



**Volume 26, Issue 4**  
**June 2022**

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# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## LET NO ONE DESPISE THEIR YOUTH

By Fr. Andreas G. Houpos

**I**t comes as no surprise that June sees a chaotic confluence and culmination of all the things that have been underway since the preceding September. This is true for many of us, whether parents, students, or teachers. It is certainly true for clergy, as well.

One of the many things on my calendar was to accompany Gerry Clonaris and some of his high school catechism students and their chaperones to the St. Photios National Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida. I had never been, and this would be my first real opportunity to spend significant time with this segment of our blessed congregation. The departure date arrived before I knew it, and I drifted out of whatever things had previously been occupying my energy and attention into a seat on a big bus.

As I caught my breath and our journey together unfolded, I quickly realized I was in the company of good kids. Sure, there were the typical teenage interactions, and jokes that were probably better not told (but nevertheless lost on the likes of me), and the occasional song being played that raised an eyebrow. But the group was well-mannered and respectful to their chaperones, their teacher, and their priest, and their bus driver. Our host at St. Photios Shrine, Polly, instantly connected with them like a grandmother, and they respected her accordingly.

Seeing this in them for hours and days, and being able to field their questions about life and faith and doubt and fear and miracles for hours, and hearing their confessions for hours, gifted me a glimpse into their world.

It was the world of the future in

the present. It was the world of boys and girls on the verge of becoming young men and women. It was the vibrant flesh of "Gen Z"—with all its tech and connectivity and social media influence—still growing around the bones of our ancient Faith and figuring out how to move gracefully.

It's this latter image that struck me the most. At times it was indeed graceful—during a still moment of prayer at church, as a talk about saints sank in, as stories about miracles pierced the clouds of skepticism. At other

**"It was the world of the future in the present. It was the world of boys and girls on the verge of becoming young men and women."**

times it wasn't so graceful—during the slip of an inappropriate word, or in moments of irreverence, or occasions where a lack of understanding of our Faith was painfully evident.

Underneath it all was that all-too-familiar word of the teen years: "struggle". Our kids face so many challenges. There is competition for their time, attention, energy, purity, morality, beliefs...it doesn't seem to end. In the many questions they so thoughtfully and bravely asked, the influence of our contemporary society loomed large. In the confessional, teardrop after teardrop accompanied the pent-up anguish from familial and social and academic and athletic pressures—and the good and bad decisions that were made to

cope with them. But the abounding and forgiving love of Christ was ready for them.

Writing to his disciple and spiritual son, Timothy, the Apostle Paul said, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Elders among us who might be reading this: let's not despise the youth of our young people. Let's help them make the most of that gift that, as the saying goes, "is wasted on the young". Let's believe in them and help them along. Let's not forget our own stories of doubt and faith and failure and redemption. Let's give them examples "in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity" to admire and to emulate. Let's remember that they will have to find their own way, and do everything we can to help them get to the start of that journey well-stocked and confident in the love of their God and of their church for them.

To do this, we have to take our Faith seriously. We have to go to church. We have to pray. We have to fast. We have to confess our sins. We have to do good works. We have to be patient and kind. We have to love. We have to be resolute followers of Christ and faithful sons and daughters of his Church. Their youth has invigorated me to do better at these things, and I hope it will do the same for you. You'll hear from them in this month's newsletter.

It was a great privilege to spend that time with our teens. I pray the Lord will inspire and guide them, that his holy Mother will protect them, and that you and I will not despise their youth, but rather nurture it along its promising but troubled way to the full measure of maturity in Christ. ❖

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Caleb Clewell has been serving in the altar at St. Nektarios since 2011, first as an acolyte and then as an adult supervisor. He is a convert to the Orthodox faith, an extremely dedicated servant to God and to our church. In 2015 he was selected as our Archangel Michael Youth Honoree. Among his many offerings of time and talent, Caleb is also a frequent contributor to

our social media pages featuring Fr. Andreas and Fr. Nektarios.

In September Caleb, will be leaving to live in Greece for five years for theological studies. Please pray for him as he begins this next chapter of his journey. ❖



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to parishioners, Peter Keretsis and Nolan Atkinson and our Property Manager, Tim Shelton, who came out to clean huge storm drain baskets on our campus at the beginning of June .

We appreciate you!



Nolan Atkinson



Tim Shelton



Peter Keretsis

# FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

*Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Our First Responders, those on the front lines during this Pandemic and those suffering from Covid-19 and other illnesses throughout the entire world

## FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

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

## CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

### BIRTHS & FORTIETH DAY BLESSINGS

To Amanda and Jimmy Demopoulos on the birth of Penelope's brother, Richard George

To Demetra and Red Farha on the birth of Stephanie's brother, Evangelos

### CHRISMATIONS & BAPTISMS

To Salma Elia Qushair on her chrismation and to her sponsor, Kholoud Alyateem

To Krissy and Dakota Palmer on their baptisms and to their sponsors, Pam & Anthea Copsis

To Corina Garaba and Ruslin Savin on the baptism of Amelia's brother, Yannis and to his sponsor, Lilia Trifan

To Anastasia and Andrei Sestacovschi on the baptism of their daughter, Alice Joanna, and to her sponsors, Ion & Christina Sestacovschi

To Marina Lozneva Minaylova & Grigorii Loznev on the baptism of their daughter, Emili Lozneva and to her sponsors, Anastasia Lozneva and Henry Loznev

To Sonny Gur on his baptism and to his sponsor, Ourania Tsopanas Tigani

To Rocio & Jimmy Clonaris on the baptism of their sons, Dimitri Gerry and Alfredo Nicholas "Nico" and to their sponsors, George & Georgeanne Douglas and John & Stacey Vastis

### MARRIAGES

To Margaret Catherine Griggs and Connor Lavell Lewis on their marriage and to their sponsors, Sarah and Keith Parker

## WITH SYMPATHY ON THE REPOSE OF OUR BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

To the Shelton family on the repose of Adrienne's sister, Deidre Brayall

To Loula Katpodis and her family on the repose of her husband, Apostolos "Paul" Katpodis

To the Polyzos family on the repose of Nicks' father, Panagiotis Polyzos

To the Holmes and Nixon families on the repose of Georgia's mother, Helen

To the Neary family on the passing of Ritsa's sister, Irene Kairi of Iraklion Crete, Greece.

## 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 issue — Fr. Andreas, Fr. Nektarios,

Kim Clewell, Caleb Clewell, Helen Giles, Elizabeth Kleto, Jim Keown, Deme Tsikles Poulos

Please contact Kim Clewell at [kclewell@stnektarios.org](mailto:kclewell@stnektarios.org) with information we may share with the community, to request a photo from 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 **August 7<sup>th</sup>**.

# LEAVE-TAKING OF PASCHA & PENTECOST

Although we had to abruptly alter our plans for a vigil at St. Nektarios Church to mark the leave-taking of Pascha on June 1st (COVID is still meddling here and there), all certainly was not lost, as it became an opportunity for us to share personally in this joy with our brothers and sisters at Holy Trinity Cathedral, strengthening our bonds in Christ, something indispensable if we are to serve him well here in Charlotte.

*"As it is the custom of the Church, on the day after every great Feast, to honour those through whom it came to pass our Lady on the day after the Lord's Nativity, Joachim and Anna after our Lady's Nativity, the holy Baptist the day after Theophany, and so forth, on this day we honour our God the All-Holy Spirit, the Comforter promised by our Saviour to His disciples (John 14:16), Who descended upon them at holy Pentecost and guided them "into all truth" (ibid. 16:13), and through them, us." (@goarch)*



**Left to right:** Fr. Andreas Houpos, Fr. Stavros Kofinas and Fr. Jonathan Resmini



**Left to right:** Fr. Christian Siskos, Fr. Jonathan Resmini & Fr. Andreas Houpos  
**Right:** Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



On June 13th at Holy Trinity we commemorated the secondary Feast Day of the Cathedral with beautiful divine services. The clergy who celebrated included: (From L-R) Fr. Andreas Houpos, Proistamenos at St. Nektarios Church, Fr. Stavros Kofinas, a son of Holy Trinity, Coordinator of the Network of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Health Care who is visiting from Greece, and Fr. Jonathan Resmini, Holy Trinity's Interim Dean.

May the All-Holy Spirit save us! ❖

## STAFF UPDATE

Tim Shelton

Our prayers go out to our beloved Property Manager, Tim Shelton, who suffered a heart attack in June. Tim is now at home and recovering. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. ❖

## Archepiscopal Encyclical for Father's Day Sunday of All Saints

Excerpts from June 19, 2022 Prot. No. 134/2022

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Father's Day, I ask for our entire Archdiocese to remember the "fathers" of our communities across the nation — that is, our very own clergy, who serve everyone so selflessly. This is our second year of recognizing the parish clergy of the Church on this special occasion. And the fact that it coincides with the feast of All Saints gives it even greater force, as we ourselves are all "called to be saints" as well (Romans 1:7). . . .

And so, I express to each and every member of our Sacred Archdiocese my profound gratitude for the support — both material and spiritual — that they offer to our priests. Your dedication to the life of our parishes through your sustaining love for the clergy is vital to our progress as a Church. . . .

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

# ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

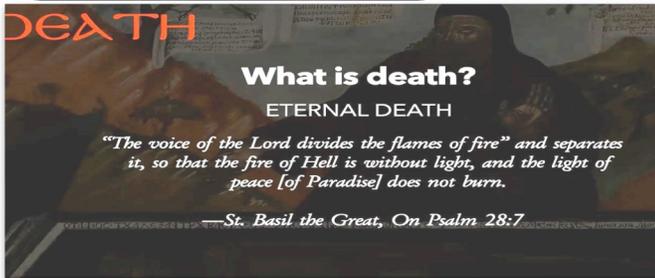


On June 24, Fr. Andreas led the last of his sessions in the international series “Getting to Know the Orthodox Faith”, titled “The Orthodox View of Death”.



Many thanks are due to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Abbot Ephraim of Vatopedi Monastery, and the indefatigable Niko Gouraros and team at Pemptousia, and the many clergy and participants who have made this offering

possible. Last night participants explored the mystery of death and how the Church prepares us for it and guides us through it. ❖



## The Liturgical Lens - Memorial rites

Memorials are traditionally offered on days 3, 9 and 40. Then on the year, and annually thereafter and/or Saturdays of the Soul and of course all Divine Liturgies.

Let the third day of the departed be celebrated with psalms, and lessons, and prayers, on account of Him who arose within the space of three days and let the ninth day be celebrated in remembrance of the living, and of the departed; and the fortieth day according to the ancient pattern: for so did the people lament Moses, and the anniversary day in memory of him. And let alms be given to the poor out of his goods for a memorial of him

(Apostolic Constitutions, Book V1111)

## LUNCHEON & BLESSING AT KENNETH POE FUNERAL SERVICES

We are grateful to Ken Poe and Andrew Bahanovich at Kenneth W. Poe Funeral Services for hosting the clergy of Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Nektarios Church to a lunch discussion on June 20<sup>th</sup> about our Orthodox Christian funerary traditions and practices.

This represents a joint effort to better help our faithful navigate the turbulent sea of secular influence, by better providing opportunities for awareness of the sure and stable teachings and practices of the Church.

After a fruitful discussion and fellowship, Frs. Andreas, Jonathan, Nektarios, and Christian conducted an agiasmos (blessing) of the funeral home.

(Pictured below) ❖



Left to right:

Fr. Christian Siskos, Fr. Jonathan Resmini, (Holy Trinity G. O. C. Charlotte)  
Andrew Bahanovich, Ken Poe,  
Fr. Andreas Houpos and Fr. Nektarios Karantonis



## Memory Eternal

When people pass away, we pray that their memory will be eternal. We're not simply asking God to think about them: we're asking Him to save them (and us) and bring us all into His Kingdom. It's the Church's answer to the loneliness and emptiness of death. ([Beethebee.goarch.org](http://Beethebee.goarch.org) — #75)



# ST. NEKTARIOS GARDEN, ORCHARD & BEEKEEPING

Did you know our parish has a garden, a budding orchard, and beehives? These in large part have been the project of Fr. Steve, in his retirement.

Pictured here are photos of our beautiful garden, Vacation Church Campers learning with Fr. Steve, Fr. Steve tending the garden as well as beekeeper and Parish Council member, Chris Mortis, showing Fr. Andreas what and how our bees are doing!

God is wondrous in all his works! ❖



Fr. Steve tending the garden



Vacation Church Campers learning about our faith with Fr. Steve during Vacation Church Camp 2021



## Some of the benefits of keeping bees:

- It helps the environment
  - Honey has health benefits
  - It's relaxing and can calm stress
  - Improves pollination of garden crops and flowers
  - You get to dress like an Astronaut
- From The Benefits of Keeping Bees (beekeepinginsider.com)



PC member, Chris Mortis, sharing his knowledge of bees with Fr. Andreas

# Financial Matters

## Stewardship

### To be stewards of the Gospel . . .

. . . we need to be stewards of our parish.

This requires the vision and inspiration to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be.

We are called to offer ourselves and our treasure to make our local church all that it can be.

Stewardship Ministries  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



As of June 22, 2022



### Regular Periodic Giving

We are half way through the year.  
Are you on track?

**\$861,000** Stewardship Goal  
**\$430,500** Half-way Mark  
**\$386,094** Cash Received

### Giving Fuels our Ministries.

Monthly offerings align with the ongoing funding of operations. This ensures year-long adequate support of our ministries that provide worship, witness, fellowship and service.

Thank you to those serving on the Stewardship Ministry that helps with fiscal management of the Church:  
Mike Burgan (Chair), Elissa Bahanovich, Despina Gallis,

## Building for Generations

### From Ground Blessing to Ground Breaking

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June 2022

During the past 18 months Charlotte has indeed become home to Presbytera Meredyth and me, and you have become our family.

In thinking of our parish as a family, my thoughts go to our mutual future—a good father must provide and care for his children in the present, but also with a vision for his and their future.

June marked one year since we were led by our collective Spiritual Father, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, in a Ground Blessing at the site of our future Ministry Center. I bring this to our attention as a reminder of the work set before us.

Thank God, over 150 individuals and families here have made pledges and offerings toward our future. **Have you done so yet?** If not, I ask you to join Presbytera Meredyth and me—who now call this blessed place “home”—and your brothers and sisters in Christ, in investing in our parish’s future by making a pledge, a commitment, to this next phase of growth.

Our community is thriving with new members constantly arriving from without, and being born from within. Let’s take the steps to build today what they, too, will come to know as “home”.

+Fr. Andreas  
proistamenos



### All In to Build the Ministry Center

Estimated Project Cost — \$10.9 million

68% of Project Cost reached  
in pledges and offerings

32% cash received

\$3.5 million needed in additional pledges

Have you made your pledge yet?



Scan QR Code  
to make your  
pledge today

### Online Giving Options

for Your Stewardship, Candles and More



- QR code
- Go to [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org); select online giving
- Use your banking bill pay
- VANCO App GIVE+ on the App Store and GIVEPLUS on Google play

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

# NEWCOMER AND COMMUNITY BRUNCH

We were blessed on May 22 to have our first in-person Newcomer Event since COVID-19 disrupted our lives. The sun was shining brightly on this beautiful day. We were excited to see so many Newcomers (some of whom are pictured on this page) turn out for this brunch.



Above left to right: Fr. Andreas and Outreach & Welcome Ministry leader, Linda Borowski, and members of our Welcome Team.

Members of our Welcome Ministry greeted parishioners, visitors and newcomers at the Welcome Tables under the Portico. Since it was Name Tag Sunday, we also asked everyone to wear a name tag.

After Divine Liturgy during our Community Brunch, our Newcomers were invited onto the Porch for a casual meet and greet with Fr. Andreas and Fr. Nektarios. They enjoyed bacon, sausage, eggs, grits and biscuits as well as a special cake. This may have been our most attended Newcomer Brunch ever. If you are not pictured here, please let us know and we will be happy to include your photo in a future issue of the newsletter so we can get to know each other better.

Thank you to Linda Borowski and our Welcome Ministry for coordinating this event. Thank you to Ayoub Ayoub and Safwat Wassef with our Hospitality Team for preparing the abundant



Debbie & Naguib Asaad



Nevin & Sammy Sedhom



Emily & David Hanegraaff & family



Dustan Johnson & Luciana Faraci



Cristina & Ion Sestacovschi



Andrei & Ana Sestacovschi & daughter



Charles & Vivian Cutajar

## A Message from our Welcome Ministry:

A member of our team is on duty most Sundays to welcome parishioners and visitors to St. Nektarios. We want to identify our first time visitors (Orthodox or inquirers), answer their questions, provide parish information and most importantly to make them feel at home. If you have not received a Welcome Packet, please contact the church office during the weekday business hours or speak with a Ministry member on Sundays. Kim Clewell is your contact in the office at [kclewell@stnektarios.org](mailto:kclewell@stnektarios.org). Please let her know you are new to the community and she will be happy to send our information packet. ❖



Lula & Safwat Wassef



Ezra Dotson



Georgia & Steve Lacman



Kevin & Camille Deisenroth



Andrii & Maria Grekh and family



Larissa Lacman & Chris Litke and family



Nick & Jean Patitsas



Joy Marcus



Hanna & Ayoub Ayoub



# YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart meeting was held at noon on the 12th of June with a little mixing, talking and catching up with fellow members. We celebrated birthdays for members born in June and July, may they have many more happy, healthy years. George Karagounis was selected as our Young at Heart Father of the Year. Congratulations George, and may you also have many more happy, healthy years.



**Above left:** Father of the Year, George Karagounis, pictured with Mike Neary  
**Above right:** Roula Poulos working hard serving June 11 meeting members

A thank you goes out to Ayoub Ayoub who prepared our delicious luncheon of Chicken Kebabs with all the fixing's. Thank you!!

Several YAH Members spoke about their fathers and what a role they played in their lives. Thank you for letting us hear your memories.

After dessert of Cake and Ice Cream, we departed for the summer. Kalo Kalakeri (Have a Great Summer!)

Mike Neary



**Above:** Our members with June or July birthdays



**Pictured left:** The Young at Heart board working diligently planning for the upcoming ecclesiastical year

## Young Adult Ministry



Our Young Adult group met for fellowship and a discussion about the future of the ministry. All this with the usual buzz of pastoral care and administrative work. ❖

# CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES



We honored our Class of 2022 graduates (some of which are pictured here) on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Our graduates came forward to be recognized on the Solea and outside on the front steps of the church. May our Lord bless all of our graduates in their efforts as they seek to honor Him. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2022! ❖

## ST. PHOTIOS FUNDRAISER



**Pictured here:** Our 9th & 10th graders working hard during to raise funds for their pilgrimage to the St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine Florida. Thank you to all their friends, families and Sunday School Director, Helen Giles. A special thank you goes to catechism teacher, Gerry Clonaris who takes these GOYANS on this trip every two years. Many thanks to all who came out and supported us on May 15th for this special fundraiser. Please be sure to see next pages for write-ups and photos of a blessed and inspiring trip for all. ❖



# DAY 1 - ST. PHOTIOS TRIP

At the beginning of our pilgrimage, we found ourselves bonding with one another and learning about those that we were not close with before. Before checking into the hotel, we went to the St. Photios shrine where we were able to go inside and experience another important Orthodox place. As we looked around, we were able to find ourselves closer to God. Not only did we learn about the history of the church in this visit, but we also learned about each other's background. After talking for about two hours, we found ourselves at the hotel where we all unloaded the bus and settled into our rooms. Once settled in we headed back outside, where a few of us had a short Bible study. We talked about our



favorite verses or stories from the bible. By the end of the Bible study we were taking turns reading Psalms 51, where we discussed the meaning of the verse, and its significance. Once finished we closed in prayer and headed back towards our room where we fell on our beds and talked

until there was nothing else to talk about. Throughout the day we found ourselves in many situations where we were able to be closer to God and have a better understanding of not only our faith but one another.

Michael Azar



# DAY 2 - ST. PHOTIOS TRIP

On the morning of Friday, we had an eight am wake-up accompanied by a hearty breakfast, and set off. We began our activities for the day by taking the bus to visit the Saint Photios shrine again. The shrine, though small, holds tremendous zeal within the Orthodox Christian community. Walking through, the traditional Byzantine iconography is a gateway into not only the history of the Orthodox Church, but is an inspiration for the next generation of the church. The glory and historical significance of the shrine is evident upon arrival. Learning about St. Photios, St. Methodios, and St. Cyril, the history of the shrine, and surrounding area provided us all with a feeling of connection to a place with which we share Orthodox Christian ancestry. Upon exiting the shrine for the day, there is a lingering pull back toward the familiarity of the quaint structure and the kind people who welcomed us in its

splendor. For lunch we sat down at a cafe where we had sandwiches and crepes. After a fulfilling meal eaten over much discussion, we shopped around the area in all the fun novelty stores. Back at the hotel, we relaxed for a bit before ordering pizza and swimming in the hotel pool. Once we were dried off, we sat together and inquired Fr. Andreas and Coach Gerry with many questions about the church, our beliefs, etc. After our joyful and educational time together, we showered and hung out in each other's company till we were ready to go to sleep. Finally, after an eventful, spiritual, and fun day, we retired for a restful night's sleep in preparation for the day to come.

Bessie Karavokiros



# DAY 3 - ST. PHOTIOS TRIP

On our third day of the St. Photios pilgrimage, we were immersed and welcomed into the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC). The center's main goal is to immerse and share Christ's love throughout the globe. Throughout the years OCMC has spread this infectious love and strong faith in over 30 countries; Guatemala, Madagascar, Albania, The Ivory Coast and many more. Gaining insight on the missions center helped us understand how much determination, time, and passion gets poured into these missions. Growing and learning as a group, we received lunch and headed to the beach. Spending time and bonding with everyone created unforgettable memories and a sense of family between everyone. Listening to music, dancing,

laughing, crashing into waves, making sand castles and enjoying each others presence sealed our bond. Later that night, we held a vespers service at the St. Photios shrine led by Father Andreas. Services here were a surreal experience. The four domed ceilings created a natural sound system and seeing the tiniest brush strokes hand painted on each of the icons added to this experience. Being able to observe what the priest was doing in the open altar during the service was a blessing. After Baked Ziti hosted by a natural hospitalist, Polly, we continued onto the hotel to swim. We finished the night with confession from Fr. Andreas, which was a first experience for many.



After confession, some talked underneath "The Old Senator Tree" one of the oldest oak trees (over 600 years old), while others headed back to sleep."

Evie Demakis



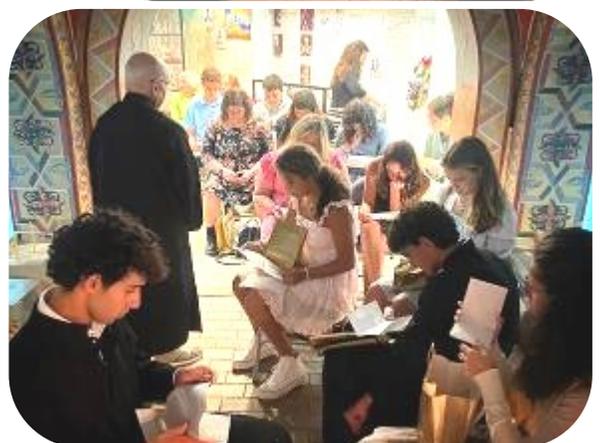
# DAY 4 - ST. PHOTIOS TRIP

On our fourth day of the St. Photios pilgrimage, we woke up early to go to Divine Liturgy at the St. Photios National Shrine. Father Andreas lead the service, with Gerry chanting, and Anthony Korolos and Michael Azar in the altar. There were not a lot of people at the service today, it was very small because we were in a tight space in the shrine. The service was beautiful and calming. After the service ended, Fr. Andreas gave us all a small icon, and Gerry gave us a bag with a book, a cross pin, and two letters. The first letter was from Mr. Gerry, who wrote us a sweet and holy letter, teaching us about how we can help ourselves and others develop a stronger relationship with God. The second letter we received was from our beloved parents who wrote us a personal letter about ourselves and how much they loved us and how we can further develop a closer relationship with God. After opening our bags full of church-related items, we all headed upstairs to eat the breakfast that Mrs. Polly Hillier put together for us. She prepared a breakfast casserole, watermelon, strawberries, beverages, and some delicious pastries that Father blessed for us. We rushed to finish our breakfast because we needed to stay on schedule and get back to the motel. Once arriving at the motel, we all finished up our last -minute packing where we then



boarded the bus. We then checked out and were on our way to Charlotte. For the first two hours, the bus was very quiet. Everyone was asleep but we eventually all woke up. We began to start conversations with one another and reminisce about our time together on the trip. Time flew by as we were all laughing and talking on the bus, and before we knew it, we were pulling into the St. Nektarios parking lot.

Virginia O'Brien



# YOUTH MINISTRY



Vacation Church Camp was amazing! Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to have a great week with our 90+ campers. More hands make lighter work.

On Day 1, it was great to have so many of our young ones together for summer fun in an environment of faith! We had a great time today in all our rotations, learning, growing in faith, and making new friends. Our campers even enjoyed an enjoyable game of kickball with Fr. Andreas on the field near the garden.

Day 2 was especially exciting as we traced icons and other Orthodox images onto Shrinky Dink craft paper. (They are called this because the image is traced on a large sheet and then is baked. It shrinks proportionally

to a much smaller object.) There were some truly beautiful examples from this craft! Glory to God!

Camp Day 3 was preceded by an early-morning liturgy for the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and had plenty of craft time and lessons about the gifts we bring to God. We extended blessings to all who celebrated their name day, including our own Fr. Paul, who celebrated the feast with a vigil in Aegina, Greece. Fr. Nektarios taught us all about Proskomide and its use in Proskomide and the Divine Liturgy.

Day 4 we gathered for our last day of camp with the Divine Liturgy and our end of camp lunch of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Glory to God for this beautiful week with an amazing group of our youth! ❖



# VACATION CHURCH CAMP



**Julitta &  
Kyrikos the  
Martyrs  
July 15**



Saint Julitta was from the city of Iconium. Fearing the persecution of Diocletian, she took her son Cyricus, who was three years old, and departed for Seleucia; but finding the same evil there, she went over to Tarsus in Cilicia, where the ruler arrested her. He took her son from her and tried with flatteries to draw the youth to himself. But the little one, in his childish voice, called on the Name of Christ and kicked the ruler in the belly so hard, that the tyrant became enraged and cast him down the steps of the tribunal. In this manner, the child's head was crushed, and he gave up the spirit. As for his blessed mother, she first endured many torments, and finally was beheaded in the year 296. Apolytikion of Martyr Julitta & Cyricus—Fourth Tone

Blessed Julitta, Christ God's rational ewe-lamb, with holy Cyricus, her three-year-old offspring, stood at the judgment seat and with authority and great boldness they proclaimed the true Faith of the Christians. In no wise were they afraid of the threats of the tyrants; and now in Heaven, wearing precious crowns, they both rejoice as they stand before Christ our God.

<http://www.goarch.org>

**Special Note : The relics of St. Kyrikos were in entombed in the altar at St. Nektarios during the Consecration of the Church in 2010.**

**OUR MISSION:**

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

**OUR VISION:**

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

**DIRECTORY**

**Church Office:** 704-708-4669  
**Church Fax:** 704-846-6094  
**Email:** [office@stnektarios.org](mailto:office@stnektarios.org)  
**Website:** [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org)  
 5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

**Clergy**

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

**Parish Staff**

**Parish Administrator** - Evelyn Klund  
**Administration Staff**  
 Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell, Samara Clewell  
 Niki Kleto, and Sofia Nicolopoulos  
**Property Manager** - Tim Shelton  
**Sexton** - Jim Keown  
**Music Directors** - 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](mailto: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: August 15, 2022  
 Published: August 26, 2022