TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CORONA, NY



TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
CORONA, NY
100
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
1926 - 2026

Centennial Journal
1926–2026









TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, CORONA, NY

CENTENNIAL JOURNAL



«Οὗτος ἐστίν ὁ υἱός
μου ὁ ἀγάπητός,
ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα.
Αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε»



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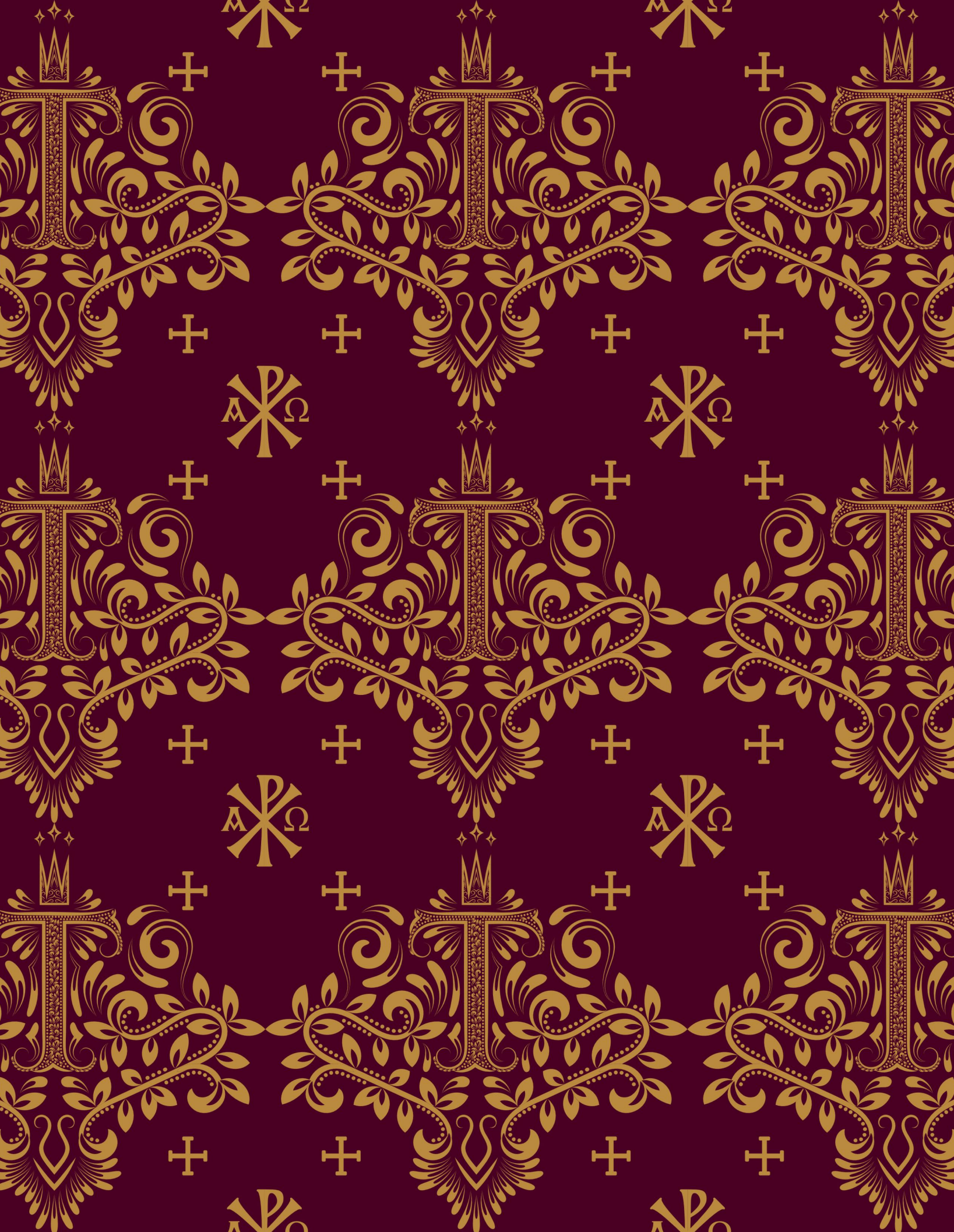
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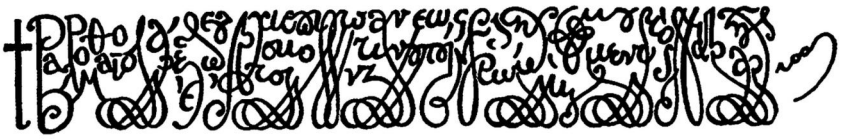


SECTION I

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS

His All-Holiness
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew





MESSAGE
OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CORONA, QUEENS, NEW YORK

To His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
The Very Reverend Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos, Parish Priest,
And the devout faithful of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church,
Beloved children in the Lord,

With spiritual joy and paternal affection, we address you on the occasion of the completion of one hundred years since the founding of your historic community, which you commemorate on the great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. This centennial milestone invites us to offer thanksgiving to the All-Holy Trinity, the source of every blessing.

From its humble beginnings in Queens, your ecclesial family has stood as a steadfast witness to the Gospel of Christ and to the living tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church. For a full century, the sacred temple dedicated to the Lord's Transfiguration has called the faithful to repentance, sanctification, and renewal of life in Christ. Within its holy walls, generations have been illumined through the mysteries of the Church, strengthened by the preaching of the Word, and nourished by the rhythm of liturgical prayer.

We recall with gratitude the vision and sacrifices of the pious founders, clergy, and benefactors who labored with faith and perseverance to establish and sustain this congregation. Established through the faith and sacrifice of immigrant forebears, your spiritual home has preserved a living Orthodox witness across generations in the ever-changing life of Queens. Their legacy endures in the devotion of the present faithful, who continue to uphold the Orthodox faith while opening its doors ever more widely to all who dwell in its midst, offering the healing and truth of the Church across the boundaries of language and origin.

The concurrence of your centenary celebration with Palm Sunday bears a profound spiritual meaning, for it was on this very feast, one hundred years ago, that your founders first gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, thereby establishing this parish in the joy of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. As they welcomed Christ with faith and hope, so also you glorify Him today through a century of witness, service, and perseverance. This reminds us that the way to the joy of the Resurrection passes through humility, faithfulness, and the Cross.

On this blessed anniversary, we extend our Patriarchal congratulations and heartfelt prayers to your parish priest, the parish council, and all the devout souls who have served and worshiped in this community throughout the years. We pray that Christ our God, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor and entered Jerusalem for our salvation, may continue to grant you unity, perseverance, and renewed zeal for the work of the Gospel.

As you now embark upon your second century of ministry, may the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church remain a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come, steadfast in the sacred tradition entrusted to it and responsive to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

Invoking upon you the abundant grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we impart to you our Patriarchal blessing and paternal prayers.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 13 March 2026

Your fervent supplicant before God,

✠ Bartholomew

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Ιερα Αρχιεπισκοπη Αμερικης

Office of the Archbishop
Ο Αρχιεπισκοπος

April 5, 2026

To the V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Panos, Presiding Priest; the esteemed members of the Parish Council; the gracious Ladies of Philoptochos; the dedicated parish ministry leaders, volunteers and participants; and all the devout, Christ-loving faithful of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, New York:

It is with sentiments of paternal joy that I congratulate you wholeheartedly on the special occasion of your Centennial Anniversary. Celebrating one hundred years is an attestation to our true identity and ultimate purpose of becoming citizens of paradise — that is, pilgrims journeying toward our eternal home in God's Heavenly Kingdom. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to "set our minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on the earth" (Col. 3:2). And this is a powerful reminder that all our efforts, labors and lives must always be centered on our Savior, who connects our humanity with the divine and serves as the living bridge to eternal life.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you to always remain steadfast in your endeavors to transform any challenges that lie in your way by beseeching the grace and power of God. As you have come to know quite well over the years, this can only be achieved through an authentic life in Christ, which necessitates and presupposes a selfless love for your neighbor as well as a sincere desire to help those in need. After all, a dynamic Christian presence and genuine way of life are key to the vitality of our communities, and they will continue to propel us forward to new heights and novel horizons for our mutual welfare and collective spiritual betterment for many more years to come.

And so, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, as you rightly mark this blessed milestone with your joyful communal festivities, I entreat you to continue striving to guide all who enter your church's doors toward our common paradisal homeland. May your centenary inspire a renewed zeal, a deeper unity and a Christ-centered purpose in all your endeavors, thereby ensuring that future generations will be able to walk steadfastly along the God-pleasing path that you and your ancestors have paved through your collective faith and love. May our Savior bless and protect you forevermore, guiding you from "strength to strength" and "glory to glory" toward even greater spiritual heights and achievements. Many, many congratulations to you all!

With much paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

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Email: archbishopoffice@goarch.org · Web Site: www.goarch.org

His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios, formerly of America



IC XC
NI KA

+ARCHBISHOP **DEMETRIOS**
formerly of **AMERICA**

New York, March 21, 2026

V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Panos
Transfiguration of Crist Church
38-05 98th Street
Corona, New York 11368 -2170

Dear Father Chrysostomos and faithful members of the Transfiguration of Christ Parish in Corona, New York,

You have my wholehearted congratulations and my sincere thanks for your kind invitation to the celebrations of the first one hundred years of existence and activities of the Transfiguraton of Christ Church in Corona.

I remember visiting the Transfiguration Church for the first time in the year 1966. But it was in the period of 1981 to 1993, when I served as a Professor at our Holy Cross School of Theology, that I had opportunities for more visits.

However, my deepest connection with the Transfiguration Church and community was formed during the twenty years (1999–2019) when I had the great honor of serving as Archbishop of America. During that time, I did not merely visit you often; I worshiped God alongside you—celebrating Divine Liturgies, Vespers, and other sacred services—and stood with you as we faced and overcame many challenges together.

From my very first visit to my present relationship with the Transfiguration Church, I have always been deeply impressed by its vibrancy, dynamism, and endurance, as well as its unwavering witness to the Orthodox Faith and Tradition and its continual offering of the rich treasures of Greek education and culture.

In the past, you have successfully overcome many challenges. More recently, you were confronted with a devastating fire that caused serious damage to the Church. Yet, by the grace of God and your remarkable resolve, you not only endured and overcame the many difficulties that followed, but you have also restored your Church in such a way that today it stands even stronger and more beautiful than before the fire.

You have been blessed for many years with the outstanding priest V. Rev Archimandrite Chrysostomos, a man wholly dedicated to Christ and His Church. As you have done so faithfully until now, continue your excellent work as you embark upon your second century of existence. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever, beloved people of Transfiguration in Corona.

Prayerfully and affectionally Yours in Christ,

†Archbishop Demetrios formerly of America

His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia



Dearly Beloved Brother in Christ Fr. Chrysostom,

I received with sincere joy and heartfelt gratitude your kind letter and gracious invitation of february 19, 2026, on the occasion of the historic Centennial Celebration of the Transfiguration of Christ Community in Corona, New York.

Thank you for your thoughtful remembrance and for the honor you extend to me to participate in this sacred and historic milestone marking one hundred years since the founding of this blessed and vibrant community. It is truly a moment of profound spiritual significance and great pride for the Greek Orthodox faithful and the entire Greek-American Omogeneia.

I am deeply grateful to Almighty God, Who deemed me worthy to serve this historic parish for eight years as its Proistamenos. By His divine providence, my priestly ministry there coincided with the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the community. On that blessed occasion, I was entrusted with the responsibility and honor of authoring, in both Greek and English, the bilingual historical account of the first seventy-five years of the life and witness of the community, which was published as a commemorative volume dedicated to that important jubilee. This remains for me a cherished spiritual legacy and a lasting testimony to the faith, sacrifices, and perseverance of our faithful.

I congratulate you wholeheartedly, together with the Parish Council and the entire community, for organizing these centennial celebrations in a manner worthy of the sacred history and enduring contribution of this historic parish.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor, continue to illumine and strengthen the faithful of the Transfiguration Community for many generations to come.

Although I may not be able to be physically present, please know that I will be with you in spirit and in prayer, participating noetically in the joy and thanksgiving of this historic centennial celebration.

With paternal love in Christ and prayers for continued blessings upon your sacred ministry and the faithful entrusted to your pastoral care, I remain,

Prayerfully and most gratefully yours,

† Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia

Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos
Parish Priest of the Church of the Transfiguration of Christ



On Palm Sunday 1926 a small group of Greek pioneers opened the doors of the first church so that Christ might make His triumphant entrance for the first time entering and sitting in the hearts of all those Orthodox Christians. At the same time, future generations were offered the love of Christ through His Holy Orthodox Church.

They say that when someone takes a step forward every so often and stays as is, then he undoubtedly takes two steps backward. The same can be said with religious organizations and communities. In other words, we need to always take forward steps. This community has always moved forward since its inception. In the past 100 years, it has seen a new church built in 1957, a community center, a thriving school and many ministries aimed at maintaining the Orthodox traditions of our ancestors and always upholding Christ as its cornerstone. Although the population of the community has declined in the last few decades due to a change in demographics the spirit of those who remain continue to drive this church and community triumphantly forward.

Our parishioners full of pride for their religious accomplishments, with the blessings of our Hierarch and Chief-Shepherd His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, offer hymns of thanksgiving and praise, at this historic juncture of 100-years, to the triumphant entry of Christ into our hearts and souls, proclaiming with a thunderous voice:

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos
Parish Priest



It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the Transfiguration of Christ Church since 2019 in various capacities on the Parish Council. To be entrusted with leadership within a community that has given so much to my family and to me is both humbling and deeply meaningful.

I am especially privileged to serve a parish where my parents raised all five of their children, instilling in us the values of faith, service, and community that have shaped our lives.

Every major milestone of our family's journey has been rooted here — we attended school within these walls, worshipped together each Sunday, were married before this altar, and baptized our children in this sacred space. Some of our fondest memories were formed in the classrooms of the school and within the life of the church, memories that continue to guide and inspire us today.

When I first felt called to serve on the Parish Council, it felt less like a decision and more like a calling — one that I carry in my heart as a continuation of my father's legacy. Though he is no longer with us, I believe his spirit of service and devotion to this parish lives on through the work I strive to do, giving back to the community that gave so much to our family.

To now be part of our Centennial celebration is far more than an honor — it is profoundly moving. One hundred years of faith, perseverance, sacrifice, and love is a testament to the generations who came before us and laid the foundation upon which we now stand. As someone who has been part of this community for my entire life, and who has returned as an adult to serve and lead, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to help carry this legacy forward.

I am also incredibly thankful to serve under the guidance of Father Chrysostom. His leadership, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to our parish have been truly remarkable. We are blessed beyond measure to have him shepherding our community during this historic time.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, may we honor our past, cherish our present, and look toward the future with faith and hope. May the Transfiguration of Christ Church continue to be a spiritual home for generations to come, just as it has been for my family and so many others over the past century.

With gratitude and love for our parish family,

Lori Bothos
President, Parish Council of Transfiguration of Christ Church



Dear Families and Friends of the Transfiguration of Christ Church,

It is a great honor and pleasure to serve the Philoptochos of the Transfiguration of Christ. We are continuing the vision of our predecessors and building on their experience while continuing to always look forward. The beloved cooperation of all the members in all the community activities ensures the success and progress of our community, leading up to the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of its founding.

The work of the Philoptochos is endless but very rewarding. Philanthropy, or love of humanity, is the power that drives us to provide offerings and change the lives of the needy, with the goal of a better world. Helping the poor, the orphaned, the elderly and the victims of natural disasters is the purpose of philanthropy.

Looking to the future, we know there will be difficulties that we will encounter but your presence gives us the strength and certainty that with hard work, agape, and respect, we will prosper. May God bless us and guide us to continue to do his work. Congratulations to our community on the centennial anniversary.

With agape,

Regina Papamitrou
Philoptochos President,
Transfiguration of Christ Church



Αγαπητά μέλη και φίλοι της Κοινότητας της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος,

Η συμπλήρωση εκατό χρόνων της κοινότητας μας αποτελεί μια ιδιαίτερα σημαντική και συγκινητική στιγμή για όλους μας. Για έναν ολόκληρο αιώνα, η κοινότητα μας υπήρξε σημείο αναφοράς, ένας χώρος όπου η πίστη συναντά τις αξίες και τις παραδόσεις μας, οι οποίες μεταδίδονται από γενιά σε γενιά. Το ημερήσιο σχολείο της Μεταμορφώσεως για όσο καιρό λειτουργούσε υπήρξε σημείο αναφοράς για την κοινότητά μας. Ακριβώς όπως συμβαίνει και τώρα με το ελληνικό σχολείο του Σαββάτου που αποτελεί ένα χώρο όπου η γνώση συναντά την πίστη και όπου η ελληνική γλώσσα, οι αξίες και οι παραδόσεις μας μεταδίδονται από γενιά σε γενιά.

Η πορεία αυτή δεν θα ήταν δυνατή χωρίς το όραμα των ιδρυτών μας και την αφοσίωση των ανθρώπων που όλα αυτά τα χρόνια στήριξαν την κοινότητα μας με αγάπη και πίστη. Καθώς τιμούμε αυτή τη σπουδαία επέτειο, εκφράζουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας προς όλους όσοι υπηρέτησαν και συνεχίζουν να υπηρετούν το έργο της κοινότητας μας. Με σεβασμό στην πλούσια κληρονομιά μας και με πίστη στο μέλλον, συνεχίζουμε την αποστολή μας να εμπνέουμε και να καθοδηγούμε τις επόμενες γενιές.

Εύχομαι ο Θεός να ευλογεί πάντοτε την κοινότητα μας.

Με εκτίμηση,

Ο Διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, Κοινότητα της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος
Ευάγγελος Χαζίρογλου



Consulate General of Greece
New York,
The Consul General

New York, 19 March 2026

V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos,

It is with great honor that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, Queens, on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

A century ago, a small group of Greek immigrants, guided by faith and a profound sense of responsibility toward their heritage, came together to establish a spiritual home that would preserve their Orthodox faith and sustain their Hellenic identity in a new land. From those modest beginnings, the parish was built through the devotion and sacrifices of its faithful.

Over the decades, the Church has grown into both a distinguished house of worship and a vital center of Hellenism. Within its walls, the Greek language, traditions, and values have been preserved and passed on from generation to generation, ensuring the continuity of our identity abroad.

As you mark this important milestone, it is fitting to honor all those, both known and unknown, whose dedication sustained this community and safeguarded its character across the decades.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Greece in New York, I convey my sincere appreciation to V. Rev Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos, the Parish Council, and all members of the community. May the parish continue to thrive, strengthening faith and preserving Greek identity for generations to come.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

With highest esteem,

Iphigenia Kanara



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
NEW YORK

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations on the 100-year Centennial Celebration of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Korona, New York.

It is a profound blessing to celebrate this historic milestone of your parish community. As we gather to commemorate this extraordinary occasion, let us give thanks for the many decades of faith, fellowship, and service that have shaped this community into the vibrant spiritual home it is today — a true beacon of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

Looking back over the last one hundred years, we see a powerful testament of perseverance, devotion, and divine grace. From humble beginnings to a flourishing parish, the Transfiguration of Christ Church has been sustained by the dedication of generations who offered their time, talents, and love to build and sustain this sacred institution. We honor and give thanks for all those who have contributed to this blessed journey and for the countless lives that have been enriched within this holy community.

As we celebrate this centennial, we also look forward with renewed hope and unwavering commitment, granting continued spiritual growth, wisdom, and strength to the community as it embarks upon the next century of its journey.

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for being a vital part of this extraordinary legacy. I am confident that the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Korona, New York will continue to thrive for the years to come, guided by faith and unity, in an open and inclusive spirit.

Warm wishes,

Kyriakos Pogiatzis
Consul General

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Email: nyconsulate@mfa.gov.cy



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2026

Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church
38-05 98th Street
Corona, NY 11368

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church's centennial celebration.

Since its inception, the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church has united its members through their shared faith. Building on the long-standing legacy of the town's Greek community, the church serves as a guiding light for families in Corona. Members are granted ample opportunities to foster their spiritual growth and cultural belonging, from worship services to language and music lessons.

Today, you gather to celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church's impact on those it serves. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I am grateful for your dedication to the well-being of our residents. Best wishes for an enjoyable celebration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hochul

Kathy Hochul
Governor

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Willliam & Christine Poll, Faithful Stewards of Transfiguration

On the blessed occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Transfiguration of Christ Church we humbly offer this dedication in profound gratitude and loving remembrance of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, William and Christine Poll, whose lives were firmly rooted in faith, service, and devotion to the Holy Church. William and Christine Poll were among the faithful stewards who labored tirelessly to build, sustain, and strengthen this sacred parish and its community.



William Poll, Grandson

They gave generously of their time, resources, and talents, always placing the needs of the Church before their own. William Poll served faithfully on the Parish Council and was honored as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, reflecting his deep commitment to the Orthodox faith and to the mission of the Mother Church. Christine Poll dedicated many years of service to the Ladies Philoptochos Society and also served as Principal of the Sunday School, nurturing the faith of many children and helping to form future generations in the life of the Church. Together, they exemplified Christian love, humility, and compassion.

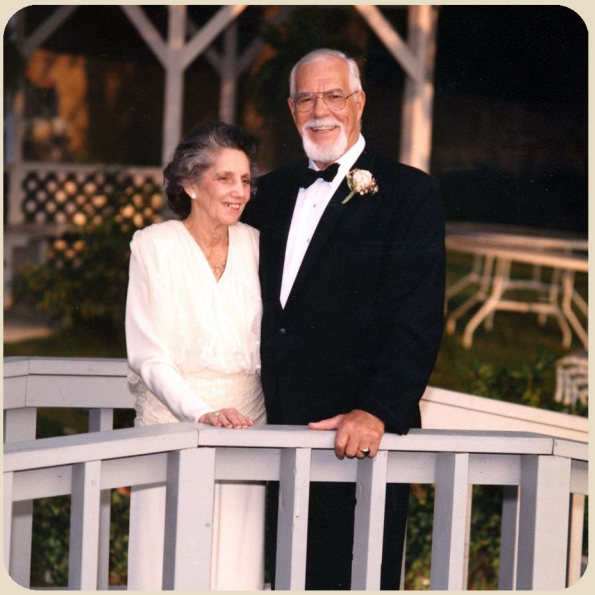
One of William Poll's enduring legacies was his leadership and vision in guiding the construction of the present church building on the corner of 98th Street and 38th Avenue, which replaced the original church around the corner. He was deeply involved throughout the process and was a steadfast advocate for preserving the Church's presence within the neighborhood, ensuring that Transfiguration of Christ Church would remain a visible and spiritual home for the faithful for generations to come.

Together with their seven children and grandchildren, William and Christine Poll were devoted and active members of the Transfiguration of Christ Church for many years, supporting our church festivals (let's not forget Christine Poll's famous loukoumades), social gatherings, church dinner dances, the liturgical life of the Church, its clergy, and the broader mission of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Holy Church.

Their children also actively supported the ministries of the Church through participation in the Choir and faithful service in the Altar. Two of their grandchildren attended the Transfiguration of Christ school. Their home was a place of warm hospitality, where they were blessed to host many members of the clergy, including Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America, reflecting their deep respect and love for the Church and its leadership. Their steadfast commitment helped preserve the faith, traditions, and communal spirit that continue to define this parish today. One of the proudest moments for Christine Poll was the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council alongside her grandson, bearing witness to her enduring faith and unwavering dedication to the Church she so deeply loved.

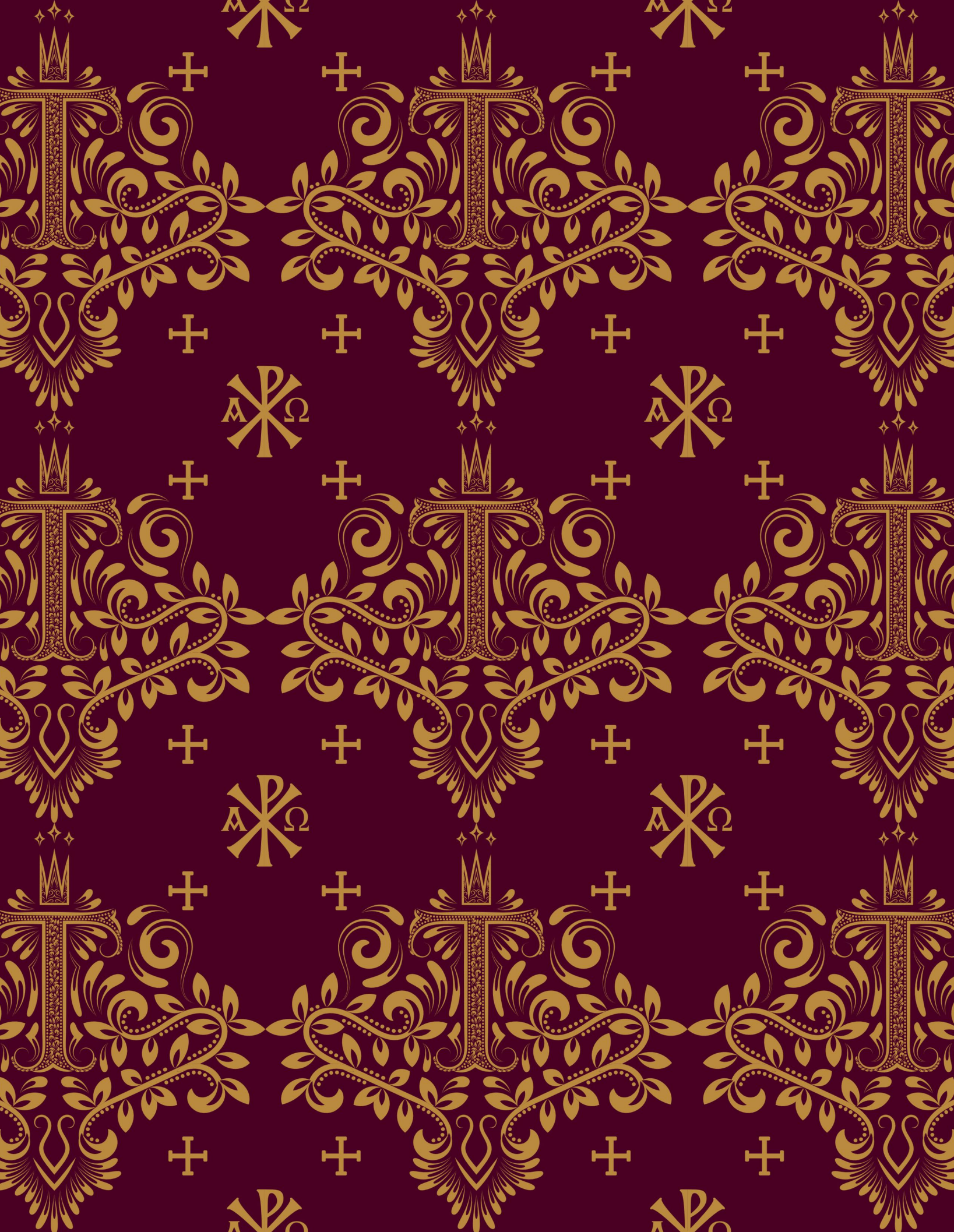
The Poll family has been richly blessed to witness numerous sacred milestones within this holy parish, including the Christenings of family members and great-grandchildren at the Transfiguration of Christ Church—living testimony to a legacy of faith passed faithfully from generation to generation. That legacy continued through the Poll children and grandchildren, who for many years honored the sacred traditions of the Church, including participation in Boy Scouts, Youth programs, Altar Service, the carrying of the Cross on Good Friday and the lifting of the Anastasis on Holy Saturday evening.

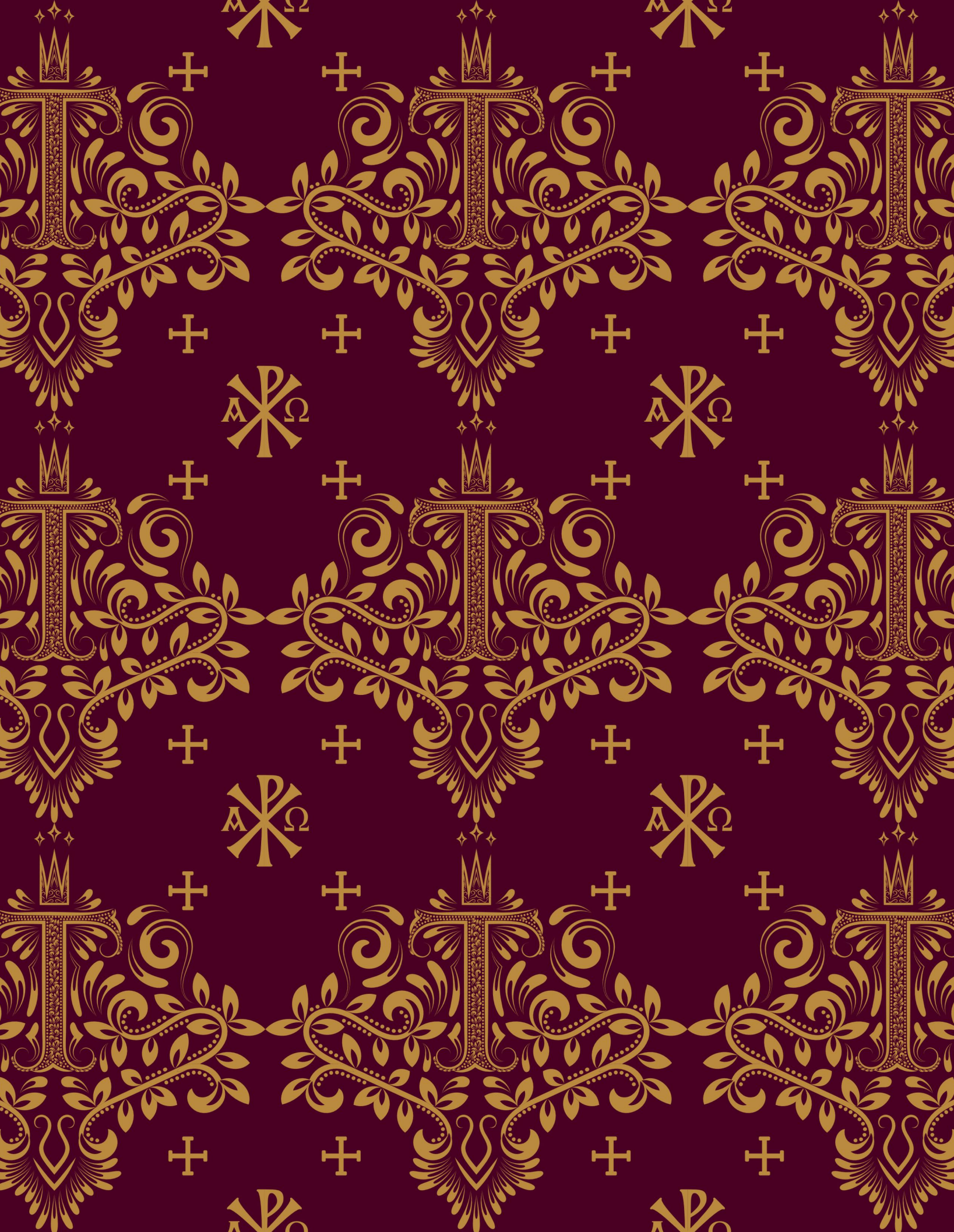
On behalf of the William and Christine Poll family, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire Transfiguration of Christ Church community on the celebration of its Centennial Anniversary. We pray that our Lord continues to bless this holy parish with unity, spiritual growth, and faithful leadership for generations to come.






THE AUDITORIUM OF
THE
SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF CHRIST
IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM POLL
1904 ~ 1994
ARCHON OF THE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LEADERSHIP,
SPIRIT, DEVOTION TO THE ORTHODOX
FAITH, HELLENIC EDUCATION AND
HIS PROFOUND LOVE OF THIS COMMUNITY







SECTION II

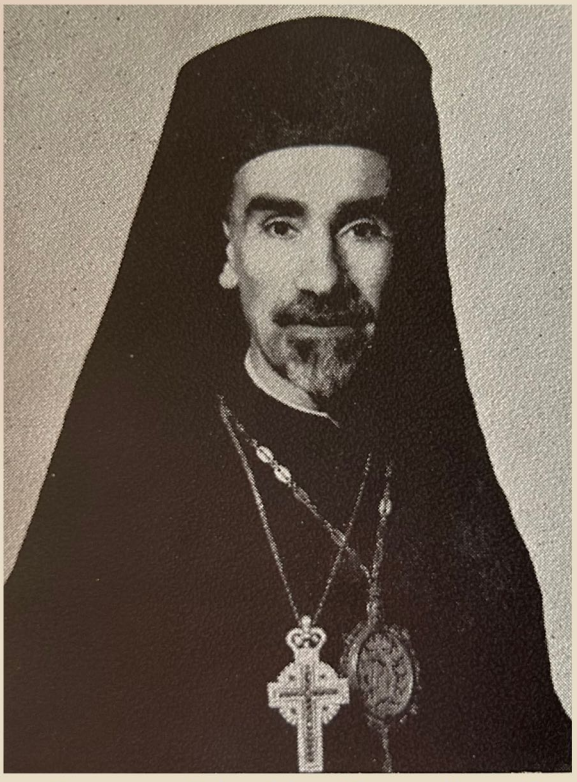
OUR CHURCH



PARISH HISTORY

In the early decades of the 20th century, many Greek immigrants settled in neighborhoods across New York, including Corona, Queens. Like other immigrant communities, they brought with them not only their language and customs, but also a deep commitment to their religious life in the Greek Orthodox tradition. However, in those early years, they lacked a formal church and the institutional structure needed to support their spiritual and cultural identity.

A small but determined group of Greek pioneers in Corona recognized this gap. Though the idea of forming an official Greek Orthodox community had been discussed informally for several years, it wasn't until March 28, 1926, that decisive action was taken. On that day, Germanos Polyzoides, Metropolitan of Hieropolis, drew up a temporary Constitution so that the community would be free to pursue the matter of founding a church structure and move forward with establishing a formal parish.



Germanos Polyzoides, Metropolitan of Hieropolis

At the time, the Greek population in Corona consisted of approximately fifty to sixty families. Despite their modest numbers and limited resources, they were united by a shared vision: to build a permanent church that would serve as both a place of worship and a cultural anchor for future generations. Until that goal could be realized, they were being churched in a converted grocery store. This humble setting underscores both the challenges they faced and their resilience and dedication. The creation of the temporary constitution marked a turning point. It formalized their intentions, allowed them to organize fundraising efforts, and laid the groundwork for acquiring land and eventually constructing a proper church building.

On Palm Sunday, April 25, 1926, the community celebrated its first Divine Liturgy in that modest space that had been transformed into a church from a former grocery store at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 94th Street. The Greek immigrants who had settled in Corona and the surrounding neighborhoods were deeply rooted in their Orthodox faith. For them, the Church was central not only to worship, but also to community life, cultural continuity, and mutual support. Across the United States during this period, Greek Orthodox parishes were being established in growing numbers as Greek immigrant communities sought to preserve their religious heritage while adapting to life in a new country.

Inspired by this broader movement, the Greeks of Corona recognized that it was their turn to act and create a spiritual home of their own. Their efforts led to the founding of what would become the Transfiguration of Christ Church, a landmark institution that holds the distinction of being the oldest Greek Orthodox community in Queens. From its humble beginnings in a converted storefront, the church grew into a lasting symbol of faith, resilience, and unity —reflecting the determination of its founders to establish a permanent presence for their Greek Orthodox traditions and beliefs in their new homeland.

In September 1926, the community made the important decision to purchase a house located between 38th Avenue and 99th Street. Once acquired, this space was carefully adapted and transformed into a functioning church. Though still modest, this second location offered a more dedicated and organized space for worship, gatherings, and community life. It became the center of religious activity for the parish, serving the faithful for many years as the community continued to grow in size and strength.

The decision to name the church Transfiguration of Christ was made by Mr. Galenes, Mr. Lakas, Mr. Politis, Mrs. Sisa, and Mr. Voutiras. It was their privilege since they were the first ones to stimulate action and to encourage the others to follow.

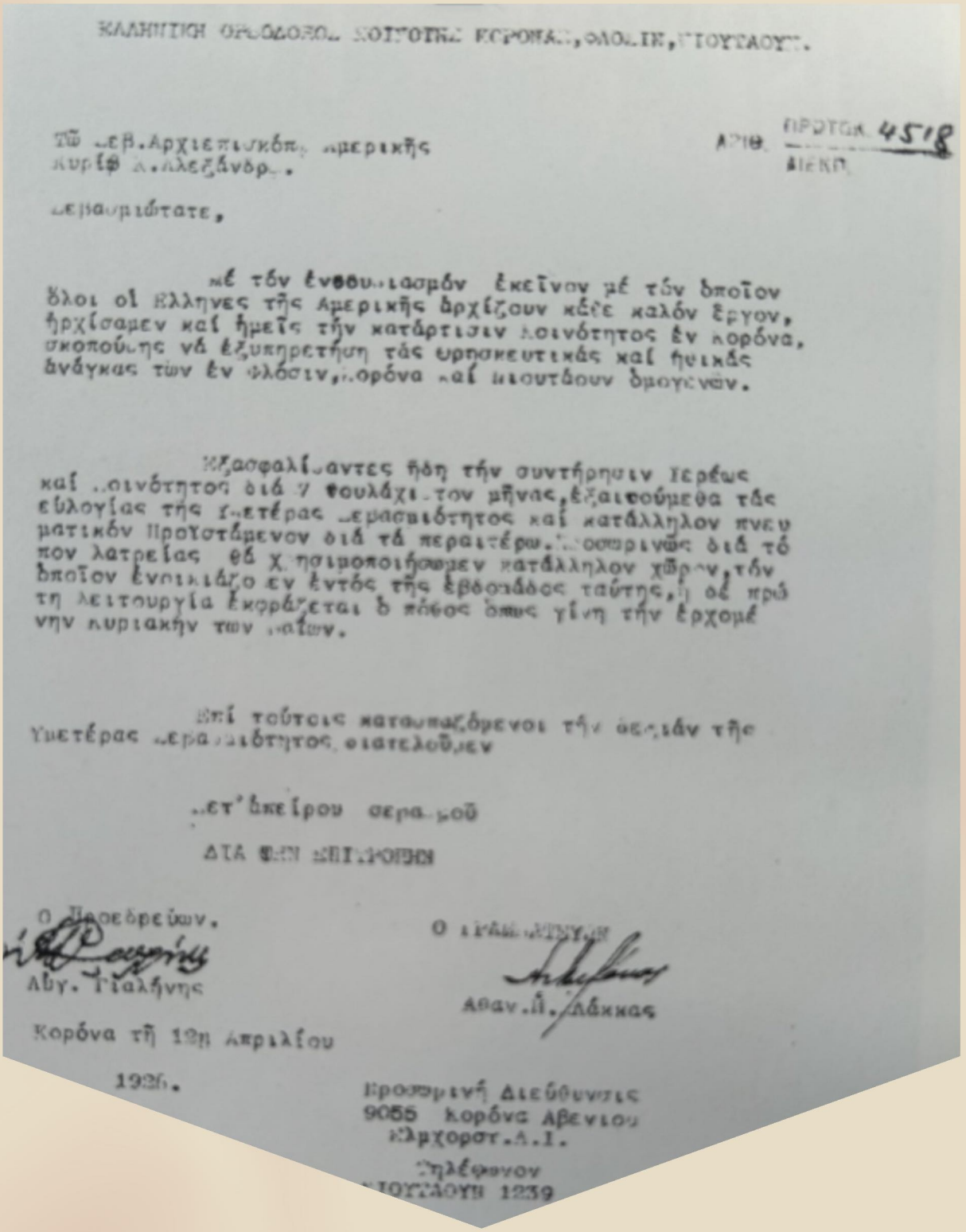
The first priests who served the community were the Archimandrites Daniel Skarpas and Constantas Statheros, who remained for a short time; and Fr. Nikolaos Andriopoulos who stayed until 1928, at which time Archimandrite Alexandros Gerontidakis assumed the duties of parish priest and teacher for 28 years.



At the entrance of the new (second) community Church of the Transfiguration of Christ in Corona, NY, celebrating March 25th, 1927.



The second Church



ΚΑΛΛΙΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΚΟΡΩΝΕΙΑΣ, ΦΙΛΟΛΙΘ, ΠΙΟΥΤΑΟΥΤ.

Τῷ Σεβ. Ἀρχιεπισκόπῳ Ἀμερικῆς
Κυρίῳ Κ. Ἀλεξάνδρῳ.

ΑΡΙΘ. ΠΡΩΤΟΚ. 4518
ΔΙΕΚΠ.

Σεβασμιώτατε,

Μὲ τὸν ἐνθουσιασμὸν ἐκεῖνον μὲ τὸν ὁποῖον ὅλοι οἱ Ἕλληνες τῆς Ἀμερικῆς ἀρχίζουν κάτι καλὸν ἔργον, ἠρχίσαμεν καὶ ἡμεῖς τὴν κατάρτισιν Κοινότητος ἐν Κορόνα, σκοποῦσες νὰ ἐξυπηρετήσῃ τὰς θρησκευτικὰς καὶ ἠθικὰς ἀνάγκας τῶν ἐν Φλόσιν, Κορόνα καὶ Πιουτάουν ὁμογενῶν.

Κἀφοῦ ἐξασφαλίσαντες ἤδη τὴν συντήρησιν Ἱερέως καὶ Κοινότητος διὰ τὴν ἑπομένην μῆνας, ἐξαιτούμεθα τὰς εὐλογίας τῆς Ὑμετέρας Σεβασμιότητος καὶ κατάλληλον πνευματικὸν Προστάμενον διὰ τὰ περαιτέρω. Ἐπισημαίνομεν διὰ τὸ ὁποῖον λατρείας θὰ χρησιμοποιήσωμεν κατάλληλον χῶρον, τὸν ὁποῖον ἐνοικιάζομεν ἐν ἐντὸς τῆς ἑβδομάδος ταύτης, ἡ δὲ πρώτη λειτουργία ἐκφράζεται ὁ πόθος ὅπως γίνῃ τὴν ἐρχομένην κυριακὴν τῶν Βαΐων.

Ἐπὶ τούτοις καταπιαζόμενοι τὴν ἀδειάν τῆς Ὑμετέρας Σεβασμιότητος διατελοῦμεν

Μετ' ἀκείρου σεβασμοῦ

ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΝ

Ὁ Γραμματεύων.
Λάζ. Γιαλήνης

Ὁ Πρόεδρος
Ἀθαν. Π. Λάκκας

Κορόνα τῇ 12ῃ Ἀπριλίου
1926.

Προσωρινὴ Διεύθυνσις
9055 Κορόνα Ἀβενίου
Λόνγκ Ἰσλαντ Ν.Υ.
Τηλέφωνον
ΠΙΟΥΤΑΟΥΤ 1239

The first official document that was sent to the Archbishop of America Alexander on April 12, 1926 regarding the foundation of the Transfiguration of Christ Church.



Fr. Alexandros Gerontidakis with members of the parish council.



Archbishop of America Athenagoras with members of the community of Transfiguration of Christ at the entrance of the Church, August 6, 1935.



August Galenes
Founding Member and
Vice-President of the First
Council.

The Community's First Council consisted of

G. Tsitseras, President
Augustus Galenes, Vice-President
G. Varvaritis, Treasurer
Athanasios Lakas, General Secretary



Kyriakos Tsiklakos
former
Council Member



Nick Thalasinos
Community Founder and
Board Vice-President



Matthew Kanaris
former
Council Member



As William Poll, one of the Founders, had noted "*the lack of proper design and art and an absence of rich adornments mattered not at all to the sixty-four church service-starved Greek men and women who could not wait until their eyes rested on the Holy Table and the Book of Gospels and partook of Holy Communion again.*"



Anthony Balabous
one of the Grand Donors



An early photograph of the Board of Trustees with Father Gerontidakis

Board of Trustees

Th. Kokkinos
N. Vassilaros
N. Georgakopoulos
Ch. Haritopoulos
K. Politis
B. Voutiras
K. Theodoropoulos
Ath. Sisas



A gathering of early members of our Church.

Over time, as more families settled in the area and the parish flourished, the need for a larger, purpose-built church became evident. The year 1955 marked a turning point in the history of the community, as plans for a new, permanent church finally took shape. After years of growth and preparation, a privately owned lot at the corner of 38th Avenue and 98th Street was selected as the site for construction. This led to the eventual construction of a new and more expansive church building, which officially opened in April 1957. It is considered the third church in the community's history and it remains the present-day home of the parish. This decision represented not only practical progress, but also the fulfillment of a long-held vision shared by generations of parishioners.

The building of the new church was truly a collective effort. In their determined and far-reaching effort to raise the funds needed for the construction of the new church, the community left no stone unturned. Every possible avenue for generating income was explored, reflecting both their urgency and their deep commitment to achieving their goal. Fundraising was not limited to a single method; instead, it became a coordinated, community-wide campaign that drew on creativity, persistence, and collective sacrifice. The campaign, for example, included the publication of a special journal that helped generate both financial support and a sense of shared purpose. The official committee for the purpose of raising funds consisted of William Poll, President; James Anthros, Secretary; and Philip Mastros, Treasurer.

Every member of the community contributed in some way—whether through donations, labor, or organizing efforts. These individuals, often described as tireless workers in the "Lord's vineyard," dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to the project, embodying a spirit of unity, sacrifice, and faith. One particularly striking example of this dedication was a single raffle that raised fourteen thousand dollars—a substantial sum at the time. This achievement stood as a testament to what could be accomplished when a united group worked tirelessly toward a common and deeply valued goal. What made these efforts especially remarkable was the spirit in which they were carried out. Each initiative—whether large or small—was met with enthusiasm and a strong sense of purpose. The response from the community was not only supportive but deeply conscientious, with individuals stepping forward in meaningful ways to ensure success. Parishioners gave generously of their time, energy, and financial resources, encouraged by the visible progress being made and the shared vision of building a lasting spiritual home. After years of planning and construction, that vision became reality.

On Palm Sunday in 1957, the new Church of the Transfiguration officially opened in a joyful and celebratory atmosphere, with the blessings of the then Archbishop of America Michael. For the thousands of faithful who had supported the effort over the years, the moment was deeply emotional—the realization of dreams built on decades of perseverance and devotion.



The opening of the (third) Transfiguration of Christ Church on April 14, 1957.

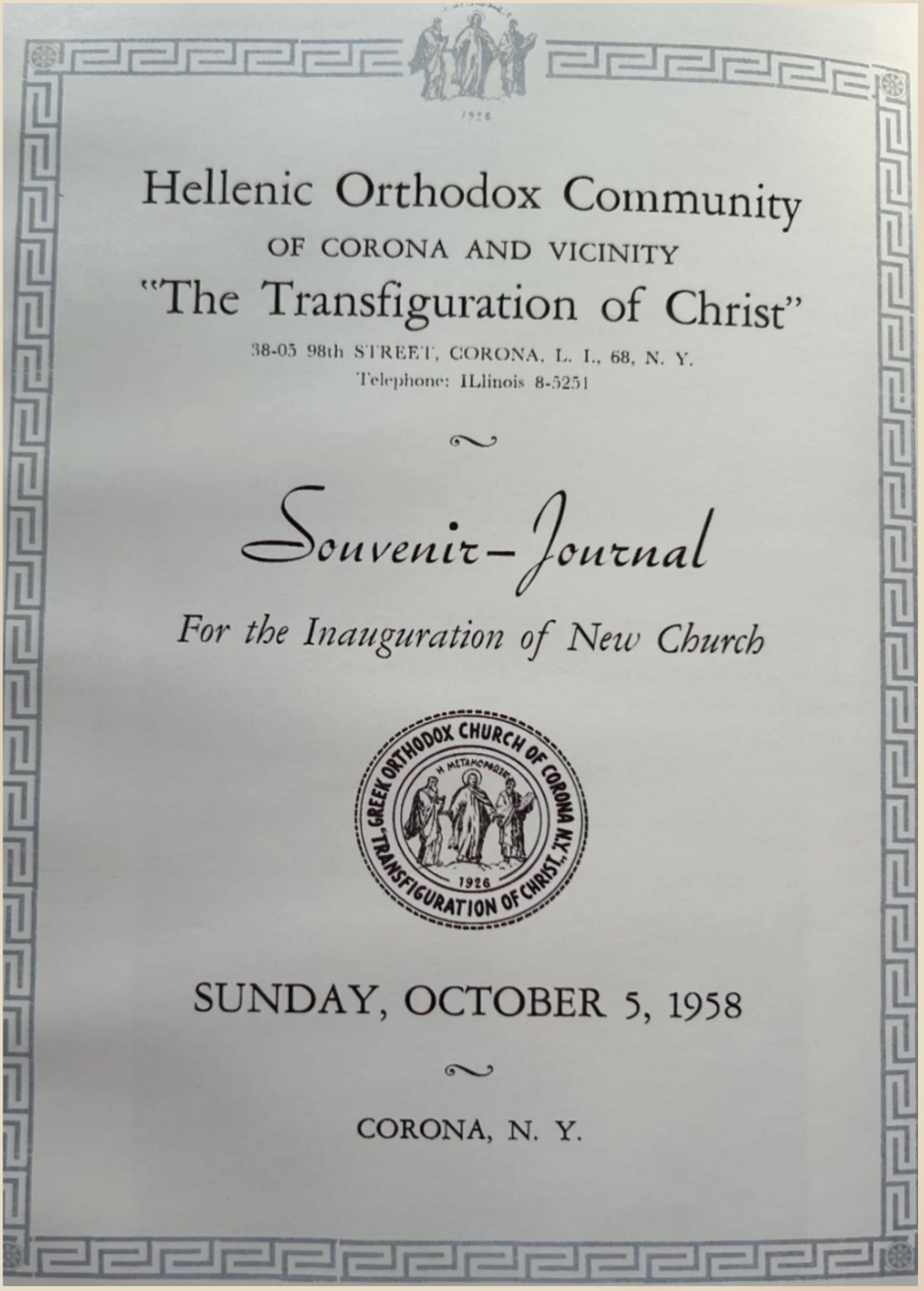
The newly constructed church, designed in the beautiful Byzantine style, stood as both a spiritual sanctuary and a cultural landmark. It became a place where the Greek community of Corona and the greater New York area could gather to worship, celebrate traditions, and pass their heritage on to future generations. Every icon, every detail of its architecture, reflected the love and dedication of those who had worked to bring it into existence. To this day, the church remains a treasured centerpiece of the neighborhood - a source of pride for the Greek community that built, adorned, and continues to care for it with reverence. Even for those who have moved away, but whose roots trace back to Corona, the Church of the Transfiguration of Christ endures as a powerful symbol of identity, faith, and belonging; a spiritual home that continues to unite generations across time and distance.

Archimandrite Evmenios Tselentakis assumed the duties of the parish priest on December 1, 1956. Fr. Evmenios served the community for 27 years and it was during this period that the new church and school were built. On that Palm Sunday one hundred years ago in the first Transfiguration of Christ Church in Corona the parishioners made the sign of the cross and lit their candles. From these two acts alone they were aware of drawing on the truth of Christianity. On that day amid their tears of joy and sadness for the departed, there was an all-out reaching for God. The Church of The Transfiguration of Christ in Corona located at 38-05 98th Street was but one more monumental tribute to Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ who was transfigured on the Mount of Tabor.





Archbishop of America Michael at the opening of the Church on April 14, 1957.



Hellenic Orthodox Community

OF CORONA AND VICINITY

"The Transfiguration of Christ"

38-05 98th STREET, CORONA, L. I., 68, N. Y.

Telephone: ILlinois 8-5251

Souvenir-Journal

For the Inauguration of New Church

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CORONA N.Y. TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

1926

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1958

CORONA, N. Y.

A commemorative album issued in 1958, following the opening of the Transfiguration of Christ Church on April 14, 1957.





The first community banners





The second community banners



Sunday School instructors with Fr.Tselentakis, 1959-1960

The church's Sunday School traces its origins back to the time when the parish was still at its second location. Even then, in an improvised environment, devoted Greek parents were determined that their children's religious education would not be delayed. In 1950s, Mr. William Poll reflecting on those earlier years - though already a young adult and past the age for basic Sunday School - remembered how the children of friends and relatives were taught in a small room above the church nave. As he recalled, although the community and church were small, the instruction was complete. Children learned the history of the Church, studied the Holy Bible, and came to understand the meaning of the Sacraments; everything connected to the Greek Orthodox faith. At that time, only a few children attended Sunday School. In 1976, enrollment had grown to 240 students and the program was supported by two directors (Christine Poll, Athena Papadopoulos), nine teachers, and nine assistant teachers.



Sunday School Committee, Teaching Staff, and Assistants in 1971

The Choir

The choir of the church of the Transfiguration of Christ was an essential and cherished part of the parish's spiritual life for many decades. Over the years, the voices of countless men and women from the Corona community came together in harmony, enriching the Divine Liturgy and other services with solemnity, beauty, and devotion. Their singing did not only elevated worship but also strengthened the sense of unity and shared identity within the congregation.

The roots of the choir trace back to the period when the church was still located at its second site, in the converted house between 38th Avenue and 99th Street. Even in those earlier, more modest surroundings, music played a central role in religious expression. A key figure in this early history was Nicholas Roubanis, the church's first choir director. Under his leadership, the choir developed both discipline and artistic depth. The choir members, many of whom were not formally trained but deeply passionate, dedicated themselves to learning and preserving the traditional hymns of the Greek Orthodox faith. Their commitment laid the foundation for a lasting musical tradition within the parish which lasted until 1978.
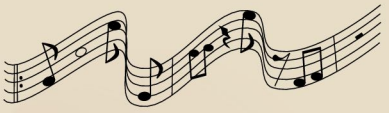


The Church Choir in 1939.



The Church Choir in 1958.





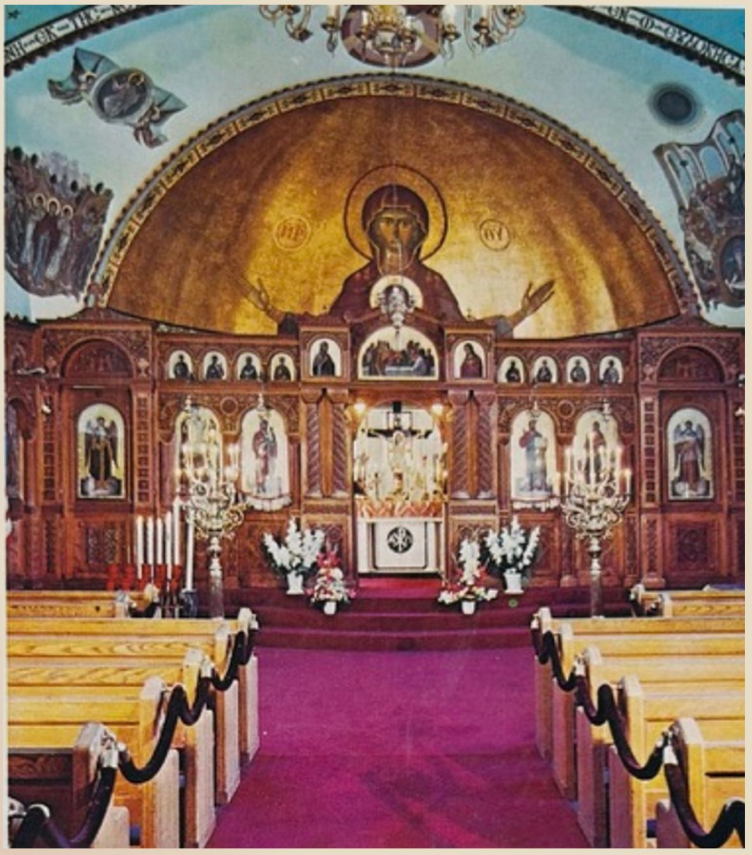
The Church Choir in 1959.



The Church Choir in 1976.

The choir's history was not only a story of music within the church, but also a reflection of the community's dedication to preserving its cultural heritage. Through generations, the voices of its members continued to resonate—carrying tradition forward while honoring those who first gave song to their faith. Different voices had come and gone, yet each group of singers contributed to the same shared purpose: maintaining and passing down a rich cultural and spiritual legacy.





The interior of the Transfiguration of Christ Church prior to the fire in 1988.



The pulpit after the fire of 1988.

A damaging fire that struck the parish in 1988 caused severe and widespread destruction, especially to the most sacred and important parts of the church. At the heart of the damage was the holy sanctuary—the most sacred space within the church—which was almost entirely destroyed, with its magnificent iconostasis. Among the most heartbreaking loss was the destruction of the mosaic of the Theotokos—depicted as Panagia Platytera, traditionally shown in the dome with her hands outstretched in prayer, symbolizing her role as intercessor and protector of the faithful. This image traditionally overlooks the congregation and holds deep spiritual meaning, making its destruction especially painful for the faithful. Yet, even in the face of a such tragic event, the fire became a defining moment—not only of loss, but of resilience. The parish would once again draw upon its deep faith and unity to rebuild, restore, and continue its spiritual mission, much as it had done from its earliest beginnings.

















The Chapel of St.Nectarios

St. Nectarios — the patron saint of the island of Aegina - is widely regarded as one of the most beloved miracle-working saints of the 20th century. The deep love and reverence that the faithful held for St. Nectarios found a meaningful expression within the Church of the Transfiguration in early 1997. At that time, a thoughtful proposal was put forward and warmly embraced by the community: to transform a small, under-utilized room located to the right of the holy sanctuary into a dedicated chapel in his honor. Until then, the space had served no specific purpose, but the decision to convert it marked a new chapter in the spiritual life of the parish.

The creation of the chapel was not simply a physical renovation; it was an act of devotion. To support this effort, a special community fund was established, inviting parishioners to contribute toward the beautification and sacred adornment of the space. As with earlier efforts in the church's history, the response reflected a spirit of generosity, unity, and faith. An especially meaningful aspect of the chapel's development was the incorporation of treasured icons from the parish's past. The devastating fire of 2017 destroyed the St. Nectarios chapel completely. It was then rebuilt during the restoration and reopened in 2021.



The Chapel of St.Nectarios, established in 1997.







A silver blessing - cross containing a piece of the Precious Holy Cross of Christ.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with Fr.Cleopas at the St.Nectarios Chapel.

The year 1998 stands out as a significant milestone in the history of the Transfiguration community. Building upon the momentum of earlier efforts - such as the creation of the Chapel of Nectarios of Aegina - the parish expanded its devotional life with the establishment of a wood-carved icon stand of St. Matrona of Chios. This meaningful development was made possible through the generosity and dedication of the "Anagennisis" Ladies Philoptochos Society of Corona. Under the inspired leadership of its former president, Christine Poll, who was also a major benefactor of the community, the society donated $5,000 to fund the creation of the icon stand. The decision to create this icon stand of St.Matrona further emphasized the community's devotion to the saints and the desire to create places of prayer and reflection dedicated to their memory.







Museum of Greek Heritage

Seventy-five years after the establishment of the historic Community of Corona, the official opening of the Museum of Greek Heritage took place on the day after Palm Sunday 2001. The museum's collection, consisting primarily of sacred and historical items used in church services over the years, held deep meaning as symbols of faith, memory, and tradition. Dedicated to the founders of the community, the museum created a living connection between past generations and those yet to come. It stood as both a tribute to the parish's heritage and a lasting reminder of remembrance, continuity, and renewal. Tragically, the devastating fire of 2017 destroyed all of the museum's articles and collectibles. Though these treasured items were lost forever, their memory and significance remain enduring in the life of the parish.



The opening ceremony of the Museum of Greek Heritage presided by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, in 2001.







On December 14, 2001, the Transfiguration of Christ Church took a significant and deeply symbolic step by erecting the first monument in New York City dedicated to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Coming just three months after the tragedy, this act demonstrated the parish's desire to respond with a visible and lasting tribute that honored those who had lost their lives.

At the heart of the memorial stands an eight-foot cross crafted from metal alloy, firmly set upon a marble pedestal. Positioned prominently in the church's courtyard, the monument became an immediate focal point for reflection, prayer, and remembrance. The cross, a central symbol of the Christian faith, representing sacrifice, hope, and resurrection, offered spiritual comfort during a time of immense grief and uncertainty.

The monument reflected the church's role as not just a place of worship, but as a sanctuary for the broader public during moments of collective tragedy. It created a sacred space where memory and healing could begin.

After the devastating fire of 2017, the monument was restored and it still remains a powerful reminder of the tragic events on September 11, 2001, preserving the memory of the victims while standing as a testament to unity, faith, and resilience in the face of loss.




Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ






Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

The Devastating Fire of May 19, 2017

The Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, NY, was devastated by a major fire on Friday, May 19, 2017. The three-alarm blaze broke out shortly before noon, causing extensive damage to the interior of the historic church, including the ceiling, the iconostasis, and much of the religious art decorating the walls. While the building remained standing, the interior was largerly "gutted" and suffered "substantial destruction". Miraculously, despite the intensity of the fire, several sacred items in the altar survived the flames.

























Restoration of the Church from the Devastating Fire of 2017

Following the devastating fire of 2017, the faithful community of the Transfiguration of Christ demonstrated remarkable resilience and devotion. For several years, the congregation continued its liturgical life by holding services in the school gymnasium located across the street from the church. Although the loss of their historic sanctuary was deeply felt, the congregation remained united, gathering faithfully for the Divine Liturgy, feast days, and other services while planning for the future restoration of their beloved church.







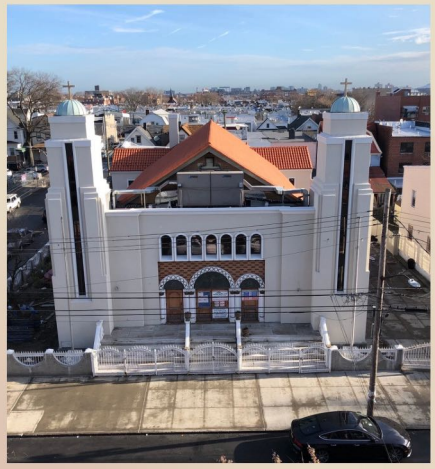


The rebuilding process of the church that followed was extensive and complex. Because of the severe damage caused by the fire, the restoration required not simply repairs but what many described as a complete rebuilding of the church's interior. Over several years, the parish's presiding priests, the parish councils, parishioners, architects and artisans, all worked together to restore the sacred space while preserving its historical and spiritual character, to rebuild the *home* that had served generations of faithful in Corona.







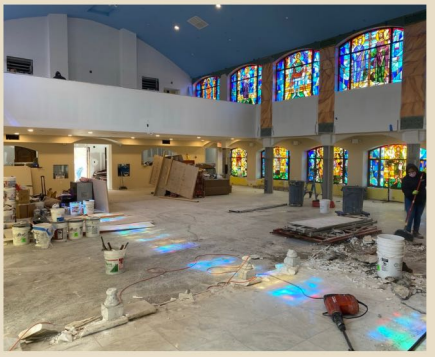










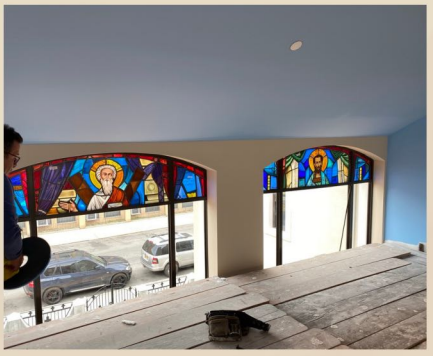














The Reopening of the Church

After an extensive multi-year renovation process that effectively involved "rebuilding the church" due to the level of devastation, the church officially reopened its doors in late 2021, with a formal ceremony presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America on September 18, 2021. The ceremony marked a joyful and emotional moment for the parish, symbolizing the rebirth of the church after years of hardship.















Clergy, parishioners, and community members gathered to celebrate the reopening of the sacred space, giving thanks for the perseverance of the faithful and the successful restoration of a church that continues to serve as a spiritual center for Orthodox Christians in the community.







Following the devastating fire that struck our church in 2017, the community of Transfiguration of Christ came together with unwavering faith and determination to rebuild and restore not only the physical structure, but also our mission of serving Christ and the faithful. From the very beginning of this journey, it has been our guiding intention to preserve this church's sacred identity by maintaining its original appearance. Great care has been taken to retain, restore, or faithfully replicate the original elements that gave this church its distinctive character. Every effort has been made to honor the craftsmanship, design, and atmosphere that once filled the space, so that those who enter may once again experience the same sense of reverence, beauty, and continuity that existed prior to the fire.

Therefore, the beautiful terrazzo floor—an enduring feature of the church's interior for many decades—was thoughtfully preserved as part of the restoration. Recognizing both its historical significance and the character it lends to the sacred space, great care was taken to ensure its longevity. After a meticulous cleaning process and only minimal, carefully executed repairs, the floor was retained in its original form.



The wood work for the interior of the church including the iconostasis, bishop's throne, chanter's stand, and pulpit were completed and installed with great care, along with the installation of the pews. Each element was thoughtfully designed to reflect the sacred character and traditional aesthetic of the space. Particular attention was devoted to faithfully replicating the original pews, ensuring that their form, detail, and arrangement remained consistent with what parishioners had known for generations.

Special consideration was given to the iconography, within the church. The placement and selection of the icons were undertaken with deep reverence and intention, aligning the depiction of key events from the life of Christ—including the Feast Days of the Lord and of the Theotokos—along the main interior walls.



The church's beautiful stained glass windows—an integral feature since 1973—have been meticulously recreated and reinstalled. Depicting various saints, these windows have been restored to their former beauty, allowing light once again to filter through their vibrant colors and sacred images, enriching the worship environment and honoring the legacy of the past. Lastly, the main entrance to the church above the center doors in the exterior has been beautified by a mosaic depicting the Transfiguration of Christ.





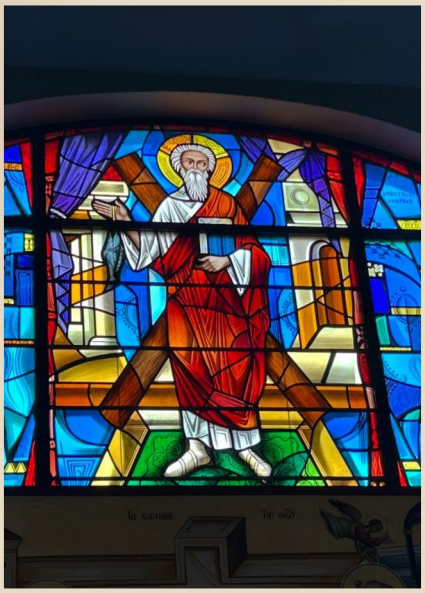


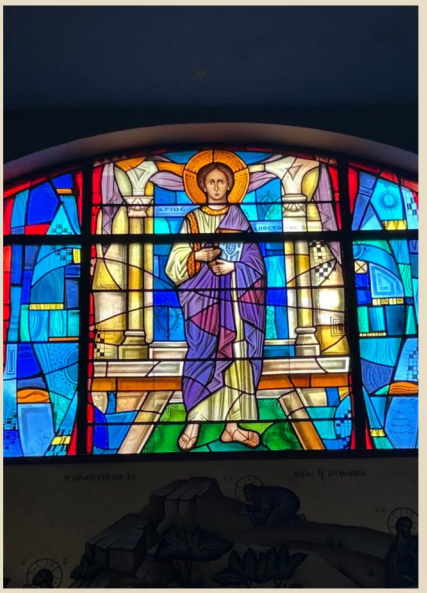
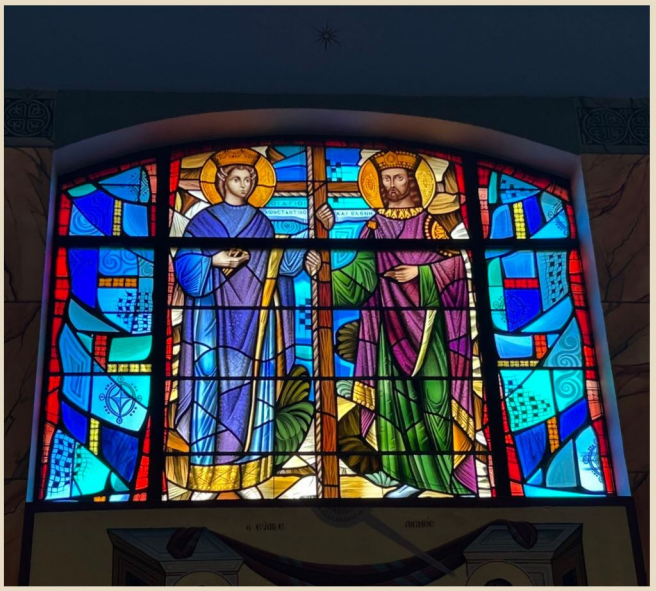


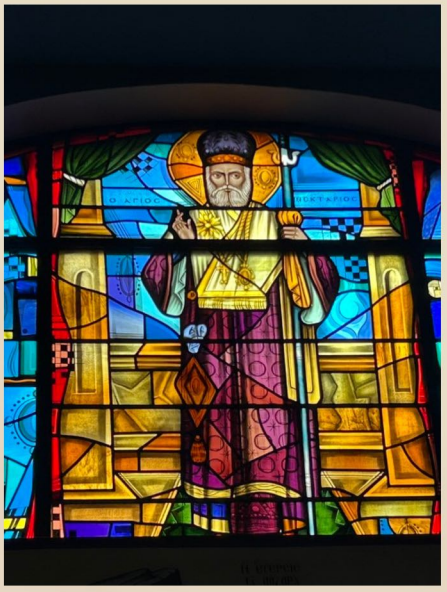
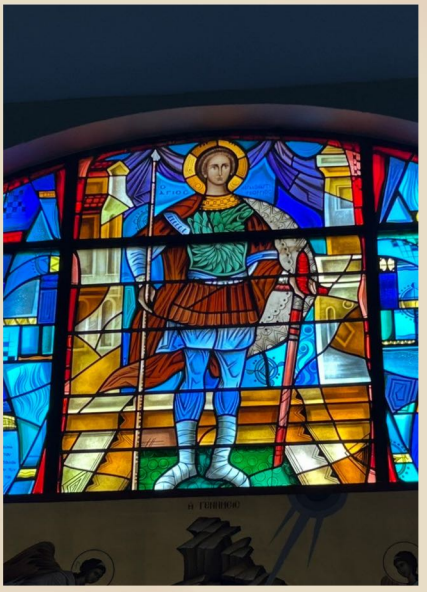







Η ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑ
Η ΓΟΡΓΟΥΠΗΚΟΟΣ


Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ
ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ


Η ΑΓΙΑ
ΣΟΦΙΑ


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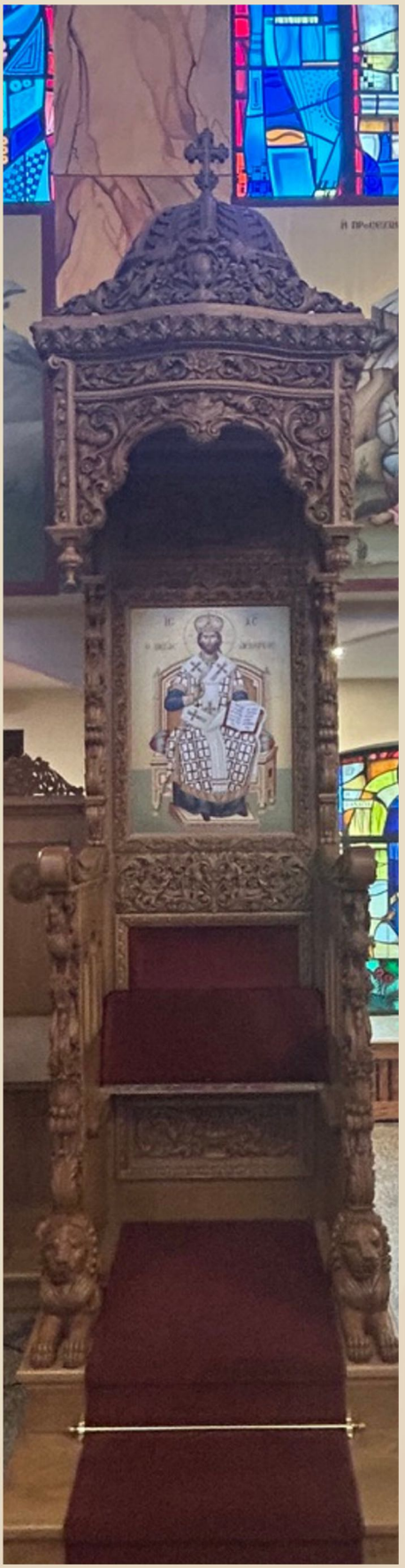

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ΑΓΙΟΣ
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ


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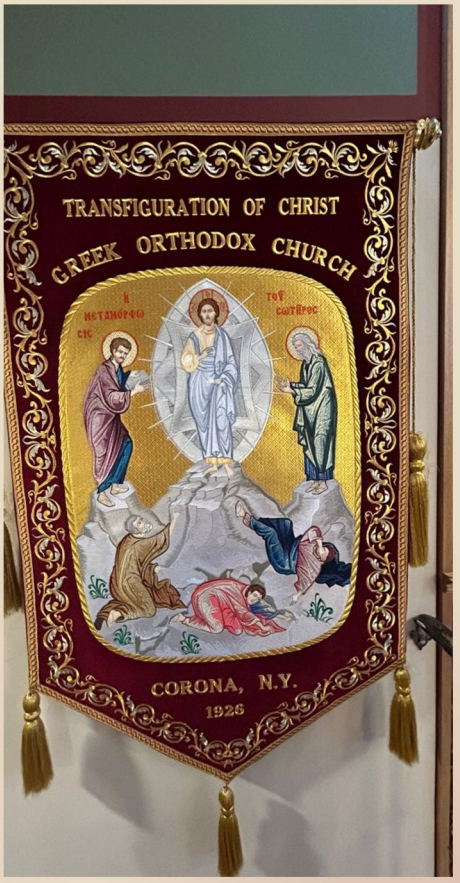

Η ΑΓΙΑ



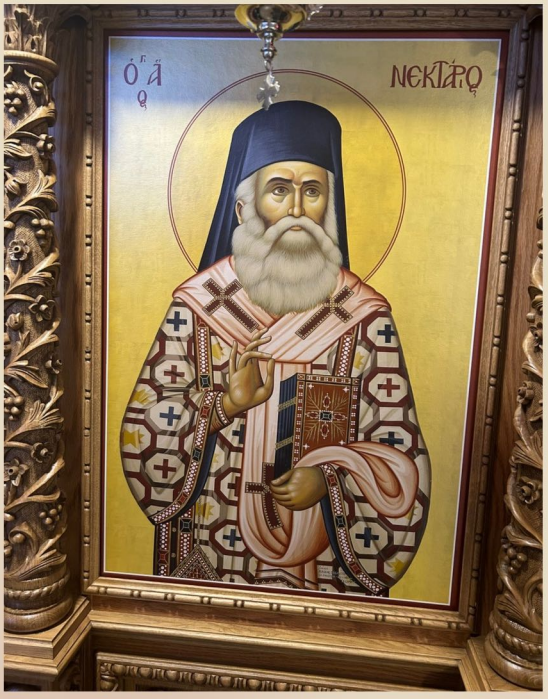



Η Α ΜΑΤΡΩΝΑ


ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ
ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ
ΚΟΡΩΝΑΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΥΟΡΚΗΣ
1926


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CORONA, N.Y.
1926









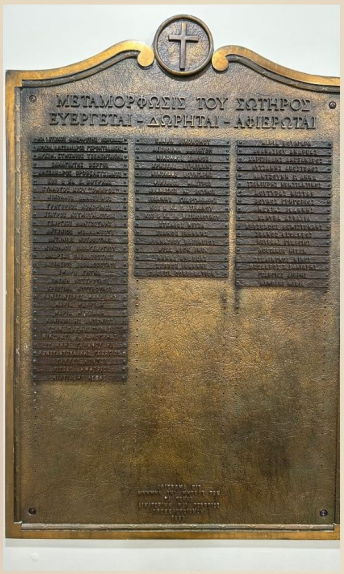


The St.Nectarios chapel restored after the fire.

The Community Hall















Linen shroud which was used to wrap Christ's body on Holy Friday and survived the devastating fire of 2017.



LITURGICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Various Services





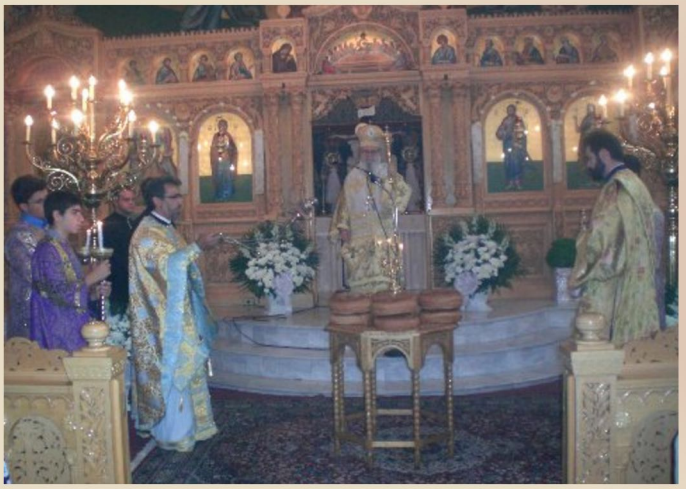






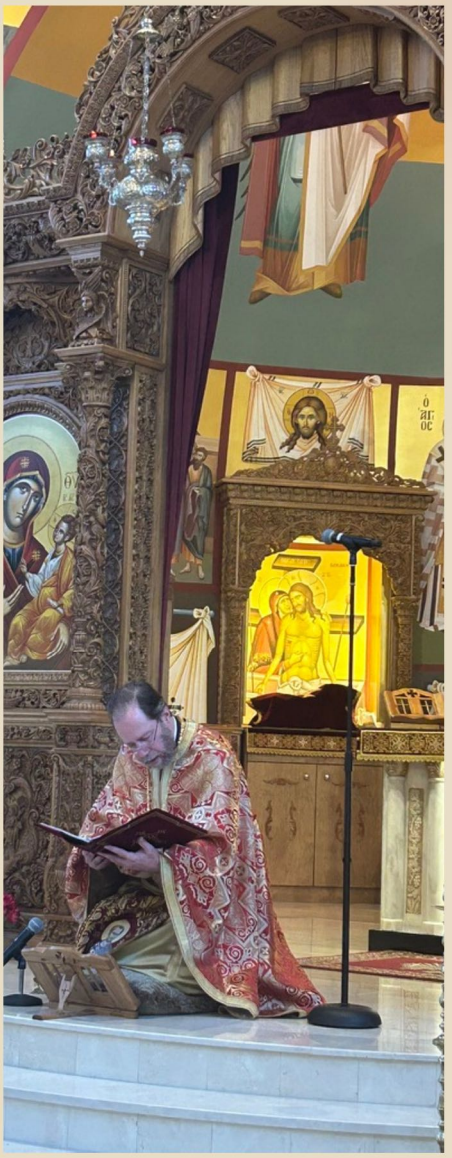









EXIT







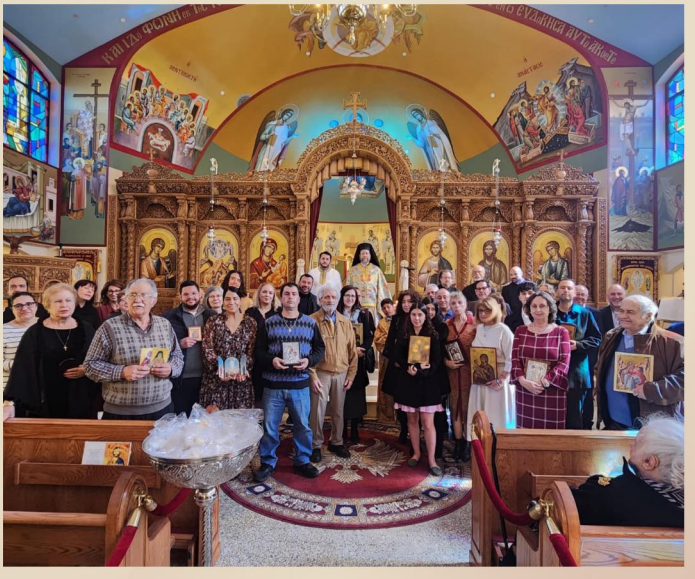


ΙΣ Ο ΝΙ ΧΣ
Ο ΠΑΝΤΟ ΚΡΑΤΩΡ
ΕΞ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΥ ΕΠΕΒΛΕΨΕΝ Ο ΚΥΡΙΟΣ ΕΠΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΥΝΤΑΣ
ΟΥΤΟΣ ΕΠΕΒΛΕΨΕΝ ΕΠΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥΣ ΕΞ ΕΤΟΙΜΟΥ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΗΤΗΡΙΟΥ
ΟΥΤΟΣ ΕΠΕΒΛΕΨΕΝ ΕΠΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΥΙΟΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΝ ΕΞ ΕΤΟΙΜΟΥ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΗΤΗΡΙΟΥ
Ο ΑΓ ΕΥΑΓ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΣ
Ο ΑΓ ΕΥΑΓ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ

Holy Lent - Holy Week - Paschal Services










ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ
ΜΗ ΑΠΑΤΑ ΣΕ ΜΟΝΑΧΕ
ΧΟΡΤΑΣΙΑ ΚΟΙΛΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΤΑΓΗ ΜΕΤΕΤΑΡ-ΑΤΕΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΤΑΣΣΕΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΔΑΙΜΟΝΑΣ






EXIT









































The procession of the epitaphios exiting the second Transfiguration of Christ Church in 1943.

The procession of the epitaphios on Holy Friday in Corona streets (1958).









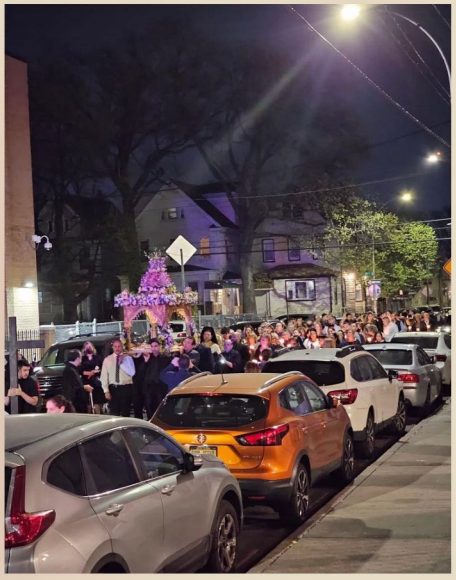















Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ














Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ







Agiasmos









40-day Blessings











Holy Sacraments

Holy Unction







Holy Eucharist







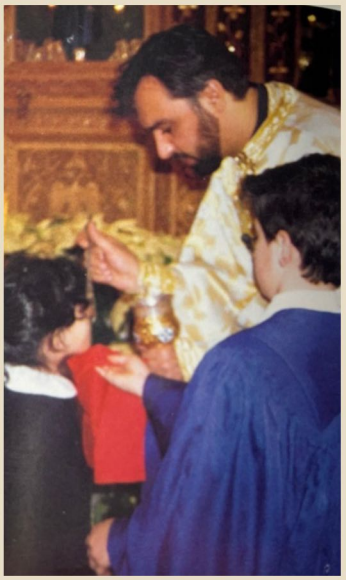








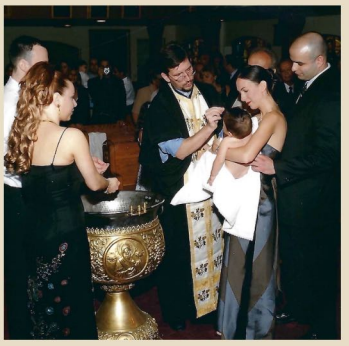








Baptisms






Chrismations





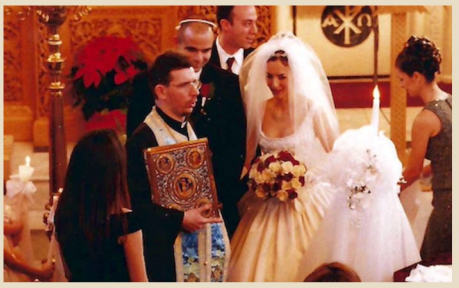




Weddings









Ordinations





The ordination of Fr. Demetrios Calogrides (Church of Transfiguration, 1975).



His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon ordaining Demetrios Moraitis as a deacon (Church of Transfiguration, late 1990s).



It is with great joy and nostalgia that I vividly recall that on November 23, 1975, I was ordained to the Sacred & lofty degree of the Holy Priesthood by His Grace, the then Bishop of Amphipolis, Rt. Rev. Silas of Blessed memory at the Transfiguration of Christ Church. From that point onward, I began to devote my life towards preaching the Word of the Lord, sanctifying the faithful through the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and educating the parishioners about our most precious Greek Orthodox Faith. I served the Transfiguration Church from 1975-77 under the Spiritual Guidance of the Very Reverend Evmenios Tselentakis, the Head Pastor who was my humble and compassionate Mentor. It was he who helped me cultivate my liturgical skills in order to serve well the need of the parish. In 1975 the church consisted of over 1000 members. Fr. Evmenios told me that the Transfiguration Church was the first Greek Orthodox Church on Long Island built in 1926!

I am forever grateful for this priceless experience which enhanced my Priesthood. I have many fond memories of my years at Transfiguration which I will treasure for the rest of my life. In my travels, I have encountered many former parishioners who now have grown up, married, with children & even grandchildren. When I see you, this evokes beautiful memories of my first years serving at the Church. I pray for the continued success & progress of Transfiguration Church. May the Good Lord grant you and your families good health and happiness always May the succeeding generations of the Faithful celebrate with love and exuberance the next 100 years!

With Love In Christ,
Rev. Demetrios N. Calogredes



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios ordaining Dn. Chrysostom Panos as a presbyter (Church of Transfiguration, Aug. 6, 2015).





Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ


























EXIT


EXIT






GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA • 1926 • NEW YORK






EXIT

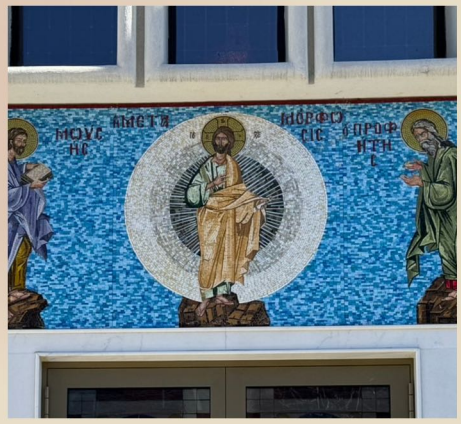






The exterior of the Church in 2026.









Notable Chanters Having Passed Through Our Church



Mr. Nicholaos Steliaros was an extraordinary figure whose influence extended well beyond the chanter's stand. Renowned as both a master chanter and a devoted teacher of Byzantine music, he guided countless students throughout the New York tri-state area and in Chios, Greece, where he served as lambadarios (left chanter) at the Metropolis of Chios. Through decades of tireless dedication to teaching and chanting, he played a vital role in preserving and revitalizing the sacred tradition of Byzantine music in the United States. Upon arriving in America in the 1960s, he was immediately appointed to the Transfiguration of Christ Church in Corona, New York. He was the full time Protopsalti or head chanter at Transfiguration for two decades, where he served diligently all the services, sacraments and funerals.

At a time when Byzantine music was in danger of fading from the liturgical life of the Greek Orthodox Church, he remained steadfast. With determination and passion, he sustained the tradition - educating and inspiring a new generation of chanters. Thanks in large part to his efforts, Byzantine music today is experiencing a genuine revival across the United States.



Apostolos (Paul) Combitsis was the first-chanter ("Protopsaltis") of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church since 2021. He holds a music teacher's Diploma in Byzantine Music from the music conservatory Μουσικό Κολλέγιο ("Mousiko Kollegio") in Thessaloniki, Greece. He has chanted both throughout the United States and Greece and is the founder and director of the Byzantine Choir of Greater Philadelphia "Romanos o Melodos", the core group to the Byzantine Choir of the Metropolis of New Jersey.

Our Caretaker



Our dedicated caretaker, Mr. Dimosthenis Papaioannou, affectionately known as Dimo has been serving our parish faithfully since the reopening of the Transfiguration of Christ Church in 2021. Dimo has been instrumental in maintaining the beauty and sanctity of our spiritual home. His responsibilities extend far beyond simple cleaning; he ensures that both the church building and all associated properties are kept in top-tier condition. Whether handling intricate maintenance, managing groundskeeping, or preparing the facilities for our numerous services and community events Dimo does an excellent job with unwavering commitment.

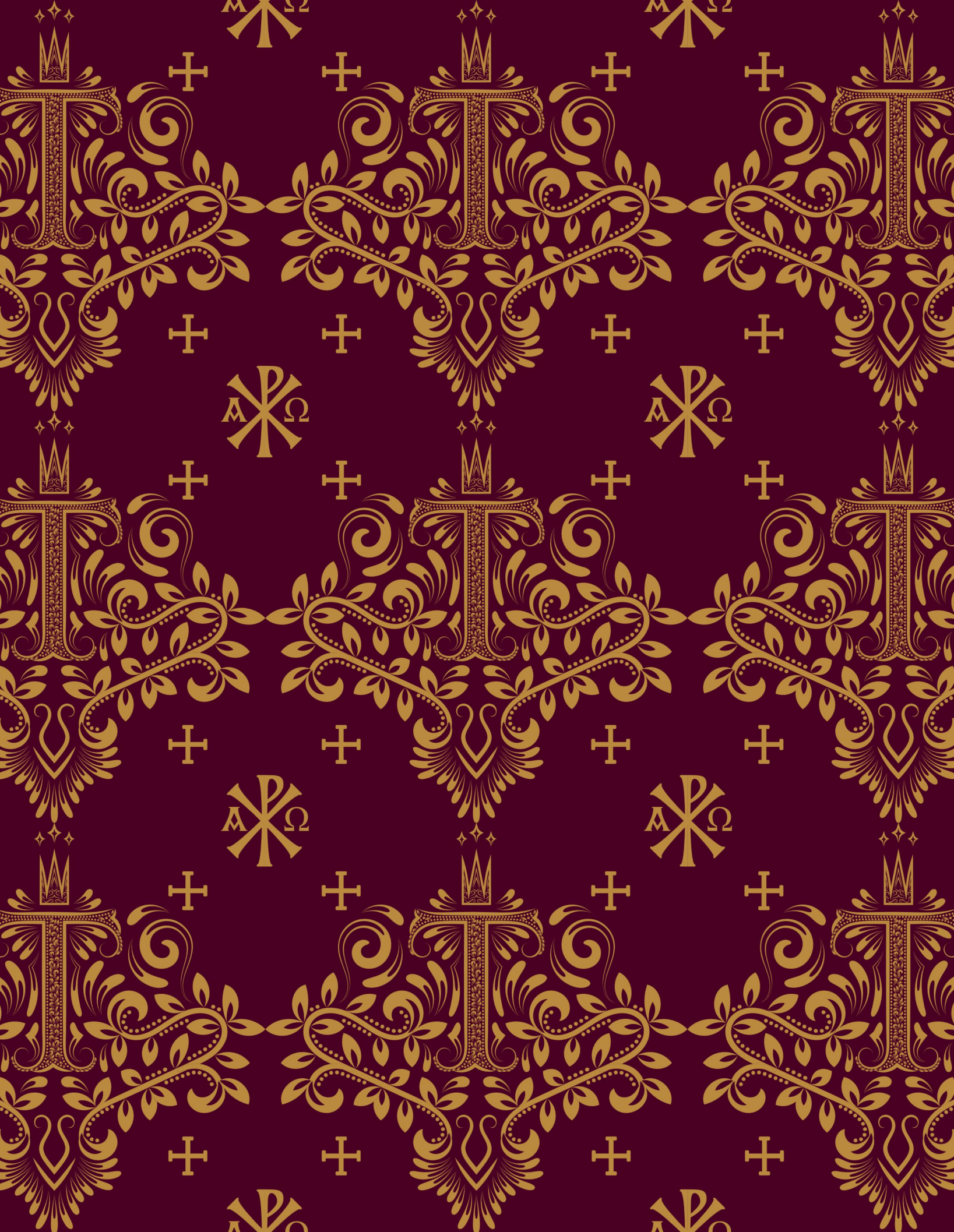
Our Office Administrator

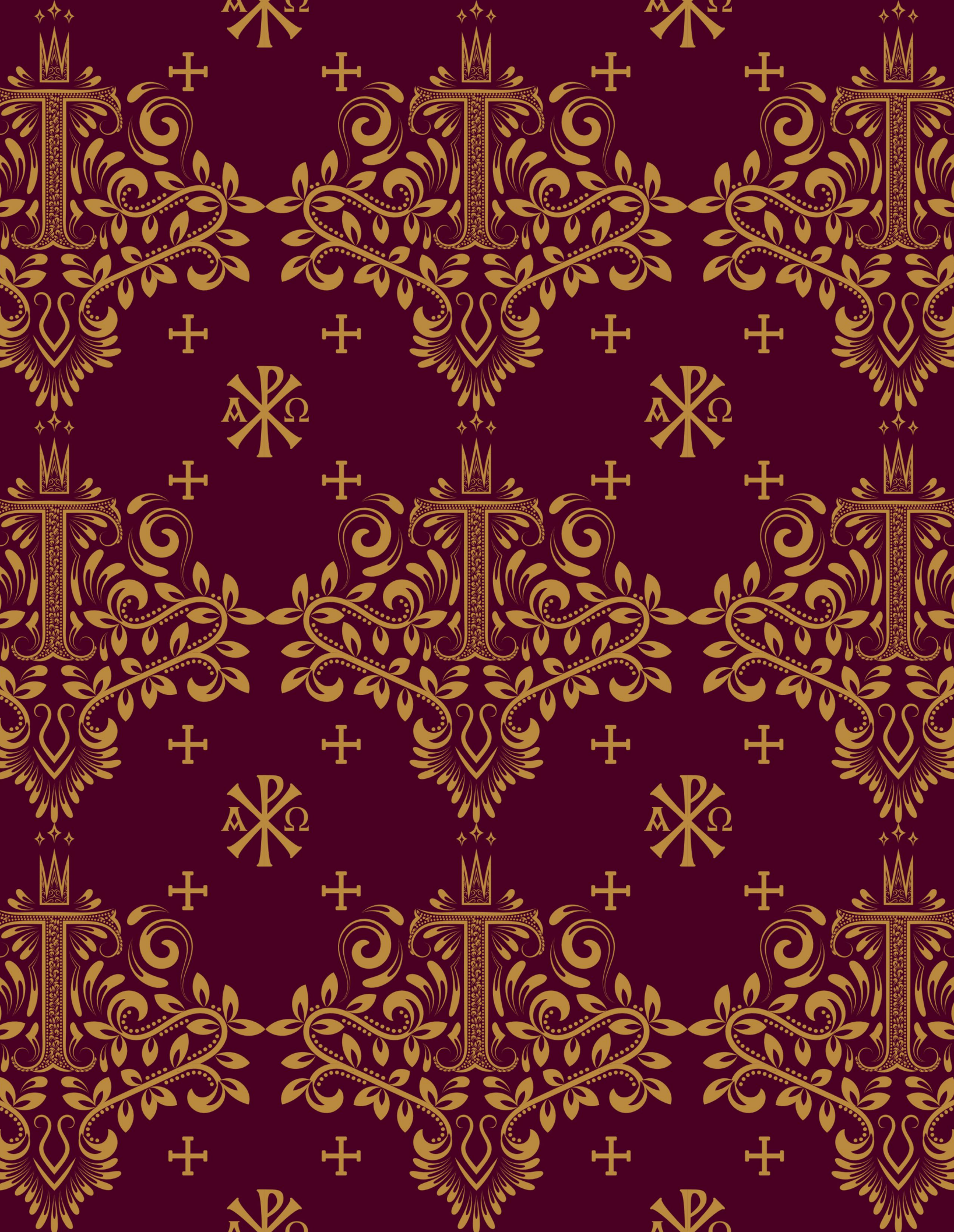


Aidee has faithfully served the Transfiguration of Christ Church for more than 15 years. Her duties as church office secretary include overseeing the operation of the church office and assisting the clergy and staff with a variety of administrative duties. As the church secretary, her responsibilities include managing schedules, and filing. She is also responsible for recording personal data regarding new members of the congregation, visitors, and a variety of other issues affecting the church. Some of this data involves church finances where Aidee is a whiz with her bookkeeping skills. She does a tremendous job to ensure that the church is running efficiently, accurately, and with discretion for people's personal information.

The Centennial Banner









SECTION III

OUR CLERGY



OUR CLERGY

For the past 100 years, our devoted clergy have faithfully served and guided our church. Through their faithful service, they have laid a strong spiritual foundation rooted in faith that continues to support and inspire present and future generations. Through their teaching, they have brought the scriptures to life—offering insight, guidance, and understanding that has helped parishioners grow spiritually and remain grounded in Christian principles. Their commitment to worship has ensured that the sacred traditions of the Church are upheld with reverence and care, creating a consistent and meaningful liturgical life for the faithful.

Beyond teaching and worship, their role as spiritual shepherds has been especially significant. In times of joy - such as baptisms and weddings - they have celebrated alongside the community. In times of hardship - illness, loss, or uncertainty - they have offered comfort, strength, and pastoral care. Through every instance, they have remained a steady presence, guiding the faithful with compassion and wisdom while keeping the church's mission centered on Christ.

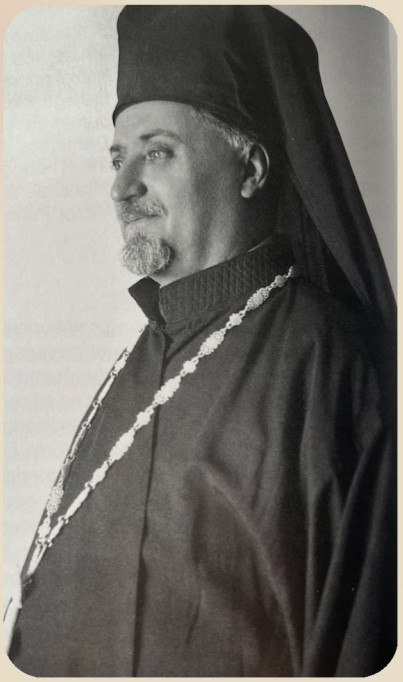
We must not overlook the responsibilities clergy carry in managing the administrative life of the church. From overseeing daily operations to coordinating ministries and ensuring the parish runs smoothly, their leadership extends beyond the altar into every aspect of church life.

We honor them for their commitment to excellence, their wisdom, and their role as faithful stewards of the gospel within this community. For a century our clergy at the Transfiguration of Christ have nurtured the spiritual growth and unity of our parish.





PRESIDING PRIESTS



Archimandrite Daniel Skarpas
1926



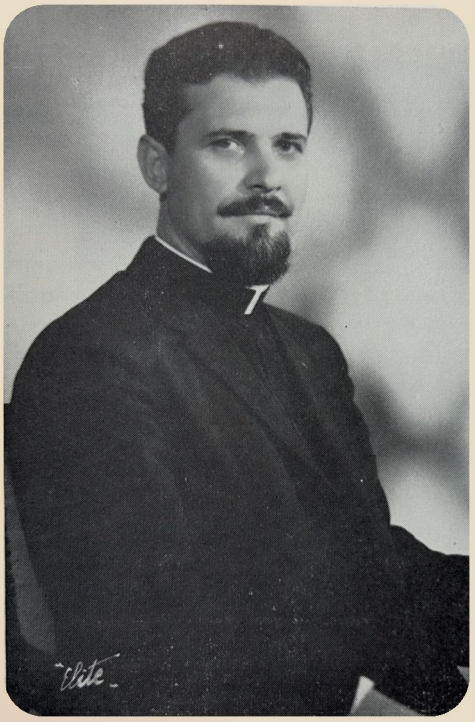
Archimandrite Konstantas Statheros
1926



Presbyter Nicholas Andreopoulos
1926-1928

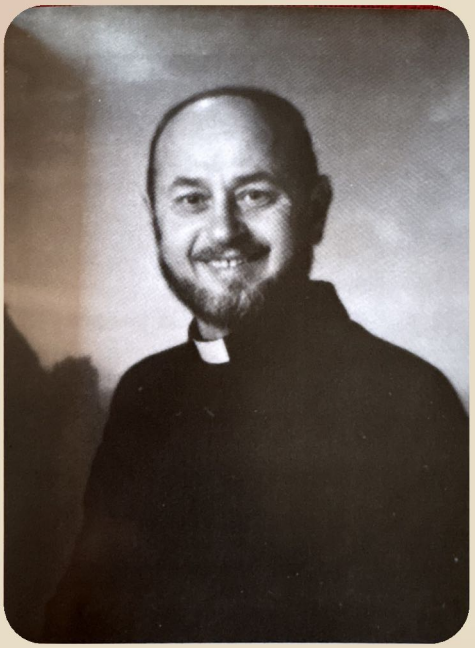


Archimandrite Alexander Gerontidakis
1928-1956



Archimandrite Evmenios Tselentakis
1956-1982

Presbyter George Kalatzis
1982-1983



Presbyter Vasilios Kapsalis
1983-1992



Presbyter Dimitrios Antokas
1992-1996



Archimandrite Cleopas Strongylis
1996-2004

Presbyter Efthymiou Miltiadis
2004

Presbyter Nicholas Retselas
2005



Presbyter Michael Mircea Dobre
2005

Presbyter Nicholas Couvaris
2005-2008

Presbyter John Angel
2008-2010



Presbyter George Anastasiou
2010-2019



Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos
2019 - present

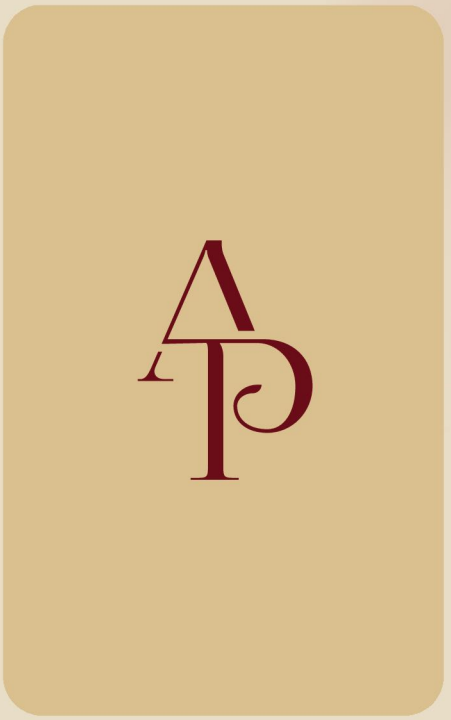


Fr. Chrysostom earned a Master of Divinity (MDiv) Degree in 2015 from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Upon graduating he was appointed Assistant to the Archdiocesan Chancellor. In addition, Fr. Chrysostom also oversaw the work of the Spiritual Court of the First Degree, served as Director of the Archdiocesan Department of Registry, and as the Spiritual Advisor to the Direct Archdiocesan District Ladies Philoptochos Society. He served as the presiding priest of Saints George and Demetrios Church in New York City, St. Eleftherios Church in New York City and was interim-pastor at St. Paul's Church in Hempstead, NY and at St. Spyridon's Church in NYC. In 2018 he briefly served as Chancellor to the Metropolis of Chicago. Fr. Chrysostom has been assigned to the Transfiguration of Christ Church in Corona, NY since October, 2019.

ASSISTANT PRIESTS



Hieromonk Gerasimos Vlassopoulos
1961-1963



Presbyter Athanasios Pappas
1964



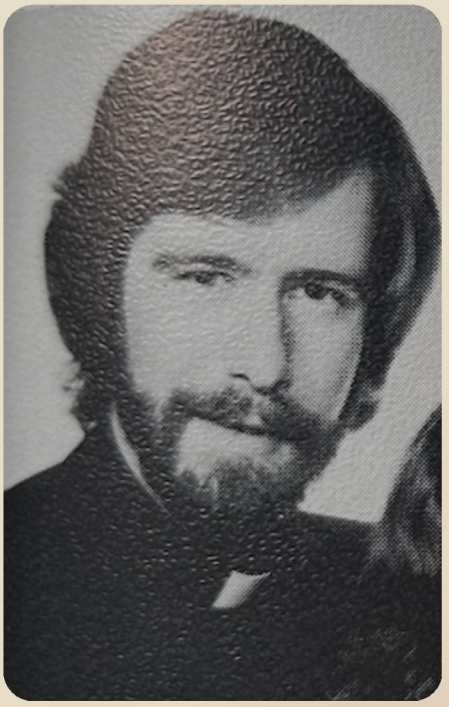
Presbyter Paul Apostolakos
1964



Presbyter George Prassas
1965



Presbyter James Bogiatzis
1965-1975



Presbyter Demetrios Kalogredes
1975-1977



Archimandrite Theodore Nedelson
1977-1979

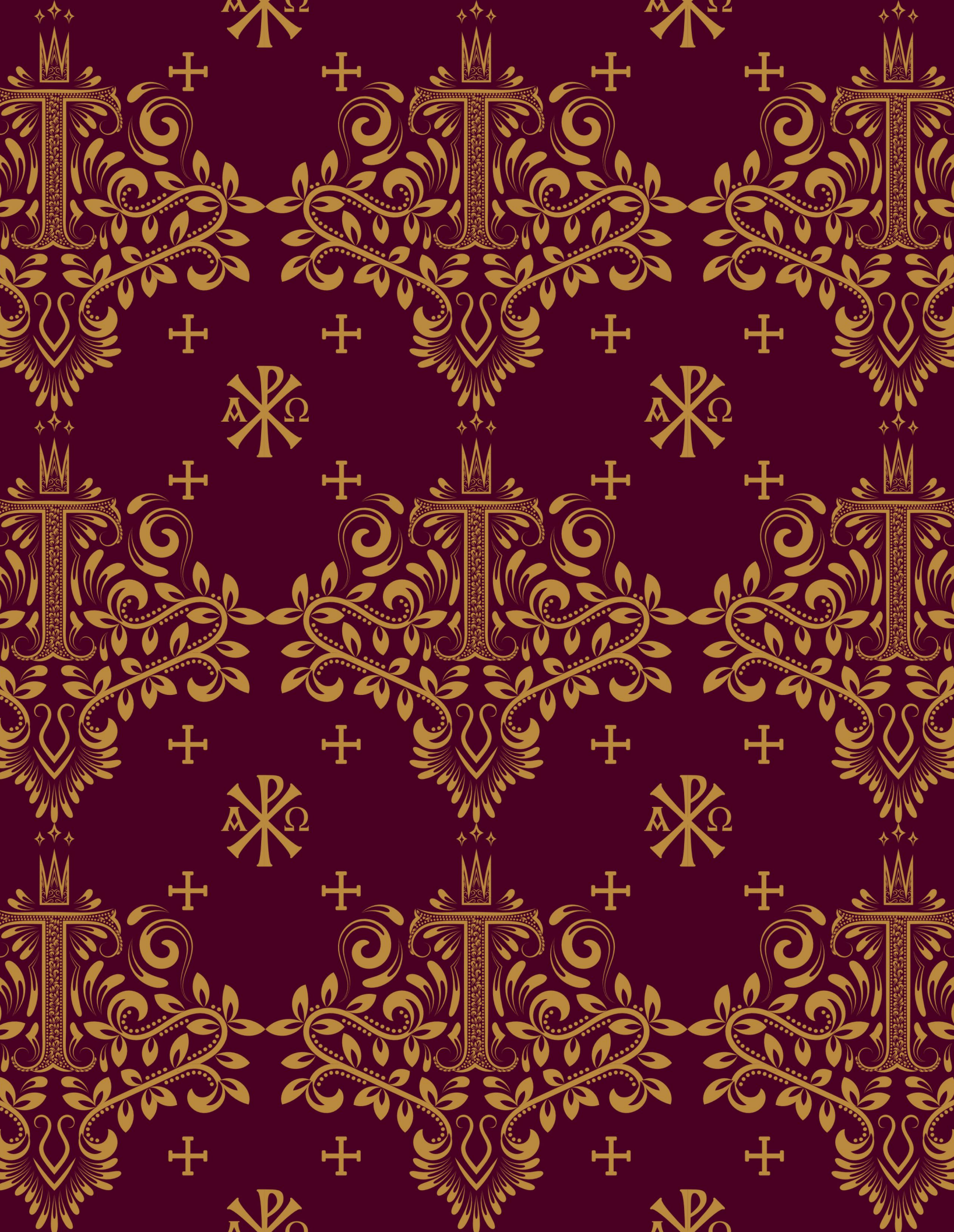


Archimandrite Joachim Cotsonis
1980

Presbyter Victor Penel
1981



Archimandrite Pedro Gómez
2024-2025





SECTION IV

Our Parish Councils



PARISH COUNCILS OF TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST CHURCH

The Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council is an elected body of laypeople serving alongside the parish priest to manage the administrative, financial, legal and ministry affairs of the church. As a "ministry of the church," members must be in good standing and be active in the worship and sacramental life of the Church. The Parish Council members act to support the parish's spiritual mission, under priestly guidance, focusing on stewardship, property, and community organization. The Priest is head of the Parish, and is charged with the guidance of the total Parish Council. The Parish Council consists of the Priest, and the elected lay members.

In the Oath of Office, the Parish Council members affirm that they "...will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council...."

The duties of a Parish Council member include regular attendance at divine services and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, "...thereby setting an example for the parish." To serve on the council is a ministry and a mission. The best parish council members are those who are Church-oriented and Christ-centered. To be a good council member, one must be active in the worship and sacramental life of the Church.

From the very beginning, with the formation of its first community in 1926 with George Tsitseras as President, the Greek settlement in Corona was fortunate in that its leaders have always been individuals of outstanding attributes. As head of the community, the President carries tremendous responsibility and a variety of obligations. A community that steadily grows, moves ahead and makes a difference clearly reflects the quality of its leadership. The Community of Corona is a distinctive example of this interlinkage.



Father Tselentakis with the Parish Council 1956-1958



Parish Council 1959-1960



Parish Council 1961-1962



Parish Council 1963-1964



Parish Council 1965-1966



Parish Council 1967-1968



Parish Council 1969-1970



Parish Council 1971-1972



Parish Council 1973



Parish Council 1974



Parish Council 1975



Father Tselentakis and Father Jim Calogredes with the Parish Council in 1976



Parish Council 1977



Parish Council 1978-1979



Parish Council 1980



Parish Council 1981-1982



Parish Council 1983-1984



His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos with the Parish Council, in 1989



His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon with members of the Parish Council, in 1998



Father Cleopas with members of the Parish Council 2001-2003



Father George with members of the Parish Council, in 2011.



Oath of Office, Parish Council in 2016



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and Father Chrysostom with members of the Parish Council (2019-2021) at the opening of the Church on September 18, 2021 after the devastating fire.



Oath of Office, Parish Council in 2023



Father Chrysostom with members of the Parish Council in March 2023, honoring Mr.Apostolos D.Litsakis, past-President of Parish Council (1967-1968; 1976; 1991-1992).





His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, along with the District Chancellor Father Elias Villis, Father Chrysostom and Father Pedro with members of the Parish Council at the Service of the Akathyst Hymn in April 2024.



His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas, Father Chrysostom and Father Pedro with past and current members of the Parish Council in November 2024.



Oath of Office,
Parish Council in 2025



Oath of Office,
Parish Council in 2026



Father Chrysostom with the Parish Council kicking off the Centennial Celebration year in 2026.

PRESIDENTS OF PARISH COUNCILS

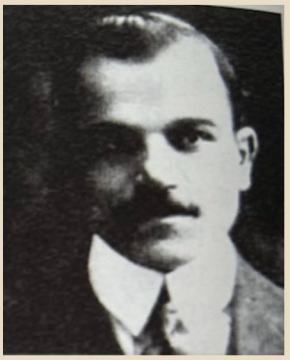

George K. Tsitseras
1926

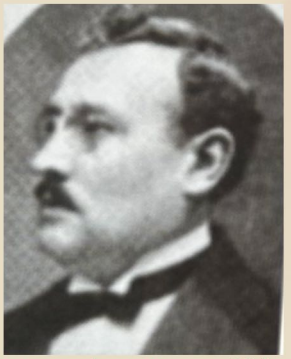

N.Georgakopoulos
1927

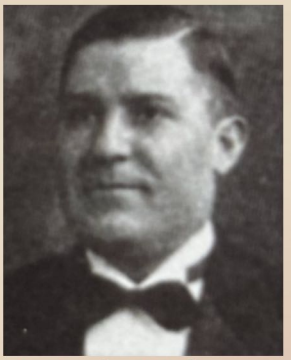

Dr. V. L. Vlachos
1928


Angelo Poll
1929-1931


Nicholas Vassilaros
1930


Georgios Varvaritis
1931-1932

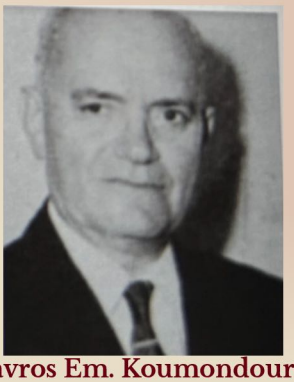

Panayiote Pangalides
1934


Antonios Sofronos
1935


George Lantzounis
1936-1937; 1951; 1954


Demetrios Galanopoulos
1938; 1947

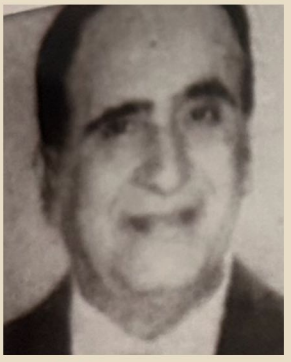

Peter Vergos
1943-1944

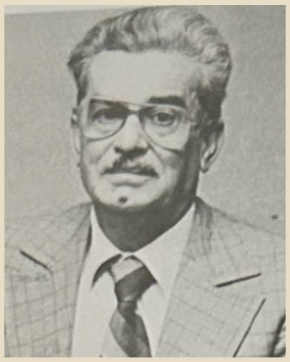

Stavros Em. Koumondouros
1945-1950; 1955-1958; 1961-1962


Jack Zarcadolas
1959-1960


Chris Stratakis
1963-1964; 1988


Alex Harisiades
1965-1966; 1971-1972

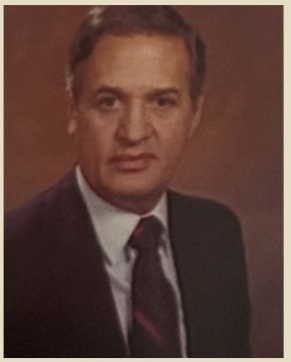

Phillip Mastros
1969-1970



Theodore Saliaris
1973-1974; 1980-1981



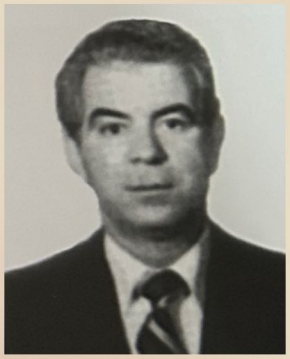
Chris Vrettos
1975; 1998



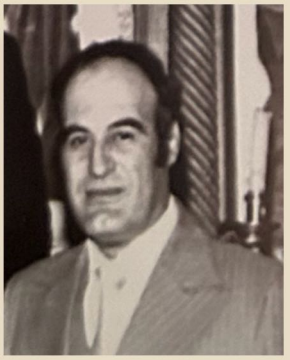
Apostolos D. Litsakis
1967-1968; 1976; 1991-1992



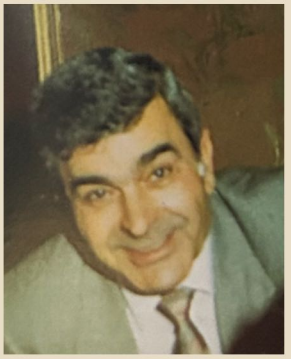
Nick Kalogrias
1977



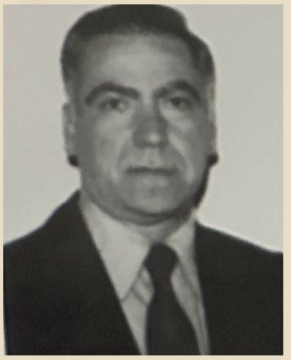
Paul Alexander
1978-1979



Nick Tarasis
1982



Emmanuel Markakis
1983-1984



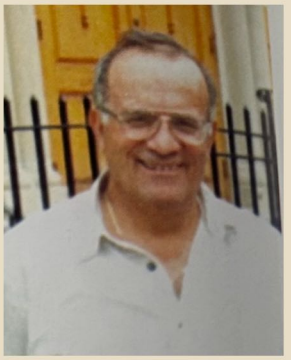
Paul Kochilas
1985-1988



James Anthros
1989-1990



George Georgiades
1993-1994; 2003-2004



Peter Economou
1995-1997



Theodore Boskinis
1998



James Psaltakis
1999-2000



Vasilios Livanos
2001-2003

Gerasimos Matzoutzos &
Eleni Zanakis
2005



Regina Papamitrou
2006-2010



Leonidas Korachais
2011-2013; 2017-2019

Penny Viennas
2014-2016



Anastasios Koularmanis
2019-2022



Loriann Bothos
2022-present

As we celebrate the 100 years since the founding of the Church of the Transfiguration of Christ with great joy, I am reflecting on the strong foundation on which our founders built our community and how it was continued by generations of faithful members. This is a moment to honor the past and to inspire us to work all together for an even brighter future. A heartfelt appreciation for Very Reverend Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos and all the previous clergy who have faithfully led and inspired our Transfiguration of Christ family. May the next 100 years be blessed with continued faith and unity. Congratulations for the centennial celebration!

Regina Papamitrou, past-President of Parish Council, 2006-2010





Celebrating 100 years of God's Grace, to this cherished Parish. It has endured because of the unwavering devotion of its parishioners, whose faith, like the stained glass windows, shines through every challenge and brings lasting beauty to our community.

Leonidas Korachais, past-President of Parish Council 2011-2013; 2017-2019

Με μεγάλη μου χαρά και συγκίνηση εορτάζω, μαζί με όλους μαζί τους ενορίτες και ενορίτισσες, τα 100 χρόνια της Εκκλησίας μας της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος στην Κορώνα, ΝΥ, την οποία υπηρέτησα από διάφορες θέσεις ως Πρόεδρος, Γραμματέας και Ταμίας. Εύχομαι η Κοινότητα μας να εορτάσει και τα επόμενα 100 χρόνια, με την ίδια λαμπρότητα, και στο μέλλον.

Γεώργιος Γεωργιάδης, πρώην Πρόεδρος Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου, 1993-1994; 2003-2004





I was honored to be the president of the Parish Council back in 1963 and 1964 covering many more years before that as member and officer of the Parish Council. These were formative years as the church at the time needed some new blood. All I can say at this point is that the rest is history. All three of my children went to the Greek American School of the Transfiguration, and we served many years, my wife and I, in various capacities. 100 years later, unbelievable. The best is still ahead.

Chris Stratakis, past-President of Parish Council
1963-1964; 1988

Η χαρά και η ικανοποίηση μου είναι μεγάλη
που με αξίωσε ο Θεός να είμαι απόψε εδώ
μαζί σας, για να εορτάσωμε τα 100 χρόνια
της Ενορίας μας η οποία εορτάζει
για τα μεγαλεία 75 χρόνια.
Αξιώθηκα να υπηρετήσω την Κοινότητα μου, από
όλες τις θέσεις και να ζω για μεγάλη ευλογία
να γίνετε ένας υπέργαστρος ναός.
Για να εορτάσωμε την πανηγύρια της, ο Θεός μας
αξίωσε να την υπηρετήσει, ένας εξαίρετος και
καταξιωμένος ιερέας, ο πάτερ Χρυσόστομος.
Τι πιο ωραίο και πιο συγκλονιστικό, γιατί ο
πάτερ Χρυσόστομος είναι "γέννημα-θρέμμα" της
κοινότητας μας.
Θέλω ευχαριστήσω για την τιμή που μου κάνετε
και εύχομαι ο Θεός να αξιώσει και άλλους
να ζήσουν τέτοιες στιγμές.

Απόστολος Λυτσάκης



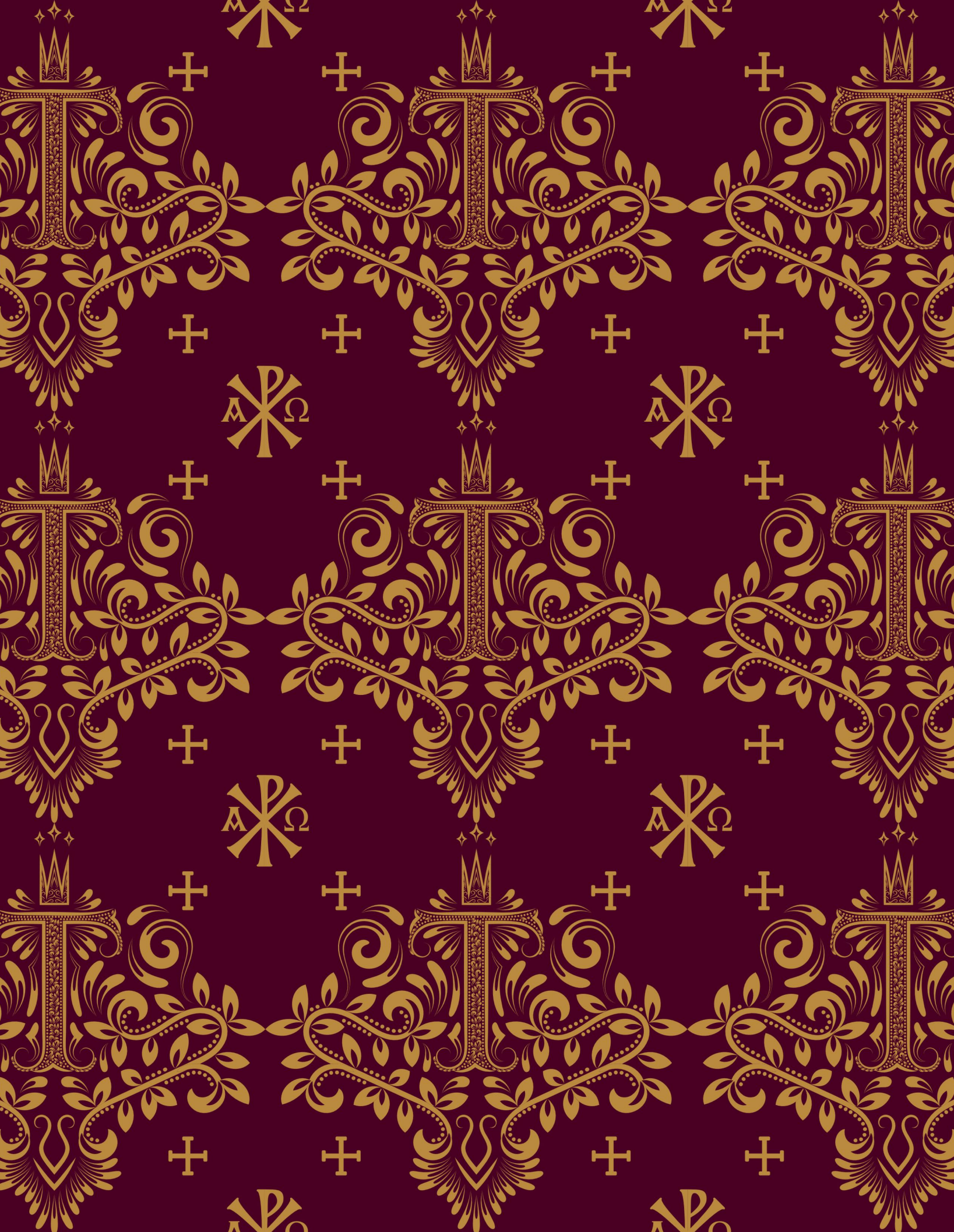
It is a great pleasure that I can be here today to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our community. I was blessed to have the opportunity to serve my community in all positions, with love and respect. To celebrate the 100 year anniversary, we have been blessed to have a blessed priest, father Chrysostom Panos, who was born and raised in this community. I thank you for the honor and I wish that others will be blessed to feel the same and celebrate the next 100 years.

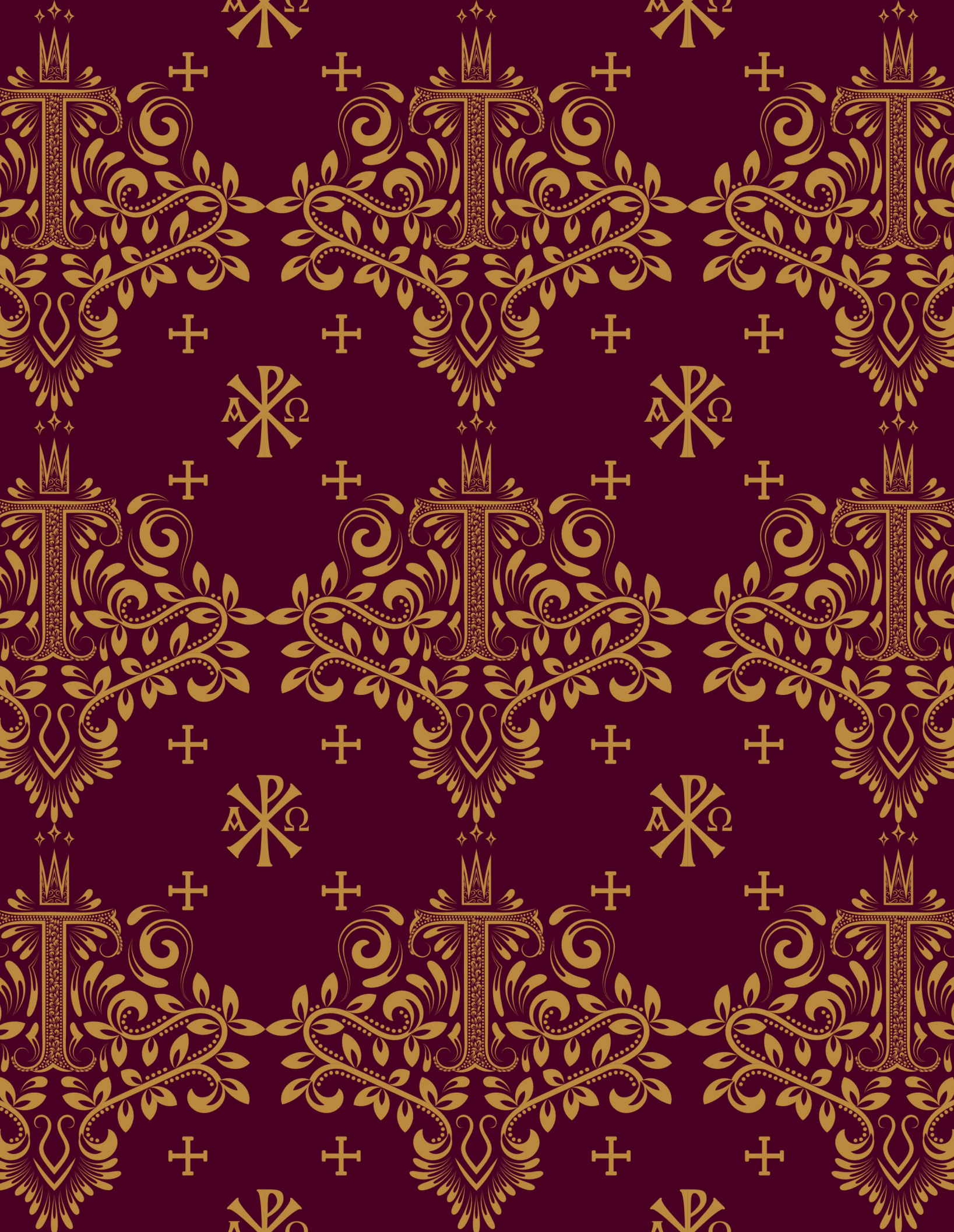
Apostolos Litsakis, past-President of Parish Council
1967-1968; 1976; 1991-1992

The Transfiguration church has been very close to my heart. I spent 14 years on the council, four of which were president of this community, and I must tell you that we had a great board and a great number of people contributing to the growth of this community. We went through the fundraising to build a school. School succeeded for a number of years. Unfortunately, the community changed. A lot of people moved on to other facilities. I personally and my wife enjoyed our years in the Corona church. It was simply a wonderful experience that I believe everyone should have.

Alex Harisiades, past-President of Parish Council
1965-1966; 1971-1972









SECTION V

Our Philoptochos



"ANAGENNISIS" PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF CORONA



The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Their mission is to help the poor, the hungry, the orphaned, the victims of disasters, and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund-raising. Each Parish of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has a Chapter of the Society.

Prior to the official establishment of the Transfiguration community in 1926, a small group of pious ladies that lived in the vicinity of Corona had already began to meet regularly, with one and only goal: their contribution to the general progress of their parish.

The Philoptochos Society of Corona was officially established in 1928 under the name "Anagennisis Philoptochos Society of Corona". The word "Anagennisis" in greek means "Rebirth", which signifies the spiritual transformation initiated through Holy Baptism and perfected through a life in Christ. It refers to a sacramental and ontological change—a new life in the Holy Spirit. Mrs. Despoina Spanou was elected as the first president of the Philoptochos

During the first few years of the formation of "Anagennisis," the Philoptochos women frequently faced what at times seemed to be an insurmountable task of endless deeds to be achieved.



Mrs Victoria Stathos
President of Philoptochos
1935-1937

Mrs. Victoria Stathos who served as president to three consecutive terms during the Thirties idly recalls the bitter years of the Depression. During the early Thirties when Philoptochos Chapters were founded in various parishes, their specific purpose was to help the poor and needy immigrants. During the Depression, feeding programs were set up in parish halls and elsewhere, and lectures and socials were sponsored to raise money for the economic needs of those who sought shelter. And they comforted those who came to the church for moral support.



Anagennisis Philoptochos Society of Corona, 1935

Frequently, the Philoptochos Society arranged for return passage to Greece for many victims of the Depression. They gave them clothing and money. They took care of funeral arrangements for destitute families when a loved one passed away. They established contact and rapport with American government and civil authorities, and especially with the immigration authorities, in order to be of service to immigrants returning to Greece.

Exemplary of the fine spirit that has persistently prevailed, Mrs. Despina Kazazi is another pioneer member of the Corona branch who has wholeheartedly devoted herself to the welfare of those in need.

The late Mrs. Despina Vrachopoulos, largely identified as "The Mother of Philoptochos" began a lifetime of charity work with the Corona Chapter and for many years continued her activities on a national level.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Corona is widely acclaimed for its unending devotion to the various causes of the community.



The ever-memorable Patriarch Athenagoras with ladies from the Philoptochos of our church in 1935.



The Anagennisis Philoptochos Society with Father Gerontidakis in 1950.



The Anagennisis Philoptochos Society with Father Tselentakis in 1957.

The Philoptochos' charity work went beyond the Greek community of New York, reaching broader spheres and providing financial support to those in need and ill fellow men and women, strengthening the spiritual and renovation efforts of the community, granting scholarships to students of the day and afternoon schools of Transfiguration, organizing community events and luncheons, and beautifying the church and the school.



The ladies of Philoptochos standing in front of the epitaphios of the new church, in 1956.



A photo from the Philoptochos' visit to the Archdiocese, in 1957.



Father Tselentakis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1957.



Members of the Philoptochos in the kitchen of the newly built church hall, in 1958.



Members of the Philoptochos with Mr. Sklavos at the cutting of the vasilopita in 1958.



Father Tselentakis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1964.



Members of the Philoptochos with Fr. Tselentakis and Fr. Nedelson, in 1979.



Members of the Philoptochos with Father Tselentakis, in 1976.





Philoptochos Luncheon, 1977



The ladies of Philoptochos, assisting in the community festival, in 1979.



Father Tselentakis and the assistant priest Fr. Kotsonis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1980.



Father Tselentakis with the Philoptochos board members, in 1980.



Philoptochos Members with Archbishop Iakovos and Father Antokas, in 1993.



Past Philoptochos President, the late Mrs Voula Ganos, along with members of the Philoptochos and parish council, preparing the 2000 Paschal luncheon.

Members of the Philoptochos in the kitchen of the church's hall, in 2000.







Members of the Philoptochos in the kitchen of the church's hall, in 2001 and 2002.



Philoptochos Board Members with Archbishop Demetrios, in 2003.



Three longtime Philoptochos members, Mdms. Christine Poll, Alexandra Leontis and Vasiliki Skoubas.



Longtime Philoptochos members.





The ladies of Philoptochos making palms into crosses for Palm Sunday, in 2011 (top), 2025 (right) and 2016 (bottom).





Oath of office for the ladies of Philoptochos, in 2016.

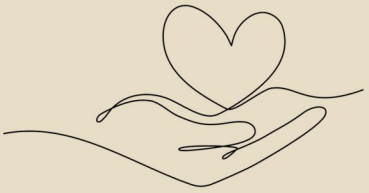


Oath of office for the ladies of Philoptochos, in 2025.

The Philoptochos most deservingly holds the title of *mother of the community,* bestowed upon them due to the immeasurable support offered by its members in all the areas of our community life.

In recent years, certain fundraising efforts of the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Anagennisis of Corona include: Makaronada Luncheon, Fasolada Luncheon, Bake Sales, Flea Markets and the Community Christmas Card. All proceeds go to worthy causes that affect others inside and outside of our community. They benefit the vulnerable and people in need, such as those that are affected by the floods and fires in Greece, or the high cost of living in the wider NY area.

The proceeds from the above Philoptochos' initiatives have benefited, inter alia, St. Michael's Home for the Aged, Hellenic College Holy Cross, St. Basil's Academy and Camp Saint Paul.





Members of the Philoptochos at the Fasolada Luncheon, in March 2026.







Members of the Philoptochos supporting people in need by organizing a flea market (2023), donating toiletries to a shelter (2025) and hosting a bake sale before Christmas (2025; left)





Members of the Philoptochos with Father Pedro donating food before Christmas, as part of the Spanish Ministry, in 2024.







Archbishop Elpidophoros with members of the Philoptochos during Great Lent, in 2024.



Bishop Andonios and Father Chrysostom with members of the Philoptochos on Palm Sunday, in 2023.



Father Chrysostom with members of the Philoptochos, in 2026.





The Philoptochos Executive Council, with Father Chrysostom, honoring select members of the Parish Philoptochos, in 2025 (left) and 2024 (right) for their longtime service.

The charitable work of the Anagennisis Ladies Philoptochos of Corona to help the poor, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the victims of disasters, and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fundraising efforts, as well as to promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, have been recognized by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. They were recognized for their essential role in impacting the world and making a difference in the lives of people in the United States and throughout the world. The Anagennisis Greek Ladies Philoptochos of Corona has always maintained human dignity and improved the quality of life of those in need. For the members of Anagennisis Philoptochos every person has intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with respect and honor.


The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.

National Philoptochos Awards Program
2024

Impacting the World

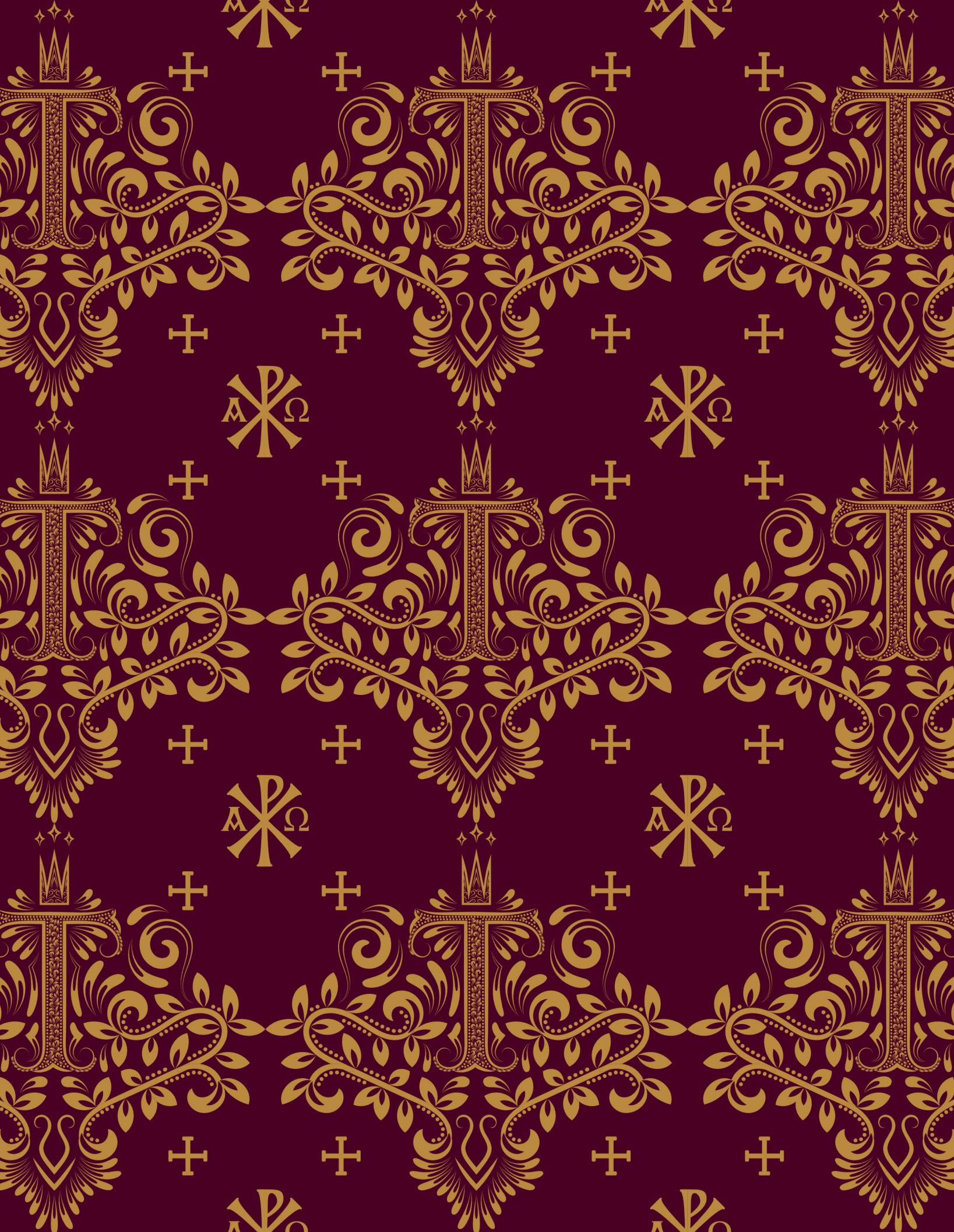
Transfiguration Chapter 0059
Corona, New York

In Recognition of
National Ministry Commitments
100% Participation in 2023

Awarded on this 4th day of July in the year of our Lord 2024
National Philoptochos Biennial Convention
San Diego, California

+ Elpidophoros, Archbishop of America

Arlene Siavelis Kehl, National President





SECTION VI

Our School



OUR SCHOOL HISTORY

In the early 1920s, as Greek-speaking families began settling in Corona, New York, their primary focus was on establishing an official Greek Orthodox community and securing a place of worship. Having built it with their own effort and dedication, the members of Transfiguration of Christ Church felt a deep sense of pride and fulfillment. As they gave thanks to God for granting them the strength and determination to reach their goal, they also remained mindful about their children's education. Parents soon began calling for a proper school.They believed that the Greek language and culture deserved to be taught in a more suitable and structured environment rather than in temporary, inadequate spaces then being used.

During those very early days, it was Mrs. Sophia M.Cavalliotis who originally instigated a program for teaching Greek to the children. A graduate of the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, Mrs. Cavalliotis was a woman of vision who founded a group called "Agape," dedicated to raising funds for a proper classroom. The first teacher of the Greek school was Eleni Demetriou.





Mrs. Sophia Cavalliotis, Founder and First President of "Agape"

In later years, the balcony of the second home of the Transfiguration of Christ Church was repurposed as a classroom. It was there that Mr. Vamvourakis gathered about twenty school-age children from the community and began teaching them the richness, meaning, and complexities of the Greek language.



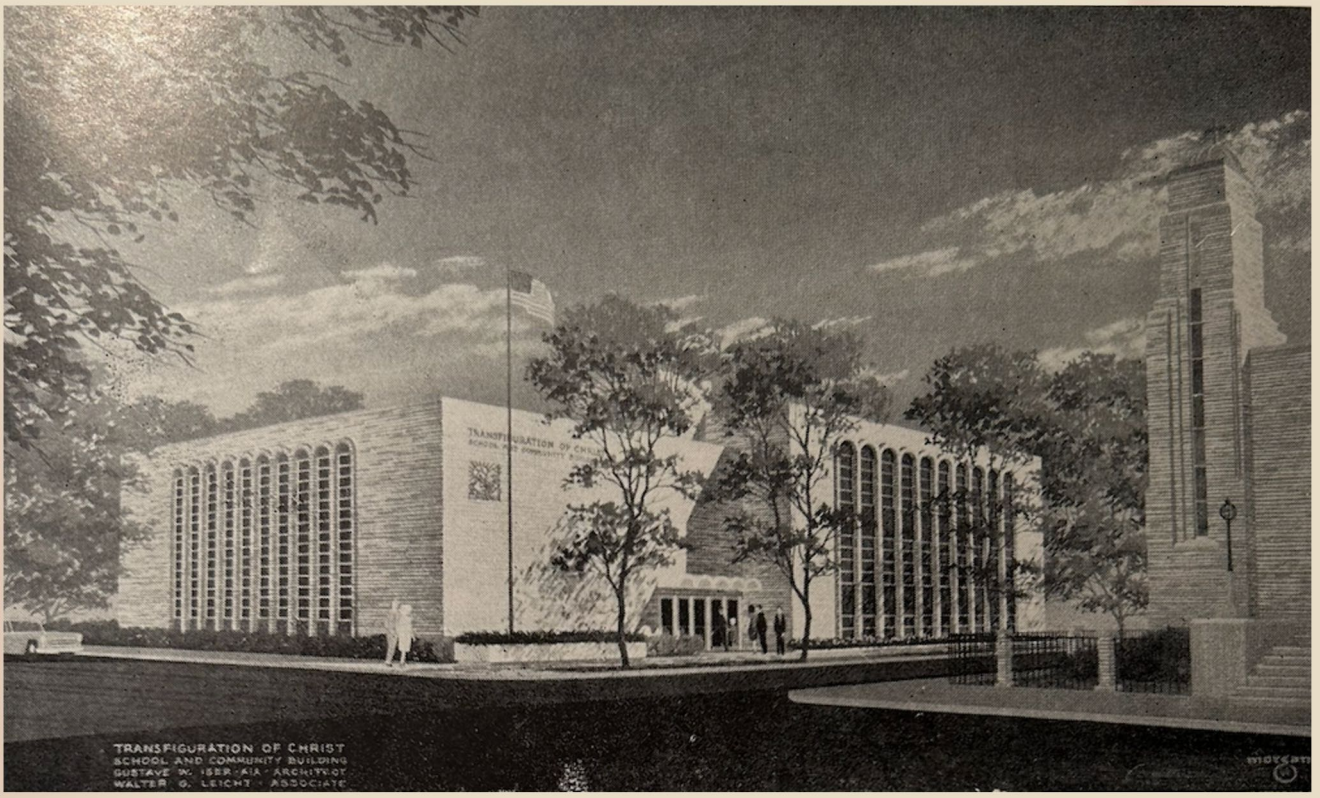
Teacher Mr. Vamvourakis with his students

As the years passed, Greek education for the children of the Transfiguration of Christ community in Corona continued steadily despite the absence of a proper school building. The community's strong cultural spirit endured, determined that nothing would hinder the preservation of their heritage. Eventually, classes were held during the day in the basement of the new church, and additional space was provided at local schools. Mrs. Spanos became especially well known for her dedicated work as part of the small but committed Greek teaching staff. In time, however, the community recognized that decisive action was needed towards the construction of a proper school.

With that in mind, at the General Assembly of 1964, the members of the community approved the creation of a dedicated reserve fund specifically for building the school. William Poll, Nicholas Spanos, and Christ Stratakis were appointed to oversee and manage this fund. On October 23, 1964, it was officially announced that the preliminary design for the new school had been completed. By the end of that year, the construction fund amounted to approximately fifty thousand dollars.

Transfiguration of Christ Greek-Parochial School

The founding of the School of Metamorphosis was driven by a deep commitment to preserving Greek heritage through language and education. Guided by this vision, a committee of past community leaders embarked on the mission to construct a dedicated school building in 1965. With the contract signed on December 5, 1966, the stage was set for the school's opening.



















The groundbreaking of the Transfiguration School at Christmas 1966 and the laying of the cornerstone on May 28, 1967.

On September 10, 1967, the School of Metamorphosis officially opened its doors at 98-07 38th Avenue, directly adjacent to the church, welcoming 15 students under the guidance of its first principal, Edward Stanley. As the decades unfolded, the school expanded its curriculum eventually offering education from Pre-K through ninth grade. With a strong commitment to innovative educational programs, it provided not just knowledge and academic growth, but a sense of family, community, and a steadfast connection to Greek heritage.





















Mr. Edward Stanley, the first principal of the Day School of Transfiguration, with School staff and Board Members.











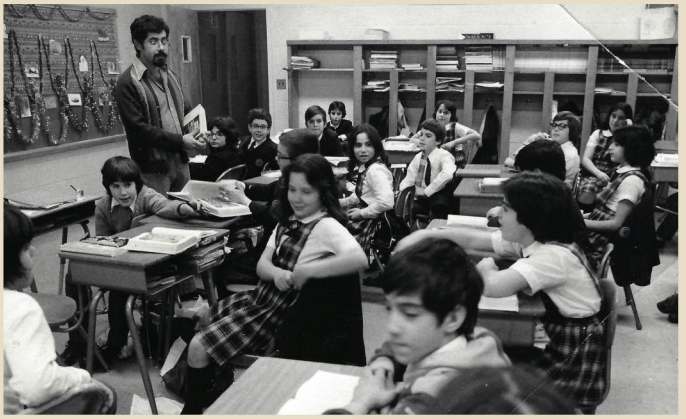



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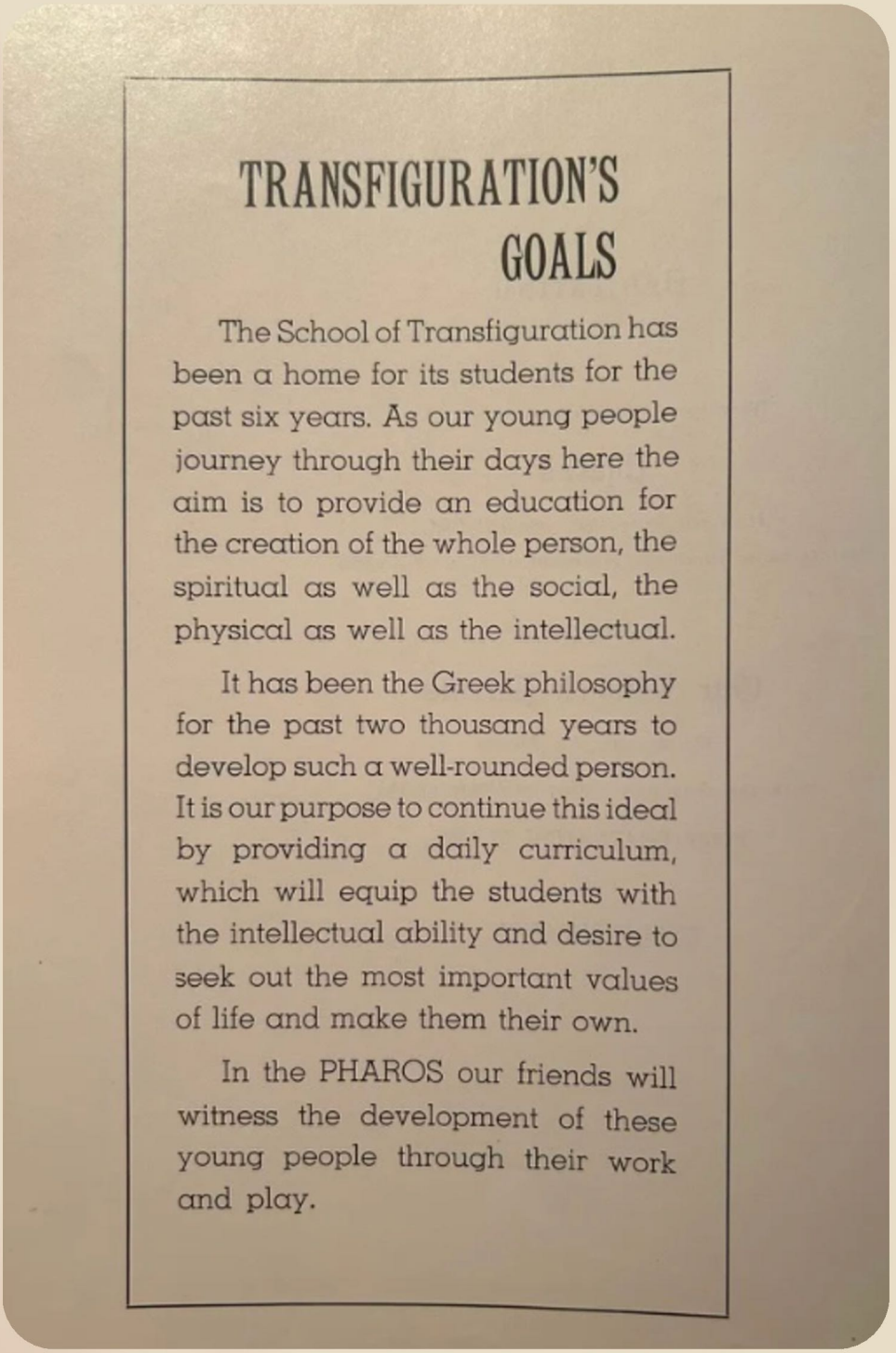







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TRANSFIGURATION'S GOALS

The School of Transfiguration has been a home for its students for the past six years. As our young people journey through their days here the aim is to provide an education for the creation of the whole person, the spiritual as well as the social, the physical as well as the intellectual.

It has been the Greek philosophy for the past two thousand years to develop such a well-rounded person. It is our purpose to continue this ideal by providing a daily curriculum, which will equip the students with the intellectual ability and desire to seek out the most important values of life and make them their own.

In the PHAROS our friends will witness the development of these young people through their work and play.

From the school yearbook PHAROS, in 1973.


SCHOOL OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA NY
MRS MANN
MISS ZANTHIS
GRADE 5
FEBRUARY 1969







Ἑλληνισμός καί Παραδόσεις

"Ἴσως νά μήν ὑπάρχῃ ἄλλος λαός στή γῆ, πού νά ξενιτεύεται ἀπό τήν πρώτη χαραυγή τῆς ἱστορικῆς του ὑπάρξεως, ὅπως ὁ Ἑλληνικός.

Ἁπλώθηκε ἀπό τήν μητροπολιτική του χώρα εἰς ὅλα τά νησιά, στά παράλια τῆς Θράκης, τῆς Μ. Ἀσίας, τῆς Ν. Ἰταλίας, τῆς Σικελίας, τῆς Ἀδριατικῆς, τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου καί ἔφθασεν ἕως τά Δωδεκάνησα καί στήν Κύπρο καί κατά τούς Ἱστορικούς χρόνους ἀπετέλεσε τόν Ἑλλαδικό χῶρο, ὅπου ἀνθισε τό πιό ὁμορφο λουλούδι, πού ἐγέννησε τό πνεῦμα καί ἡ ψυχή ἑνός λαοῦ, τό Ἑλληνικό θαῦμα!

Τήν ὁμαδική αὐτή μετανίνησιτοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ στοιχείου, πού τό ξεκίνημά της γινόταν μέ τελετές, ὠνόμαζαν τότε ἀποικισμό καί τόν Ἕλληνα ἄποικο.

Καί σήμερα ξενητεύονται οἱ Ἕλληνες, ὠθούμενοι κυρίως ἀπό τήν ἀνάγκη τῆς ἐπιβιώσεως. Ὁμως σήμερα δέν λέγονται ἄποικοι, ἀλλά μετανάσται καί δέν φεύγουν ὅπως τότε μέ τελετές, ἀλλά μέ σφιγμένη τήν καρδιά γιά ἐκείνους πού ἀφήνουν πίσω καί μέ τήν ἀγωνία τί τούς περιμένει εἰς τήν νέα χώρα.

Δέν ἀργοῦν ὅμως νά προσαρμοσθοῦν. Ἐργάζονται σκληρά, δημιουργοῦν, μορφώνονται, προκόβουν. Ἀγαποῦν καί σέβονται καί ὑπηρετοῦν τήν θετή τους Πατρίδα.

Ὁμως ὅλους, ὅπου καί ἄν εὑρίσκωνται τούς ἑνώνει ὁ ἀκατάλυτος δεσμός τοῦ αἵματος, ἡ κοινή κληρονομία τοῦ ἐνδόξου Γένους, οἱ κοινοί ἀγῶνες καί ἡ προσπάθεια νά διατηρηθῆ ἀμείωτη ἡ Ἑλληνική Παράδοσις καί ἡ κοινή ὑπερηφάνεια διά τήν συμβολήν τῆς αἰώνιας Ἑλλάδας εἰς τόν ἀνθρώπινον πολιτισμόν.

Ἀπαραίτητα μέσα διά νά διατηρηθοῦν οἱ ἑλληνοχριστιανικές παραδόσεις, τά ἱερά καί τά ὅσια τῆς Φυλῆς μας, ἐκτός τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ὀρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας μας, εἶναι καί τό Ἑλληνικόν Σχολεῖον καί εἰς αὐτό στρέφεται ἡ προσοχή καί τό ἐνδιαφέρον πάσης ἑλληνικῆς Κοινότητος.

Ἐδῶ εἰς τήν Ἀμερικήν ἔχουν ἱδρυθῆ ὄχι χωρίς κόπους καί μόχθους πολλά Ἑλληνοαμερικανικά Κοινοτικά Σχολεῖα, τά ὁποία μέ τήν συνεργασίαν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας σκοπόν ἔχουν νά σταλάξουν εἰς τίς ψυχές τῶν Ἀμερικανοπαίδων Ἑλληνικῆς καταγωγῆς τά νάματα τῆς Ἑλληνοορθοδόξου πίστεως καί νά τούς κάμουν νά νοιώσουν τίς πνευματικές, ἠθικές, διανοητικές καί αἰσθητικές ἀξίες πού χαρακτηρίζουν τόν Ἑλληνικό Πολιτισμό εἰς ὅλες τίς ἐκφάνσεις καί νά ζοῦν ἔτσι, ὅπως ἁρμόζει σέ μιά καλλιεργημένη προσωπικότητα.

Τό Σχολεῖον τῆς δικῆς μας Κοινότητος σέ λίγο, μέσα σέ μιά ἀτμόσφαιρα χαρᾶς, καί συγκινήσεως θά τιμήσῃ τούς ἐφετεινούς ἀποφοίτους μας.

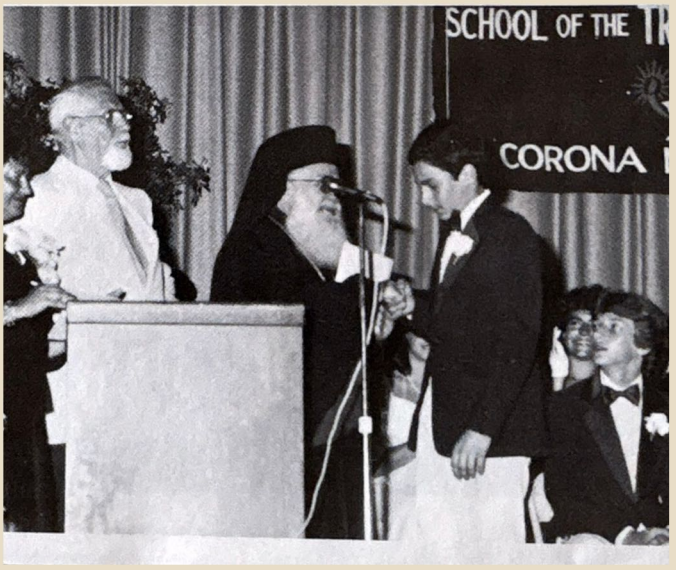
Ἐμεῖς, οἱ ἐκπαιδευτικοί τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ τμήματος τούς εὐχόμεθα ὁλόψυχα νά στεφθοῦν ἀπό ἐπιτυχίαν ὅλες τους οἱ προσπάθειες εἰς τά ἀνώτερα πνευματικά ἱδρύματα καί νά ἔχουν μέλλον λαμπρόν.

Ἀλίκη Καβαλλιώτη

In the words of Mr. Apostolos Litsakis, Parish Council President and President of the Board of Directors of the community of Corona: "Though the prevailing lifestyle may be far different from what it was even a few short years ago and the youth of today takes so much more for granted, it is encouraging and a magnificent tribute to Greek parents who unceasingly infuse into the minds of their children the meaning of being Greek. Accordingly, the children, even the tiny tots come to school well prepared." (1976)




SCHOOL OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA, NEW YORK

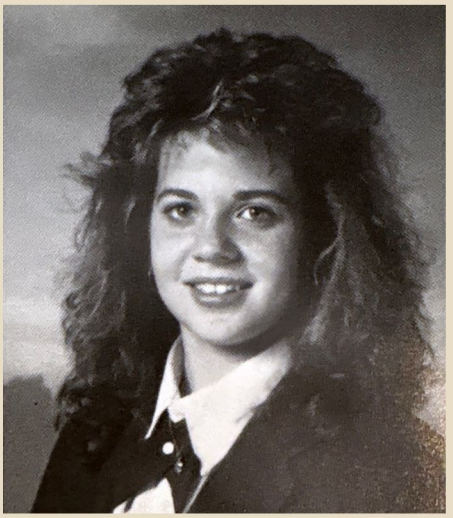

SCHOOL OF THE
CORONA


SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA NEW YORK



Father Chrysostom Panos (left), current presiding priest of Transfiguration of Christ Church, Lori Bothos (middle), current President of Parish Council, and Ari Tzannetis (right), current Vice-President of Parish Council as students of the School of Transfiguration.









Members of our Day School Faculty












The School Closure

While the school of Metamorphosis (Transfiguration) had long stood as an educational and cultural pillar for the Greek community in Corona, challenges emerged in the 21st century. Shifting demographics and changing dynamics within the community, led to a decline in the Greek population in Corona. Over time, many Greek-American families who once formed the backbone of the school began relocating to other parts of New York or beyond due to factors such as the transformation of the neighborhood. This gradual demographic shift significantly reduced the school's core student base, weakening the very foundation on which it had thrived for decades.

Internally, the school of Transfiguration also faced mounting difficulties. Management challenges and financial instability compounded the external pressures. Declining enrollment meant reduced tuition revenue, while operational costs continued to rise. These financial deficits created a cycle that was difficult to break - fewer students led to fewer resources, which in turn made it harder to maintain programs and attract new families.

In June 2011, a somber chapter unfolded as the school closed its doors. This decision was not sudden but rather the result of years of strain. For alumni, families, and community members, the closure was deeply emotional- a symbolic end to an institution that had nurtured generations, preserved language and traditions, and served as a cultural anchor.

Yet, even in its closing, the school left behind more than just memories. Its legacy sparked reflection and a renewed commitment among former students and community leaders to preserve and honor the school's enduring legacy in new ways.

Though the physical doors of the school of Transfiguration had closed, its legacy continued to thrive within the hearts of those who had been touched by its presence. While the school building itself is now leased to the New York City Board of Education and now houses a public school for children with special needs, the spirit of Metamorphosis lives on, a testament to the indomitable spirit of the community that had once called it home. The Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church continues to use the space of the school for its Saturday Greek School program, offering free language education to families of the church members.

The history of the school of Transfiguration in Corona, New York - also known as the Transfiguration of Christ Greek-Parochial School - is a story defined by determination, dedication, and a deep-rooted commitment to preserving Greek heritage. From its humble beginnings as a community-driven vision to its eventual closure, the school made a lasting impact on generations of Greek Americans. Its closure in 2011 marked the end of a formal chapter, but not the conclusion of its impact. Its legacy lives on through cherished memories, continued traditions, and the ongoing efforts of those determined to carry its mission forward. The spirit of Metamorphosis continues to shine brightly, a beacon of cultural preservation and educational excellence.

Saturday Greek School of Transfiguration of Christ

The Saturday Greek School of Transfiguration of Christ in Corona is a distinguished educational institution serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Renowned for its rigorous academic standards and exceptional faculty, the school consistently achieves outstanding results while thoughtfully nurturing the intellectual, personal, and moral development of every student.

Its Greek language program builds a solid foundation from early childhood through structured, progressive instruction in speaking, reading, and writing of Greek, reinforced by cultural activities and celebrations. The school supports all learners through individualized and remedial instruction, ensuring steady progress and confidence in Greek language acquisition. Students are well prepared for the New York State Greek Regents exam through a comprehensive curriculum focused on literacy, comprehension, and written expression, while advanced students pursue Ellinomatheia certification at B1 and B2 levels.

The Ellinomatheia B1 and B2 certifications provide students with internationally recognized validation of their Greek language proficiency, aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Earning these diplomas demonstrates a student's ability to use Greek accurately, fluently, and effectively in academic, professional, and real-world contexts. For students in the United States, Ellinomatheia certification strengthens college applications, supports eligibility for language seals and advanced placement, and distinguishes candidates by demonstrating bilingual proficiency at an internationally benchmarked level. Teachers, families, and students work in close partnership to foster a warm, supportive, and unified environment rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a collective commitment to excellence.
















DAYS of the WEEK
Sunday
Monday
Wednesday
Friday
Saturday
























EXIT












2017






2016


Congratulations Graduates
1. Nikolia Osborne
2. Sofia Guzman
3. Eva Kallonas
4. Ofelia Floratos

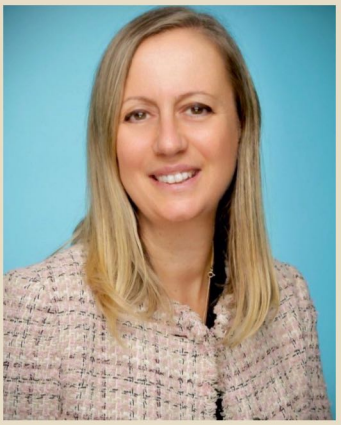




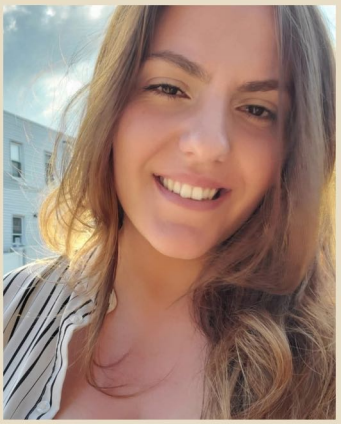




Members of our Greek Saturday School Faculty











Mr. Evangelos Chaziroglou,
Principal of the Saturday Greek School of the Transfiguration of Christ

Transfiguration of Christ Greek School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Transfiguration of Christ Greek School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been a dedicated group that works to strengthen the connection between families, teachers, and the school community. Its primary mission has been to cultivate a warm, supportive environment that encourages active parent involvement in enriching the educational experience of students. The PTA has played a vital role in supporting both students and staff by helping provide resources that enhance learning and make school life more engaging and enjoyable. They help organize and bring to life many community-building events throughout the year, including charitable drives, cultural celebrations, and social gatherings. The PTA ensures a vibrant, collaborative environment among students, educators, and parents, so all can thrive together.







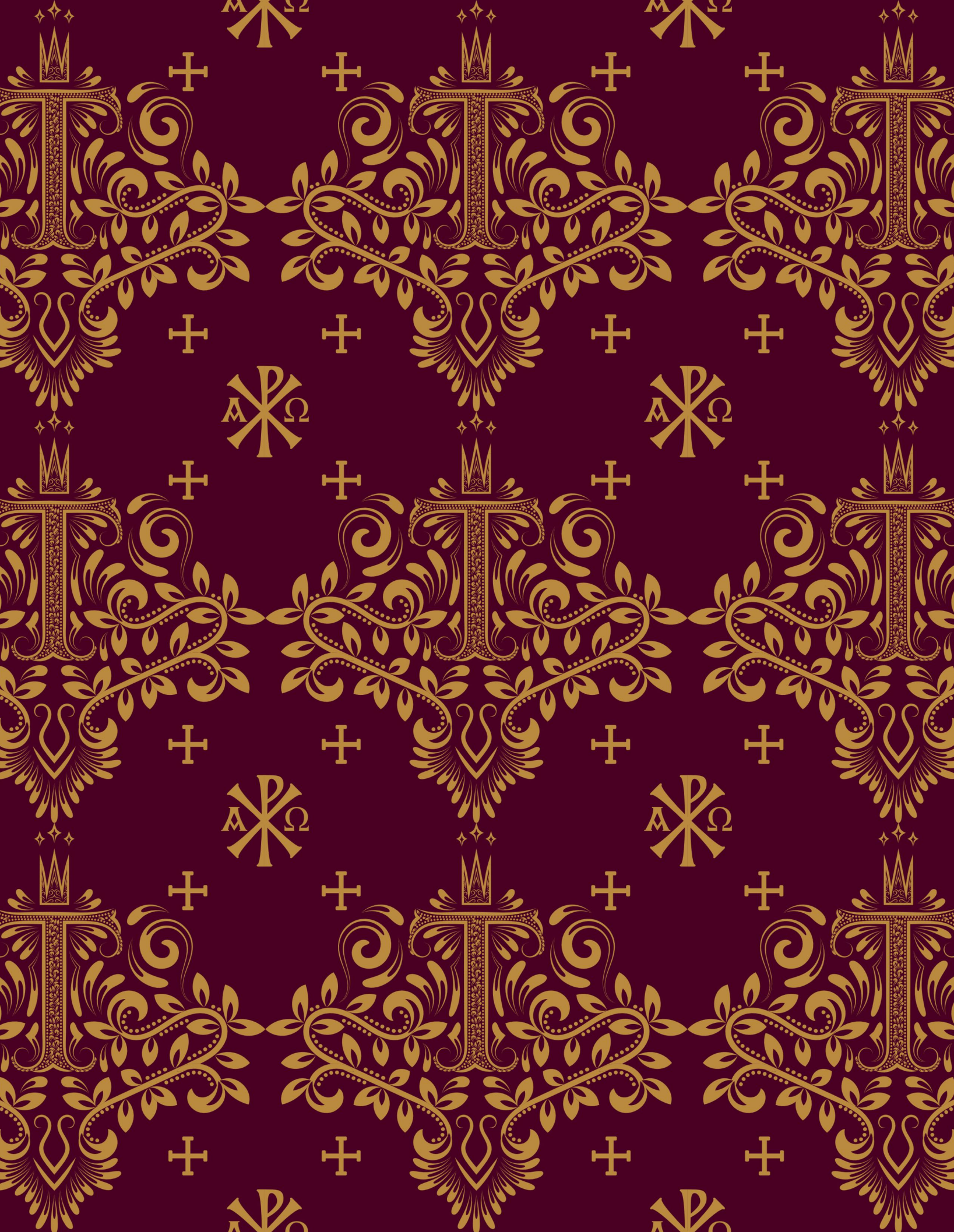





SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION









SECTION VII

Our Ministries & Activities



PARISH YOUTH PROGRAMS

Throughout the years, the Transfiguration of Christ community has offered a wide range of spiritual, educational, cultural, and philanthropic programs and activities for children and youth designed to foster faith, leadership, and fellowship. They have included GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) ministries, Greek dance groups and participation in cultural events such as PARATHOSI, celebration of Greek national holidays, Scouting, as well as participation in parish worship services and events, and in charitable activities, including Food, Clothing, and Toy Drives. These ministries help young people remain connected to the Church and their Hellenic heritage.

Our Scouts

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts program in the Transfiguration of Christ parish was a longstanding youth ministry that provided young people with opportunities for character development and leadership training by integrating the values of Scouting with the teachings and sacramental life of the Orthodox Church. Although the cherished Boy Scouts motto, "Be Prepared," is recognized throughout the world, it was not formally embraced and put into practice by the youth of the Greek Community of Corona until July 1962 and lasted for a few decades.



Scout Master Dino Evangelou

Scouting in this progressive community was first introduced by Scout Master Dino Evangelou from Cyprus. In those early years, he was joined by dedicated leaders John Antokas and Tony Brigis, both of whom remain actively involved for many years. In the community's 50th anniversary, in 1976, the program was thriving, with thirty-five Boy Scouts in the Troop and thirty Cub Scouts in the Pack actively participating in this widely respected organization. The boys were instructed in the value of healthy competition, with particular emphasis placed on the importance of fairness, integrity, and good sportsmanship.

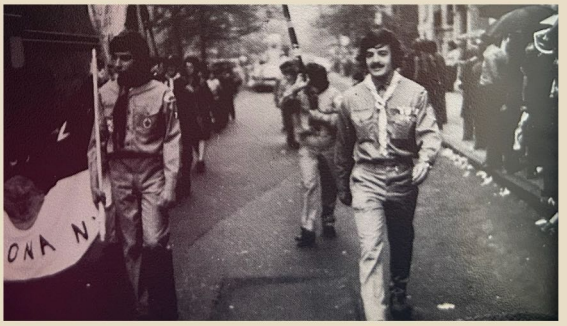















DYN-O-MITE






PACK 72
QUEENS, N. Y.

Altar Helpers

In the Greek Orthodox Church, altar helpers serve an important and sacred role in assisting the clergy during the Divine Liturgy and other worship services.



Their service is both a privilege and a responsibility, offering young boys and men a meaningful way to participate actively in the liturgical life of the Church. Beyond just "helping out," being an altar boy is a form of youth ministry intended to foster a deep, lifelong connection to the Church and potentially inspire future vocations to the priesthood. The program aims to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ by experiencing the faith firsthand in the "Holy of Holies."

Left photo: Father Chrysostom Panos serving as an altar boy at the age of 5.






SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA


CORONA NEW

















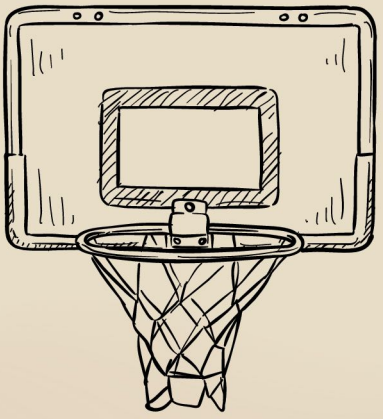


GOYA

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is the official youth ministry for teenagers of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, typically serving young people in grades 7 through 12. Through its many activities and programs, GOYA seeks to nurture the spiritual, social, and personal development of Orthodox youth while strengthening their connection to the Church and their community. Athletics are a cornerstone of GOYA activities, helping youth develop teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition. The Transfiguration of Christ community maintains a long-standing tradition of hosting and organizing various athletic leagues - mostly basketball and volleyball - and competitive tournaments. Our teams have been engaging in rigorous regular seasons and tournaments at both regional and national levels. Our boys and girls athletes continue a long tradition of excellence, teamwork, and Orthodox fellowship both on and off the court.










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WILLIAM H. McKENNA F










TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
FALL 2022 / WINTER 2023


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST-G1
FALL 2023 / WINTER 2024

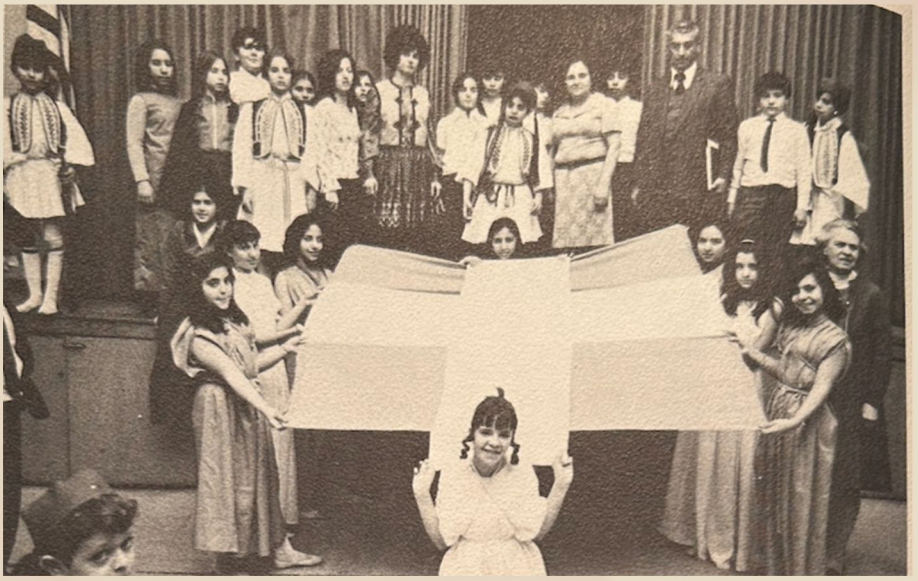
GREEK NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

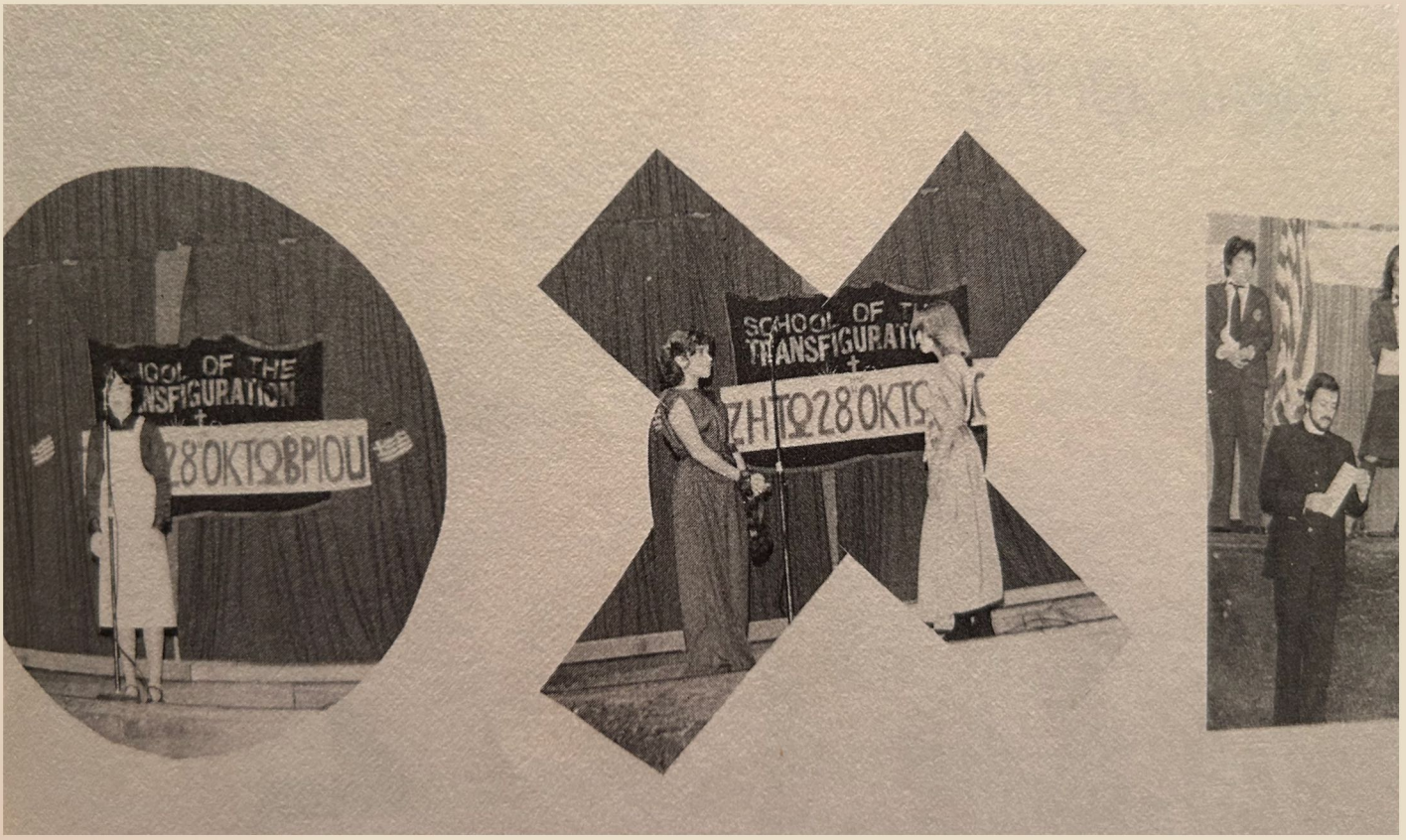
In the Greek Orthodox Church, Greek national holidays are celebrated not only as historical commemorations but also as moments of faith and cultural identity. These celebrations reflect the deep connection between the Greek nation, its history, and the Orthodox Christian faith, which played a central role in preserving Greek language and culture, through centuries of hardship. Two of the most important Greek national holidays celebrated in parishes around the world are Greek Independence Day (March 25, 1821) and Ohi Day (October 28, 1940). At the Transfiguration of Christ, these holidays are celebrated with both religious devotion and cultural pride, often including school performances that reflect the deep connection between the Greek Orthodox faith and the history of Greece.










28ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ
28 ΟΚΤΩ


















Ηρωες του 1821
Μελωδίης
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ


ΟΧΙ
ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΣ
1940
Ελληνικό Σχολείο












Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗ
ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ
Corona NY
Greek School

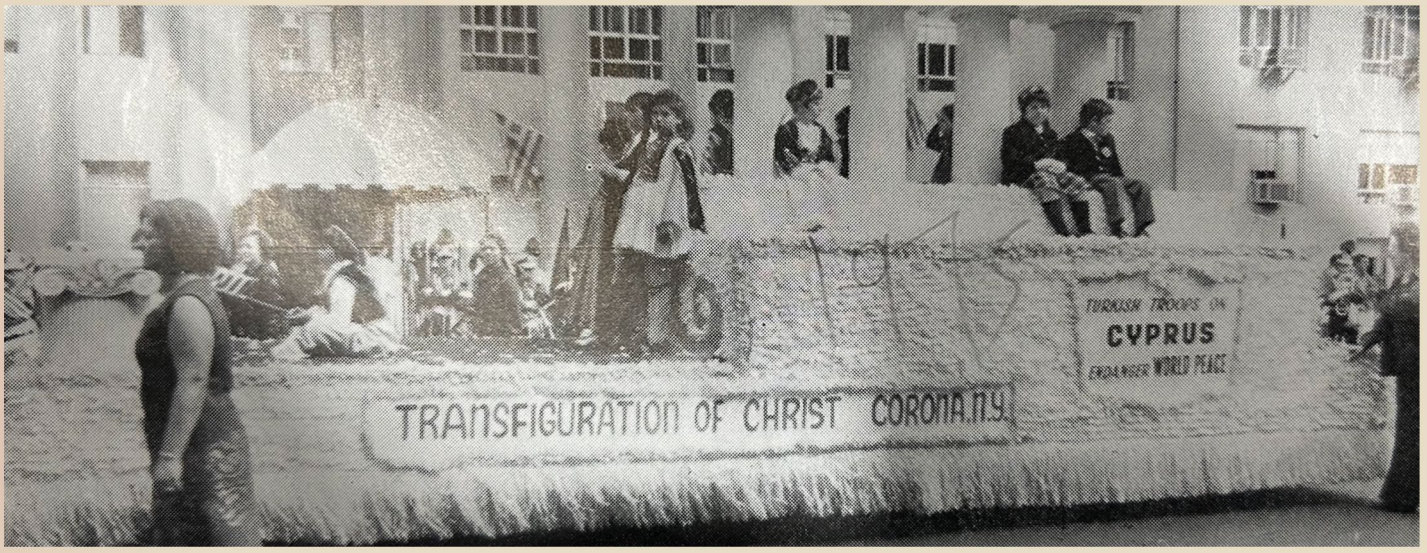

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GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE














TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
CHURCH AND GREEK SCHOOL










TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
Greek Saturday School - Tuition Free
Corona, NY
Founded 1926
www.transfigurationcorona.com


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
OF CORONA, NEW YORK
EST. 1926


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
Greek Saturday School - Tuition Free
Corona, NY
Founded 1926
CORONA, NY
www.transfigurationcorona.com


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
EST. 1926
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Corona, NY
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CORONA, NY
www.transfigurationcorona.com




TRANSFI
CHRIST
& GREE




ΚΟΡΩΝΑΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΥΟΡΚΗΣ
1926


Corona, NY






TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK SCHOOL
CORONA, NEW YORK
EST. 1926



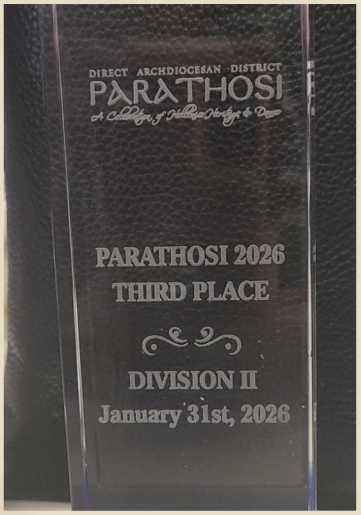

TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
Greek Saturday School - Tuition Free
Corona, NY
Founded 1926
www.transfigurationcorona.com

PARATHOSI

PARATHOSI is a vibrant youth ministry initiative created to strengthen both the faith and cultural identity of young people within the Greek Orthodox community. As a program of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Direct Archdiocesan District, which operates under the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, PARATHOSI serves as a unique platform where youth can grow spiritually, culturally, and socially. It is an opportunity for the youth to come together to celebrate faith, culture, and heritage in a spirit of Orthodox fellowship while showcasing their knowledge of traditional dances, songs and costumes from various regions. Participants learn not just how to perform, but also why these traditions matter and how they reflect the history, struggles, and faith of the Greek people.

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
PARATHOSI
A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance





The youth of the Transfiguration of Christ community have consistently participated in PARATHOSI. Their involvement has demonstrated not only their passion for preserving Hellenic heritage, but also their desire to remain actively connected to their Orthodox faith and parish community. Their efforts and perseverance have been recognized with distinction, as they were awarded third place for two consecutive years.

This outstanding achievement reflects the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our young people to preserving and honoring our rich Hellenic heritage and Orthodox Christian faith. Through their participation, they have demonstrated excellence in traditional dance, cultural expression, and teamwork, representing our parish with great pride and distinction.




DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
PARATHOSI


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
PARATHOSI


PARATHOSI


ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΗ
NEA YORKH - 2026
PARATHOSI

YOUTH CELEBRATION OF FEAST DAYS

The celebration of Christmas - the Feast of the Nativity of Christ - is one of the most joyful and meaningful times for youth participation in the parish. Leading up to the feast, children and teenagers from the Transfiguration of Christ often take part in a variety of activities, including Nativity plays, carol singing, charitable activities, and decorating the Church.



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros together with some of the Saturday Greek school students after singing carols at the Byzantine Music Christmas Concert, December 2024







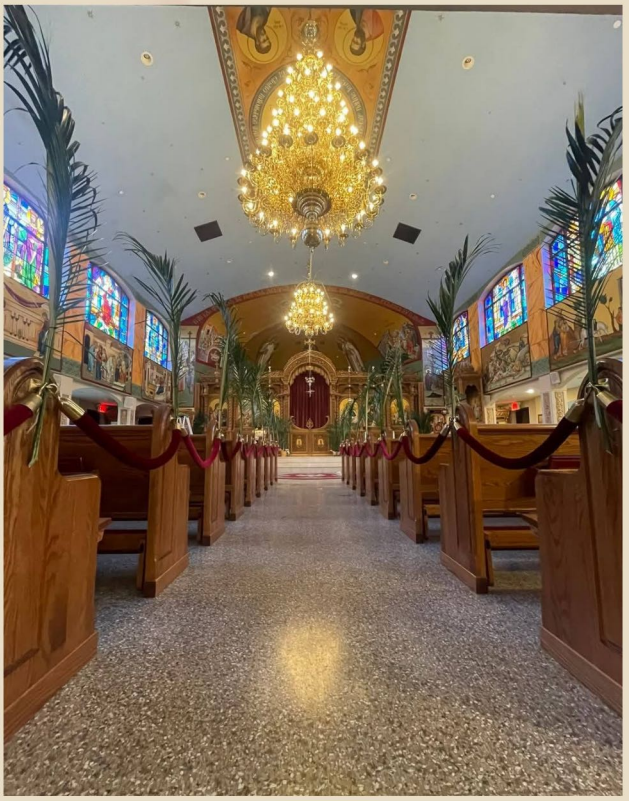



GAP
1969





Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, commemorating the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, when the people welcomed Him with palm branches and cries of praise. A special tradition of Palm Sunday is the blessing and distribution of palm branches or woven palm crosses. In the Transfiguration of Christ parish, children and youth frequently assist in preparing the palm crosses the eve before the Sunday service. The palms symbolize victory, peace, and the recognition of Christ as King.








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Each year, in the Transfiguration of Christ parish, an Easter egg hunt is organized for children on Pascha Sunday afternoon. While the core of the Orthodox Paschal celebration centers on the liturgical services of the Church, the parish include family-friendly traditions such as egg hunts to bring the community together and engage younger members of the community. The activity is meant to bring joy to children while helping them associate the celebration of Easter with the life of the Church.







In the Transfiguration of Christ parish, Thanksgiving is observed as an opportunity to express gratitude to God while also serving the community. Although Thanksgiving is not a liturgical feast of the Orthodox Church, our parish often incorporates charitable and fellowship activities that reflect the Christian spirit of thankfulness and generosity. Each year the Saturday Greek School Parent Teacher Association coordinates the Thanksgiving Luncheon for the students providing them the opportunity to learn the importance of service, compassion, gratitude and love for others.







thanks giving FEAST













thanksgiving FEAST













DONATIONS - FUNDRAISING

The ministries and charitable work of the Transfiguration of Christ Church reflect the Orthodox Christian teaching that faith must be lived through love and service. Through outreach ministries and programs, donations and volunteer efforts, our community continues to serve as a source of hope, compassion, and support for those in need.

The primary charitable ministry of the parish has been carried out through our Philoptochos Society. However, the entire community, parish councils, and clergy over the years, have further supported important ministries through initiatives and fundraising efforts to assist those affected by natural disasters, economic hardship and other crises. The parish has been committed to helping those in need both within the parish community and beyond, offering spiritual, emotional, and material support.

Throughout the years, our community has participated in philanthropic outreach by supporting food drives and donation programs, providing meals or assistance to those in need, supporting emergency relief programs, shelters, individuals and families, as well as charitable institutions and monasteries locally and around the world.



Recent examples of such philanthopic ministries account for the fundraising support for the St. Michael's Home for the Aged, Saint Basil Academy, Hurricane Helene relief aid, Ormylia Monastery, and for those affected by the devastating extended floods and wildfires in Greece and for the victims of the destructive earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. By our fundraising contributions, we live out the Gospel message of charity, mercy, and love for our neighbor. Our community's generosity, whether great or small, has made a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are in need.



His Grace Bishop Andonios on Palm Sunday receiving the community's donation check of $250,000 (structured over 10 years) for the newly-constructed St. Michael's Home for the Aged, in April 2023.



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros receiving the community's donation check for the St.Paul's Chapel in the Greek-Orthodox Archdiocese, in April 2024.



His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden with Father Chrysostom, Father Pedro, and members of the community receiving a donation of $10,000 for the restoration of the Holy Trinity church in Sweden, November 2024 (photo above)



His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Eldoret and Northern Kenya with Father Chrystostom receiving a community's donation in support of their ministries, November 2025 (photo on the right)

PILGRIMAGES

The Transfiguration of Christ parish often organizes pilgrimages to Orthodox monasteries, churches, and important sites. These journeys provide parishioners with opportunities for prayer, reflection, and a deeper connection to the faith. A pilgrimage allows members of our community to travel together to places of significance, strengthening both their spiritual life and their bonds of fellowship.



Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Father Chrysostom, and members of the Transfiguration of Christ community at a trip to the St. Michael's Home new facility in Uniondale Long Island, March 2024



A visit to St.Nichola's church and National Shrine, Ground Zero, New York City November 2024





Vigil service at the All Saints Monastery, Calverton, NY, December 2022

A visit to the Holy Protection Monastery, 2016



VISITATIONS OF ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES



A visit of the Evzones, the members of the Greek Presidential Guard, March 2003.



A community luncheon in honor of the former US ambassador to Greece, H.E. Ambassador Michael Soterchos.

Mr. Constantine Skouteris, professor of the Theological School of Athens, visiting our community.





From the visit of Dr. George Bebis, of Holy Cross Theological School in Boston.



From the official visit of Senator Charles Schumer to our community, in January 2003.



Father Cleopas and parishioners visiting Mr. George Pataki, Governor of New York State, December 2001.



Father Cleopas with Mr. Glafkos Clerides, the then President of the Republic of Cyprus (September 2001). Mr Clerides was bestowed upon the gold medal of the community for his contribution to the solution of the Cyprus problem.



Dr. Constantine E. Cosmas and Dr. George Dangas from Mount Sinai Hospital New York at a seminar on Health, June 2011.



NYPD St.Paul's Society Greek Officers cutting their vasilopita, January 2017.



Mathraki Association of New York Inc. cutting their vasilopita, January 2024.



Leriakos Syllogos of NY cutting their vasilopita, January 2026.



Society of Epirotes Anagennisis-Ladies Lodge Souliotissai cutting their vasilopita, January 2026.





The Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians celebrating its 40th Annual Church Music Conference on November 16, 2025.

TRAINING IN BYZANTINE MUSIC AND TRADITIONAL HELLENIC INSTRUMENTS

The *Romanos Melodos* Chanters' Society of Greater New York was founded in 2023, with the paternal encouragement and blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Within the framework of its activities, it provides free classes in Byzantine music and traditional Greek instruments every Monday evening at the Transfiguration of Christ Church in Corona, NY, which graciously offers the use of its facilities in support of this initiative.

These classes are open to anyone interested in learning more about traditional Greek music and developing their musical skills. The mission of these classes is to spread the art of Byzantine music and train new chanters to serve in local parishes and carry on this rich spiritual and cultural legacy. This ministry embodies the Church's belief that worship, education, and culture are inseparable.











A Byzantine concert performed by the "Romanos the Melodos" Chanters Association of New York which featured Byzantine hymns from Holy Week, in April 2024.





His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros administering the oath of office to the "Romanos the Melodos" Association's members and cutting their annual vasilopita, in February 2024.



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophors attending the Byzantine Music Christmas Concert performed by the Romanos Melodos Chanters Association, in December 2024.



His Grace Bishop Athenagoras attending the Byzantine Music Christmas Concert performed by the Romanos Melodos Chanters Association, in December 2022.



SPANISH-SPEAKING MINISTRY

With the vision and guidance of Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, NY announced in March 2024 the launch of its new Spanish-speaking ministry whose goal was to provide outreach out to the local Hispanic community. Fr. Pedro Gomez, who was then assigned as an assistant priest at the parish until June 2025, led the program alongside presiding priest Fr. Chrysostom Panos. The ministry's goal was to provide catechism and liturgical services in the Spanish language to the local Latino community.

In announcing the ministry, Archdiocesan District Chancellor Fr. Elias Villis stated, "Under the direction of the Archbishop, the compassionate community of the Transfiguration has undertaken this significant outreach program of love and inclusivity in a community where it is particularly needed. God bless the Transfiguration parish leadership for fully embracing this new and unique ministry and for committing to fund the compensation of Fr. Pedro Gomez as he will be an invaluable asset to both the parish and the local Latino community."





Fr. Pedro Gómez instructing a prospective candidate who wishes to embrace Orthodoxy, 2024



2024 Annual Food Drive in December, distributing food bags to those in need and providing Fr.Pedro with the opportunity to meet Spanish speaking individuals from the local community who are interested in Orthodoxy.

CELEBRATIONS - FESTIVALS - OTHER OCCASIONS

In its 100-year history, the Transfiguration of Christ Church has provided many opportunities for parishioners to build friendships and strengthen their community relations. These have included parish festivals, anniversaries, celebrations and special events, honoring esteemed members of the community, social activities and fellowship gatherings, all of which have contributed in creating a strong sense of belonging and unity of our parishioners.





Honoring the ever-memorable grand community benefactor William Poll, in 1980.







Mrs Christine Poll, with her family, during an award ceremony honoring her.





Mrs Christine Poll, a devoted member of our community who served faithfully the Ladies Philoptochos Society for many years and also served as Principal of the Sunday School.

30th ANNIVERSARY












TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
1926 50 1976
CORONA NEW YORK


TRANSFIGURATION of CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CORONA L.I. N.Y.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY




CORONA


TRANSFIGURATION of CHRIS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CORONA L.I.






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Happy 90th
Anniversary











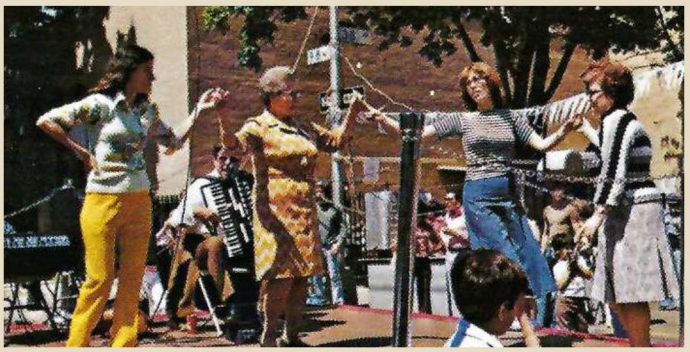
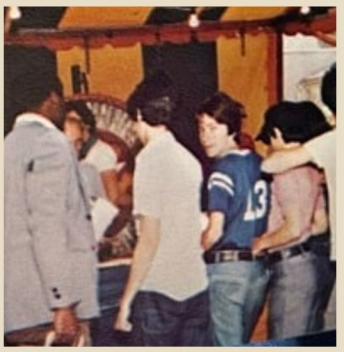
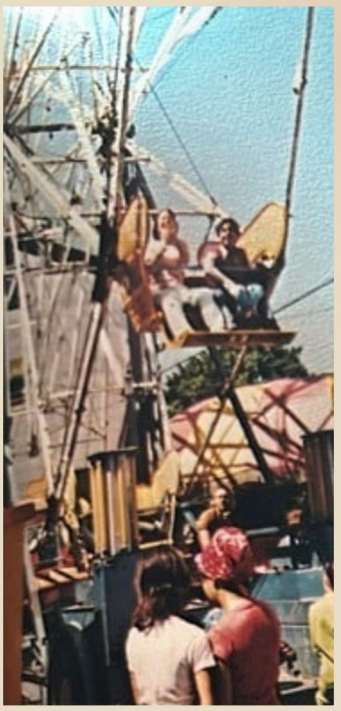































ΚΡΕΤΗ










47


















Servant Leadership
Awards Banquet


Servant Leadership
Awards Banquet






Servant Leadership
Awards Banquet








TRANSFIGURATION






EXIT


EXIT
OCCUPANCY BY MORE THAN 299 PERSONS IS DANGEROUS & UNLAWFUL


















GOVERNMENT WARNING
WARNING








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HURLEY

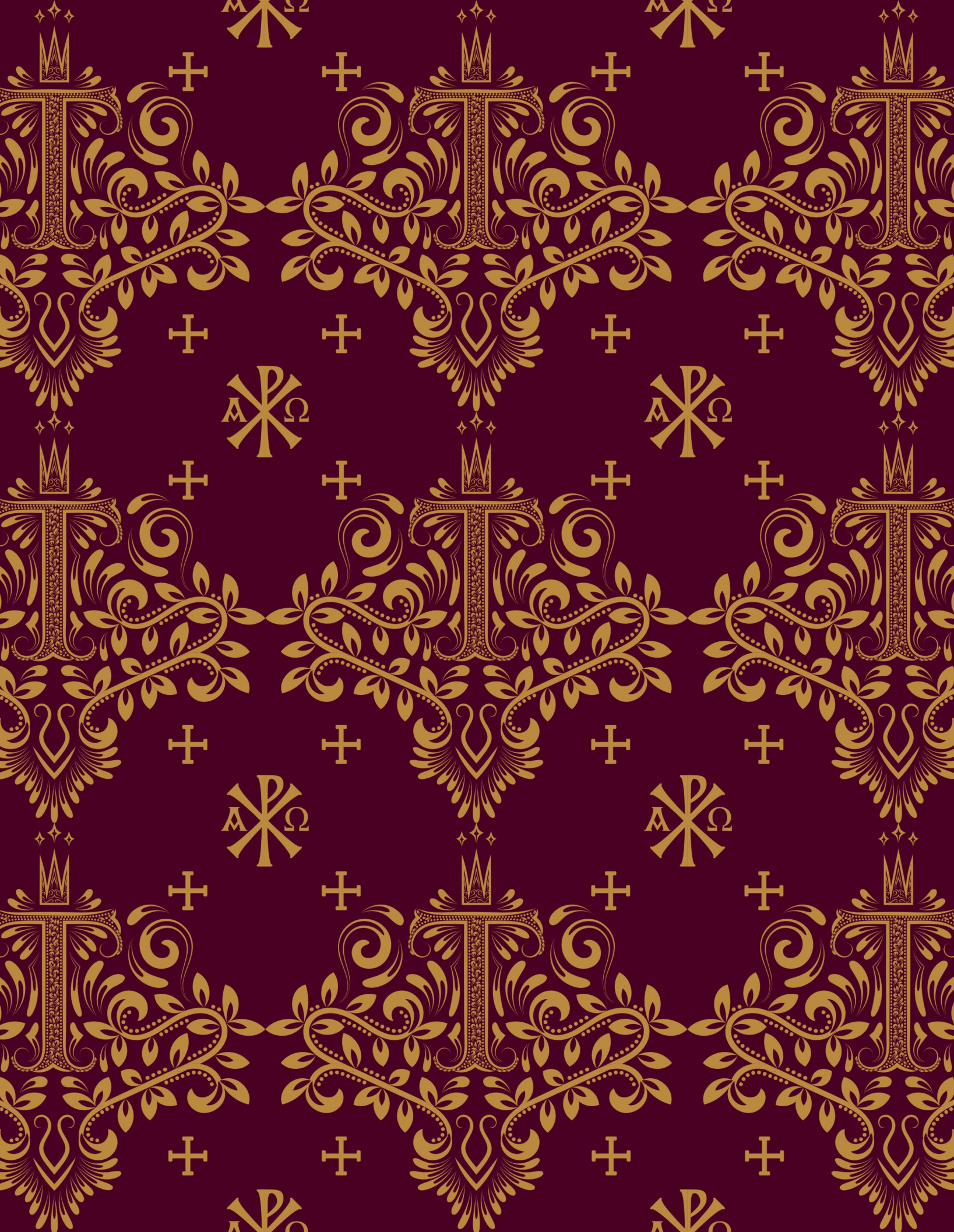


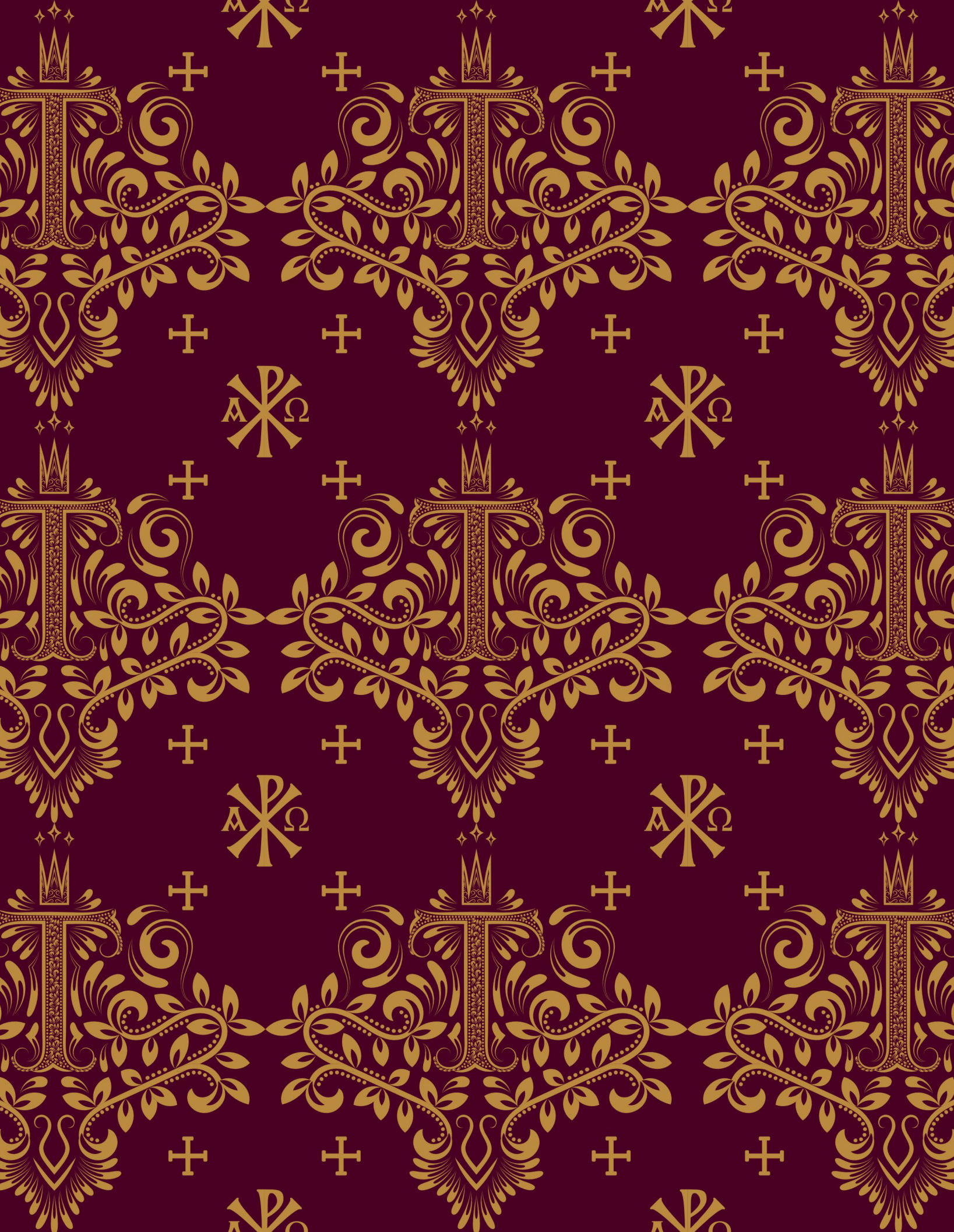














SECTION VIII

Our Parishioners
























2016
2016






Hot Cocoa Club










































GREEK ORTHODOX
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY










































Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ




PARATHOSI


Merry
CHRISTMAS





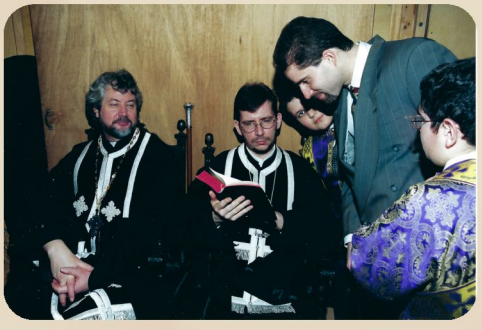





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100+ smiles for a 100 year-celebration



100+ smiles for a 100 year-celebration

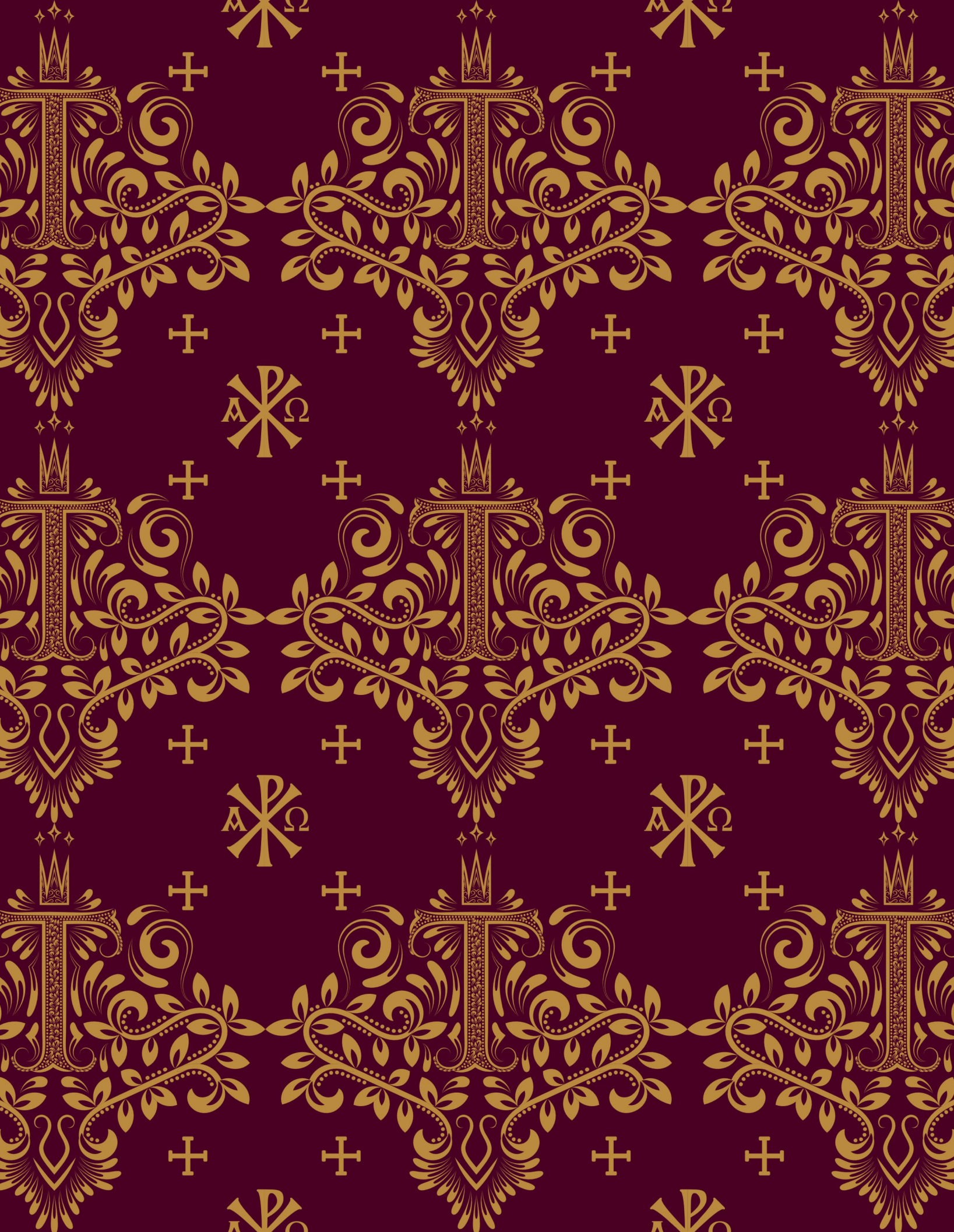


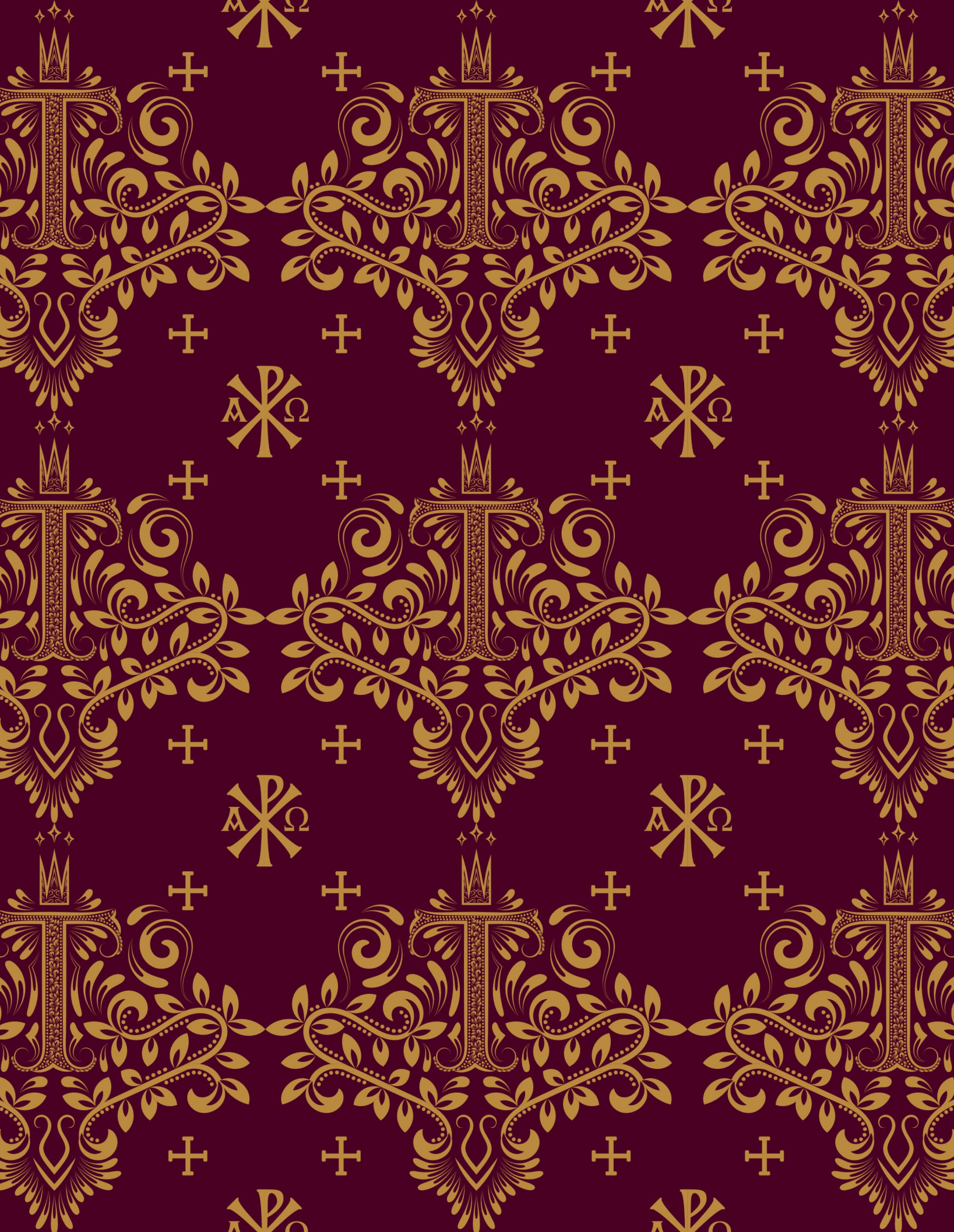
100+ smiles for a 100 year-celebration



100+ smiles for a 100 year-celebration









SECTION IX

THE FINAL CHAPTER: 100-YEAR CELEBRATION PALM SUNDAY 2026



THE FINAL CHAPTER:
100-YEAR CELEBRATION | PALM SUNDAY 2026

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the community of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church commenced its centennial celebration on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2026. His Eminence presided over the Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday.

It was 100 years ago, on Palm Sunday April 25, 1926, when the community celebrated its first Divine Liturgy in that modest space that had been transformed into a church. A small group of the first parishioners of the community opened the door of the first Church for Jesus Christ to enter triumphantly, sitting in the love of those Christians, who opened and built at the same time the future of our Church and our Orthodox Community in Corona.

Many parishioners from the past and present participated in the celebrations expressing pride in our shared history, our unique journey, and the many accomplishments of the community.

His Eminence noted the “particular joy of celebrating a feast of triumph and victory alongside a community that has itself overcome great trials, including a fire nearly nine years ago that caused extensive damage to the church, and which the community met with resilience and renewal befitting their parish's name.”



As Fr. Chrysostom noted in his speech “Our past gives us life in the present, and offers us the path to our future. We are proud of our past; we have overcome many challenges and difficulties. We are proud of our present. We envision the future, with optimism, love and humility.”

The centennial festivities will continue with a gala celebration scheduled for May 16, 2026.


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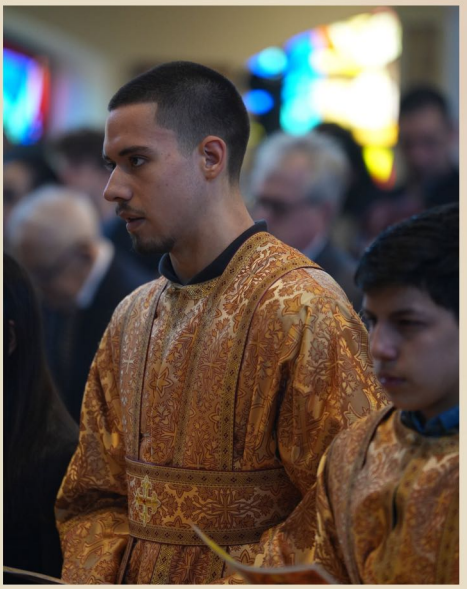






























Father Chrysostom Panos officially presenting the Centennial Banner to H.E. Archbishop Elpidophoros and to the parishioners (photo above). After the Centennial year is over, the banner can be adjusted accordingly (photo below) for future usage.

















H.E. Archbishop Elpidophoros and Father Chrysostom Panos with members of the Parish Council, of the "Anagennisis" Philoptochos Society and of William Poll's family.




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS


GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



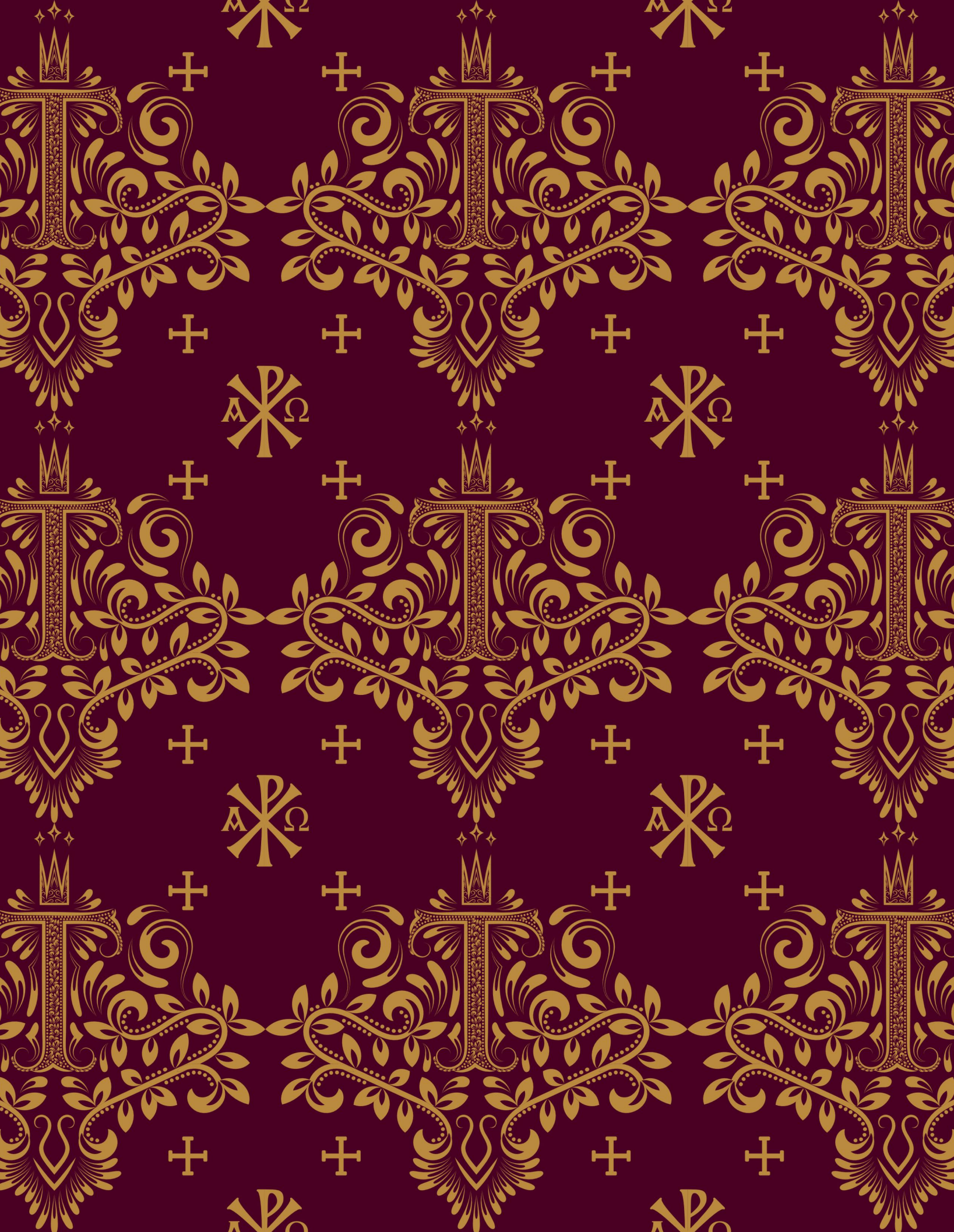







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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
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SECTION X

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My Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Edward and

Anastasia Panos



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of Transfiguration of Christ Church

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MEMORY ETERNAL

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MICHAEL FILACOURIS



MEMORY ETERNAL

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OUR BELOVED PARENTS

MICHAEL AND KALLIOPE KOLOMBOS



You will always be in our hearts.

Their Children
Maria Elenis, Isidora Kolombos
with their spouses,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memory Eternal
Αιωνια η μνημη

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR
BELOVED PARENTS

WILLIAM & CHRISTINA POLL

Their Children
William, Stanley, Joy, Anita, Sultana and Maria,
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARGARITA ELENIS SIKLAS



WITH UNWAVERING FAITH
AND A HEART FULL OF LOVE,
SHE WAS A DEVOTED MEMBER OF THE
CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

TAKEN FROM US TOO SOON,
SHE WILL BE REMEMBERED ALWAYS
FOR HER FAITH, STRENGTH, AND LOVE.

MEMORY ETERNAL
ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

PROKOPIOS TZANNETIS



THE TZANNETIS FAMILY

With prayers and best wishes,
we honor the Centennial
of Transfiguration of Christ
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Εν Θερμοίς Συγχαρητηρίοις και Ευχαίς



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Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος
για τη συμπλήρωση 100 ετών ζωής και προσφοράς.

Congratulations
to our church community
on its Centennial celebration.

MRS. KYRIAKI COCORIKAS
MS. DESPINA COCORIKAS
MRS. ANGELIKI TERNAS & FAMILY
MR. & MRS. S. MAUCERI & FAMILY

THE BOTHOS FAMILY



Congratulations on 100 years of faith, service, and devotion to our Greek Orthodox community.

May we continue to be a beacon of light for generations to come.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a beautiful church family and to raise our girls within the life of the Church.

The Bothos Family

THE ELENIS FAMILY



Our best wishes and heartfelt love to our beloved Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church on the celebration of 100 years of spiritual guidance and worship in our community. It is a historic church and the oldest Greek Orthodox parish in Queens.

So many of us have experienced countless beautiful and memorable moments within this sacred place.

Through many challenges over the years, the Church continues to stand strong and persevere — just as our beautiful Orthodox faith has endured.

May our beloved Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church be blessed with many more years of service to our community.

Anastasios and Maria Elenis

THE FILACOURIS FAMILY



For generations, this church has been the heart of our faith and our family. It is where I was married, where my children were christened, and where countless memories were made.

To now see both my daughter and my son serve on the Parish Council is a profound blessing and a testament to the enduring legacy of this parish.

Congratulations on 100 years of faith, love, and service to our Greek Orthodox community. May Transfiguration continue to guide and inspire generations to come.

Sue Filacouris & Family



FILACOURIS • POLIHRONIDIS • ROZYCKI

Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary
of our beloved
Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church







We extend our heartfelt congratulations
on the Centennial Anniversary
of our beloved Transfiguration of Christ Church

Με βαθιά ευγνωμοσύνη στον Θεό,
γιορτάζουμε την εκατονταετηρίδα της ενορίας μας.
Για έναν αιώνα, ο ναός μας αποτελεί φάρο
του Θείου Φωτός στις ζωές μας.

Τιμούμε τις γενιές των ιερέων, των συμβουλίων
και των ενοριτών, των οποίων η ευλάβεια
οικοδόμησε αυτόν τον ιερό χώρο.

Καθώς ξεκινάμε τον επόμενο αιώνα,
είθε να συνεχίσουμε να μεταμορφωνόμαστε
από τη Χάρη Του.

«Ένας αιώνας πίστης.
Μια ζωή προσφοράς.»

Με εκτίμηση,

Η Οικογένεια Γεωργίου Πρασσάκου

THE TAMBASSOPOULOS FAMILY



Congratulations to the Transfiguration of Christ!

For 100 years, our church has been a home where lives have been touched, prayers were lifted, and hearts were and continue to be renewed. I feel truly blessed to have been part of this remarkable journey and this loving community.

We are so grateful for all that God has done, and all that he will continue to do.

With much love and gratitude, The Tambassopoulos family, Tom, Anne Marie, Marc, Krista, Themi, Marissa, Themi & Maria







Panagiotis Faith
& Fellowship Book Club





With warm and joyous hearts,
the Panagiotis Faith & Fellowship Book Club offers
thanksgiving to God
as we celebrate one hundred years of faithful worship,
service, and life in Christ.

In Christ,
Maria Evangelou
Panagiotis Faith & Fellowship Book Club

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The Centennial Celebration of

Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

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May this milestone honor a rich legacy
and continue to inspire future generations.

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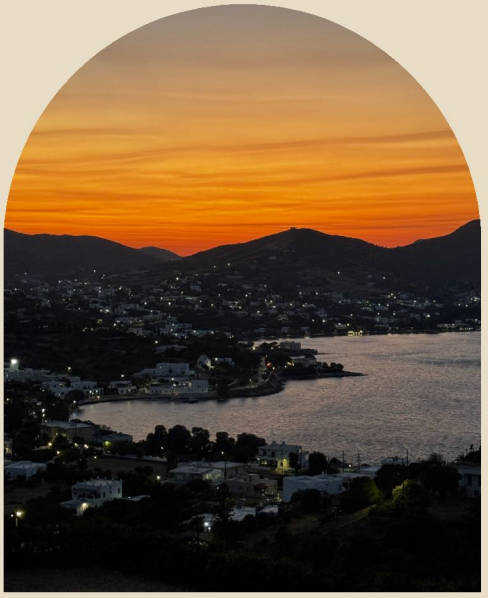
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Korachais Family

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We are deeply grateful for your continued support of the Leriakos Syllogos of New York and for always making our Association feel welcome and at home.

It is truly a blessing to be part of such a warm and loving church family.

May God continue to bless this sacred community for generations to come.

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Kostas Koutsothanasis

Romanos the Melodos Chanters Society

With deep respect and heartfelt joy,
we extend our congratulations
on the Centennial Anniversary
of the Transfiguration of Christ
Greek Orthodox Church.

For generations, this sacred community
has been a beacon of faith, worship,
and Orthodox tradition—nurturing the spiritual life
of its faithful and preserving the richness
of our liturgical heritage.

In the spirit of Saint Romanos the Melodos,
whose sacred hymns continue to inspire the Church,
we honor this remarkable milestone
and the voices, prayers, and devotion
that have filled its walls for 100 years.

Romanos the Melodos Chanters Society
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With gratitude and faith, we congratulate our beloved parish on 100 years of spiritual guidance, community, and tradition.

May God continue to bless future generations.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARY BOTHOS



MEMORY ETERNAL

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

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Είστε αξέχαστοι...



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Μαρίνα & Λεωνίδας Compton

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Τα εγγόνια σας

Σταματία-Μαρία Πανά

Καρολίνα-Σοφία Compton

Ραφαήλ-Σταμάτιος Compton

With grateful hearts, our family is blessed to be part of this church and this community we hold so dear.

THE FLORATOS FAMILY



Warmest congratulations to our beloved Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church on one hundred years of faith, worship, and service.

THE MOUSIS FAMILY





THE MOUSTAKOS FAMILY

With heartfelt congratulations
on the Centennial Celebration



THE MUNOZ FAMILY

Our family is honored to celebrate a church that has nurtured faith, love and togetherness through the years.

Grateful for 100 years of memories, blessings and community.

Virginia, Jose, Leanora and
Carmelo Munoz



Grateful to celebrate
100 years of this Church
and God's faithfulness,
past, present, and future.

THE STATHOPOULOS FAMILY

MATHRAKI ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK INC.

Congratulations on 100 years of
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the Greek Orthodox community.

May this centennial milestone honor
a blessed legacy and inspire many generations to come.



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May God continue to bless this parish for generations to come.

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ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

Congratulations on 100 years!

May God continue to grace our faithful community with blessings, growth, and unity for generations to come.

The Dzelves Family

Congratulations on the Centennial Anniversary of Transfiguration!



Rose Filacouris & Family

THE KONTOGIANNIS FAMILY

Congratulations on the
100th Anniversary of
Transfiguration of Christ
Greek Orthodox Church, Corona.

May we continue to grow
in faith and love
together in the years ahead.

Frankie, Eleftheria, Efstratios
& Nicoletta

We are honored to be part of the Centennial Celebration of our beloved church.

Our family has been part of this community for over 50 years and will continue for generations to come.

The Porter Family

Congratulations on 100 years
of faith and service to our church.

Thank you for the beautiful
memories and dedication throughout
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With sincere appreciation,

Sophia Tsesmelis

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