

KEYNOTES



May, 2009

ARE YOU READY FOR OUR 2009 FEDERATION CONFERENCE IN WINSTON-SALEM?

First step — the music

Everyone try very hard to practice before you come to conference. This is a difficult liturgy and, while Chris will go over it painstakingly, there is not really time to learn it if you come in without having practiced it.

Chris Kypros has been working furiously to place an English translation to some of the music from the *Liturgy of Peace*. As of this writing, he projects that he will have all that he is able to do by the end of May, probably distributed on PDF.

Chris says that not all of it will be translated and that if, when we are all rehearsing it, he is uncomfortable with the posing of the words, then we'll revert to Greek.

Elia Nicholas will be the organist. He will be having rehearsals for his choir and anyone else who wants to attend. Please see the dates under the listing for Raleigh-Durham.

Now, Book that Hotel!

In order to receive Group Rates, please register by June 26, 2009

The Hampton Inn: Kings & Doubles \$82; **GROUP CODE:** **GOS** (add 12.75% tax); 1990 Hampton Inn Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; **RESERVATIONS:** (336) 768-9168 or 1-800-HAMPTON; Complimentary Hot Breakfast or On The Run bags, and Evening Cookies Pool, fitness center, business center & laundry facility. Hi-speed internet, local calls, microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, hair dryers, irons & boards.

The Sleep Inn: Kings & Doubles \$69; **GROUP CODE:** **2247** (add 12.75% tax); 1985 Hampton Inn Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; **RESERVATIONS:** (336) 774-8020 Fax (336) 774-1185; Complimentary Breakfast or On The Run bags and Evening Cookies. Fitness center, business center & laundry facility. High-speed internet, local calls, microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, hair dryers, irons & boards.



President's Letter

Christos Anesti to my fellow Federation members,

As we enter the fourth quarter of our Ecclesiastical Year I am reminded that this is one of my favorite times of the year - our annual Choir Conference Season. A time when we rehearse, prepare and attend our annual choir conference.

I will never forget when, for the first time, I sang the Liturgy of Peace directed by the composer Chris Kypros. It made such an impression on me that I've been hooked on attending the annual conference ever since. I enjoy the convention atmosphere where we are: exposed to choral techniques presented by top notch directors / composers, challenged to sing new Liturgical Arrangements, given the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with clergy / musicians from across our metropolis and occasionally the country. The fact that the conference is hosted by different parishes within the metropolis affords us the opportunity to travel with our families and see how other communities compare to ours.



In preparation for the choir conference, parishes have been conditioned to go through the same routine every year, taking the annual choir picture on Palm Sunday (for use in Keynotes as well as your parish annual), soliciting an ad from our parish council and Philoptochos all to be included in the conference commemorative album. Then we take a count of those choir members planning to attend. Some choirs ask the parish council to prepare a check (a church budget line item) to cover conference registration fees.

All attendees are reminded to call and make their own hotel reservations prior to the deadline date. Last but not least, please order the music and rehearse weekly until the date of the conference.

Faithfully,

Margaret

Scholarship 100

Established in 1986, the +Father George and Presbytera Anna Gallos and +Michael Zanakos Music Scholarship has made it possible for aspiring students to further their education in the field of music. For specific information, please visit the Federation website at: www.sfgocm.org or in the spring issue of the Federation newsletter, Keynotes or from:

Dr. G. Philip Thevaos, Chairman Scholarship 100
1827 Therrel Farms Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173
704-843-3266
E-mail: yellowjacketgt@aol.com



Athenagoras Awards

This is a reminder that all Athenagoras applications are due less than 3 weeks ahead so that we can forward the winners to the National Forum in time for formal presentation at our choir conference in Winston-Salem. Any applications received after the end of May will not be eligible for consideration this year.

Stan Evdemon



Notable links

Click below for a wonderful Pascha blog from Tina Wilson, Tom Hanks' wife.

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2009/04/why_easter_is_greek_to_me_xris.html?hpid=opinionsbox1

Stan Takis from another Metropolis has scanned and posted The Anastasimatarion by Nicholas Roubanis to his website for your access online: <http://www.newbyz.org/orthros.html>

An interesting site is <http://choirfestival.gr>. It describes an annual International Choir Festival in Karpenisi, Greece. Who knew?

Although this is non-musical, this video speaks to me in so many ways: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNK6h1dfy2o>

<http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/> is a link to another Federation's web page. If you live in the New Jersey to Virginia area, you may be interested.

Parish Notes (from those who did not respond — please be sure to contact leonk@bellsouth.net for the next edition of Keynotes and Notable Notes, our new monthly newsletter, for upcoming events and news from your parish— remembering that the cutoff dates are always the 15th of the month before publication. You should participate in these, your publications, whether or not you attend or plan to attend the annual conference.



From Holy Trinity in Orlando, Florida

Christ Is Risen ! Truly He Is Risen!

Holy Week was a glorious celebration.

We thank God for the talent he has provided to our church.

Thank you also to our choir members for their tireless support.

As was mentioned in our last submission to Keynotes, our new director Stacey Norton has been doing double duty as director and organist. We are pleased to announce that we now have a new organist, Rachel Gould. Rachel is a student at Valencia Community College. She is an accomplished pianist and teaches piano. Although she is not Greek Orthodox, with Stacey's guidance she is quickly becoming familiar with the order of the service. On Holy Tuesday Night Rachel accompanied the choir in chanting the Hymn of Kassiani which she learned with minimum rehearsal.

The church received a wonderful donation of a new organ in February. It is an Allen MDS-36 Digital Computer Organ. We are still experimenting with speaker placements and all of its other capabilities.

We have completed the organization of our new hymnal. The book is structured so that we have Greek and English side by side wherever we have a good English translation of the Demetrios Pappas liturgy.

Our "Choir Camp" rehearsals have been very successful. One Saturday each month we have a three hour rehearsal that is very concentrated. The Saturday practice allows many of our members who cannot drive at night a chance to attend practice. We also have other practices in the evenings.

Stacey is currently putting together her plans for learning new music and with guidance from Father Simeonidis, incorporating more English into the service.



Several members are planning to attend the conference in Winston Salem.

We are looking forward to singing the Liturgy of Peace again!

It will be interesting to see how Chris has set the English to his music.

Jim Kouchalakos



From the choir of Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA

Christos Anesti from the Annunciation Cathedral Choir! On May 6, 2009, our choir and Chanters had the opportunity to sing for a very unique church service. The Metropolis of Atlanta and the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta came together for an "Evening of Prayer and Unity" in celebration of the "Year of Saint Paul." This service was held at the Catholic



Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta. The Choir led the procession of Orthodox and Catholic priests, the Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta, Archbishop Wilton Gregory and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. As the Choir processed, they sang Christos Anesti. The acoustics of the French Gothic style cathedral enhanced the sound of the choir even more. After the procession, Catholic Archbishop Gregory gave the “Welcome and Greeting” followed by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, who gave the opening prayer. The choir of Christ the King sang two selections, Psalm 139 and Canticle of Mary. There were readings from the Gospel of John and from 1 Corinthians. The Chanters sang Fos Ilaron followed by our choir singing the English version, “O Gladsome Light.” The Catholic Archbishop and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios each gave a very inspirational homily filled with hope for future cooperation between our two churches. The evening concluded with a final blessing given by both of the hierarchs. A wonderful reception took place in the fellowship hall immediately after the service.

In other news, on Mother’s Day our Cathedral Orchestra, under the direction of Peter Zervakos performed at the 13th annual Mother’s Day Luncheon and Concert, immediately after the Divine Liturgy in the Kartoes Ballroom. The GOYANS served the delicious lunch. A special certificate of appreciation was given to the graduating seniors who are members of the orchestra.

To view photos of one of our choir events, the Orthodox-Catholic Conference, [please click here to go to SFGOCM’s photo site](#)

We wish everyone a safe summer. See you at the Conference!

God Bless,

Christina Polizos



St. George, New Port Richey, Florida

A Re-Birth for our Choir

Several years ago, our parish lost its choir. The choir director/organist moved and the parish could not find a replacement. Needless to say, as a new member to St. George and former choir director, I was very disappointed. As you all know, chanters have their place in the liturgy, but so do choirs. The congregation really missed having a choir. Last summer, though, God answered prayers and many changes occurred at St. George that affected the choir. First, the parish received a new spiritual leader, Fr. Michael Petrides, who came from a parish that has a beautiful choir. Second, many parishioners signed up to be in the choir, and third, Fr. Michael helped find a few donors to purchase an organ for us. So, everyone’s prayers were answered, and the choir began rehearsing.

Unfortunately, those who volunteered to play the organ were also involved in other church ministries, so the choir was not able to sing for more than a couple of weeks. Since the choir members consisted mostly of young-at-heart retirees, many went North for the



holidays. As a result, the parish had to go through Christmas and Easter services without a choir.

Shortly before Holy Week, God answered our prayers again with the arrival of Inga Zakradze, a very-talented classical pianist. Since Inga is only 15, we are looking forward to developing a wonderful choir over the next few years with the help of her accompaniment. The choir has begun practicing again and welcomes new members. Anyone who is thinking of moving to this area should definitely consider West Pasco. If newcomers are able to carry a tune to the choir loft, they will be very welcome to join the choir. For more information about the choir or the vibrant parish life at St. George, please contact the church office (727-868-5911) or e-mail Tina Wilson, Choir Director, Twilson@pejotwilson.com

If any musicians are going to be in West Central Florida in June, they may be interested in attending some events at the AHEPA District Convention and in seeing the legendary Carole Cook, known for her roles on Broadway, television, and the movies. Also, one of our Greek-American opera stars, Stella Zambalis will be at the convention. I’ve attached the schedule of events, which encapsulates everything, as well as individual flyers that you may want to e-mail to your circle of friends. We are trying to raise money for Bone Marrow and Cooley’s Anemia Foundations. See the flyers at the end for more information.

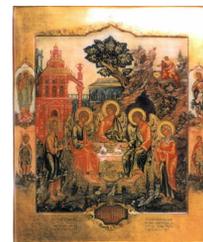
“...Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.” -- Psalm 150



From the Choir Loft at Holy Trinity Raleigh, NC:

Christos Anesti!

Between Pascha and Pentecost, we waste no time! We remain busy planning for conference and for other upcoming choir events.



We’ll be holding 3 or 4 practices in our area for the Conference music on the last Saturday in June and the 11th and 18th of July at Holy Trinity. All are welcome! We’re planning between 10 and 15 attendees at the conference and we want them to shine!

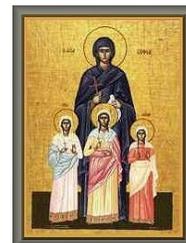
Until then, keep hitting the high and low notes, and keep those baby lullabies humming in your hearts for Holy Trinity Choir members!

Elia Nicholas



From the Choir Loft St. Sofia, Miami, Florida:

Together, we had 20 singers for Pascha, which is a lot for our little band of angels who added their voices to the Easter week services with artful renditions of the holy hymns. We usually send a fairly large



portion of the choir to the conference, and this year will be no exception, so if you see some strangers, they're ours!

Sophie Michael, soprano, directed the decorating of the epitaphio which drew much praise from our parishioners. Dr. Elaine Lailas, alto, coordinated the volunteer lay readers for the week's services.

Several choir members will represent their church Ministry at the June Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference in Clearwater and will sing the liturgy on Sunday, June 14th.

Our alto Elaine Poulos-Lailas organizes the Agape Service readings every year between choir practice and the myriad of other duties that she performs for both of her parishes.

St. Sophia was blessed by hosting the directing CMI. Although not heavily attended, [Dr. Eichenberger](#) outshone himself in his presentation. While some attendees were professional musicians, all were just amazed at how much they learned from Dr. Eichenberger's presentation.

Our psalti George left on his name day for a month in Greece, leaving us without a psalti, so choir members Tony Rodolakis and Leon Karahalidis have been reading through Orthos as best we can. This will be Tony's first conference, and he is looking forward to it.

Leon Karahalidis



From the Choir Loft Holy Trinity, Charlotte, NC:

Greetings from Charlotte – Christos Anesti!

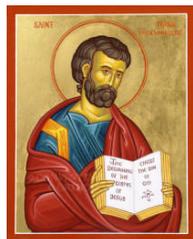


Spring has sprung and for the Holy Trinity Choir, that meant we were busy preparing for Holy Week and Pascha. We sang the first and last of the Friday night Cheretismi services and during Holy Week. This year we celebrated the Anastasi service with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, a first for our choir in many years!

On Sunday, May 3, we participated in Holy Trinity's Family Picnic and Volleyball Tournament. This was the first time our church has had this event, and some of us haven't touched a volleyball since some time in the last century. We played hard against the Parish Council's team in our first match and gave a valiant and brave effort. It was close at times but ultimately we were defeated. Most importantly we had a great time and no one was injured.

We are all VERY excited about the 2009 Annual Conference in our back yard in Winston-Salem in July! See you there!

Katherine Kleto



From the Choir of the Only Greek Orthodox St. Mark's church in the Western Hemisphere

For the most part, our choir continues to pray Kevin Lawrence's liturgy. We chant a capella and encourage congregational participation. Occasionally, we add some spice and do Chris Kypros' Agios hymn. When we do this, the

congregation just listens but enjoys it immensely, bringing back wonderful memories of our 1999 conference at St. Mark's.

It is with great happiness to report that the children's coral ministry has begun this year at St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton, Florida. Youth director, Virginia Barnes, has done a wonderful job teaching the children the hymns of our church as well as other fun melodies. On their Sunday debut, the children proudly chanted parts of the service all by themselves.



At Christmas, the youth choir sang for the annual pageant. Later in the year, two times, they joined the adult choir in the loft. Children participating in the youth choir range from the age of three to seventeen. Pictured below are both choirs singing the Sunday liturgy.

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Kathy Chapekis



St. John the Divine – Jacksonville, FL

Christos Anesti! During the past few months the St. John the Divine Choir from Jacksonville, Florida has spent countless hours rehearsing for their Lenten journey. Recently the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Maria Chrissovergis, participated in their annual Lenten Retreat where they rehearsed and were led in a spiritual discussion with Father Nicholas Louh. The "Amazing Race" retreat gave choir members an opportunity to learn about Jesus' journey to the cross through scripture and the beautiful Liturgical music Orthodox musicians sing during Pascha. They learned that through this "Amazing" journey to the cross – the journey is just as important as the destination.

Currently, the St. John the Divine choir is 50 members strong. The choir is currently singing a combination of Kypros, Lawrence, Maragos, and Zervos. The choir has most recently received accolades from His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta when they sang for the Metropolitan and a crowd of more than a hundred at the St. Photios Shrine luncheon held at the Casa Monica in St. Augustine, Florida. "It was certainly an honor to have our choir featured at this beautiful occasion," said Father Nicholas Louh, "Our parish has truly been blessed and the choir is raising our parishioners to a higher spiritual ground."



The choir's next project will be recording a CD and providing Liturgical music for the church's new website – <http://www.stjohnthedivine.com>.

Maria Chrissovergis

Christos Anesti!

Greetings to all of you..... Firstly, forgive me if I have duplicated this email to some of you, as many of us are on more than one email list!

I know many of you well, but some of you I have not met personally. I direct the choir at Holy Trinity in Clearwater, Florida, the location for our Metropolis Clergy-Laity Congress beginning on Thursday, June 11th through Sunday, June 14th. Many of you are church music people or Clergymen who will find this email of interest for yourself or your own choir/chanters.

I am interested in compiling a large choir comprised of people from around the Metropolis for the purpose of singing the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, June 14th. We will be singing the music of Kevin Lawrence, an arrangement that is fairly common among our choirs here in the Southeast. We are also privileged to have George Pappas, our Metropolis Protopsaltis here at Holy Trinity. Those interested in chanting will be placed in contact with our Proistamenos Father James Rousakis and George to coordinate the chanting activities during the weekend as well.

My intention is to have a good solid rehearsal with all singers on Saturday morning to prepare for Sunday, but plans have not yet been finalized. I'm primarily interested in seeing how many of you will be participating so I can get a preliminary count of people.

Please email me if you (or your parishioners) are interested in singing for this beautiful and uplifting opportunity to celebrate liturgy together with our beloved Metropolitan Alexios and his fellow clergy.

With Joy in the Risen Christ,

Joanne H Kambouris

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joanne H Kambouris". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Director of Music, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Director, Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay