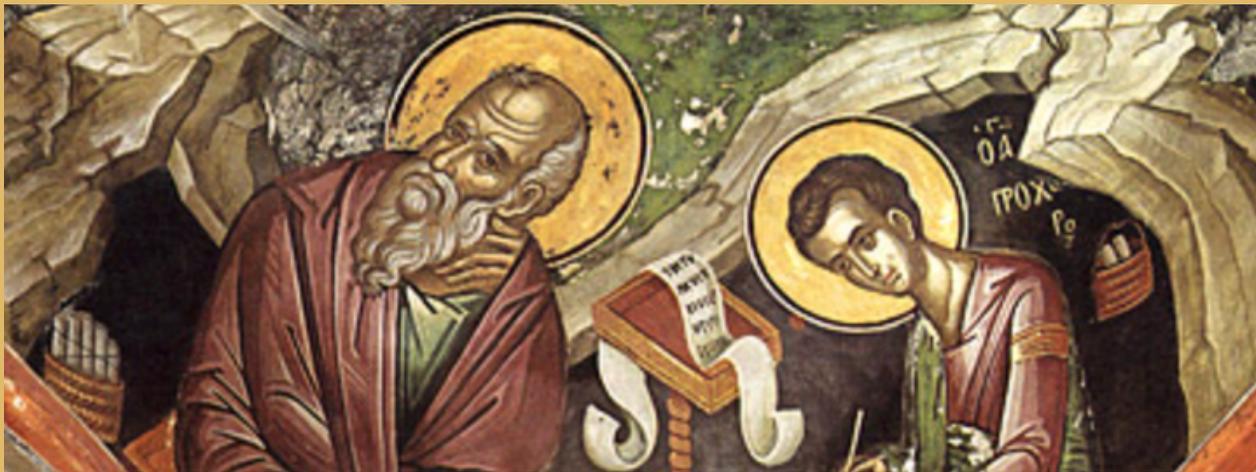


Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



LENT BEGINS

Clean Monday, which this year falls on February 23rd, marks the beginning of Great Lent. As we move towards the beginning of Lent, we gradually transition into the fast. We begin February with a fast free week. By the third week of February we eliminate meat, although we keep fish and cheese. Finally, in the last week of February, we will have started the great fast itself, which will be strict fasting on most days. We hope that everyone will make the effort to participate in the effort of the Lenten Fast.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 2 - 10 am Liturgy (Presentation of Christ)
- Feb 3 - 5: Fr. Mike away at Clergy Retreat
- Feb 3 - 4:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- Feb 8 - Parish Council Meeting
- Feb 10 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Feb 11 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Feb 14 - 10 am Liturgy (Saturday of Souls)
- Feb 17 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- Feb 18 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Feb 21 - 10 am Liturgy (Saturday of Souls)
- Feb 22 - Godparent's Sunday, Hope and Joy
- Feb 24 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Feb 25 - 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- Feb 27 - 5:30 pm Salutations
- Feb 28 - 10 am Liturgy (Saturday of Souls)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Bob Crechale and Chris Grillis Memorial	2 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Presentation of Christ into the Temple)	3 Clergy Retreat Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	4 Clergy Retreat	5 Clergy Retreat	6	7
8 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Meeting	9	10 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	11 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	12	13	14 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 
15 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	16 	17 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m. 	18 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	19 	20 	21 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 
22 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Godparents Sunday, Hope and Joy 	23 	24 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	25 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 	26 	27 5:30 p.m. Salutations 	28 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 

Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Dairy Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 
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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, Great Lent is upon us. February 23rd starts our intense period of prayer, fasting, and repentance as we focus on drawing closer to Christ in preparation for the celebration of his Resurrection on April 12th. It is a beautiful journey.

The Parish Council met on January 11th. The officers will be elected at this month's meeting as the election ratification did not take place until after the January meeting. Additionally, we covered the usual January topics such as making a motion to fund the HRA for Father and his family's health insurance at \$2,137/month, our annual non-profit form with the Secretary of State's office, and the swapping of account holders once officers are elected.

Next, we continued to work towards finalizing the bathroom renovations. Countertops and other materials have been selected, and we hope to see the project completed in the coming months. The narthex project was also discussed as we begin the search for interested contractors to revive that project. It is disappointing that the previous contractor backed out at the last moment, but it is what it is, and we will push forward to find a new one. Lastly on the "renovation side", we were able to find a table large enough for the new meeting/archive room in the back of the church for \$250. It will be a welcome addition as our existing space now only seats eight.

Lastly, we discussed the importance of ushers being available and on time. Everyone does a wonderful job of covering for each other and taking care of the necessary tasks, but it would be helpful if we were present for our assigned duty or found coverage if not able to be present. On those same lines, we have all gotten in the habit of arriving later than the liturgical start time (10:00am) and that is not unique to our parish. However, visitors do arrive on time and usually early. It makes a big difference when visitors are greeted in the narthex by an usher and made to feel comfortable, as opposed to walking in ungreeted and confused. We will all try to arrive by 9:45am on our assigned Sundays.

Your Servants,

The Parish Council



A Message from Fr. Mike

The first Sunday in the month of February presents us with the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, which marks the beginning of the Triodion. For the next few weeks, we prepare ourselves for the Lenten season, which always presents the opportunity to return our focus to the essence of our lives in the Church. During Lent, we try to reduce distractions and direct our focus to the sacraments and services, as well as to prayer and fasting, as we approach the Resurrection. I hope that we can all look forward to the chance to attend and participate in the services we see less frequently, such as the Presanctified liturgies on Wednesday evenings and Salutation services on Friday evenings. This increased frequency of services offers us time to set aside the many secular concerns which can be overwhelming and allows us to make the most of the journey back to Pascha.

• Fr. Mike

Hope and Joy



On Sunday, February 22nd after the Divine Liturgy we will have Hope and Joy. The children will learn about the sacrament of confession and how it will be helpful to them as they grow and mature. We will look forward to seeing them there.

Saturday of Souls

Starting on February 14th, we will have three Saturday of Souls liturgies as we move into Lent. If you have a list of names of the reposed which you would like to have read at the liturgies, you can turn them in either as hand written notes at the church, or by sending them in an email.

Metropolis Clergy Retreat

From Tuesday, Feb 3rd to Thursday, Feb 5th, Fr. Mike will be gone for the Metropolis Clergy Retreat, which is held at the Diaconia Retreat Center. For this reason, there will be no Paraklesis on Wednesday, February 4th. If you need anything during this time, please send an email to frmike@holytrinityjackson.org

The Repose of Connie Cotros

Connie Pappas Cotros, wife of Charles Cotros, of Memphis, TN, fell asleep in the Lord on January 1, 2026.

Services will be held on Friday, January 16, 2026, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 573 N. Highland, Memphis, TN, 38122. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Connie's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

May her memory be eternal.

PRESENTS
OUR LENTEN RETREAT

Open
to Me...

The Gates of Paradise

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

Retreat Schedule:

9:00 AM: Saturday of the Souls Liturgy

11:00 AM: Light Breakfast

11:30-2:30PM Presentations and Breakout Discussions

2:45PM Late Lunch

Group Wrap up

4:00 PM Vespers

This retreat invites participants to identify what hinders a deeper relationship with Christ and with one another. Through reflection on the inner work God asks of us, we will explore how ministry to young people begins with our own ongoing conversion - our openness to transformation, healing, and renewal in Christ. Rooted in the spirit of Great Lent, we will turn to the Church's life-giving practices of prayer, self-emptying, worship, and community, so that we may live more fully in Christ and offer an authentic witness to the young people entrusted to our care.

Our
Speaker:



Alexis Pappas is Director of the Effective Christian Ministry Cohort and has served with ECM since 2020. She previously spent twelve years as Pastoral Assistant at Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Birmingham, Alabama. She holds master's degrees in business and health services administration and is a certified Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teacher. Rooted in Matthew 11:28, her ministry centers on sharing the love and rest found in Christ. She and her husband Peter serve with OCMC in Guatemala, and she is the mother of four adult children.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. to presvyteraharriet@gmail.com by Feb. 23, 2026

1200 Allen Toussaint Blvd, New Orleans, LA



JOIN US FOR
GODPARENT
SUNDAY

HOLYTRINITY- ST.JOHNTHETHEOLOGIAN
GREEK ORTHODOXCHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL



FEBURARY
22

5725 S Pear Orchard Rd,
Jackson, MS 39211

LITURGY
10:00 AM

