

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



DORMITION

When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug 1 - Catechist Conference
- Aug 2 - Sunday School Meeting
- Aug 5 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Aug 6 - 10 am Divine Liturgy
- Aug 9 - Blessing of Backpacks and PC Meeting
- Aug 11 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Aug 12 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Aug 15 - 10 am Liturgy, 11 am Gyro Drive Thru
- Aug 16 - 6 pm Sunday School Webinar
- Aug 19 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Aug 25 - 5:30 Men's Bible Study
- Aug 28 - 5:30 pm Vespers
- Aug 30 - Sunday School Begins
- Sep 1 - Ecclesiastical New Year

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Sunday School Meeting 	3 	4 	5 5:30 Paraklesis 	6 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Transfiguration 	7 	8 	
9  8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Meeting Blessing of the Backpacks 	10 	11 Men’s Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	12 5:30 Paraklesis 	13 	14 	15 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Dormition) Gyro Drive Thru 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	
16 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Sunday School Webinar 6 - 8:30 p.m.	17	18	19 5:30 Paraklesis 	20	21 	22	
23 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	24	25 Men’s Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	26 5:30 Paraklesis 	27	28 5:30 p.m. Vespers (St. John the Baptist) 	29 	
30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy First Day of Sunday School	31	1 Ecclesiastical New Year	2 5:30 Paraklesis 	3	4 	5	
Strict Fast		Fish Allowed		Dairy Allowed		Wine and Oil Allowed	

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Firstly, thank you to those who responded to join the Parish Greeting Team. The existing schedule will be updated with new names/dates in the coming months to allow others to join without having to redo the schedule multiple times. Again, please reach out if interested, as this is a vital ministry in the church as we continue to welcome visitors and grow. We are still in need of additional team members.

Next, the parish council met on July 12th. Topics included the church vehicle, the narthex, a new freezer, additional iconography, narthex sandboxes, and more. The narthex is nearly complete from the initial project, with only the doors remaining, plus a few touch-up items. The doors should arrive next month and be installed shortly after. The project went smoothly, and we appreciate everyone's patience during the construction phase.

Also, as some have seen and Fr. Mike spoke on, we have received a donated, church-branded vehicle to improve transportation for our parish Priest and to provide a marketing opportunity in the community. We thank Theo Costas greatly for his idea and the vehicle.

The vertical freezer in the back hall stopped cooling, was repaired, and then stopped cooling once again. We will be purchasing a new freezer as it is a need and the repair cost would exceed the price of a new freezer.

Lastly, we are exploring the installation of the Pentecost icon from our old church that remains in storage, albeit only the Saints themselves. It is the only iconography from the old church still in storage, and it appears that it would fit perfectly on the new narthex wall on the sanctuary side. We are in contact with multiple iconographers and the Metropolis and hope to have different renderings soon. Early days and a lot to consider, but we will hopefully have renderings to discuss in the fall.

Your Servants,

The Parish Council



A Message from Fr. Mike

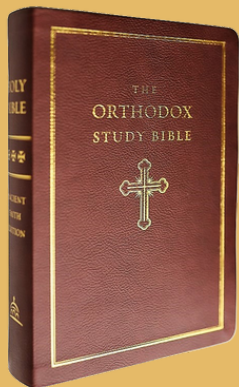
Over the year so far we have gotten a great deal done in transforming and updating many areas of the life of our parish. Having completed the needed work in those areas, the time has come to turn our attention from inward concerns of the parish to outward concern for all those in the community in search of a spiritual home. We now have a very authentic experience to offer people interested in Orthodoxy, and we will be undertaking many different efforts to more effectively communicate to people what the Orthodox Church is, who we are as a local parish, and what we have to offer. We anticipate significant interest from new people over the coming years, and we invite everyone to join us as we fulfill Christ's command to preach the gospel and baptize new people into the faith. All of us can contribute to this effort by inviting people we know who may be interested, sharing church related events on social media, or simply showing up and blessing the community with our presence and participation. We are thankful that we have had the opportunity to see so many things happen in this church and we look forward to using those many blessings to glorify God in our upcoming outreach efforts.

• Fr. Mike

Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 9th at the end of the Liturgy we will have our annual blessing of the backpacks for the coming school year. All of our parents are encouraged to have the children bring their backpacks and sanctify the start of the new year.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Starting in August, our Men's Bible Study will begin a new book, Blessed is the Kingdom by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis. This title will be available in the church bookstore. We will continue to meet every other Tuesday at 5:30 at Broad Street Baking Company. We will hope to see you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: NEW YEAR, NEW CURRICULUM

Our first day of Sunday School will be held on August 30th. This year will be our first year using an all new curriculum, which provides us with much more complete and structured lesson plans. This curriculum was created by the Archdiocese and covers from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

While we are pleased to be able to offer an improved experience to the students, we also have a need for additional help with the Sunday School program. Anyone who may be able to help, either as a regular teacher or to fill in as needed, should speak with Fr. Mike or Heather Hontzas to get started. We strongly urge anyone who may be able to get involved to consider helping with this critical ministry for our youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WEBINAR

On Sunday, August 16th, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a webinar offered to explain the new curriculum. Anyone interested in teaching is encouraged to inquire and receive an invitation to sign up.

CONTINUED MUSIC LESSONS



As we continue to develop our music program, Logan will lead practices on Sunday after the liturgy. We continue to encourage anyone interested to join them as the practice variable hymns for the next week or fixed portions of the liturgy. This is a good opportunity for anyone to learn more, whether that is with the intention of joining the choir or simply for singing along from the pews. Thank you to Logan Polk for his ongoing assistance in improving our liturgical execution.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

As we move into the new school year, and soon, the new ecclesiastical year, we will be shifting our attention largely to outreach and evangelism. Part of this effort will be to ensure that whenever possible,

As we move into the new school year, and soon, the new ecclesiastical year, we will be shifting our attention largely to outreach and evangelism. Part of this effort will be to ensure that whenever possible, we have a table and a member of the community present to hand out brochures, greet people, and discuss orthodoxy at public events. If you feel that you would be willing to help with this important effort to bring new people to Christ in his Church at times that work conveniently for you, email Fr. Mike at frmike@holytrinityjackson.org to be added to a list of volunteers. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA
PRESENTS OUR 4TH ANNUAL

The Catechist

July 5th and August 1st

2026 9:00A - 5:00P

Conference

LEARN MORE ABOUT
TEACHING FOR ALL



REGISTER TODAY!

Includes light breakfast,
lunch, educational
programming, and
relationship-building

This conference is open to all, including teachers of Sunday Catechism, Adult Religious educators, parents and grandparents of catechism students, Parish Team Ministry leaders, and Clergy

2 Dates, 2 Locations, 4 Featured Speakers

July 25 | Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC

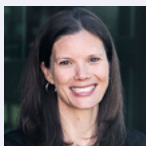


Rev. Father Panayiotis Papageorgiou

Fr. Panayiotis was born in Cyprus and holds degrees in Chemical Engineering from City College of New York and the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross, and a Ph.D. in Early Christian Studies from The Catholic University of America. He has served as a priest in the United States and Cyprus for 38 years and has taught Orthodox theology in Cyprus, Jerusalem, Canada, and the United States. For the past 18 years he has been the pastor of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, Georgia. He is the author of Homilies on Romans by St. John Chrysostom, Volume 1 and CEO of the online ministry Trisagion Films. He is married to Presvytera Catherine and they have two children and grandchildren.

**HYBRID
OFFERINGS!**

*To reach a
broader audience,
all sessions will
be offered both
live and virtually*



Dr. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides

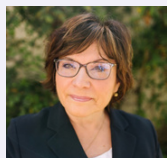
Dr. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides is the Executive Director of the CrossRoad Institute and Director of the Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross, where she teaches Youth Ministry and oversees the Certificate in Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Leadership. She has edited and contributed to two essay collections, *Christ at Work: Orthodox Christian Perspectives of Vocation* and *Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Higher Education*. She is also the co-author of *Find Your Telos: Discover What Orthodox Young Adults & Parishes Can Create Together*. Her work focuses on vocation, youth ministry, and leadership within the Orthodox Church. She holds degrees from Middlebury College (BA), St. Vladimir's Seminary (MDiv), and Boston College (PhD).

August 1 | Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church, Boca Raton, FL



Father Anthony Salzman

Father Anthony Salzman graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Summa Cum Laude in 1989. He spent the next 6 years studying the Art of Byzantine Iconography under Master Iconographer Kosta Photiadeis in Thessaloniki, Greece. He is serving the Church of St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Watkinsville, Ga., since 1999. He is married to Christine and has two sons, Stephanos and Maximos and two grandchildren Amalia and Silas.



Dr. Eve Tibbs

Dr. Eve Tibbs is the author of *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology: Introducing Beliefs and Practices* and *Seeing the Gospel: An Interpretive Guide to Orthodox Icons*. Dr. Tibbs currently serves as a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. She is the Ministry Lead for Adult Christian Education and a member of the Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.



For more information on the July 25th session, contact Gerry Clonaris at 704.574.6179 or Dr. Thomas Copulos at 561.706.3562 regarding August 1st.

New Adult Class on Sundays

Starting on Sunday, August 16th, we will have a new adult book study being offered after the Liturgy. This will be led by Dr. Michael Psikogios in order to provide more in depth learning for those who are already Orthodox while Fr. Mike teaches Orthodoxy 101 to inquirers and catechumens. The book will be announced in the coming days and made available in the bookstore. We hope that anyone not otherwise engaged will take this opportunity to engage in learning and fellowship and we thank Dr. Psikogios for this offering of time and effort.



GYRO DRIVE THRU

On Saturday, August 15th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. we will have our next Gyro Drive Thru. We hope that all of our parishioners will invite friends and family to stop in for a meal in support of our church community.

