

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



HOLY ASCENSION

Raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven". These words declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 2 - Taste of the Mediterranean
- May 4 - Orthodoxy 101 after the Divine Liturgy
- May 6 - 5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- May 9 - 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy for Isaiah the Prophet
- May 13 - 4:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- May 14 - 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- May 15 - 5:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
- May 18 - General Assembly & Hope and Joy
- May 20 - 5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- May 21: 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy for Sts. Constantine and Helen, 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- May 27 - 4:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- May 28 - 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- May 29 - 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Ascension)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	28	29 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	30 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	1	2 7:00 p.m. Taste of the Mediterranean 	3
4 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Orthodoxy 101	5	6 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	7 	8	9 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Prophet Isaiah 	10
11 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Mother's Day	12	13 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	14 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	15 5:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	16 	17
18 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy General Assembly Hope & Joy	19	20 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	21 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Sts. Constantine and Helen 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	22	23 	24
25 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	26	27 Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m.	28 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	29 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Ascension	30 	31

Strict Fast



Fish Allowed



Dairy Allowed



Wine and Oil Allowed



Greetings,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Greek Orthodox Church, the weeks following Pascha are known as the Paschal season and are a time of joy and spiritual renewal. The first week is called Bright Week with the season continuing on for 40 days until the Feast of the Ascension, during which the faithful reflect on Christ's Resurrection and His appearances to the disciples. Each Sunday has a special theme, such as the Sunday of Thomas, the Myrrh-Bearing Women, the Paralytic, and the Samaritan Woman, emphasizing different aspects of faith and the Resurrection. Let us continue to find both peace and joy in this special season.

Next, the new icons on the walls of the sanctuary are a welcome addition. One was damaged during production, but the other nine have arrived and been hung. In addition, the cross for the roof has also arrived and is scheduled to be installed the week of May 4th. We thank everyone for their patience as we worked through the purchasing, creation, delivery, and installation of the icons and cross. It was well worth the wait.

The parish council meeting occurred on April 6th and largely provided updates on existing projects. The pantokrator project, a new sign on Old Canton, the May 18th general assembly, and the ordering of new hymnals for the pews. Regarding the spring general assembly, we will be sending out information as usual prior to the May 18th meeting, but we can expect to discuss the financials, state of the parish, the pantokrator project, and the sign project.

The pantokrator project is exciting. The needed quotes from the electrician, sheetrock crew, painter, iconographer, and HVAC crews have all been received. This will be discussed on May 18th, but the only update from the prior newsletter and addition to Father's rendering in it is that we have obtained a quote to paint the entire sanctuary ceiling blue. This would fall in line with Orthodox tradition and represent the heavens above.

Lastly, a rendering and quote have been obtained from Rainbow Signs for a new sign on Old Canton. We are still awaiting the final rendering and the quote to run electrical out to the sign when installed as it will be internally lit on both sides. Like with the pantokrator, we should have the final renderings and quotes available for discussion on May 18th.

**Your Servants,
The Parish Council**

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

This year, we hosted the district level competition for the Western Conference, which included participants from Ft. Walton Beach, Gulf Shores, Mobile, and New Orleans. The youth of these parishes had a valuable experience in public speaking and an opportunity to learn about various topics related to our faith. We hope that in coming years we will also be able to send some of our own members to these other churches as we take turns hosting the district festival.





Hope and Joy

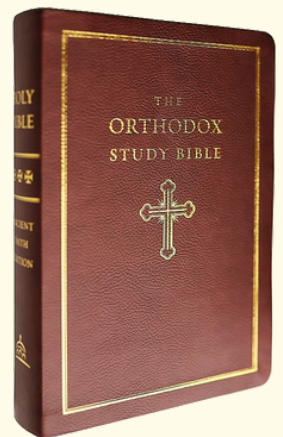
Our next Hope and Joy activity will take place during the General Assembly on May 18th after the Divine Liturgy. This will allow for parents to attend the meeting while the children have a time of learning and socializing with their peers.

May 18th General Assembly

On Sunday, May 18th we will have our next General Assembly. Invitations and agendas will be sent in the coming days, but this meeting will include some important issues for our community, including the Pantocrator project for our sanctuary ceiling. We will hope to see everyone there.

New Book for Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible Study will continue to meet every other Tuesday, alternating with the Men's Bible Study. They will soon begin working through a new book, *Seven Holy Women*, which has been ordered and will soon be available in the bookstore. We invite all of our women to pick up a copy and join this time of learning and fellowship.



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:**



[THEFAITHENDOWMENT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://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

This rendering gives an idea of what the Pantokrator project would look like. The decorative beam in the center of that section would be removed and the steep angle of the sheetrock would be rounded out into a gradual curve. Christ and the Evangelists would have gold backgrounds matching the Panagia, and some up lighting would be installed to illuminate the icons.

Please note that this rendering is not exact; final decisions regarding color and placement would be made in cooperation with the iconographer and the Metropolis, but this gives a broad conceptual idea of what is being considered.

Taste of the Mediterranean

On Friday, May 2nd we had our Taste of the Mediterranean event. Many people from the surrounding community joined us for this time of food and cultural celebration. We thank all of our volunteers who put so much time and effort into this important event, which not only raises funds but also awareness of our church and Orthodoxy in general. We will look forward to continuing this tradition in years to come.

