 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America
Dean of the Cathedral
The Cathedral School
Arts & Culture
Cathedral Cub Scouts
Capital Campaign
Sunday School
Cathedral Philoptochos
Youth Ministries
Cathedral Choir
Cathedral Connect
Adult Greek Class
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CATHEDRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL

For general inquiries, information about stewardship, scheduling a sacrament, or for more information about the Cathedral, please e-mail info@thecathedralnyc.org

Rev. Fr. John Vlahos, Cathedral Dean 
frjohn@thecathedralnyc.org

Michael Baritis, Director of Operations 
michael@thecathedralnyc.org

Alexandra King, Administrative Assistant
alexandra@thecathedralnyc.org

Dn. Sotiri Michalatos, Pastoral Assistant
dnsotiri@thecathedralnyc.org

Nektarios S. Antoniou, D.M.A. Ph.D (abd)
Principal Cantor & Director of Culture
nektarios@thecathedralnyc.org

Maestro Evey Simon, Director Of Music
choir@thecathedralnyc.org

Costas Tsourakis, Associate Director Of Music
costa@thecathedralnyc.org

Orumé Hayes, Controller
controller@thecathedralnyc.org

John Paterakis, Lambadarios

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Ms. Francesca Mannino, Head of School

Cathedral School Board:
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Parents Association President
PA@cathedralschoolny.org

General Information:
info@cathedralschoolny.org

CATHEDRAL MINISTRY LEADERS

Philoptochos President:
Stephanie Pantelidis

Stewardship:
Dr. George Liakeas
drgeorge@lexmednyc.com

Sunday School:
Effie Doscas
edoscas@ziffster.com

Hellenic Afternoon School:
Roula Trikounaki
hellenicas@cathedralschoolny.org

Primetimers:
Carol Contos
c eeceeecontos@yahoo.com
Pauline Kotsilimbas
pkkotsi@gmail.com

Cathedral Connect:
George Kostakis
connect@thecathedralnyc.org

GOYA (13-18 yrs old):
Diane Chudley
Presbytera Georgia Papadopoulos
goya@thecathedralnyc.org

JOY (7-12 yrs old) / HOPE (4-6 yrs old):
Peggy Pyrovolakis
hope-joy@thecathedralnyc.org

Little Angels:
Diakonissa Elizabeth Constantine
littleangels@thecathedralnyc.org

Greek Orthodox Basketball League:
Dn. Sotiri Michalatos
dnsotiri@thecathedralnyc.org

Art & Culture:
Nektarios Antoniou
nekktarios@cathedralschoolny.org

Homeless Ministry:
Andrew Yiannakos
andrew.yiannakos@gmail.com

Cathedral Music Ministry:
Maestro Evey Simon
choir@thecathedralnyc.org

Cathedral Cub Scouts:
John Paterakis
Andrew Yiannakos
pack74bsa@thecathedralnyc.org

Bookstore:
Charles Connant
ceconnantjr@verizon.net
On December 6th, Orthodox faithful around the world and in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America celebrated with faith and reverence the Feast day of Saint Nicholas, the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, presided at the Archieratical Divine Liturgy at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of St. Nicholas in Flushing, NY, perhaps the largest parish of the Archdiocese, where many hundreds of faithful came to worship.

Protopresbyter Paul Palesty, the proistamenos of the parish, read the Archbishop’s Encyclical for the Feast of St. Nicholas.

The Archbishop in his homily spoke about the blessed life of Saint Nicholas and his example for us in today’s circumstances. “… we call upon Saint Nicholas in a special way at his feast today. We ask that he would intercede; that he would show us the power of God; that he would prove to us, again and again, the truth of Christ’s words. Sharing his same spirit of faith, ‘we also believe and we speak.’

We proclaim our faith, that the Lord who glorified Saint Nicholas will raise up his fallen church to glory once more.”

Later in the afternoon, Archbishop Elpidophoros visited the construction site of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center, and officiated at a blessing and sanctification of the water service (Agiasmos) in front of the church.

Immediately after, His Eminence followed by the faithful in attendance, entered the church for the blessing and sprinkled with the sanctified water the people and the construction. The Archbishop addressed everyone and reiterated his confidence in the completion of the church edifice: “I have complete and utter confidence that God is raising up His mighty hand to help us complete this divine work. We will move forward with all necessary openness and transparency and complete our mission here at the World Trade Center, to rebuild the Saint Nicholas Church and make of it a National Shrine.”

https://www.goarch.org/-/the-celebration-of-the-feast-of-saint-nicholas
GEORGE M. CANTONIS NAMED NEW PRESIDENT OF HCHC

Upon the completion of a rigorous nationwide search process, the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (HCHC) announces with great joy that on December 10, 2019, following the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, voted to elect Mr. George M. Cantonis as the next President of the institution, replacing the Interim President, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston. Subsequent to the decision of the HCHC Board of Trustees, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros immediately approved the election.

Mr. Cantonis becomes the 11th President of HCHC. A native of Chicago, he currently resides in the Tampa, FL area. He is the President and Director of The Cantonis Company, Inc., Executive VP and Director of Acme Sponge and Chamois, Inc., and President of MGC Hotel Group. Mr. Cantonis has served the Church in many capacities over the years including various leadership positions on the local parish level as well as on the national level through the Archdiocesan Council, Leadership 100, and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Archon Exarchos). In addition to his church involvement, he has volunteered his services to health care and performing arts centers. Having served previously on the HCHC Board of Trustees, he rejoined the Board in September 2018, and since this past April has served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In announcing the election of Mr. Cantonis, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America said, “Today, we have a renewed sense of direction in the person of George Cantonis as the new President of HCHC. He has already demonstrated his administrative acumen in helping navigate the waters these past months as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees. I am also grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston for shouldering the great weight and responsibility of Interim President since April of this year which he took on in addition to his already heavy schedule. To Mr. Cantonis I extend my paternal blessings, and I entreat the faithful members of our Archdiocese to offer prayers and full support for the newly elected President. Our Scholi has a wonderful and historic legacy that under the presidency of Mr. Cantonis will reach new heights—academically, administratively, and spiritually—to the glory of God.”

www.hchc.edu/george-m-cantonis-named-new-president-of-hchc/?fbclid=IwAR04HqKup6dGGd7IsFZYL7ilu9SuA0N0jPpZ3yObYRLANcpxDv8F6j5Y
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

As 2019 comes to a close, we, as the “chosen people” are left with the daunting but necessary task of reviewing the highs and the lows, the good and the bad of the past 12 months.

In many ways, we are like the infant that hears, sees and feels mom and dad throughout the day, but does not truly know what mom and dad are really doing for it. It is only way later, in reviewing the past, from a fresh, different vantage point, that it becomes apparent just how much mom and dad really did. It is then that the person realizes that they only were able to survive and thrive because of what was done for them!

As “people belonging to God,” we reflectively pause and look back; we inevitably will realize the immense care, support and love that God has poured out upon us.

• Over the past year, many of us have given God our repentance and He has given us His forgiveness.
• Over the past year, many of us have more fully committed our lives to Him and He has given us the gift of meaning and purpose in life.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our sorrow and He has given us His Peace.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our emptiness and He has given us the fullness of His Presence.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our weakness and He has given us His strength.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our time and He has given us His eternity.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our treasure and He has given us treasure in Heaven to come.
• Over the past year, many of us have given Him our souls, and He has made us His Home, His Temple and His Palace!

As we conduct our review of our spiritual journey and as we embark on 2019, may we not be disheartened by our lows and failures but rather be inspired by God’s presence with us as we move toward a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Him as His beloved children.

We, the “chosen people” who feed our minds and hearts on the record of what God has done in the past, will have no need to be anxious about the future. Ralph Waldo Emerson expresses this conviction when he stated, “What I have seen, teaches me to trust my Creator for what I have not seen.” The Lord ALWAYS has delivered on His promises. “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will hold you up with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed and joyous New Year!
Working with new leadership, this year The Cathedral School celebrates its 70th anniversary! A strong leader of excellence in education, focusing on a classical education to prepare students for high school and beyond, The Cathedral School integrates the ideals of Hellenism, its philosophy, history and culture to create an outstanding curriculum and education model. With a focus on inquiry based learning, students learn reasoning and problem solving skills that not only challenge their ability as students but also as thinkers.

Established to serve families in New York City who wanted to instill an appreciation of Hellenic language, culture and history in their children, today, the school serves an international student population from a wide spectrum of countries and heritages. Energy and excitement fills the air every morning at The Cathedral School. Students might be dressed entirely in orange to celebrate school spirit, or they may be singing in three part harmony preparing for one of the many concerts throughout the year. Regardless of what is happening, the educational foundation built at The Cathedral School for 70 years is vibrant and strong. It is a 70 year history and a legacy inspires and challenges us at The Cathedral School everyday.

We invite you to join us during our celebratory year. Schedule a tour to visit the school and see the amazing work going on in our classrooms everyday. Attend one of our many performances and watch what happens when careful preparation meets the energy and enthusiasm at The Cathedral School. We look forward to sharing with our community what makes The Cathedral School so special.
ARTS & CULTURE MINISTRY
Nektarios S. Antoniou, D.M.A Ph.D

The Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity is pleased to announce that Nektarios S. Antoniou, DMA, our Principal Cantor, has been appointed as the Director of Culture. Through this Ministry, Nektarios will curate, present and produce events to inform, inspire and illuminate the life of the Cathedral Community through the Arts. We are thrilled to have someone of Nektarios acumen leading this ministry and we are convinced that he will foster a culture of passion and appreciation for the Arts.

Photos are from the inaugural Maria Callas concert event which took place on Dec. 2, 2019.
PICTURES FROM THE ICONS OF SOUND FESTIVAL:
MARIA CALLAS CONCERT TRIBUTE

December 2, 2019
The Cub Scout Pack 74, is off to an exciting start! Our Lion Cubs (five years old) marched in the New York City Veterans’ Day Parade with their parents and enjoyed the cheers from the onlookers and the opportunity to meet Cub Scouts from other New York packs.

On December 21st, we visited the FDNY Fire Zone in Rockefeller Center, where we had the chance to wear firemen’s coats, climb aboard a fire engine, and learn how to create an escape plan with family members in case of emergency at home. Upcoming events include building cars to race in our Pinewood Derby, our Blue and Gold Dinner, and a spring outing.

Our biweekly meetings are great fun and include games as well as skill learning and rank advancement. We are always happy to welcome new boys and girls ages 5-10 to our ranks. Come and join us on the first and third Fridays of each month at the Cathedral. You can learn about our Scouting program by e-mailing pack74bsa@thecathedralnyc.org.

John Paterakis

CATHEDRAL CUB SCOUTS - PACK 74
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Stella Pantelidis

Here we are, during the month we most associate with giving thanks for the past year. When I began as President of the Board of Trustees in January of this year, I was well aware of the restoration project that our community was to undertake to build upon the legacy of our predecessors. I have had the privilege of working with lots of volunteers, staff members, architects and contractors to bring the project to where it is today. We have reviewed 8 contractor bids, negotiated and renegotiated and have finally signed a contract with EXO Industries Corp. Restoration began September 2019! And for this, I am thankful.

This newsletter as well as our website, cathedralcampaign.com, will get you up to speed on the project's scope of work, timeline and much more. The project is expected to cost about $3 million.

We have repaired and restored the limestone and the front steps of our Cathedral, cleaned out all gutters, repaired part of the roof causing major leaks to our school, repaired ceilings of 2 classrooms, and begun brick-work on the northwest corner of our church.

We have a lot to accomplish, and all those with whom I have been working are dedicated to our mission, especially our building committee; Ted Kakoyiannis, Sotiri Plakoudas, Costas Podias and Nicholas Stanos. It's never too late to make a pledge of time, talent or treasure toward “Building our Future” Capital Campaign. And if you are one of the 105 families who have already donated and pledged close to $500K thus far, the Cathedral is blessed that you have joined the “Building our Future” Restoration Project team!

In gratitude for your service,

Stella Pantelidis
President
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Effie Doscas

Our 2019-2020 Sunday School year has been off to a great start! With new teachers and fresh faces, our Sunday School community has grown. Our different church events this year have been fruitful and have all culminated in our favorite time of the year- The Christmas Pageant. Rehearsing for weeks the children and teachers worked tirelessly to practice lines, perfect songs, and sow costumes to bring to life the story of Jesus' birth. With over 90 participants in our pageant right after liturgy on December 15th, we had a treat! Stars, donkeys, shepherds, the Wise Men all came to praise the Nativity of Our Lord. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and most of all children who helped bring this story to the solea for all our parish to glorify.

We encourage parents to bring their children to join Sunday School anytime of the year! We have classes for children starting from 40 days through 18 years old. There are many activities and it is wonderful for children to learn about our faith and in fellowship with their peers. Please join us the next Sunday you can, we look forward to learning together!
ORDINATION OF DN. SOTIRI MICHALATOS

December 8, 2019
The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos kicked off its new year with its first general meeting; Welcome Back Trivia Night. Philoptochos members gathered together at Chiotes Hall for wine and mezedes and played a fun game of Trivia conducted by Fr. John Vlahos. A lot of fun was had by all and we learned a lot about our church and faith. Our next general meeting will be the Christmas Angel Tree in December where we will gather toys and clothing to distribute to underprivileged children.

On Saturday, November 2nd, our Philoptochos sponsored a luncheon in honor of our new Archbishop, his Eminence Elpidophoros of America, for his nameday. The Chiotes Hall was packed with philoptochos members and parishioners wishing his Eminence “Chronia Polla”. We had an amazing turnout of volunteers who helped make this luncheon a huge success. We thank all the volunteers for their time and donations. His Eminence was very appreciative and thanked us for making his first nameday in America so memorable.

On Saturday, November 16th, members of our Philoptochos attended the National Philoptochos Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon in Chicago. Over 1100 men and women gathered together at this luncheon where grants are distributed to various medical institutions helping children. Our Philoptochos chapter donated $5,000 in support of the Luncheon. A total of $300,000 in grants was distributed this year.

Our Annual Chrysanthemum Ball took place on Friday, November 22nd at the Metropolitan Club. Over 500 people gathered together to support our major fundraiser of the year. Our 2019 honoree was Haeda B. Mihaltses, who is the Vice President of External Affairs and Community Engagement for the New York Mets. With your support and generosity, we raised over $100,000 which will help the mission of Philoptochos. Everyone danced past midnight and took pictures with Mr. Mets.

We also continue to support our social welfare cases, helping individuals and families in crisis by contributing towards funerals, rent payments, medications, and $25 cash cards for immediate use. The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society continues to sponsor the coffee hour every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. In conjunction with Jan Hus Church, we continue the Feed the Homeless Program and provide a meal every Tuesday for approximately 160 homeless and low-income individuals throughout the year except for the months of July and August. The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos started the Feed the Homeless Program in 1979.
We are current in fulfilling our National Philoptochos obligations:

Orthodox Christian Missions & Support a Mission Priest, Hellenic College Holy Cross, Lenten Event Veneration of the Holy Cross, Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy, International Orthodox Christian Charities, 75th Anniversary Founders Fund, and Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

We have fulfilled our Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos obligations:

Chapter dues, Hellenic Cultural Center, Holy Cross Scholarship Fund, St. Michael’s Home

In gratitude for your service,
Stephanie Pantelidis
President
The youth ministry has been busy this fall with a flurry of events both at the Cathedral and in the wider New York area. Our GOYA ministry kicked off the year with a trip to the New York Yankees. In October, HOPE, JOY and GOYA enjoyed a trip to the Queens County Farm where the youth enjoyed getting lost in the corn maze and picking pumpkins! In addition, we held our annual GOYA Lock-In sleepover where the GOYAans participated in the homeless ministry by packaging and distributing food and toiletries to the homeless. They ended their night with a midnight dodgeball game and devotionals. Recently, our Cathedral GOYA teamed up with Archangel Michael GOYA for ice skating at Bryant Park followed by dinner for all in our Cathedral's Chiotes Hall. All in all, we had over 60 participants in the skating and dinner. Finally, over 40 children from HOPE, JOY, and GOYA got together for our Christmas Gingerbread House making party. They had tons of fun creating gingerbread skyscrapers - only in New York! We are looking forward to a fun filled winter and spring. Stay tuned for the 2020 HOPE, JOY, and GOYA calendar - we hope to see you there!
CATHEDRAL CONNECT
ST NICHOLAS SACKS
George Kostakis

December 7th, Cathedral Connect, in partnership with other local New York Churches (Annunciation; Our Savior; St. Nicholas Antiochian Church; Holy Trinity (New Rochelle); Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral; and Zooodhos Peghe) teamed up Focus North America and Vibrant Emotional Health Center for their St. Nicholas Sacks Program. We collected and distributed over 200 tote bags filled hygiene products and toys to at-risk/low income families.
We recently met with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, who encouraged us to maintain the high quality of the Cathedral Music Ministry.

Our choir volunteers have been working since September and are determined to sing this complex music to the best of their ability!

Associate Music Director Costas Tsourakis participated in the 2019 D.A.D. Choir Conference, presenting a workshop on Vocal Techniques!

To listen to the Cathedral Choir visit YouTube and search “Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir”. You can also find us on Facebook or by visiting www.archcathedralchoir.com
ADULT GREEK CLASS
Apostolos Mavrommatis

Our Modern Greek for Adults classes are now in their fourth year. We started in the fall of 2016 with a limited number of students and levels offered, but currently we run a Beginner, Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate level. These three classes bring together students, mostly adult professionals, from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, all united by love for the Greek language and zest for learning. We hope to see you there, too!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| **Tuesday, December 24** | Great & Royal Hours 8:00am-9:30am  
Vesporal Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30am-11:15am  
Matins 5:45pm-7:00pm  
Archieratitical Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 7:00pm-9:00pm |
| **Christmas Eve**   | 8:00am-9:30am  
9:30am-11:15am  
5:45pm-7:00pm  
7:00pm-9:00pm |
| **Wednesday, December 25** | Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ 9:00am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00am |
| **Sunday, December 29** | Matins 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00am |
| **Wednesday, January 1** | Circumcision of the Lord and Feastday of St. Basil the Great 8:45am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00am |
| **Sunday, January 5** | Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00am-11:30am  
Holy Water Blessing 11:30am-11:45am |
| **Monday, January 6th** | Epiphany and GREAT Blessings of the Waters 7:45am  
9:00am  
10:15am-10:45am |
| **Tuesday, January 7th** | St. John the Baptist 8:00am  
Divine Liturgy 9:00am |
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