JUNE 2025 | VOL. 20

# Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek ()rthodox Church



#### PENTECOST

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- June 1 TOM Town Hall
- June 3 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.
- June 4 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- June 8 (Pentecost) Parish Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Kneeling Vespers
- June 9 10 a.m. Liturgy for the Holy Spirit
- June 10 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.
- June 10 14: Fr. Mike at Clergy Laity
- June 16 20: Ceiling preparation for Pantokrator
- June 22 Storage Clean Out
- June 24 27: Fr. Mike out of town
- June 28 Gyro Drive Thru
- July 1 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.
- July 2 Paraklesis 5:30 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Town Hall		Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m. Paraklesis			
			<b>*</b>		<b>*</b>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Pentecost Parish Council 6:00 p.m. Kneeling Vespers	8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy (Holy Spirit)		Fr. Mike at Clergy - Laity	Fr. Mike at Clergy - Laity	Fr. Mike at Clergy - Laity	Fr. Mike at Clergy - Laity
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	Sanctuary renovation work underway	Sanctuary renovation work underway Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary renovation work underway	Sanctuary renovation work underway	Sanctuary renovation work underway	~
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Clean Out		Fr. Mike away Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	Fr. Mike away	Fr. Mike away	Fr. Mike away	11:00 a.m 2:00 p.m. Gyro Drive Thru
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29 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	30	1 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	2 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis	3	4	5
			<i></i>		+	

Strict Fast

Fish Allowed

Dairy Allowed





#### Parish Faithful,

Our parish has walked a long road. We've known moments of beauty and moments of struggle. But today, we have a sacred opportunity – to unite not just for the sake of peace, but for something far greater: to bring each other, old and new, closer to Christ.

True unity is not just the absence of conflict; it's the presence of love. It's compassion in how we welcome the newcomer, respect in how we listen to one another, and shared joy in allowing all to worship together. When we are united in Christ, our community becomes magnetic – a place where others can encounter His love through us. St. Paul urges us to be "of the same mind and the same spirit," not by thinking alike in all things, but by being centered on Christ. In a world starving for meaning, it's our unity in Him – lived through service, prayer, and kindness – that makes our faith real and attractive. If we want our parish to thrive, we must each take responsibility to build bridges: allowing those to engage more deeply in the Divine Liturgy, supporting our ministries, and making room at the table for those who come seeking God – whether they were born into Orthodoxy or Protestantism; whether they've been here 30 years or 3 weeks. When people see a church family that loves genuinely, respects one another, and worships with one heart, they want to be part of it. Our unity becomes our witness.

Let us choose this path – not just for ourselves, but for every soul Christ is drawing to this holy place. Through love, compassion, respect, and full engagement in the life of the Church, may we become a community that leads one another closer to God.

This is the work of a living Church. And it begins with us – today.

In Christ, The Parish Council





### Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost

June 8<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. We will have a Parish Council meeting immediately after the Liturgy, but at 6:00 p.m. we will also come

together for the Kneeling Vespers, a unique service in our liturgical cycle. We will hope to see everyone there. The following morning, Monday the 9<sup>th</sup>, is also the Monday of the Holy Spirit, for which we will have a Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.



## Spring Cleaning in Summer

For some time we have planned to remove some old and unnecessary material from the back storage rooms. Things got busy during Spring, but now as things have slowed down for Summer, we have the time to tackle this small project so that the available space can be put to better use. On June  $22^{nd}$  we invite anyone who is able to stay behind after the liturgy as we try to consolidate storage down to one room. We will look forward to working with everyone as we continue to optimize our use of the facilities.

#### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



## APPLY NOW FAITH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE DEADLINE: JUNE 24TH, 2025

This scholarship program aims to support the best and brightest graduating high-school seniors in the Hellenic-American Greek Orthodox community planning to attend a 4-year accredited U.S. university this fall. Scholarships are awarded on a merit basis with applicants given the option to be considered for additional financial need-based allocations.

The FAITH Scholar network includes over 950 members from across the U.S. Apply now to connect, network and build lasting friendships with other young and talented leaders within the Hellenic-American community. For full application details and to apply now, visit thefaithendowment.org/scholarships or scan:



FAITH An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism

#### THEFAITHENDOWMENT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

Founded in 2004 by a group of visionary Greek American leaders and philanthropists, *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism* is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that supports the development of innovative educational, cultural, and scholarship programs that promote Hellenism, an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith, and the relationship of the two to America's history and multicultural landscape for young people. FAITH has proudly awarded over 2,200 grants and scholarships to our community's brightest young leaders.

For questions, contact: info@thefaithendowment.org • (212) 803-9363 • facebook.com/faithendowment



## Pantokrator

At the last General Assembly, we approved moving forward with the Pantokrator project. The image above gives an idea of what the finished project would like like, taking into account changes approved at the assembly. As noted on the calendar, the first phase of the job will be taking place from June 16th - 20<sup>th</sup>. This will involve the removal of the light fixtures currently in the way as well as the smoothing of the sheetrock. The ceiling should then be painted early in July. We are striving to have work completed between Sundays to minimize any inconvenience to the community. We appreciate your support as we strive to create the most authentic atmosphere possible in our sanctuary.

### Taste of the Mediterranean

On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> after the Divine Liturgy we will have a Town Hall in order to gather feedback on this year's Taste of the Mediterranean. This is the time to voice opinions about what went well at this event and what you feel might be improved upon for next year. We will look forward to seeing everyone there.

