

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church
































NATIVITY OF CHRIST

A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 2 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm Parish Council Training via Zoom
- Dec 3 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Dec 6 - 5:30 10 am Liturgy for St. Nicholas
- Dec 7 - PC Election, Christmas program practice
- Dec 9 - 10 am Liturgy (Conception of Theotokos)
- Dec 10 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Dec 12 - 3:30 - 6 pm Philoptochos Bake Sale
- Dec 13 - 11 am - 2 pm Philoptochos Bake Sale
- Dec 14 - PC Meeting, Christmas Program practice
- Dec 16 - 5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- Dec 17 - 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- Dec 21 - Christmas Program & Hope and Joy
- Dec 24 - 9:30 am Royal Hours & Vespers, 5 pm Orthros, 6 pm Liturgy for Christmas
- Dec 26 - 10 am Liturgy (Synaxis of Theotokos)
- Dec 30 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Dec 31 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	1 	2 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Parish Council Training (Zoom) 6:30 p.m. 	3 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	4 	5 	6 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (St. Nicholas) 
7 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Election Christmas Program Practice 	8 	9 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Conception of the Theotokos) 	10 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	11 	12 Philoptochos Bake Sale 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. 	13 Philoptochos Bake Sale 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 
14 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Meeting Christmas Program Practice 	15 	16 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	17 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	18 	19 	20 
21 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Hope and Joy Christmas Program 	22 	23 	24 9:30 a.m. Royal Hours and Vespers 5:00 p.m. Orthros 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 	25 	26 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Synaxis of the Theotokos 	27
28 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	29 	30 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	31 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	1 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Circumcision) 	2 	3
Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Dairy Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 			

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The parish council did not meet in November. However, November was a busy month with the iconography, Metropolitan's visit, the general assembly, and more.

Firstly, the new and refurbished iconography looks wonderful. The pantocrator is an unbelievable addition to our sanctuary and puts Christ at the forefront. The refurbishment of the Annunciation and St. John the Theologian icons flanking the iconostasis also look wonderful as they now fit the space and make the front into one, uniform icon. We thank Aris Kovaci and Panos Kontos for their work and hope to enlist their services again in the near future.

On the 16th, we were blessed to have the Metropolitan attend Sunday services and the assembly. His presence and words are uplifting for the parish and we thank him for taking the time to visit us.

The general assembly itself covered unexciting topics such as budget, audit/election committee, and more. The assembly also approved up to \$12,000 be spent on bathroom renovations that are badly needed. We thank everyone for taking the time to attend and hear about important topics in our parish.

Again, please continue to push the Philoptochos bake sale. The ladies of our church work tirelessly on this endeavor and deserve our support . Philoptochos is a vital organization within our church and as Orthodox Christians, philanthropy is essential to our ministry. These earnings support that mission.

Lasly, and I will continue to put this in every newsletter, please pray for Bob and Cristina as he works through a difficult recovery. He is a kind, loving person in our community, and we are better for it.

**Your Servants,
The Parish Council**



A Message from Fr. Mike

This month we will celebrate the birth of Christ. While our tradition places even greater emphasis on His death and resurrection, His incarnation is also central to our theology. It was at the incarnation that the human nature and the divine nature were brought together in one person, paving the way for each individual to approach God. As we draw near to Christmas Day, let us try to make an effort to keep this holiday as a practice of our faith rather than a cultural event. We keep Christ in Christmas by attending the services of our Church, with Royal Hours and Vespers beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve and the Divine Liturgy beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our liturgical day begins at sundown, so this evening liturgy will be the liturgy of Christmas Day. We will look forward to seeing everyone there.

• **Fr. Mike**

Hope and Joy



On Sunday, December 21st after the Divine Liturgy we will have our next Hope and Joy. They will celebrate the coming of Christmas with some pizza and drinks as well as games to play. We will look forward to seeing our younger members there.

Background Checks and Youth Safety

As many of you have heard, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has put in place a requirement for all parishes to turn in a Youth Safety report along with our election results in order to get the results ratified. What this means is that parish council candidates must pass a background check (which was already in effect) and everyone who works with children must pass a background check and complete the Youth Safety modules. This includes adult altar servers, Sunday School teachers, and Greek School teachers.

While this can be seen as inconvenient, we should try to remember that this demonstrates that the Church takes the safety of children seriously and is making every effort to prevent any unfortunate event.

If you are one of the people involved in these ministries and have not already done so, please take a moment to complete these steps at your earliest convenience. Everyone involved should have already received instructions, but please do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Mike if you encounter any difficulty and need help to finish the process. We appreciate everyone's time and effort as we strive to reach full compliance with the Youth Safety program.

Parish Council Training and Election

Our Parish Council training seminar for the Western District will be offered by Fr. Matthew Carter on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you are one of the parish council candidates and will not be able to make that appointment, please reach out to Fr. Mike as soon as possible to schedule a make up training session privately. The training seminar report is one of the required documents for parish council elections, so this must be fulfilled before a candidate can be sworn in for the coming term.

The election for Parish Council will be held on Sunday, December the 7th, after the Divine Liturgy. Votes will be collected until 1:00 p.m., at which point the results will be counted. We encourage all of our members in good standing to come vote for the candidates in person, or to submit an absentee ballot, which was sent out in the mail. Absentee ballots but be received by 1:00 on the 7th, but they can be returned either by mail or by scanning and returning via email to frmike@holytrinityjackson.org

Celebrate 25 years of HDF with us in New Orleans, LA!

This unforgettable weekend will bring together Greek dance groups from across the world to showcase the beauty of traditional folk dancing, music, and culture. Set against the lively backdrop of New Orleans, the festival is more than just a competition—it's a gathering of generations, where friendships are formed, memories are made, and our shared love for the Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture is celebrated with pride. Don't miss this chance to be part of something truly special.

We sincerely appreciate your support in helping us achieve our mission. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the arts and culture. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you. If you are interested in becoming our Title Sponsor please contact me at the information below.

With Love in the Lord,

Rev. Fr. Sampson N. Kasapakis
Executive Director
Hellenic Dance Festival
(941) 266 - 3229
Ersampson@ststefanos.org

2026 EVENT DETAILS

JANUARY 15 - 19, 2026
NEW ORLEANS, LA

MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS
SHERATON NEW ORLEANS



www.hellenicdancefestival.org

info@hellenicdancefestival.org



Heritage Sponsor - \$5,000

- Three individual registration packages.
- Stage Announcements throughout the weekend.
- Opportunity to distribute flyers/freebies at the sponsorship table.
- Company logo displayed on screen between performances and other ads (posted schedules, handouts, social media, etc.).
- Logo on step-and-repeat banner.
- On-stage recognition during the awards ceremony.
- Featured social media shout-out.

Legacy Sponsor - \$2,500

- Two individual registration packages.
- Stage Announcements throughout the weekend.
- Opportunity to distribute flyers/freebies at the sponsorship table.
- Company logo displayed on screen between performances and other ads (posted schedules, handouts, social media, etc.).
- Logo on step-and-repeat banner.
- On-stage recognition during the awards ceremony.
- Feature social media shout-out.



Festival Sponsor - \$1,000

- One individual registration package.
- Stage Announcements throughout the weekend.
- Opportunity to distribute flyers/freebies at the sponsorship table.
- Company logo displayed on screen between performances and other ads (posted schedules, handouts, social media, etc.).
- Logo on step-and-repeat banner.

Dance Circle Patron - \$500

- Stage Announcements Throughout the Weekend
- Opportunity to Distribute Flyers/Freebies at the Sponsorship Table