

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.

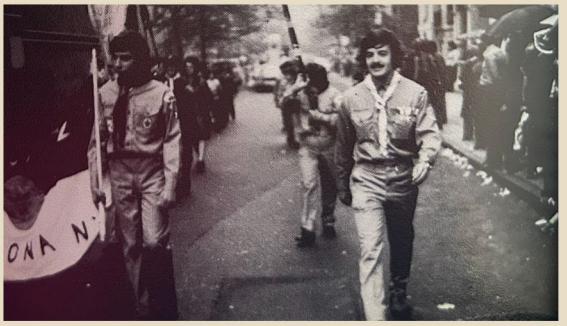















DYN-O-MITE






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

















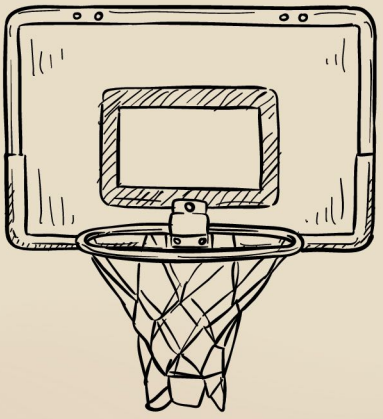


GOYA

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.










32
15
10
11
20
21
44
24
2
14












14
20
15
5
24
44
10






WILLIAM H. McKENNA F










TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
FALL 2022 / WINTER 2023


TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST-G1
FALL 2023 / WINTER 2024

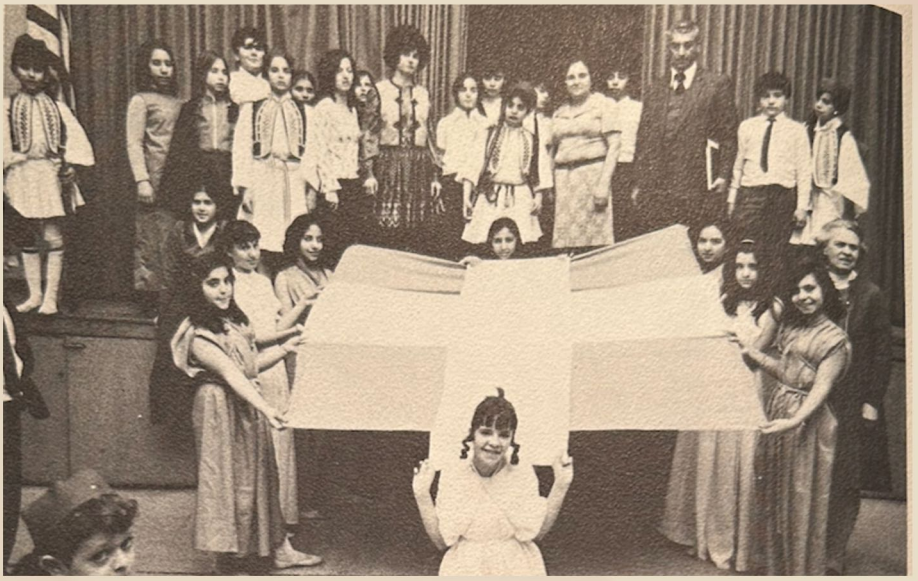
GREEK NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

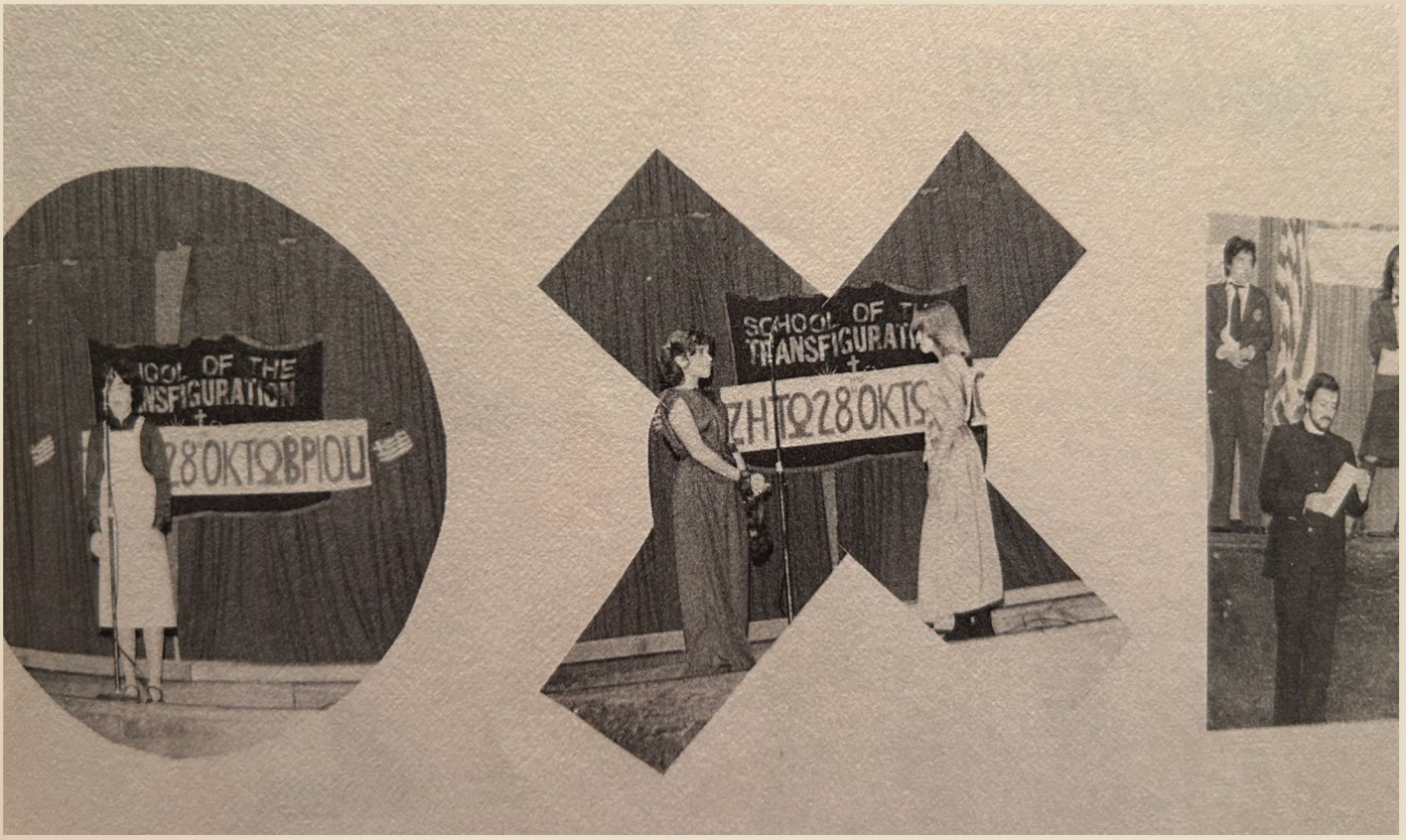
In the Greek Orthodox Church, Greek national holidays are celebrated not only as historical commemorations but also as moments of faith and cultural identity. These celebrations reflect the deep connection between the Greek nation, its history, and the Orthodox Christian faith, which played a central 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

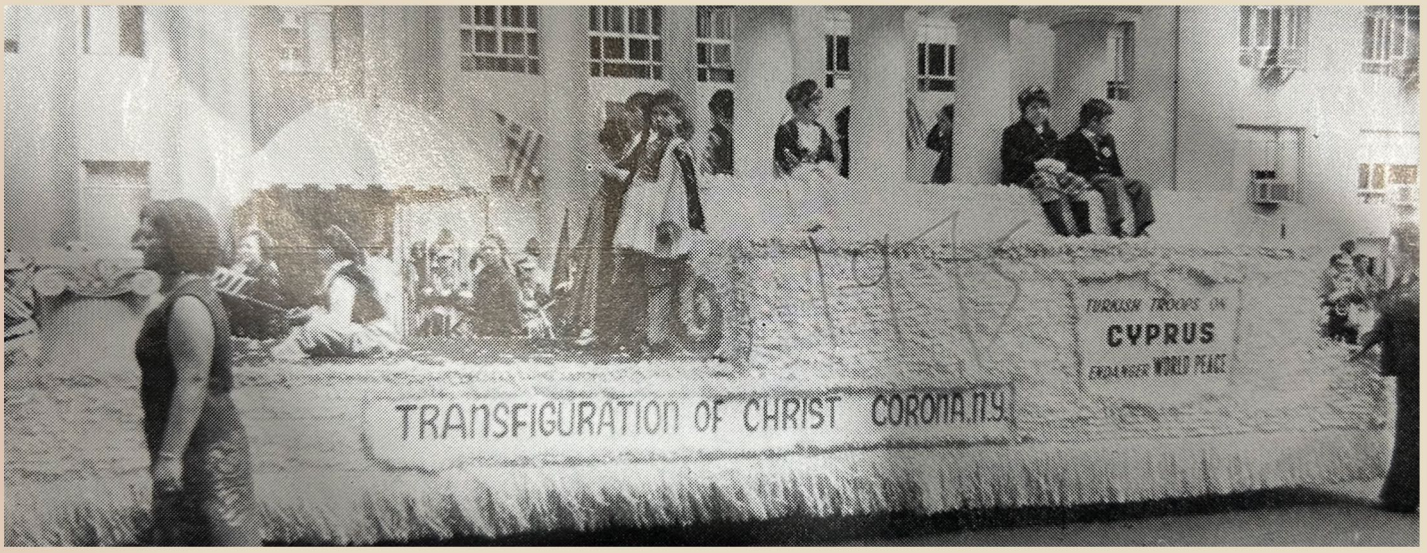

OXI
OXI
OXI
OXI
OXI


EXIT

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


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




TRANSFI
CHRIST
& GREE




ΚΟΡΩΝΑΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΥΟΡΚΗΣ
1926


Corona, NY






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



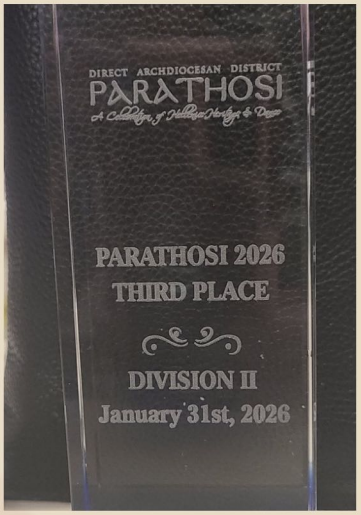

TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
Greek Saturday School - Tuition Free
Corona, NY
Founded 1926
www.transfigurationcorona.com

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







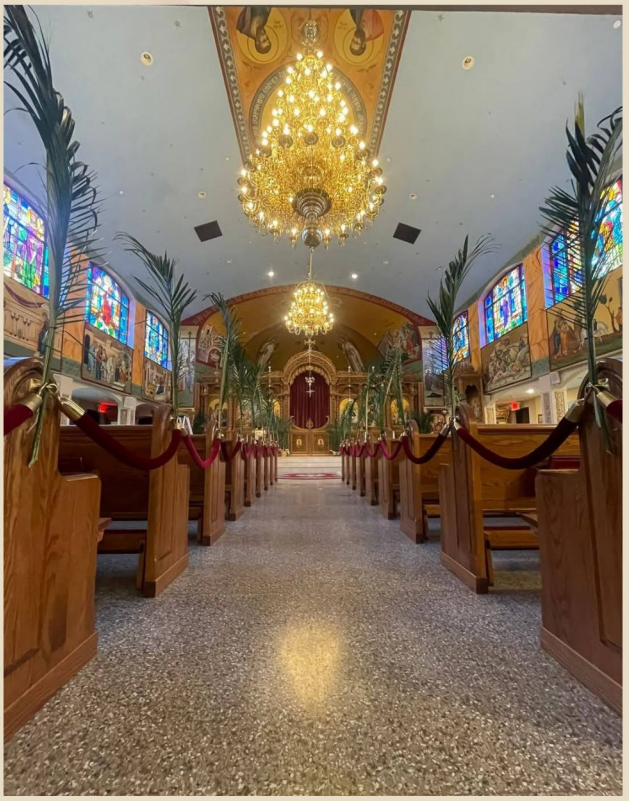



GAP
1969





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.








PROPERTY OF








EXIT













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.






FIGURATION of
DDOX CHURCH OF CO


Happy 90th
Anniversary











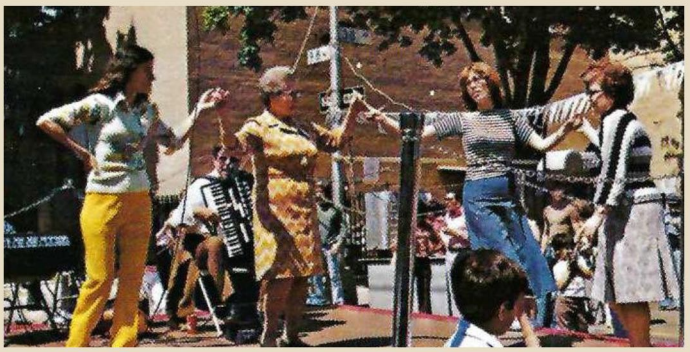
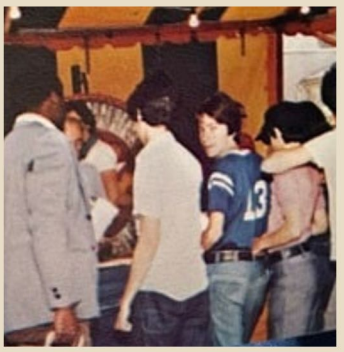
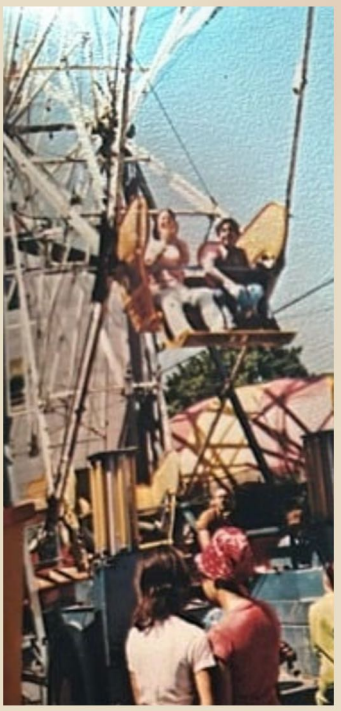































ΚΡΕΤΗ










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








EXIT




EXIT


















HURLEY









