



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT



Cassandra Rinaldi

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Philothonos Chapter #008
Waterbury, Connecticut**

Cassandra Rinaldi has been an active member of her Philothonos Chapter for 25 years. Beyond her dedication to Philothonos, she has been a Sunday School teacher, started a volleyball program, and even coached the parish teams to championships. Cassandra has also utilized her profession as a Social Worker to assist the priest in identifying resources for members of the community when the need arises. She has also been instrumental in implementing a Thanksgiving Basket Drive where the Sunday School students donate items and then deliver these baskets to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The members of Philothonos also provide gift cards in these baskets to help these families as they endure difficult times. The Christmas season also provides members the opportunity to make donations through the Angel Tree that Cassandra organizes to help teenage children from DCFS. Though she offers herself in so many ways, Cassandra is especially eager to help her church with baking koulourakia for the Festival. Along with her husband, she organizes volunteers to prepare thousands of koulourakia for their four-day Greek Festival. A smaller mini-Festival is also offered by the parish which Cassandra co-chairs and actively solicits many donations which have made this a very successful event. Bringing together people of all ages, Cassandra organizes a charity dance featuring music ranging from jazz, big band, country and hip-hop. All the proceeds support local charities and assist parish youth to attend Project Mexico. In everything she does, she leads by example with her generous heart, and is always willing to offer her time and talent to help those in need.