

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



APOSTLES' FAST

In our Orthodox Tradition, there are four major fast periods throughout the year; the Nativity Fast which begins on November 15, Great Lent which begins on Clean Monday, The Dormition Fast which begins on August 1, and the Apostles Fast which begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints (which this year is on June 7), and ends on June 29, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Fish, wine and oil can be consumed throughout the fast, except on Wednesday's and Friday's which are strict fast days.

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 1 - 10 am Liturgy (Holy Spirit)
- June 2 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- June 3 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- June 7 - End of Sunday School Party
- June 11 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- June 14 - Hope & Joy, Parish Council
- June 15 - 7 pm Ministries Seminar
- June 16 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- June 17 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- June 24 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- June 25 - 4:30 Women's Bible Study
- June 29 - 10 am Liturgy (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- June 30 - 10 am Liturgy (12 Apostles)
- June 29 - July 2: Clergy Laity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy & Kneeling Vespers (Pentecost)	1 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Monday of the Holy Spirit)	2 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	3 5:30 Paraklesis	4	5	6
7 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Sunday School End of Year Party	8	9	10	11 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	12	13
14 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Hope and Joy Parish Council Meeting	15 7:00 p.m. Parish Ministries Zoom Seminar	16 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	17 5:30 Paraklesis	18	19	20
21 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	22	23	24 5:30 Paraklesis	25 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	26	27
28 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	29 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Sts. Peter & Paul) Clergy Laity	30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Synaxis of Apostles) Clergy Laity	1 Clergy Laity	2 Clergy Laity	3	4
Strict Fast	Fish Allowed	Fish Allowed	Dairy Allowed	Dairy Allowed	Wine and Oil Allowed	Wine and Oil Allowed



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Firstly, and most importantly, we offer our prayers to the family of Fr. Leo Schelver and the parish of St. Peter's Antiochian Church. A man who devoted his life to Christ and to the Orthodox community deserves our utmost respect, appreciation, and prayers. May his memory be eternal! Next, we want to thank everyone for their hard work at and leading up to GreekFest. Particularly, to Steve Efstratiou and to others who worked diligently to prepare food and pastries throughout the week. The preparation was key in having a fun, smooth event and we can't thank everyone enough. Also, everyone came together the day of to have a great time and show ourselves to the community. Hats off to everyone involved. The parish council did not meet in May due to scheduling issues with members of the parish council, the Greek Festival, the general assembly, etc. However, this writing will touch on the general assembly on May 17th instead. As a reminder, the topics mainly consisted of updating the parish bylaws and the narthex project.

Amendments to the parish bylaws, the ones sent via email and mail to the parish, were voted on and approved. These amendments surround the parish council nomination process and having a set date for parish council elections. The amendments have been added to the bylaws, and the needed documents have been sent to the Bylaw Committee at the Metropolis of Atlanta. Once those documents are officially approved, we will notify the parish, spelling the process out exactly, so that there is no confusion. The narthex project, which was also sent via email and mail to the parish, was also voted on and approved. The project will begin on June 8th and will essentially be completed before Divine Liturgy on June 14th. The remaining tasks should merely be installing the glass windows and the doors when they arrive. This will be an exciting addition as we continue pushing forward.

Your Servants,

The Parish Council



A Message from Fr. Mike

As we have recently celebrated Pentecost and are now beginning the Apostles' Fast, let us remember the essence of what occurred for the disciples at this time. Having receiving the Holy Spirit, Christ's disciples found themselves unified with a renewed focus. Empowered by the zeal of the Holy Spirit, they worked diligently to bring people into a relationship with Christ, baptizing people into the New Covenant and giving the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. This is where we find ourselves as a Church today. There are many people looking for a spiritual home, and it us up to each of us to look for that need and fill it by telling them about our faith and inviting them to "come and see". We are told that "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". We must each remind ourselves not to get sidetracked with the many distractions that can arise in life so that we can experience the outpouring of spiritual activity which occurs when we dedicate ourselves to living the reality of Pentecost in our own lives today.

• Fr. Mike



No Paraklesis June 10th

On Wednesday, June 10th there will be no Paraklesis due to work underway in the sanctuary. We will plan to resume services as normal the following week.

Archangel Michael Award Winners



Our two Archangel Michael award winners for this year are Steve Efstratiou and Heather Hontzas. We had planned on taking a year off from having a Greek Festival to allow more time for planning, but Steve stepped up to put together an event which was both financially successful and a good opportunity for fellowship

for our members and the surrounding community. He demonstrated the difference that one person can make in their church with the stewardship of time and talents.



Heather has taken over as Sunday School director, planning events and

communicating with parents. Over the time that she has worked in this capacity, she has created a positive environment for all of the students and parents involved, serving faithfully in the background so that the activities we see continue to run smoothly.

We thank both Steve and Heather for serving in these important lay ministries. A church cannot operate without the time and effort of the laity, and they have both contributed meaningfully to the ongoing life of the community.

Hope and Joy Year End Party



On Sunday, June 14th after the Divine Liturgy we will have the end of year party for Hope and Joy. Our younger members will have time to eat, enjoy each other's company, and relax with a number of activities. We will hope to see them all there.

Sunday School POOL PARTY

SUNDAY 7th JUNE

3:00-5:00 PM

The Hontzas House
109 Serontina Road
Madison, MS 39110



2026 OPL MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

Expanding the Living Parish

Discerning, Leading, and Embracing

2026 WEBINARS

MONDAYS AT 5:00 PM (PDT)

JULY 20, 2026

Building a Christ-Centered, High-Trust Team

AUGUST 17, 2026

Beyond Stewardship: Fundraising for Special Parish Initiatives and Capital Campaigns

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Conflict: Using The Right Approach and Strategy for Success

OCTOBER 19, 2026

Seek, Prepare & Receive
To Seek: Welcoming & Engaging Seekers

NOVEMBER 16, 2026

To Prepare: Healthy Catechism for Newcomers

DECEMBER 14, 2026

To Receive: Building the Orthodox Mindset & Adult Religious Education

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

5:00 PM PDT | 8:00 PM EDT

ELEMENTS OF A THRIVING PARISH & EMPOWERING PARISH MINISTRIES

This month's session builds directly on the shared learning, tools, and parish experiences cultivated over the past several years through Metropolis of Boston's Thriving Congregations Initiative (TCI). Drawing from real examples from participating parishes, we will explore the key characteristics that contribute to parish health: a robust spiritual life, clear vision, and an awareness of the surrounding community. Particular attention will be given to how parishes can move from maintaining programs to empowering ministries that invite ownership, foster relationships, and extend the life of the Church beyond Sunday services. Through practical insights and stories, this webinar will help clergy and lay leaders identify where their parish stands today and how to take concrete, attainable steps toward deeper engagement, stronger ministries, and long-term vitality within the life of the Church.

OUR PRESENTERS



FR. LUKE VERONIS

Parish priest at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Webster, MA & Director of the Missions Institute at Holy Cross



ALEX COOLEY

Metropolis of Boston Thriving Congregations Initiative (TCI) Administrative Coordinator



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA



METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

QUESTIONS?



415-753-3075



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<https://tinyurl.com/385needb>



SCAN TO REGISTER



Congratulations to Kari

and Will East

On Wednesday, May 13th Will and Kari welcomed Sophia as a new addition to their family. We will look forward to seeing her soon and watching her grow and develop in the years to come.

Save The Date



JULY 1-5 2026 • CLEVELAND, OH

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