

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church
























GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Our Lord was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday. As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 30 – Parent's Meeting
- April 1 – 4:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- April 2 – 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy
- April 4 – 5:30 p.m. Akathyst
- April 6 – 4:00 p.m. Altar Boys Outing
- April 8 – 5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- April 9 – 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- April 12 – 10 am Liturgy, 11:30 am Palm Crosses, 12 pm Oratorical Festival
- April 13 – 19: Holy Week, see calendar below
- April 20 – 12 a.m. Paschal Liturgy, 4:00 p.m. Agape Vespers
- April 22 – 4:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- April 26 – 11:00 a.m. Oratorical Festival
- April 29 – 5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- April 30 – 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parent's Meeting 	31	1 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m. 	2 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 	3 	4 5:30 p.m. Akathyst 	5 
6 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council 4:00 pm Altar Boys Outing 	7	8 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	9 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 	10 	11 	12 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 11:30 a.m. Palm Cross Folding 12 pm Oratorical Festival 
13 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy GOYA Meeting 5:30 pm Bridegroom Service 	14 5:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service 	15 5:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service 	16 5:30 p.m. Unction 	17 10:00 a.m. Vespertal Liturgy 5:30 p.m. 12 Gospels Service 	18  9 a.m. Royal Hours 2 p.m. Descent from the Cross 6 p.m. Lamentations	19 10:00 a.m. Vespertal Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Paschal Vigil 
20 12:00 a.m. Paschal Liturgy 4:00 p.m. Agape Vespers	21	22 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26 11:00 a.m. District Oratorical Festival
27 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	28	29 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	30 5:30 Paraklesis 	1	2 Taste of the Mediterranean 	3

Strict Fast



Fish Allowed



Dairy Allowed



Wine and Oil Allowed



Greetings,

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pascha is our faith's most sacred and joyful celebration—the Feast of Feasts! In a few short weeks, we will come together to proclaim Christos Anesti!—Christ is Risen! His resurrection is the victory of life over death, fulfilling God's promise to us. Through the journey of Great Lent and Holy Week, we prepare our hearts, and we will then rejoice in the light of His triumph. Pascha is more than a celebration; it is the foundation of our faith, filling us with hope, love, and renewal. Let us carry this joy into our lives, sharing the light of Christ with all.

With the above in mind, we now move on to the administrative aspects of the parish. Firstly, please purchase your Taste of the Mediterranean tickets and/or sponsorships as soon as possible to avoid missing the event. Tickets are pre-sale only, and the committee has worked hard to ensure that the requested changes were made and that a great event takes place.

The parish council meeting occurred on March 16th and, as always, covered several topics: the church bookkeeper, the choir scholarship fund, a sign on Old Canton Road, pressure washing the parking lot, the Pantokrator project, and icons on the walls. We have hired a bookkeeper, Kim Humphreys, to help with the financials. This will help decompress the load and provide a resource capable of handling our accounting needs. We are looking forward to working with her.

Unfortunately, the sign on Old Canton was blown down in a storm a few weeks ago. It was noticed before blowing into the road and placed in the back of the church. Rainbow Signs is sending renderings and quotes for new signage on Old Canton and new panels for the Pear Orchard sign. This project has been on the list for a while, but there is now a sense of urgency with the existing sign being removed.

The rest of the parking lot was recently pressure-washed, and all the concrete was sealed to delay further maintenance. Its clean appearance now matches the tidiness of the painted church and a more well-groomed landscape. There are still some landscaping needs that will be sorted out soon.

Sanctuary-wise, we have received one of the icons ordered for the walls and hope to have the other nine soon. The iconography will be a great addition to the sanctuary and fill empty space as we work on a new project: a pantokrator. The depiction of Christ on the ceiling is breathtaking in parishes blessed to have one, and we hope that it will be the last step towards the consecration of our church. We have spoken with iconographers and the needed contractors and hope to have this information ready for approval at the spring general assembly. More to come soon!

The choir scholarship discussed in the prior newsletter has been approved. The application and a flyer have been sent to Belhaven and Mississippi College, and both responded that they would send it out to students and faculty and promote it in their music departments. Millsaps has been contacted, and we hope to hear back soon. This scholarship will help a student interested in orthodoxy through tuition assistance and help grow and revitalize an essential ministry in the church.

Lastly, please be on the lookout for an improved bookstore as inventory is ordered and the space is refurbished to meet our parish's needs. A functional bookstore is a blessing to all parishes, and we are excited to soon have the improved resource.

Your Servants,

The Parish Council

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a nationwide ministry of the Department of Religious Education (DRE) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Oratorical Festival provides a platform and experience where Greek Orthodox youth from grades 7-12 present speeches discussing the Faith and the Church. Participants can explore and deepen their faith while honing their speech writing and public speaking skills.



This year, we will be hosting the district level competition for the Western Conference, which includes (in addition to our own parish) the churches of Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Ft. Walton Beach, Gulf Shores, Jackson, Mobile, Monroe, New Orleans, Panama City, and Pensacola.

The parish level festival will be held on April 12th, (Lazarus Saturday) after the pancake breakfast. The district level festival will be held two weeks later, on April the 26th.

All information about the Oratorical Festival, including topics for the two age groups, can be found at:

<https://atlmeteropolis.org/st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival>

All parents are asked to encourage participation from students as we return to participating in this annual ministry of our Church. This is a great opportunity for students to grow in their understanding of the faith, improve public speaking skills, and represent our parish.

Hellenic College

"If you're looking for God in education, look no further"

Hellenic College Graduate



Student Life

Student life on campus is centered around the chapel, but also explores all that the Boston area has to offer.

Learn more:

www.hchc.edu/student-life/

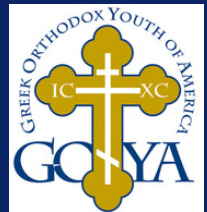


Oratorical Festival Scholarship

Participants of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are eligible to receive a scholarship to Hellenic College when enrolling in a BA program. Those that win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place at the parish, district, metropolis, or national levels, will be awarded a scholarship.



Our next GOYA meeting will be on Palm Sunday after the Liturgy.



Taste of the MEDITERRANEAN
Food | Drink | Dancing

OLD CAPITOL INN
FRIDAY MAY 2, 2025
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Get your tickets now
GreekJacksonMS.org

The poster features a circular logo with a fork and olive branches, and three photos showing Mediterranean food, wine, and people socializing.

Agape Vespers

On Sunday, April 20th (Pascha) at 4:00 p.m. we will meet at St. Peter's Antiochian Orthodox Church for the Agape Vespers service. This is a great opportunity to represent our parish among the wider Orthodox community in our local area. We will hope to see everyone there.

Altar Boys Outing



BOOKING CONFIRMED

On Sunday, April the 6th at 4:00 p.m. the altar boys and others interested will meet at Top Golf, located at 102 Topgolf Way in Ridgeland. This will be a time for them to socialize together in a less formal setting. We will look forward to this time of fellowship.

This year, April 12th is Lazarus Saturday. We will have Orthros at 8:45, Liturgy at 10:00, Palm Cross folding and pancake breakfast at 11:30, and our parish level Oratorical Festival at 12:00. This will be a big day and a great way to start this year's Holy Week. We will hope to see everyone there.

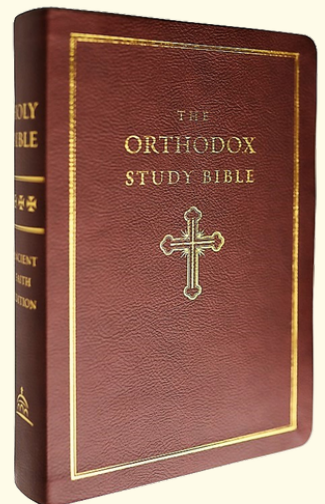


The Philoptochos will be collecting donations today and next Sunday for the flowers to decorate the Epitaphios and other flowers for Pascha after Divine Liturgy. Please give as you are able so that our sanctuary will show our love for our Lord in its beauty.

Men and Women's Bible Study

Our Men and Women's Bible Studies have been well attended and consistent since we started back up, with the two groups alternating Tuesday evenings.

This has been a great opportunity for learning and fellowship for anyone in the community. Those interested in the Women's Bible Study should contact Kari East to be added to the GroupMe, and those interested in joining the men's group should contact Fr. Mike.



SUMMER

2025



Week 1: June 22 - June 28

Week 2: June 29 - July 5

Week 3: July 6 - July 12

Week 4: July 13 - July 19

Week 5: July 20 - July 26

Staff Applications are Open!

Logistics

Cabin Counselors

Medical Staff

Lifeguard

and More...

Camper Registration Opens March 20 at 12:00 p.m. est

Cost \$530.00 per camper.

www.atlmetropolis.org / [@ststephenscamp](https://www.instagram.com/ststephenscamp)



Pantokrator

This rendering gives an idea of what the Pantokrator project would look like. The decorative beam in the center of that section would be removed and the steep angle of the sheetrock would be rounded out into a gradual curve. Christ and the Evangelists would have gold backgrounds matching the Panagia, and some up lighting would be installed to illuminate the icons.

Please note that this rendering is not exact; final decisions regarding color and placement would be made in cooperation with the iconographer and the Metropolis, but this gives a broad conceptual idea of what is being considered.