

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church














ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden. The Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, the Virgin answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the Son and Word of God was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 5 - 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- March 7 - 5:30 pm Salutations
- March 8 - 10 am Saturday of Souls
- March 9 - 4 pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
- March 11 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- March 12 - 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- March 14 - 5:30 pm Salutations
- March 16 - Parish Council Meeting
- March 18 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- March 19 - 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- March 21 - 5:30 pm Salutations
- March 22 - 2 pm Hope and Joy
- March 23 - Greek Independence Day Luncheon
- March 25 - 10 am Liturgy for Annunciation, 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- March 26 - 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- March 28 - 5:30 pm Salutations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	3	4	5 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	6	7 5:30 p.m. Salutations	8 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Saturday of Souls 
9 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 4:00 pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers 	10	11 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	12 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	13	14 5:30 p.m. Salutations	15 
16 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Meeting 	17	18 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	19 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	20	21 5:30 p.m. Salutations	22 2:00 p.m. Hope and Joy 
23 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 11:30 a.m. Greek Independence Day Luncheon 	24	25 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	26 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 	27	28 5:30 p.m. Salutations	29 
30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	31	1	2 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	3	4 5:30 p.m. Akathist	5 

Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Dairy Allowed		Wine and Oil Allowed 
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Greetings,

Happy Lenten season. As we begin our Lenten journey it is important to think about what it means to Greek Orthodox Christians. It means a period for reflection, repentance, and renewal. It marks our 40-day journey leading up to Pascha, where we focus on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The purpose of the fast is not only to practice self-discipline but also to grow closer to God, imitate Christ's sacrifice, and prepare spiritually for the resurrection. The services and hymns during this time guide us in our spiritual growth, offering an opportunity for inner transformation and reflection on faith, humility, and forgiveness. Let us all do our best to be present and engaged in the extra Lenten services.

On a different note, the parish council meeting took place on February 9th. Some topics were merely related to accounting changes and consolidating bank accounts with the Cadence fund being closed and those funds moved to Raymond James. Other topics included housekeeping, iconography, a cross for the roof, and a choir scholarship fund.

Jessica Holloway, our housekeeper, was not previously cleaning the area past the dining hall. She will now be cleaning that area every other week. Additionally, we continued to discuss iconography projects and sanctuary improvements with the ultimate goal being the consecration of our current church. As seen, we have been raising funds to cover the purchase of icons for the walls between the stained-glass windows. Fortunately, we have raised nearly (at the time of writing) all of the funds needed and the icons have all been ordered. We hope to have them in place before Holy Week. The, potential, major addition would come in the form of a Pantocrator on the ceiling and is likely the last step before consecration. We would not be building a dome, but we are in the process of obtaining quotes from contractors and iconographers and hope to have renderings and quotes this month.

An additional project underway is the purchase and installation of a gold, byzantine cross on the roof of the church. The cross is 4'x 2' and will be installed at the front of the roof directly above the faux stone. This will be an important addition.

Lastly, a Choir Scholarship Fund is in the process of being created and implemented. There are still some specifics to work out, but the general idea is that we will offer tuition assistance in exchange for choir participation for eligible candidates. These recipients will be required to attend choir practice plus Wednesday evening service and Sunday services.

In Christ,
The Parish Council



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a nationwide ministry of the Department of Religious Education (DRE) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Oratorical Festival provides a platform and experience where Greek Orthodox youth from grades 7-12 present speeches discussing the Faith and the Church. Participants can explore and deepen their faith while honing their speech writing and public speaking skills.



This year, we will be hosting the district level competition for the Western Conference, which includes (in addition to our own parish) the churches of Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Ft. Walton Beach, Gulf Shores, Jackson, Mobile, Monroe, New Orleans, Panama City, and Pensacola.

The parish level festival will be held on April 12th, (Lazarus Saturday) after the pancake breakfast. The district level festival will be held two weeks later, on April the 26th.

All information about the Oratorical Festival, including topics for the two age groups, can be found at:

<https://atlmeteropolis.org/st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival>

All parents are asked to encourage participation from students as we return to participating in this annual ministry of our Church. This is a great opportunity for students to grow in their understanding of the faith, improve public speaking skills, and represent our parish.

Hellenic College

"If you're looking for God in education, look no further"

Hellenic College Graduate



Student Life

Student life on campus is centered around the chapel, but also explores all that the Boston area has to offer.

Learn more:
www.hchc.edu/student-life/

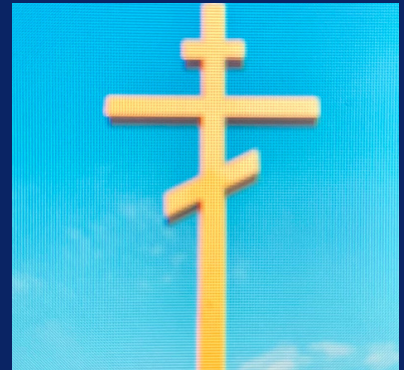


Oratorical Festival Scholarship

Participants of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are eligible to receive a scholarship to Hellenic College when enrolling in a BA program. Those that win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place at the parish, district, metropolis, or national levels, will be awarded a scholarship.



As mentioned in the parish council entry, we are in the process of getting a cross installed on our roof. For those who may be interested, an image is attached here to show what that would look like. We look forward to having this visual indication of our Orthodox faith added to the exterior of our building.



Hope and Joy

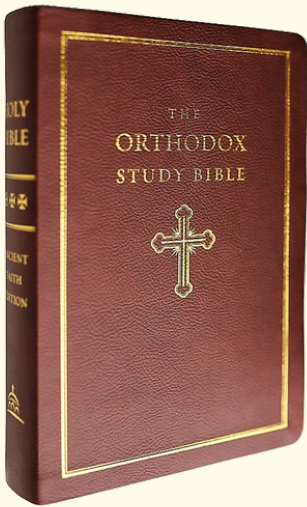
On Saturday, March 22nd at 2:00 p.m. we will meet at the church for our next session of Hope and Joy. We will talk to the children about the importance of fasting and what it means for us as Orthodox Christians during this Lenten Season.

We will look forward to seeing all of our elementary aged children for this time of learning and friendship.



Annunciation and Greek Independence Day Luncheon

On Sunday, March 23rd after the Divine Liturgy we will have our annual luncheon for both the feast of Annunciation (March 25th) and Greek Independence Day. We will look forward to seeing everyone here.



Men and Women's Bible Study

Our Men and Women's Bible Studies have been well attended and consistent since we started back up, with the two groups alternating Tuesday evenings.

This has been a great opportunity for learning and fellowship for anyone in the community. Those interested in the Women's Bible Study should contact Kari East to be added to the GroupMe, and those interested in joining the men's group should contact Fr. Mike.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

On Sunday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m. we will meet at St. Peter's Antiochian Orthodox Church for the Vespers service for the Sunday of Orthodoxy. This is a great opportunity to represent our parish among the wider Orthodox community in our local area. We will hope to see everyone there.

SUMMER

2025



Week 1: June 22 - June 28
Week 2: June 29 - July 5
Week 3: July 6 - July 12
Week 4: July 13 - July 19
Week 5: July 20 - July 26

Staff Applications are Open!
Logistics
Cabin Counselors
Medical Staff
Lifeguard
and More...

Camper Registration Opens March 20 at 12:00 p.m. est

Cost \$530.00 per camper.

www.atlmetropolis.org / @ststephenscamp

THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA
PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL

Festival of Faith Retreat

THE EUCHARIST AS THE
CENTER OF OUR LIFE



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THROUGHOUT THE RETREAT



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March 28 - 30, 2025

Metropolis of Atlanta Diakonia Retreat Center
455 Quail Ridge Rd, Salem SC

Featured Speakers

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Fr. Andreas Houpos

Fr. Andreas Houpos serves as the Protospeyer of St. Nektarios Church in Charlotte, NC. He is a former speaker for the Metropolis Art Academy and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Academy. He will be delivering a two-part lecture series exploring the Eucharist from two distinct perspectives. The first session will examine the Eucharist as a boundary of the Church, while the second will offer a meditation on the Eucharist as the heart of the Church's life and the Christian experience.



Fr. Paul Abernathy

Fr. Paul Abernathy, an esteemed author and Orthodox priest, serves the missionary parish of St. Moses the Black in Pittsburgh, PA. He will share with us his profound spiritual and practical experiences in his role as an Orthodox priest dedicated to missionary work. Through his service, he fulfills the commandment from Our Lord to serve one another.



Presbyteria Christine Salzman

Presbyteria Christine Salzman is the co-founder of Image and Likeness Iconography and the executive director of The Liturgical Arts Academy. She has served on various boards, including the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos, the National Philoptochos, the Metropolis of Atlanta Sisterhood of Presbyteres, and the St. Philothea Philoptochos Chapter. Her topic, "What Shall We Do Today? Eucharistic Unity & Our Daily Life," will explore how the Eucharist strengthens our lives with courage, hope, peace, and beauty.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Rallis at 910.619.0014 or Gerry Clonaris at 704.574.6179