

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Saint Helen undertook a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha. St. Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, a lady who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sep 1 - New Ecclesiastical Year
- Sep 2 - 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- Sep 8 - 10 am Liturgy (Nativity of Theotokos), 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Sep 9 - 5:30 pm Divine Liturgy (Sts. Joachim and Anna)
- Sep 13 - Hope and Joy
- Sep 14 - 10 am Liturgy (Holy Cross)
- Sep 22 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Sep 23 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- Sep 25 - 27: Holy Unmercenary Medical Society Retreat
- Sep 26 - 10 am Liturgy (St. John the Theologian)
- Sep 30 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy First Day of Sunday School	31	1 Ecclesiastical New Year	2 5:30 Paraklesis	3	4	5
6 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	7	8 9 a.m. Orthros 10 a.m. Liturgy Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	9 9 a.m. Orthros 5:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy	10	11	12
13 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Hope and Joy	14 9 a.m. Orthros 10 a.m. Liturgy	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	21	22 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	23 5:30 Paraklesis	24	25	26 9 a.m. Orthros 10 a.m. Liturgy
27 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	28	29	30 5:30 Paraklesis	1	2	3

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Firstly, thank you to those who helped with events this past month. The calendar was full with liturgies for Dormition and St. John the Baptist, Sunday school and Philoptochos meetings, a gyro drive-through, outreach, the music seminar, and more. These things take a commitment from those in our parish and none of them would be possible without those that love the church and its people.

Next, there was no official parish council meeting in August due to calendar constraints. However, we continued to discuss needs as they arise on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. Needs such as the newly installed freezer, the installation of a new hot water heater, new toilets in the restrooms near the sanctuary, and smaller items.

Lastly, we are thankful to Vicki Pappas, past-Chair of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, for visiting our community for a weekend and speaking on issues important to the church. Hopefully, all that were able to attend learned from her thoughts on the congregation's role in the liturgy and how that starts with the children in Sunday school. Father and the Sunday school teachers will have discussions surrounding implementing her recommendations as possible. Look for additional information in the near future.

**Your Servants,
The Parish Council**



Join Philoptochos

FAITH IN ACTION. HEARTS IN SERVICE.



Join the women of our parish in Philoptochos, where we come together to serve those in need—supporting the poor, sick, elderly, widowed, unemployed, and others facing hardship or crisis.

Through charitable outreach, fundraising, fellowship, education, and service, we put our Orthodox Christian faith into action and strengthen our parish community. Join us in living our faith through love and service.

*Contact Kari East or
Sarah Kountouris for
more information.*

A Message from Fr. Mike

As everyone has probably seen, I will be moving on to another church at the end of this month. This is a normal occurrence in the life of the Church and we are fortunate to have someone coming in immediately to continue the priestly ministry here. Over the last few years we have addressed all of the major challenges facing the parish so that everything is running in good order. It has been a blessing to receive the support needed to make many improvements and new ministries possible. Particularly with the recent shift to focusing on outreach, the foundation has been laid for continued growth and the reception of new members.

I hope that everyone will be as supportive of the new priest in the coming years as they have been up to this point as the life of the church continues to move forward and create a bright future.



2026 PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE

Be on the lookout for upcoming dates on how you can help!

SAVE THE DATE!

* **DECEMBER 4TH & 5TH** *





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

September 1, 2026

Rev. Fr. Michael Downs, Mr. Jonathan Hontzas, Parish Council President & Esteemed Parish Council Members of Holy Trinity-St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church
5725 Pear Orchard Road
Jackson, MS 39211

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you with love and joy in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am writing to inform your parish that after prayerful and careful discussion with Father Michael Downs, I have determined that a sister community in our Metropolis has need of Father's ministerial talents.

I would like to reiterate that I have been very pleased with all the progress your community has made, and especially the support you have shown Fr. Michael over these past few years. I know that this will be disappointing for many, especially those who have built such strong relationships with Father. Understanding that you would wish to demonstrate your love for Father as he prepares to begin this next stage in his pastoral journey, my prayerful expectation is that this letter will allow for adequate preparation to arrange a celebration for Father, before his **last Sunday with your community, Sunday, September 27th, 2026.**

I reassure you that your future is my priority, and that our Metropolis Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, will be in contact with you to ensure that this time of transition for your community will be both peaceful, and spiritually fruitful, as we look forward to assigning your new clergyman. I remain,

In the love and service of our Lord,

+ Metropolitan Sevastianos

+SEVASTIANOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta

YAL

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 9-12, 2026



The Metropolis of Atlanta is thrilled to announce the return of our YAL Conference! Young adults ages 18-35 are invited to join us in **Tampa Bay** for an unforgettable weekend of worship, fellowship, and inspiration.

Come connect with other young adults, deepen your faith, and leave feeling refreshed and renewed as we focus on living lives anchored in Christ.

If you have any questions, please email:
yalatlantaconference1@gmail.com

PRICING

EARLY BIRD	\$330
REGULAR	\$370
GREEK TIME	\$390

SOLD OUT

JOIN US
COLUMBUS DAY
WKND!

REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!

Click the link to
register, donate, &
more!!!

[Click Here](#)



Follow us @yalatlconference

ABOUT HUMS

HUMS is a ministry of the Metropolis of Atlanta founded by Fr. Paul Tsahakis, MD in 2017. We are a group of faith based Orthodox Christian health care providers who uplift and support one another through the 4 pillars upon which the society was founded: Worship, Fellowship and Education, Acts of Service and Philanthropy. HUMS organizes and sponsors an annual retreat at the metropolis' Alexios Retreat Center in Salem, SC each Fall. Our retreats are designed to enlighten, educate and inspire health care providers along each step of their professional journey. HUMS is administered by St. Nektarios Church in Charlotte and is managed by an elected board of directors serving 2 year terms.

HUMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2024-2026



HOLY UNMERCENARIES MEDICAL SOCIETY

A Ministry of the
Metropolis of Atlanta



ANNUAL RETREAT
September 25-27, 2026
Alexios Retreat Center
Salem, SC

Dr. Emmanuel Zervos - HUMS President
(813) 494-8682