')=2 + (\omicron')=70 + (\eta')=8 + (\theta')=9 + (\iota')=10 + (\alpha')=1 = 100$. Hence the combination of the Cross ["X"] and the Greek numeral "ρ" (100) in the monogram of Christ ["ΧΡ"] is interpreted to mean "the Cross (or Christ) is our help". Now, in the daily order of services, where we encounter the twelve- or forty-fold "Lord, have mercy", we are not seeing a random use of the sacred numbers, simply for the sake of the number's sacredness. They fulfill a liturgical purpose that, at first glance, is not apparent. These services (Midnight Office, Hours, Mid-Hours, Typika, and Compline) are clearly of monastic origin, and have the option of being done in common by the monastic brother- and sisterhoods, as well as in their cells, by many or by one, with or without the participation of a priest. For this reason, the role of the priest—even if he is serving—is reduced. The most characteristic example of this is the service of the Typika (according to the "typos" of the Liturgy, in other words) which contains everything the People would say during the Liturgy of St. Iakovos—in other words, according to the order of the liturgical tradition of Jerusalem, from which come the services of the day and night. The services we mentioned above do not have a Litany of Peace or Ektenia for the reasons already stated. It is, I think, beyond a doubt that the Litany of Peace is replaced by the twelve-fold



"Lord, have mercy", and the "great 'Lord, have mercy'"—that is, the Ektenia—with the forty-fold and, likely, the Small Litany with the three-fold "Lord, have mercy". Those are roughly the equivalent number of repetitions of "Lord, have mercy" in the parallel situations, with a tendency to approach or round out the closest of the sacred numbers. This is supported by other reasons as well, such as, in the service of the Typika, the presence of the response of the People while the priestly or diaconal exhortations are omitted, either because a priest didn't always participate, or in order to provide for the private use of the service.

Ioannes Phountoules Responses to Liturgical Questions, Vol V, Q. 502 (pp. 8-11)

Draft translation by Fr. Andreas G. Houpos 9/2022

ORTHODOX FILM CLUB

Many thanks to all who came out on September 23rd for the “premiere” of our Orthodox Film Club!



We watched the powerful documentary ‘NEW MEN’ which chronicles the life of Holy Cross Hermitage, a Russian Orthodox monastery in West Virginia where 28 men, most them American converts, have renounced the world to follow a 1,700 year old Christian monastic tradition.

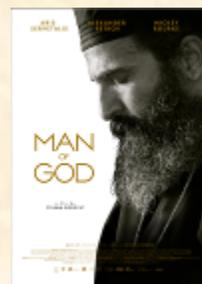
The viewing with followed with Fr. Andreas leading a reflection, and fellowship. Of course movie snacks were provided. Thank you to Philip Robertson for leading this ministry. Please contact him at FOGG71@gmail.com for more information and suggestions for future films. ❖



Next Screening
MAN OF GOD
Saturday Nov. 5 // 2:30 p.m.
Countdown to the Feast of
St. Nektarios

Depicting the trials and tribulations of Saint Nektarios of Aegina,

co-hosted by
Young at Heart
Ministry



ST. HERMIONE HOME AND TRISAGION FILMS

St. Hermione Home, founded in 2017 by Fr. Paul Tsahakis, is committed to:

- ◆ The example and person of St. Hermione, who shows both the *foundation* and *method* for the *healing of the whole person*.
- ◆ Providing a *safe* and *supportive* home for homeless women to *give birth* and *spiritually develop* and nurture the *mother and child bond*.
- ◆ Providing access to food, clothing, and medical and mental health services and training to learn parenting, personal, and professional skills, thereby enabling self-sufficiency, *leaving homelessness* and living a quality life as a family

www.sthhome.com // info@sthhome.com
St. Hermione Home, Inc.
P.O. Box 79177 — Charlotte, NC 28271

Trisagion Films, Inc. announced in September that they released their latest video on the life of Saint Hermione, the Holy Unmercenary. This project is sponsored by the "ST. HERMIONE HOME" in Charlotte (sthhome.com). May the good work that Fr. Paul has started continue to blossom and may Saint Hermione pray for us!



Trisagion Films Inc. Facebook post states

Trisagion Films, Inc.

We are proud to present "Saint Hermione: Of the First Unmercenary Healers"
<https://youtu.be/1qq5MDh0qF8>

Saint Hermione is one of the lesser-known stars of the ancient Church! The daughter of the deacon Philip and Evangelist and one of the very first Holy Unmercenarys.

The scene we are sharing with you is when Hadrian had the saint put into a vat of tar and sulfur; upon entering it, the tar and sulfur turned into dew. Emperor Hadrian couldn't believe what he saw, so he attempted to touch the cauldron. Once he touched it, his skin melted, and his nails fell off.

This is one of our favorite scenes due to how powerful and dramatic it is. We hope you enjoy this brand new documentary, and don't forget to leave a like, a comment, and share it with your friends and family!



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

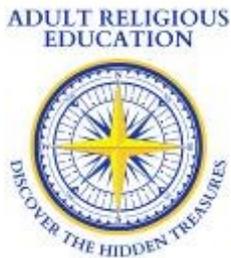


A.R.E. Kickoff

The A.R.E ministry held its annual kickoff on September 25. As everyone enjoyed their sausage biscuits, Gerry Clonaris offered a PowerPoint overview of the 2022-23 program. The goal is to have religious education available 24/7 through in person and virtual presentations, archived classes, from to Ancient Faith Ministries and GOARCH. Men's group and Women's group Bible study will be on the book of Acts. The program also includes book studies by Fr. Nektarios, Becoming Orthodox classes, a series on "Awed by the Beauty" by Fr. Andreas, Lent-Lunch-Learn, and more. This year will be the introduction of the Orthodox Film Club. Thanks to our committee; Our clergy, Gerry Clonaris, Maryann Zitsos, Dimitri and Susan Triantafyllides, Amy Greene, Ariadne Zitsos, Katherine Bartis, Philip Robertson, Peter Reinhart, Chris Mason, and Brian Clonaris; the new year is now fully underway!



Bible Study Kickoff



While during the course of the year, the men and women meet at different times to conduct their Bible study, they came together on Wednesday, September 28th for a Spaghetti Dinner, combined with our Joy/Hope families. We were treated to a beautiful sunset that in this case, was an eerie reminder of the approaching storm, already affecting our brothers and sisters further south. Thank you to all who came out despite the weather from Hurricane Ian!



INTRODUCING OUR CATECHUMENS



Flee unto Your Holy Name and to be sheltered under the shadow of Your wings.

On September 25th we witnessed the induction of 19 Catechumens, further incorporating inquirers who wish to be sacramentally joined to the Church. Glory to God!

"O Lord our God, who dwellest in the heavens, and lookest down upon all thy works, look down upon thy servants, the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee, and grant them a light yoke. Make them honorable members of thy holy Church, and vouchsafe unto them the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption, unto the knowledge of thee, our true God."

Above: Our new parishioners being inducted into the catechumenate

Right: Crosses created by Ritsa Neary worn by our catechumens



Congratulations to our catechumens

Garland Cassada, Kevin, Camille, and Kacey Deisenroth, Luciana Faraci, Dustin Johnson, Justin Kappauf, Joseph Marquard, Alexander Marvin, Lee, Trish, Ellie and Levi Millsaps, Corey and Christina Mullis, Matthew Sharp, Daniel Siragusa, Kennedy and Kelsi White-Parker

YOUNG AT HEART

A letter from Queen Elizabeth, money from around the world, pottery, hand crocheted items were among the items on display for the International Celebration for the first gathering on September 15, of the 2022-23 year. The gathering began at 5 p.m. allowing the members to attend the 4p.m. Paraklesis service to St. Nektarios. Members shared artifacts and items from their home countries.

We appreciate Gerry Clonaris offering his time to present an overview on Orthodoxy around the world and tracing the spread of Christianity which bonds in our Orthodox faith.

Thanks to our evening host (Steve and Kathy Constantelos, Nopi and Steve Panteliodis, Anna and Peter Kanelos, and Christala and Costa Paraskeva) everyone enjoyed a delicious baked chicken dinner. The group continues the birthday tradition of inviting those celebrating in August and September to be pictured with a cake in their honor and hear a round of Happy Birthday. Next gathering will be held on October 13. ❖



BEYOND ST. NEKTARIOS

A little bit of rain couldn't suppress the smiles and hospitality, and witness to our faith, at the Holy Trinity Greek Festival. This 3-day event takes place every year and this year the city of Charlotte was able to enjoy the festival from September 8-10. It is a well-attended fun time as we travel briefly to Greece for a sampling of ethnic dishes and pastries, a view of traditional dress and dancing and most importantly, we learn about the Orthodox Faith that unites all of our communities as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you to all of the St. Nektarios parishioners that joined in to help. ❖



Thank you to Kenneth W. Poe Funeral Services, who hosted clergy of communities they serve throughout the year with a night out at Truist Field, home of the Knights.



YOUTH MINISTRY

We started our ecclesiastical year in catechism on Sunday, September 18th. Fr. Nektarios visited each classroom and offered a blessing for the new school year for all of our students and teachers.

If you have not yet signed up for Sunday School, you can still do so by contacting our Sunday School Director, Helen Giles or by filling out the online form. ❖



PHOTOS BELOW AND RIGHT:

We had such a blast on September 28th at our Joy Hope event ! It was the perfect night to enjoy time together by the fire and play some fun games to get to know one another. Thank you to Fr. Nektarios and Presbytera Ellia for coordinating this wonderful family event and for the photographic memories! ❖



FINANCIAL MATTERS

Our Church, Our Spiritual Home — Report to Parish Assembly

Stewardship of Treasure

We are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish.

We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be.

We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

- ◆ We believe we reach our full potential in Christ by sacrificially giving our time, talent and treasure.
- ◆ Sacrificial gifts both stretch our faith and provide significant resources for our Lord's work through His Church.
- ◆ Christ didn't come to abolish the law; He came to fulfill the law. Tithing in the old testament law expands to giving all of ourselves in the New Testament. The Apostles' example of Stewardship was giving all through the Church and living communally.

Good Stewards of our Treasures Means...

- ◆ Servicing our Growing Community
- ◆ Expanded Worship Schedule
- ◆ Active Ministries
- ◆ Active Youth Ministry
- ◆ Robust Adult Religious Education
- ◆ Building for Generations - CC
- ◆ And so much more!

Finishing Strong

- ◆ Complete or Exceed your 2022 Pledge
- ◆ Give Early – Before Year End
- ◆ Give Generously (ex. Feast Day Offerings)

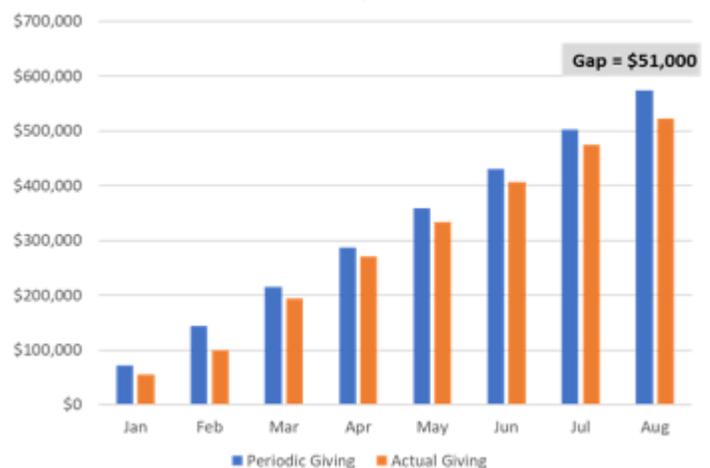
Process of Giving

- ◆ Make a Pledge to our Spiritual Home
- ◆ Give First Gifts to God
- ◆ Give Periodically – *consider electronic giving through your banking online bill pay service or Church website online giving.*
- ◆ Give Proportionately

8 Months of Stewardship Contributions



2022 Stewardship Contributions



So You Know . . . As of Sept. 30, 2022

Stewardship Received	\$570,614
Other Income Received	142,951
Total Income	713,565
Total Expenses Paid	\$754,941
Net Income	(\$41,375)
Balance due to the Archdiocese	(\$70,696)
\$90,133 Average Monthly Expenses	

St. Lucia The Virgin Martyr November 13

This Reading

Saint Lucia was from Syracuse in Sicily, a virgin betrothed to a certain pagan. Since her mother suffered from an issue of blood, she went with her to the shrine of Saint Agatha at Catania to seek healing (see Feb. 5).

There Saint Agatha appeared to Lucia in a dream, assuring her of her mother's healing, and foretelling Lucia's martyrdom. When her mother had been healed,

Lucia gladly distributed her goods to the poor, preparing herself for her coming confession of Christ. Betrayed as a Christian by her betrothed to Paschasius the Governor, she was put in a brothel to be abused, but was preserved in purity by the grace of God. Saint Lucia was beheaded in the year 304, during the reign of Diocletian.

Kontakion of Martyr Lucia Third Tone

We extol with fervent love thy most illustrious contest, and we praise and honour thee as a chaste virgin and victor; for since thou didst seek the beauty of Christ and none else, thou didst hate all things corruptible, O wise Lucia. Wherefore, when thou wast beheaded, thou wast adorned with an incorruptible crown.

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Kontakion © Holy Transfiguration Monastery

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DIRECTORY

Church Office: 704-708-4669
Church Fax: 704-846-6094
Email: office@stnektarios.org
Website: www.stnektarios.org
5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

Clergy

Father Andreas Houpos, Proistamenos
Mobile: 980-333-9563
Email: fr.andreas@stnektarios.org
Father Nektarios Karantonis, Ephemerios
Mobile: 980-829-5215
Email: frkarantonis@stnektarios.org
Father Steve Dalber, Pastor Emeritus
Mobile: 704-451-6524
Email: frdalber@stnektarios.org
Father Paul Tshakis, Presbyter
Mobile: (704) 608-1112
Email: frtsahakis@stnektarios.org

Parish Staff

Parish Administrator - Evelyn Klund
Administration Staff
Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell, Samara Clewell,
Sofia Nicolopoulos
Property Manager - Tim Shelton
Sexton - Jim Keown
Chanters - Jeff Clewell,
Dina Marinakos-Oara

2022 Parish Council

President: Despina Gallis
Vice President: Mike Burgan
Treasurer: Elissa Bahanovich
Assist. Treasurer: Chris Mortis
Secretary: George Harris
Assist. Secretary: Joanne Kiser
Members: George Bacogeorge,
Mark Malatras, Aka Vashakidze

Philoptochos Board

President: Charlotte Nickolopoulos
1st Vice President: Madalina Lowen
2nd Vice President: Deidre Lepkowski
Recording Secretary: Sharon Koutroumpis
Corr. Secretary: Michaelina Franks
Treasurer: Evelyn Klund
Ass't. Treasurer: Christine Malatras
Advisor: Niki Kleto
Members: Helen Bakos, Katherine Cestrone,
Phyllis Gianakopoulos, and Renee Keretses
(Email: philoptochos@stnektarios.org)

SUNDAYS AT SAINT NEKTARIOS

Worship

**Matins 8:00 a.m. and
Divine Liturgy 9:15 a.m.**
Fellowship Coffee:
Following Divine Liturgy

Prospophora

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

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: November 15, 2022
Published: November 22, 2022

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.