



**Volume 27, Issue 2**  
**March - April 2023**

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# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT

*Fr. Andreas G. Houpos*

Beloved in the Lord,

**Christ is Risen!**  
**Truly He is Risen!**  
**Christos Anesti!**  
**Alithos Anesti!**

We all knew it was coming. We made our preparations. Perhaps we got the house ready. Perhaps we prepared food. Perhaps we picked out our outfits. Perhaps we took a nap late in the day. We left the house for church at a late hour that is disorientating.

We walk into church and pick up an unusually large candle. We find our seat, noticing how many other people are already there, early, before the service starts. The service begins, a muted, staid experience that matches the nighttime mood.

Then, as the lights come down, one by one they add to the darkness of the holy temple. In any other moment it would be unsettling, and tonight it still is, but we are not alone and we know what is coming.

Now darkness.  
Stillness. Anticipation.

Then, our eyes catch it. A flickering pinpoint of flame begins to emerge from the sanctuary, as our ears fill with a solemn chant: "Come, receive the light!" Within moments, we are surrounded by the intense glow of hundreds of lit candles, and then the sonic light of the words that forever changed the world burst forth:

"CHRIST IS RISEN!"

Beloved, this year as we approached the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we had much to be grateful for, and much to reach for.

Every week we saw returning and new faces. Our church brimmed with the faithful, both veterans and neophytes. Our clergy stood before the Holy Altar to lead us in worship, and by our side to guide us through life's ups and downs.

*Our Lord's  
Resurrection . . .  
explodes with  
divine light that  
amplifies virtue  
and blessings,  
strengthening  
our souls for . . .*

This year has seen new life injected into our music ministry. The prospect of an incoming director of youth and family ministry adds hope. The shovels readying to break ground add anticipation. The outpouring of stewardship from our community gives substance to intangible faith.

If we humbly allow it, the sacred commemoration of our Lord's Resurrection accepts all the preceding challenges and sins and missteps in our lives and plunges them into the grave. It then explodes with divine light that amplifies virtue and blessings, strengthening our souls for what lies ahead.

Now we have completed Bright Week or Renewal Week, the Week of Pascha. This day that has no end, because the week counts as one day and is now transitioning into more regular time for the liturgical life of the church.

I wanted to take a moment to thank you with great joy and gratitude in my heart for the outpouring of love for our Lord that was witnessed during the course of Holy Week and certainly during the feast of Pascha and those of you who stayed and joined us for our Agape Picnic.

I want to thank you for sharing your love for the Lord with each other and I thank you personally for sharing it with me. It's a great blessing to be the pastor of a community that loves the Lord in the way that you do and I pray God will grant you many years unto salvation and that he will lead us all higher up and higher in to His love and the truth of His resurrection.

I want to thank also our many staff, our parish council members and volunteers. Our Parish Council led with faith and integrity. Our staff worked tirelessly. Our volunteer ministers gave selflessly. All are without number who put in so much effort in helping through Lent, Holy Week, the great events of Pascha and again, our Agape Picnic coming to pass.

May God bless you and your families unto the ages. Amen.

# In the Spotlight

## PROSFORA BAKERS

**D**id you know that each month we have a small group of parishioners who bake the prosphora in our kitchen that is used on at our Divine Liturgies? Thank you to our ministry leaders, Christie Asimos and Vivian Karampouniotis who coordinate the baking, and to Mia Tefakis, Rita Pappas, Ritsa Neary, Peter Reinhart and many others who have served the Community for many years, and to those who bake from home. Thank you to Safwat Wassef who has recently joined the baking team, as well as taking our monthly mailings to the Bulk Mail Center. ❖



### CUSTOM CUTTING BOARD

Thank you to Jeff Matthews of Old World Molding for a custom cutting board, dedicated for the preparation of the Holy Gifts.



# FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

## Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Adrienne 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 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 Emmanouel  
 Mariham Helen Debbie Hanna Chris Greg Shannon Jeff Pat

### 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 BIRTHS & 40TH DAY BLESSINGS

To Dani and Dan Monroe on the birth of their son, Daniel Herman

### CHRISMATIONS & BAPTISMS

To Haifa Ziad Naber on her chrismations and to her sponsor, Salma Qushair  
 To Rhett Chapman on his baptism and to his sponsor, Jim Keown  
 To Dustin Johnson on his baptism and to his sponsor, Jim Keown  
 To Luciana Faraci on her chrismation and to her sponsor, Kathryn Baker Mason  
 To Matthew Dunn on his chrismation and to his sponsor, Bryan Steel

### PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS

To Peter Moye for making All Conference at South Mecklenburg High School with a total of 504 points  
 To Chris Mason and his team at the Marchand and Ourand Sports Media Podcast by New York Post Sports for being selected as the Best Sports Business Podcast  
 To Summer Clewell for being inducted into the National Honor Society

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

To Galasso, Hoffman & Sfakianos families on the repose of Stephanie's mother, Tomasina Sfakianos  
 To the family of Fr. Angelo Artemas on his repose  
 The Basil family on the repose of Helen Basil  
 To the family of Eleni Zaharopoulos Galatas on her repose

### 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, Fr. Nektarios, Presbyteria Ellia, Fr. Paul, Kim Sheree' Braswell, Jim Keown, John Cosmas, Stavroula Couchell, Nolan Atkinson

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 or submit a photo to the newsletter, add someone to the prayer list or to request a clergy visit.

# STAFF UPDATES

## NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

“Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; proclaim from day to day the good tidings of his salvation.” (Psalm 95)



Sam Herron

We welcome Samuel (Sam) Herron to our community to assume the role of Director of Music Ministry.

Sam comes to us from Arizona, where he has served as Protopsaltis (chief cantor) at the Assumption Church in Scottsdale. He brings with him a wealth of ability and experience in the rich liturgical (“Byzantine”) music tradition of our Orthodox Faith.

Sam is a master cantor, a composer, a choir director, and a teacher. He also spent time studying in Greece under the late Lycourgos Angelopoulos. While fully capable of executing the Church’s repertoire in the original Greek, he strives to make the art equally respectable when performed in translation.

He is a founder of the Dynamis Ensemble and co-founder of the Trisagion School of Byzantine Music. He is on the faculty of the Liturgical Arts Academy of the Metropolis of Atlanta and of the Archdiocesan School of Byzantine Music. He had the honor of leading one of the choirs during the 2021 Patriarchal Divine Liturgy, presided over by His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, in New York City, as well as being part of a select group to chant the services for the consecration of the St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center in 2022.

Sam and his wife, Christina, and their two daughters, Alexis and Sophia (with a new sister on the way), relocated to the Charlotte area at the end of February. He assumed his duties beginning March 1. We welcome them into our family of faith.

## THANK YOU TO DINA MARINAKOS AND JEFF CLEWELL

Dina and Jeff have served as outstanding leaders within our music ministry for many years. We are grateful for their passion and commitment to bring the beauty and message of our faith and to connect us in our Liturgical worship. We look forward to their continued roles in this ministry as they work together with Sam, our new director.



## WELCOME NINA DZYAK AND SAMMY SEDHOM



Nina Dzyak

Nina Dzyak and Sammy Sedhom have joined our part-time administrative staff. Nina is responsible for general office work in support of our ministries, serves as our Youth Protection Administrator, and manages our volunteer scheduling software.



Sammy Sedhom

She is married to Joshua Dzyak and they have two sons. Sammy assists in the accounting function of the parish. He is married to Nevine Sedhom and they have a daughter, Justina. Both Sammy and Nina bring with them years of experience to help us as we serve our community.



## VISIT BY HIS GRACE, BISHOP SEBASTIAN OF ZELON

We thank His Grace for spending an evening with our families in fellowship and worship for Small Compline and Salutations on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

During this pastoral visit to the Charlotte area, His Grace presided over the Regional Council Meeting on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> as well as the divine services at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday. We were blessed by this visit.

## FEAST DAY GREETINGS TO HIS EMINENCE

Some of the members who attended the Presanctified Liturgy on the feast day of St. Alexios (March 17<sup>th</sup>) posed for this photo greeting sent to His Eminence Bishop Alexios for his name day. Many years to him.



## STAFF APPRECIATION

The staff gathered on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, in honor of our outgoing staff members, Helen Giles and Niki Kleto. Thank

you to Evelyn Klund who hosted dinner at her home. Niki was on staff from 2015 to 2021. She moved to Georgia to be closer to family. Helen is currently our volunteer Catechism Director and had been our Director of Youth Ministries from 2017 to June 2022.



# YOUNG AT HEART WINTER RE-CAP

Our Young At Heart group has enjoyed lots of fellowship for the last 4 months with a wonderful New Year's Eve luncheon at the end of December.

We met in January and enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship as always.

In February, we welcomed Dr. Jonathan Feather, a clinical psychologist, serving older adolescents and adults, individuals and couples, treating depression, anxiety, stress, adjustment to medical conditions/ disabilities, marital and relationship problems, spiritual issues and other adjustment/transitional issues. He spoke concerning matters of the mind and the heart and how our thinking can be flawed. It was an eye-opening teaching. Thank you to our Philoptochos ladies for providing the cake.

In March we were blessed to have special guest, Fr. Paul Tshakis, (pictured below right) speak with us. Please see our next issue for details about our March gathering. ❖



**Above:** Our January Hosts / **Below:** Our February Hosts



Left to right: Mike Neary, Dr. Jonathan Feather, Presbytera Sandy Stanar



We drew 2 names to be selected as Valentine's Sweethearts



New Year's Eve Luncheon



Pictured above: January and February Birthdays



Fr. Paul Tshakis and Jim Keown

# MISSIONS AND PHILANTHROPY MINISTRY

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, our dedicated Missions and Philanthropy Ministry hosted an Artisan Pizza Dinner, featuring the handiwork of our own Chef, Peter Reinhart.

Thank you to Tim Klund for the hard work of creating the slideshow which showcased our parishioners' work in other countries. Thank you to our speakers, Fr. Steve Dalber, Tim Klund, Katie Caltis, and Missy Davis. We heard moving testimonials from Presbytera Meredyth Houpos, George Miller, Dean Kalariotis, Patrick Taylor and Vaki Karampourniotis.

The next time you are in the Spiritual Life Center upstairs, please visit our Missions Map of the world with photos of our parishioners who have served in other countries. The photo display on the map was created by Christie Asimos and Kim Braswell (Clewell) and it continues to grow as more and more parishioners feel the calling of servitude to those in need. May the Lord bless their efforts.

Now that the world is opening back up, we hope to resume our role in supporting and joining missionary and philanthropic activity locally and around the world. May it be so! ❖



# ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## ORTHODOX FILM CLUB

The Orthodox Film Club gathers periodically throughout the year and is a ministry for film lovers of all ages. The film club views and discusses videos and movies from an Orthodox perspective. Movie snacks are provided.

In February, we had a showing of a Pavel Lounguine film called "The Island", which tells the story of a saintly "fool for Christ". This was a great way to begin preparing for the Great Fast. Thank you to our volunteers who provided refreshments and to everyone who came out to support this night. ❖



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP DINNER & REFLECTION BY FR. ANDREAS



We continued our annual tradition of offering a Lenten soup supper following the Wednesday night Presanctified Liturgy. Volunteers offered their culinary talents to provide dinner. Soup was prepared by Svitlana Dixon and her mother, Lyudmila, Stavroula and John Couchell, Salma Qushair, Ritsa Neary and Evelyn Klund. Each week, everyone also enjoyed an assortment of pot luck side dishes provided by others. These offerings were truly enjoyed and appreciated by our church family.

The evening concluded with Fr. Andreas presenting a series of reflections to aid us on our Lenten journey to Pascha. ❖



## LENT, LUNCH & LEARN

The faithful were offered another opportunity during their Lenten journey to focus on personal spiritual growth and internal reflection. Participants took time from their busy daily lives to come together in person and virtually over four Thursdays.

There was fellowship time, a delicious Lenten lunch provided by our faithful and presentations by Fr. Steve Dalber, Fr. Christian Sisko, Fr. Jonathan Cox and Fr. Paul Tsahakis with Gerontissa Agne.

Fr. Steve Dalber was the presenter for our first session, "Our Journey to Paradise" sharing the important and genuine role of fasting in preparation for our Lenten journey.

In his presentation, "The Rudder of our Life", Fr. Christian Sisko taught that sin is an illness that wounds our relationship with God, self and others. The church is a hospital and God is our healer. He reminded us that the aim of our life in Christ is to move us closer to God. He provided some helpful imagery to keep us on track.

Fr. Jonathan Cox spoke on "Lent and the Renewal of Creation." Through the disobedience of Adam and Eve in creation, we fell into disorder and decay. Our soul was moved so that the focus was on ourselves and not on the divine. Through Lent we have the opportunity to restore our relationship between man and the divine, the one true God.

The final session provided an impactful presentation on "Prayer . . . Union with Christ" by Fr. Paul Tsahakis and Gerontissa Agne, Abbess of the nearby Panagia Prousiotissa Monastery in Troy, NC. We also had as our guest for lunch Fr. Chrysostom Mitchell of Holy Trinity in Columbia, SC.

We thank our presenters for their time and teachings. We thank Gerry Clonaris, Director of Adult Religious Education, for organizing these sessions. We thank Brian Clonaris, Dimitri Triantafyllidis and Evelyn Klund for the AV support to be able to offer the sessions to our virtual participants. We give a special thank you to all our faithful who provided the delicious food each week.

These sessions sent us into Holy Week armed with prayer and true love for our Lord and for one another! ❖



# ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## FOODS IN FAITH

Our Adult Religious Education program debuted "Foods in Faith", a new initiative promoting the traditions of the foods associated with Orthodox Christian worship. Our inaugural session was on Prosporon, the bread used for the Eucharist. Class size was limited, and interest demands a second one, which we will arrange in due time. The next session will be on Kollyva and will take place prior to the second Saturday of Souls, which precedes Pentecost. ❖



## SCOUTS



**Pictured above right:** Michael Azar receives his Eagle Scout Award

**Far Right:** Michael built a Lending Library located in front of the church office - feel free to borrow a book & return it or take a book, and leave a book



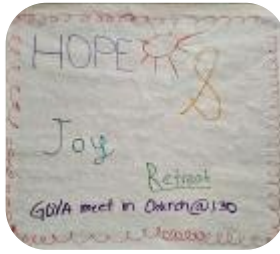
**Below:** Group photo from the Induction Ceremony



**Pictured above:**

Scouts hard at work preparing barbecue for Scout Sunday

# YOUTH MINISTRIES



A few photos from our HOPE & JOY Holy Friday Retreat. Our youth learned about the mystical supper, the path taken with the cross of Christ, and made their very own Pascha lambades (candles).



GOYANS making Palm Crosses on Lazarus Saturday



St. Phoebe Ministry making baskets for shut-ins



Above: GOYA Come and See Sundays!



Above: Joy Hope First Fridays



Our teens were very busy on Holy Friday, preparing the church, receiving our Lord's body into the linen sheet, and even helping unload food for the Agape picnic on Sunday. We're so proud of these future church leaders! May God bless them!



# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

In gratitude for our Stewards



### Grateful for 25 Years of building up the Body of Christ

We reflected on stewardship: what it means and how to do it. Our Parish Council, Stewardship Committee, and Hospitality team led by example, preparing and serving brunch in honor of our stewards. Thank you to Samara Clewell for creating our custom thank you aprons, Outside, our Scouts were making their annual BBQ delivery. We thank our Lord for this "community that bears his name", as the hymn says.

### Our 2023 Theme . . .

*Grateful for 25 Years of Building up the Body of Christ*

#### Why be Grateful?

- God has provided abundantly for our Parish and for each one of us and our families.
- We have a home; Our Church, Our Spiritual Home.

#### What is the Body of Christ?

- The Church – the head of the Church is Christ and we the people make up the Church set apart to do the work of God.

#### 25th Year Anniversary

- 2023 will be filled with reflection on the past 25 years.
- 2023 will be a steppingstone to new opportunities for *Building Up the Body of Christ*.

### A Steward Looks Like . . .

Being a Steward looks like us!

**Giving our first fruits. Giving our best to God.**

**Giving to God as a priority.**



**Providing our Time**

**Sharing our Talents**

**Offering our Treasures**

### To Be an Active Steward . . .

**PRAY** individually, pray as a family, pray as a community for direction.

**COMMIT** to 2023 -- Start with your 2022 offering and reach for an increase. Can you go 10% higher for 2023?

**SUBMIT** your Pledge Card and Time and Talent form to the Church office.

- Set-up a monthly contribution through bank draft or our Online Giving tab on the website.
- Volunteer for a Ministry – use the Ministry list to identify the opportunities or start something new.

**ASK** for more information– Clergy, Parish Council, and Stewardship Committee are here to answer your questions. .

### So You Know . . .

#### Operating Fund Income and Expenses January to April 23, 2023

Stewardship Received	\$ 300,302
Other Income Received	\$ 108,072
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>408,374</b>
Total Expenses (paid & accrued)	\$ - 427,729
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -19,355</b>

**\$100,542**

**Average Monthly Expenses**

**Budget**  
\$933,000

**Pledged**  
\$872,492

**Stewardship**

**Results**

**As of 4-23-23**

**Received**  
\$300,302

# ST. HERMIONE HOME ~ 2022 A YEAR IN REVIEW



The vision of St. Hermione Home (SHH) began in early 2017 with a visit to Shelter Health Services, a completely free medical clinic within the Center of Hope/Salvation Army, in the inner city of Charlotte, NC. During this visit, Fr. Paul Tsahakis, an orthopedic surgeon, was invited to initiate an orthopedic clinic there. During the early years of providing medical services, it became clear that the served population was also hungry for further spiritual nourishment. Thus in 2019, a weekly Bible Study/Prayer Group was inaugurated there with the assistance of Christina Hanegraaff.

During the ravages of the COVID pandemic in late 2020, many of the socially economically disadvantaged population in our area lost their homes and were left to live on the streets and in tents. Having been inspired by previously contemplating the life of the early (100 AD) Holy Unmercenary Saint, St. Hermione, Fr. Paul and Christina, aided by many others brought needed resources to these suffering people including food, clothing and spiritual support. These efforts continue to the present day.

Additionally, in response to a direct question posed to Fr. Paul several years ago regarding alternatives to pregnancy termination in economically disadvantaged women who otherwise would have chosen to carry their children to full term, the concept of a maternity home offering a full spectrum of services was born. Eventually, all these efforts were combined

under the heading of the "St. Hermione Home" (SHH), a 501c3 tax exempt entity. SHH is led by a diverse Board of Directors who are committed to both the material and spiritual expressions of the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew as presented in the 25th Chapter. SHH is based on the healing of the "whole person," as exemplified in the life of St. Hermione. These methods extend to all the SHH expressions including the Health and Wellness Program, the Bible Study/Prayer Groups, street ministry, and the eventual maternity home.

The actual "St. Hermione Home" will provide a safe and supportive home for homeless women to give birth and spiritually develop and nurture the mother and child bond. Access to food, clothing, medical services, training to learn parenting, personal, and professional skills will be offered. These services will enable self-sufficiency, leaving homelessness, and living a quality life as a family. Additionally, a two-year community college education will be offered to each resident.

2022 has been an active and exciting year for SHH. During 2021, SHH began the arduous process of National Accreditation. By the grace of God, SHH received National Accreditation as a Coaching and Support Education Service on Holy Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Of note, the state of North Carolina requires a three-year waiting period after National Accreditation before they will issue a maternity license. Consequently, actual construction on the home will begin in the Spring of 2023. Fully approved construction plans are already available.

Additionally, during 2022, the Board of Directors of SHH contemplated more fully the concept of "whole person healing." As a consequence, they decided to include a fully functioning Greek Orthodox Chapel which will be attached to the Home itself. The addition

of this Chapel was recently blessed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, to become a metochion" (dependency) of the Holy Monastery of Panagia Prousiotissa in nearby Troy, NC. All of the Holy Services of the Eastern Orthodox Church will be offered here.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors recently inaugurated a capital campaign to build the chapel and home, and is called "The Least of These." The construction has been estimated to cost up to \$1.5 million dollars. During the "silent phase" of this campaign over the last few years, \$800,000 has already been raised. According to present plans, the construction of the Chapel and Home is projected to be completed by Spring 2024. The Chapel will be used for services immediately thereafter. The Home is projected to accept its first residents during Spring 2025, when the state of North Carolina will issue SHH a maternity license. To close out the news for SHH, the Salvation Army of the Greater Charlotte Area named St. Hermione Home the recipient of its Ministry of the Year Award for 2022.

+Fr. Paul Tsahakis President  
SHH 12/20/2022



**Left:** Manal Choueiri, Deidre Lepkowski and Salma Qushair, brought the Light and Love of Jesus Christ to the SHH bible study at the shelter on 2/14. Many were blessed by their actions. Glory to God!



**Above photos:** The many faces of Angels reflecting the Light of Jesus Christ as they offered love, food and blankets to the to several hundred pained souls at the Salvation Army Center of Hope, who received healing from our Lord in these actions.

Heartfelt gratitude to:

The Holy Monastery of Panagia Prousiotissa, St Hermione Home, Shelter Health Services, St Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church with its Ladies Bible Study, and to all of the staff at the Center of Hope.

"I couldn't ask for a better spiritual father. He has taught me so much this year about how to BE Christ to and SEE Christ in the "least of these". (Matthew 25) I am excited about what is to come with St. Hermione Home.

Christina Hanegraaff — [www.sthhome.com](http://www.sthhome.com)



## ST. HERMIONE HOME (CONT.)

**C**HRIST IS RISEN! On April 19<sup>th</sup> clergy, monastics, and faithful from our region and beyond gathered around His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios for the groundbreaking of the St. Hermione Home. May this ministry be blessed and may the construction of its facilities proceed smoothly! ❖



## PANAGIA PROUSIOTISSA MONASTERY - TROY NC

**C**HRIST IS RISEN! On Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Andreas, Protopsaltis Sam Herron and a number of our faithful represented our parish at Panagia Prousiotissa Monastery in Troy - first at the Divine Liturgy, and then during the procession and ground blessing for future building projects. A thorough virtual walkthrough was provided for all by the architect of the proposed designs. May God grant the increase and Panagia guide the timing and completion of the blessed undertaking! ❖



**St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker  
Dragon Slayer  
April 24th**



From a very early age we are encouraged by our parents to establish goals that will enable us to acquire a certain level of success in this world. It is important that we do so by focusing our attention to strive for excellence in all our endeavors. We set goals to obtain a better education, a promotion at work, or perhaps to win a particular athletic event. All these goals may be important, but what about the goals we set concerning our spiritual lives?

The saint that we wish to highlight this month is St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker. In her life we see that she, from a very young age, was confident in the goals she sought to pursue. It is recorded that she pledged herself to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with these words: "be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." John 5:48)

At a very young age, St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker joined the monastic community of Ss. Kosmas and Damian in Constantinople. Her love for Christ was expressed through the compassion she poured upon all people, especially the less fortunate. The empathy shown by this saint relieved the suffering of the many people to whom she ministered.

People from all walks of life heard of her great faith and humility and flocked to her to receive her blessings. The miracles attributed to her through Jesus Christ our Lord are numerous, but can be summed up in her dedication to serve humankind.

It is worthy to note that this saint possessed only one garment her entire life as a monastic. The daily chores expected of her, the changes of weather that would normally bring wear and tear to clothing, never changed the newness of her garment. She would rise from sleep each morning and her clothing would seem as fresh and clean as the day it was made. Even as she aged, the garment remained like new as if the Lord Himself had tailor-made her clothing.

St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker provides an excellent example of sharing her Time, Talents, and Treasure with the Church. Having given her possessions, these worldly Treasures to the poor before she entered the monastery, using her Talents to minister to all people, young and old, the sick and the healthy, offering her Time to pray for others and to bless them, made the people acknowledge her as a true instrument of the Lord.

We must learn from the life of St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker and realize that there is no greater gift to be shared than our love for Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In the lives of the saints we see how He has rewarded them and that we, too, may participate in His glory. Faithful and committed stewardship must be a result of this love and faith in our Redeemer. It requires effort that is unconditional and total, literally our whole being...if we do not give ourselves to the Lord first, then the Time, Talents, and Treasure we do offer will never be enough!

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**Icon by the hand of Julia Hayes - www.ikonographics.com**

**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**

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**Church Fax: 704-846-6094**  
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**Website: www.stnektarios.org**  
 5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

**Clergy**

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**Father Paul Tsahakis**, Presbyter  
 Mobile: (704) 608-1112  
 Email: frtsahakis@stnektarios.org

**Parish Staff**

**Parish Administrator** - Evelyn Klund  
**Administration Staff**  
 Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell, Samara Clewell,  
 Nina Dzyak, Sofia Nicolopoulos, and  
 Sammie Sedhom  
**Sexton** - Jim Keown  
**Chanters** - Sam Herron, Jeff Clewell,  
 Dina Marinakos-Oara

**2023 Parish Council**

**President:** Despina Gallis  
**Vice President:** Mike Burgan  
**Treasurer:** Chris Mortis  
**Assist. Treasurer:** Chris Levantis  
**Secretary:** George Harris  
**Assist. Secretary:** Manal Choueiri  
**Members:** Elie Azar, Frank Bartis,  
 Gus Giannakopoulos, Joanne Kiser,  
 Aka Vashakidze

**Philoptochos Board**

**President:** Madalina Lowen  
**1st Vice President:** Kathrine Cestrone  
**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,  
 Phyllis Giannakopoulos, 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

**Prosphora**

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

**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:** May 23, 2023  
**Published:** May 30, 2023