

# Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



## THEOPHANY

*John the Forerunner received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. The Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 1 - 10 am Liturgy (St. Basil the Great)
- Jan 5 - 9 am Royal Hours, 10:30 am Vespers Liturgy & Blessing of Waters
- Jan 6 - 10 am Liturgy (Theophany), Blessing of Waters, 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- Jan 7 - 10 am Liturgy (St John the Baptist) 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Jan 11 - Parish Council Meeting, 4 pm Blessing of the Waters (reservoir)
- Jan 13 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Jan 14 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Jan 20 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- Jan 18 - Hope and Joy
- Jan 21 - 10 am Liturgy (St. Maximos), 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Jan 27 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Jan 28 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Jan 30 - 10 am Divine Liturgy (Three Hierarchs)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>28</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>31</div> <div>5:30 p.m. Paraklesis</div>	<div>1</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (St. Basil)</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9 a.m. Royal Hours 10:30 a.m. Vespers Liturgy Blessing of the Waters</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy &amp; Blessing of the Waters Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (St. John the Baptist) 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Meeting 4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Waters</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:30 p.m. Paraklesis</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Hope and Joy</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (St. Maximos the Confessor) 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>28</div> <div>5:30 p.m. Paraklesis</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Three Hierarchs)</div>	<div>31</div>

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**First, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of Bob Crechale. He filled every room he entered with love and positive energy. Our community is better for having known him, and we will honor his legacy by carrying those same qualities forward.**

**The Parish Council met on December 14, and the meeting was brief, focusing primarily on bathroom renovations and the 2026 gyro drive-through dates. Those dates are February 21, April 25, June 27, August 15, and December 12 (assuming this aligns with the bake sale). Please add these to your calendars and plan to attend, as these events allow us to serve both our church and the wider community while enjoying meaningful fellowship with one another.**

**As we close out 2025 and look ahead to 2026, let us focus on the many blessings that continue to move our parish forward. We are grateful for the many new faces among us through baptisms and chrismations, ongoing church improvements such as new iconography, and a loving atmosphere that encourages active participation in parish life. We also give thanks for a generous community that contributed more than \$180,000 in stewardship alone—a 34% increase from 2024 and an 84% increase from 2023—allowing our parish to continue to grow and thrive.**

**Your Servants,  
The Parish Council**



## **A Message from Fr. Mike**

**The main feast of the month of January is Theophany, when Christ was baptized. In doing so, He set the example that we follow to this day; beginning our sacramental life in the Church through baptism. Over the last year we saw a healthy number of people baptized into our Church, and as we start out the new year commemorating the baptism of Christ, let us remember the centrality of this sacrament to our faith. Christ commanded His apostles to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To the extent that we heed His command, we have a healthy and thriving Church. All of us must do our part to share our knowledge of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church with those around us. I hope that we are all looking forward with eager anticipation to another successful year in this critical endeavor of our faith.**

**• Fr. Mike**

## **Hope and Joy**



**On Sunday, January 18th after the Divine Liturgy we will have our next Hope and Joy. We will make a Vasilopita and talk to the children about the significance of this tradition. We will look forward to seeing them there.**

## **Sunday School Project**

**In the month of January, our Sunday Schoolers will be collecting dog and cat food. At the end of the month everything will be donated to a local animal shelter. We appreciate everyone's support of our Sunday School ministry as we continue to teach the children about the importance of outreach and caring for others.**

## **Blessing of the Waters**

**On Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. we will have the blessing of the waters at the reservoir. We will meet with the other local Orthodox church communities at the same location as previous years although Crab's Seafood Shack has closed. We will hope to see a good turnout representing our parish at this annual event.**

## **House Blessings**

**Beginning on January 6<sup>th</sup> we will begin the annual tradition of house blessings. We hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to continue this ancient practice of our Orthodox faith. To schedule a house blessing, you can choose a time on the calendar that works for you when you see an email about house blessings, or you can simply send Fr. Mike an email at [frmike@holytrinityjackson.org](mailto: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

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## 2026 EVENT DETAILS

JANUARY 15 - 19, 2026  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS  
SHERATON NEW ORLEANS



[www.hellenicdancefestival.org](http://www.hellenicdancefestival.org)  
[info@hellenicdancefestival.org](mailto: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