

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 The Church Office will be closed today for the July 4 th holiday weekend.	4
5 The Fourth Sunday of St. Matthew. Orthros 9am. Divine Liturgy 10am.	6 The Church Office reopens today according to normal operating hours.	7	8	9	10	11
12 The Fifth Sunday of St. Matthew. Orthros 9am. Divine Liturgy 10am.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 The Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council. Orthros 9am. Divine Liturgy 10am.	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 The Seventh Sunday of St. Matthew. Orthros 9am. Divine Liturgy 10am. Artoclasia offered by the Zerefos family in honor of St. Markella the Virgin-Martyr of Chios.	27	28	29	30	31	

Ιούλιος 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας Κλειστό για τον Εορτασμό της 4ης Ιουλίου	4
5 Τετάρη Κυριακή του Ματθαίου. Όρθρος 9 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία 10 π.μ.	6 Το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας ανοικτό, συνηθισμένο ωράριο εργασίας	7	8	9	10	11
12 Πέμπτη Κυριακή του Ματθαίου. Όρθρος 9 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία 10 π.μ.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Των Αγίων Πατέρων της Τετάρτης Οικουμενικής Συνόδου. Όρθρος 9 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία 10 π.μ.	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Εβδόμη Κυριακή του Ματθαίου. Όρθρος 9 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία 10 π.μ. Αρτοκλασία προσφορά οικογενείας Ζερεφού προς τιμή της Αγίας Μαρκέλλας της Παρθένου Μαρτύρου Χίου.	27	28	29	30	31	

With welcoming arms

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is open for tours during festival

By GARY SOULSMAN
The News Journal

WILMINGTON — The Greek Orthodox church is like a mother opening her arms with affection and beauty.

That's how the Rev. Father Costa "Gus" Christo sometimes speaks of his tradition when he welcomes visitors to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Last year the church had 350 visitors during the Greek Festival, which begins Tuesday.

IF YOU GO

Greek Festival

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Tuesday through Friday (rain date Saturday)

WHERE: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Eighth and Broom streets, Wilmington.

ADMISSION: Free

EVENTS:

- Indoor dining room opens at 11 a.m. and runs to 9:30 p.m. About 4:30 p.m. outdoor venues come alive, offering Greek salads, gyros, lamb sandwiches and other fare.

- Dancing at 7:30 p.m. on the south dance floor (small parking lot) and at 8:30 p.m. at the north dance floor (main parking lot).

- Each day from 4 to 6 p.m. the church is open to visitors and at 6:30 p.m. Father Costa Christo conducts 30-minute tours.

- Rides for kids 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Shuttle leaves from Ninth and Market streets 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Parking is on city streets.

INFORMATION: www.holytrinitywilmington.org/greekfestival/greekfestde.htm

the main image is the ark, as in Noah's Ark of old." It's a ship that carries souls into "the tranquil harbor of heaven."

He says it's also a ship "constructed by the Holy Scriptures with Christ as the rudder and the Holy Spirit serving as the breeze" which pushes the ship on the right course.

Successfully entering such a heavenly space takes preparation. That's why the first room — or

So Christo is ready to welcome visitors Tuesday through Friday at 6:30 p.m. for tours. (The church opens at 4 p.m. for people to step inside.) It's because of the church — and its 700 families — that there is an annual festival: The money goes to a parish that dates to 1939 and efforts to build the church on the former estate of Sen. T. Coleman DuPont, purchased for \$35,000.

Today, when people come for gyros and Greek dancing, Christo understands that they may be curious about Orthodox ideas. It helps to have a guide to Holy Trinity because it's designed as a textured sacred space.

"Everything in the church has a symbolism that ties to the Lord," Christo says. "When people enter I explain that the church is like a ship and one of the

narthex — was created, Christo says. A hallmark of Orthodox tradition is salvation through communion with the divine, with worship stimulating one's feelings, thinking and senses. So in the narthex there are candles and icons of saints to help people focus. When the faithful enter, they make the sign of the cross and light a candle. "The light we light is the light of Christ," Christo says. "We hope it will



An elevated arc of marble called a soles leads to the church's holiest part — the sanctuary, and the altar.



"Everything in the church has a symbolism that ties to the Lord," Christo says.

come into us and inspire us in worship and remove all darkness." In the narthex, worshippers spend time with an icon, kissing it or venerating it with prayer and meditation.

From there, worshippers enter the largest room — the nave — dominated by a magnificent gold dome. The central image is of Jesus gazing down, giving a sense that God, through his son, is descending among the faithful, Christo says.

At other levels of the dome there are angels, apostles and saints, such as John the Baptist. They, too, seem to be circling and descending into the nave, infusing it with blessings.

On the nave's right side is the bishop's throne, and, even in his absence, it reminds worshippers that the parish is part of a diocese. The throne rests on the soles, an elevated arc of polished marble that leads to the sanctuary, the most sacred part of the church.

The sanctuary is reserved for clergy and assistant. It contains the altar, where eucharistic gifts of bread and wine are offered to God.

The church's design reflects the glory of God and people often feel joy during worship. But Christo says the word liturgy also means work. And worship is the work of people and priests.

It's why humans were created, he says — to glorify God and experience the heavenly realm, passions reflected in Holy Trinity's creation.

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