

# ***SYNDIAKONIA***

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## ***THE MONTHLY BULLETIN*** ***OF THE***

**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

**Marietta, GA**

**DECEMBER 2011**



### **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ comes from heaven, meet Him.  
Christ is on earth, be exalted. Sing unto the Lord, all the earth,  
and sing praises in gladness, O you people, for He is glorified.

# **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION**

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*3431 Trickum Road  
Marietta, GA 30066*

Tel. 770 924-8080

Fax 770 924-3030

**Website:** [www.holytrans.org](http://www.holytrans.org)

## CHURCH OFFICE

Open Monday-Friday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

E-mail: [holytrans@comcast.net](mailto:holytrans@comcast.net)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Orthros..... 8:45 am    Divine Liturgy..... 10:00 am

## PARISH CLERGY

*Rev. Father Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D.,  
Presiding Protopresbyter*

*Rev. Father George Pallas, Protopresbyter*

*Pastoral Assistant: Tyrone-Stavros Emery*

## PARISH COUNCIL-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....Drew Dudley  
First Vice-President.....Maria Alberts  
Recording Secretary.....George Lopos  
Treasurer.....Manolis Kipreos  
Assistant Treasurer.....Harry Catrakilis

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

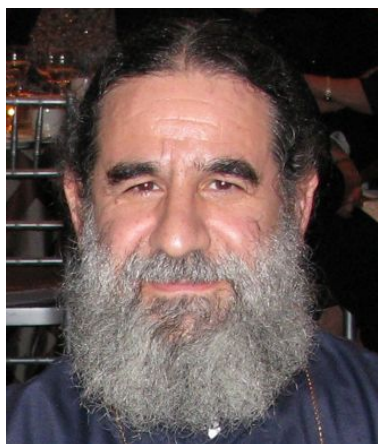
Pete Bilson, Cedric Dunkerly, Tina Isaac, Randy Rogers  
Jim Tidwell, Athan Tsarouhas, Christina Westmoreland

### **Directions to our Parish:**

**FROM I-75 Exit at 267-A. At 1st light, turn right (Sandy Plains Road). Continue for 3-4 miles until you see a CVS Pharmacy on your left. At that light turn left onto Trickum Rd. Proceed Approx 1/2 mile. Church will be on your left. Can't miss it!**

<http://www.holytransfiguration.info/directions/>

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?



I recently asked people around me what is the meaning of Christmas for them and the overwhelming answer I received was that "Christmas is about giving!". And we do a lot of giving during these days; we share time, we share gifts, we share food. It is the best time of the year! It is necessary, however, to not forget that Christmas is also about the greatest gift humanity received, the baby Jesus, who is God made man!

The birth of Christ is a momentous event in the history of the world. It occurred at a time when humanity was at a desperate crossroads. The Roman Empire was at its glory, but the people of the Empire lived in the midst of wars, oppression, poverty, disease, uncertainty. Their gods to whom they turned for comfort were capricious, full of passions and mischief and provided no hope of transformation for the human person. Turning to Zeus, or Poseidon, Mars or Aphrodite, provided no hope of deliverance from

their human predicament because the lives of these gods were in many ways full of the same vices that plagued humanity. The gods were in the image of men, rather than the other way around. The people who honored and sacrificed to these gods were the tyrants of the world who turned around and made the lives of the people miserable. Arrogance, greed and licentiousness were the norm among the elite of the time. Humility was seen as a weakness and kindness was upon by the rich.

On the side of the Jews, centuries had passed since Abraham and Moses and the promise of the prophets for deliverance of the Jewish nation was nowhere in sight. The suffering of the people under the yoke of Roman occupation was growing more and more unbearable. Zealots, one after the other declaring themselves as the promised Messiah, turned to violent resistance against the Romans with the only outcome being more bloodshed and further oppression for the people. Peace was a fleeting prospect. Pain and sorrow was the prevalent feeling among the Jews.

It was at such a time that God chose to come to earth as man. In the humble manger, sharing the poverty of the people, but bringing the peace of the heavens, unknown by men, He was revealed by the angels to simple shepherds. Even nature stood still in awe as it beheld the miracle. The ineffable, incomprehensible Yahweh was lying in a manger as a vulnerable baby. His mother knew what a great mystery this was but could not comprehend why she was chosen to participate in it.

The shepherds, simple and faithful, their minds and hearts pure from the machinations of the intellect see the angel and are filled with fear: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And they rush to find Him and worship Him as a multitude of the heavenly host were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men." (Lk 2:10-14)

He was born humbly, He lived and grew up humbly. He did not attend the great philosophical schools of his time. He lived and worshipped quietly in Nazareth until the time was right. Then, He revealed Himself fully. Since that time there has been no prophet, teacher, miracle worker or moral paradigm that the world has seen who can match Him.

Above all, He brought a message of peace and hope, not only through the divine wisdom he imparted, but also through the personal example of humility, love and sacrifice that He showed. He gave us the potential to transform ourselves from fallen individuals who are immersed in our passions and vices to "sons of God" like Himself, perfected through the power of the mystery of humility revealed to the simple of heart at the manger. Here lies the meaning of Christmas: We must be transformed in the image of Him who lies in the manger.

*Fr. Panayiotis*



**3431 Trickum Road**

**Marietta, GA 30066**

Tel. 770-924-8080, Fax 770-924-3030

Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **December 2011**

December 1, Thursday, Blessing of the water 11:00 am.

December 3, Saturday, Great Vespers, 5:00 pm.

December 4, Sunday, Tenth Sunday of Luke. Feast of St. Barbara the Great Martyr.  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 5, Monday Evening: Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Nicholas.

December 6, Tuesday, Feast of St. Nicholas bishop of Myra of Lycia.  
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 10, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

December 11, Sunday, Eleventh Sunday of Luke. Feast of the Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Feast of St. Modestos (moved from December 16).  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.  
*Blessing of the Animals, 3:00 pm.*

December 12, Monday. Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus.  
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 17, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

December 18, Sunday before Christmas, Feast of all the Righteous people from Adam to Joseph, the betrothed to the Most Holy Theotokos.  
Feast of St. Dionysios Archbishop of Aegina the Wonderworker (moved from December 17)  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 23, Friday, Morning: The Great Hours of Christmas, 9:00 am

**DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY EVENING: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
**CHRISTMAS LITURGY 5:30 pm, Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.**  
A Christmas Reception will follow the Divine Services at the Church Hall.

**DECEMBER 25, SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

The Birth of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh.  
Ἡ κατὰ Σάρκα Γέννησις τοῦ Κυρίου καί Θεοῦ καί Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ  
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 am.

December 31, Saturday, **Great Vespers 5:00 pm** - Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great.



Protomartyrs of America—Saint Juvenaly (+1796) and Saint Peter (+1815)  
September 24th & December 12th (Synaxis of the First Martyrs on American Land)



St. Juvenaly // St. Juvenaly preaches to the Alaskan Natives // St. Peter the Aleut



The Protomartyr (the first martyr) of the Christian Church is the Archdeacon Stephen, who suffered from the Jews who refused the Gospel of Christ. He died with the heavens opened up to him, asking God's forgiveness for his murderers (Acts 7:54-60). From that day to this, the blood of the martyrs has been the seed of Christianity; every Christian land has had its martyrs, and in giving up everything earthly and laying down their very lives for Christ, they have served as the source of the flowering of Christianity for each separate people.

The first martyrs in each country are usually from the heathen; and once Christianity has been established on their blood, a second wave of martyrs has been produced by the heterodox--those, who while calling themselves Christians, have distorted the Gospel of Christ and rise up attempting to destroy the true Church of Christ. Finally, the godless, or those who have rejected Christ altogether, make a final attack against the Church.

Thus it was with Byzantium, which after the pagan persecutions of the first three centuries, had to endure numerous persecutions from the Arians, the Iconoclasts, and others, until the very city of Constantinople was sacked and its holy things defiled by the Latin Crusaders; and finally it was reduced to merciless slavery at the hands of the Turks, the only light in this period coming from its new martyrs who went boldly to endure tortures and death at their hands.

The Orthodox land of Russia, which suffered little from persecutions in earlier periods, has in this century brought forth an abundant multitude of new martyrs from the godless, who have raised up the worst attack ever to afflict the Church of Christ.

America, a land late to receive the light of Orthodoxy, has also had its martyrs, although up to now they have received little veneration or even attention. Hieromartyr Juvenal, at the very dawn of Orthodoxy on this continent (1796), suffered from the pagan natives of Alaska to whom he was preaching the Gospel so zealously; and New Martyr Peter the Aleut, one of the first generation of Orthodox converts in America, suffered cruel torture and death at the hands of Latin missionaries in San Francisco (1815) for refusing to abandon Orthodoxy for the heterodox Christianity of the West.

Saint Herman of Alaska (+1837)

December 13th



-Spruce Island, Alaska-

In an obscure corner of what is now Alaska, on an Aleutian island called Spruce, a monk labored from the late 1700's until his repose in 1837. Braving subzero temperatures, plagues and storms, ill treatment from fellow Russians who resented and misunderstood him, St. Herman lived a life marked by astonishing ascetic labor that gave birth to a deep love and concern for all with whom he came in contact. Strangely, despite the miracles associated with him not only throughout his life but also, after his death, he was all but forgotten after he reposed.

"Thirty years will pass after my death, all those who live now on Spruce Island will be dead, you alone will remain alive, and you will be old and poor; then they will remember me," Father Herman said to his Aleut follower, Ignatius Aliaga. As with other prophecies of the saint, this one too was fulfilled, as in 1867, Bishop Peter of Alaska began a formal investigation into his life. It wasn't until 1894 that his story became known to the outside world, and then his glorification waited another 76 years, until August 9, 1970.

Born into a merchant family in the diocese of Moscow, St. Herman became a monk when he was still a teenager, first entering the Holy Trinity Sergius Hermitage near Petersburg, then later moving on to venerable Valaam Monastery. The saint grew to love Valaam with his entire being; monks there remembered him singing at the cliros in a pleasant tenor voice, while tears streamed from his eyes. For the rest of his life, St. Herman considered Valaam his spiritual home; indeed, he called his hermitage on Spruce Island "New Valaam." In a letter to Abbot Nazarius, he once wrote, "Your paternal kindness to my lowliness will not be erased from my heart, neither the terrible impenetrable Siberian wilds, nor its dark forests, nor will the great rivers wash away the memory; neither will rough seas extinguish these feelings. For in my mind I imagine my beloved Valaam and look always at it across the great ocean."

In the second half of the 1700s, explorers were expanding the boundaries of Russia, and Metropolitan Gabriel asked Valaam's Elder Nazarius to choose ten men to evangelize the Aleutians. Sadly, after five successful years of founding schools and churches, the head of the mission, Archimandrite Ioasaph, and his entire entourage drowned. One after another, others working on the mission left, until St. Herman remained alone.

One time, St. Herman was asked, "How do you, Father Herman, manage to live alone in the forest, don't you get bored?" He answered "No, I'm not alone there! There is God, and God is everywhere! There are holy angels! How can one be bored with them? With whom is it more pleasant and better to converse, angels or people? Angels, of course!"



## Saint Herman of Alaska (+1837)

December 13th

In addition to conversing with the angels throughout his hours of prayer and worship, St. Herman worked tirelessly. He ate and slept very little and when he slept, he used a bed that was a board and rested his head on a pillow of bricks. All his life, he wore the same simple clothing—a sleeveless deerskin shirt, his cassock and monk's hat, a faded, patched mantle, and his shoes. In rain and storms, in the midst of winter snow or severe frost, he never changed his garments or added layers for warmth. His physical feats astonished those who knew him; one disciple saw him walking barefoot on a winter's night, hauling a log that would have been difficult for four men to carry. With his own hands he built his cell and chapel, hauled baskets of kelp from the ocean to fertilize his garden, and in the midst of the labor meticulously kept the monk's rule of services and prayers.

Tending his own garden and diligently observing his monastic rule didn't keep St. Herman from reaching out with great love and concern to his Aleutian neighbors. On feast days and Sundays, he would gather them in the chapel next to his cell, and lead them in holy services; the people loved to listen to his spiritual teaching, and would visit him at all hours of the day and night, staying until early morning to absorb his instruction. The local Russian governor Yanovsky recalled, "To my amazement he spoke so powerfully, so sensibly, and argued so convincingly that it now seems to me that no education or earthly wisdom could withstand his words. We conversed every day until midnight, and even later, about the love of God, about eternity, about the salvation of the soul, and about Christian life. His sweet speech poured forth from his lips in an unceasing stream."

St. Herman especially loved the Aleutian children, for whom he would bake cookies, and he watched over those who were weak and powerless. He started a school for orphans, tended the sick during a plague that decimated the population, and defended the native Aleuts before the Russian fur traders who were exploiting them. The people began to tell each other of miracles they'd seen. Fr. Herman would tell someone of a future event and it would come to pass; animals, even bears, would eat from his hands; he placed an icon of the Mother of God in the sand and a tidal wave receded back into the ocean.

People flocked to the elder for counsel and help. Affectionately, the Aleuts began to call him their "North Star," referring to how his teaching guided and grounded them, or the even more intimate "Apa," which meant grandfather. Couples with troubled marriages would seek his advice. With meekness, he would reproach people for their lack of sobriety or their cruelty. He himself for years refused any titles of elevation within the church, preferring the simplest designation, "monk." His letters reflect his simplicity and tender disposition. "Our sins," he wrote, "do not in the least hinder our Christianity... Sin, to one who loves God, is nothing other than an arrow from the enemy in battle. The vain desires of this world separate us from our homeland; love of them and habit clothe our soul as if in a hideous garment. We who travel on the journey of this life and call on God to help us, ought to divest ourselves of this garment and clothe ourselves in new desires, in a new love of the age to come, and thereby receive knowledge of how near or how far we are from our heavenly homeland."



-St. Herman's grave site on Spruce Island-



-Pilgrimage to Alaska- Spruce Island-

**Protomartyrs of America-Saint Juvenaly (+1796) and Saint Peter (+1815)  
September 24th & December 12th (Synaxis of the First Martyrs on American Land)**

Martyrs are seldom given a formal glorification or canonization, their own blood shed for Christ being already sufficient witness of their sanctity. But in the case of these American protomartyrs, the absence of a formal glorification has been a cause of their neglect. The church service to St. Herman of Alaska, approved by the bishops of the Russian Church Outside of Russia in 1970 for the glorification of the first Saint of America, did make mention of Sts. Juvenal and Peter, but still only a few have begun to show veneration for them. Now the same group of bishops has issued a formal decree on this subject (see p. 11), and perhaps at last a worthy glorification of them will begin, with the realization that their martyric witness, together with the righteous life of St. Herman, is the seed of our own Orthodox Christianity in this land.

One kind of martyrdom is still lacking to American Orthodoxy: persecution from the Godless. But the march of historical events seems to point inexorably to this kind of future for America. Let the sons of Orthodox America take to heart the warning of world events and prepare now to be strong witnesses (the literal meaning of "martyr") of true Christianity. Let us pray the more fervently to the new martyrs of this land, that by their prayers we may be strengthened in this witness.

Holy New Martyrs Juvenal and Peter, Pray to God for Us!

Abbot Herman  
St. Herman of Alaska Monastery  
Platina, California



Martyrdom of St. Juvenaly at Lake Iliamna in Alaska at the hands of natives.



Martyrdom of St. Peter the Aleut by Spanish missionaries in California

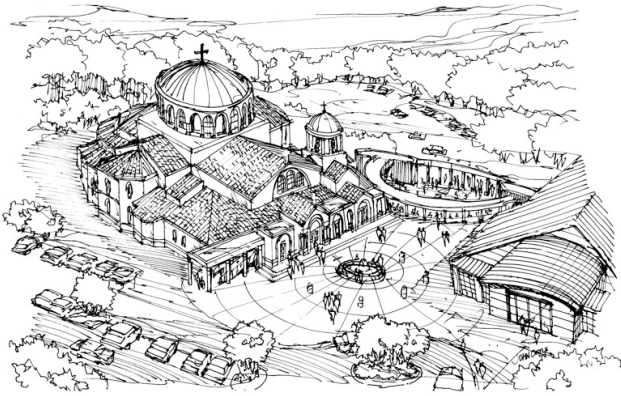


## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - DECEMBER

12/1/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:1-5</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 20:9-18</a>
12/2/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians 3:6-18</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 20:19-26</a>
12/3/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:3-10</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 12:32-40</a>
12/4/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Mark 16:9-20</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 13:10-17</a>
12/5/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Luke 6:17-23</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 11:27-30</a>	
12/6/2011	Matins: <a href="#">John 10:1-9</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 6:17-23</a>	
12/7/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24</a>	
12/8/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 3:1-13</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 21:28-33</a>
12/9/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 8:16-21</a>
12/10/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:8-12</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 13:19-29</a>
12/11/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Luke 24:1-12</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14</a>	
12/12/2011	Matins: <a href="#">John 10:1-9</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19</a> Gospel: <a href="#">John 10:9-16</a>	
12/13/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 5:11-21</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 8:22-26</a>
12/14/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 5:22-25; 6:1-11</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 8:30-34</a>
12/15/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5</a>
12/16/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:1-2; 8-18</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 9:33-41</a>
12/17/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Luke 11:47-54; 12:1</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 14:1-11</a>	
12/18/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Luke 24:13-35</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 1:1-25</a>	
12/19/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 2:20-26</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 9:42-50; 10:1</a>
12/20/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:32-38</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 9:33-41</a>
12/21/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:9-22</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 10:11-16</a>
12/22/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:5-14</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 10:17-27</a>
12/23/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:15-16; 2:1-10</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 10:24-32</a>
12/24/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:8-12</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Luke 13:19-29</a>
12/25/2011	Matins: <a href="#">Matthew 1:1-25</a> Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7</a> Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 2:1-12</a>	
12/26/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 2:13-23</a>
12/27/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 21:33-42</a>
12/28/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 11:22-26</a>
12/29/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:11-18</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 2:13-23</a>
12/30/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:18-25</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Mark 12:1-12</a>
12/31/2011	Epistle: <a href="#">St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5</a>	Gospel: <a href="#">Matthew 3:1-6</a>

# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## *Come and See*

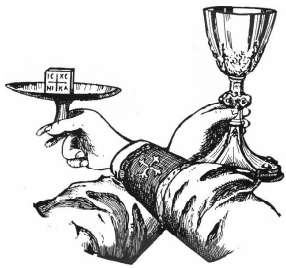


*Enabling our hearts to be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches through the understanding of the mystery of God. (Col. 2:2)*

**Please fill out your Stewardship Form today and bring your offering to the Lord.**

**If you have not done so yet, please send in your  
2011 Stewardship Form**

*"Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." (Proverbs 3:9)*



**"YOUR OWN GIFTS,  
OF YOUR OWN,  
WE OFFER UNTO YOU."**

### **WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?**

Stewardship is the act of returning to God what is His. We offer ourselves and all creation to the Lord at every Divine Liturgy with the words, *"Your own gifts, of Your own, we offer to You."* We acknowledge that everything we offer to God is a gift from Him. We take what God has given to us and we return it to Him as an act of our thanksgiving and praise.

As stewards of God's gifts, we return to Him a portion of our time, talents and treasures so that Christ's work on earth might be accomplished through His Church.

Please join the Stewardship program so that you may receive the joy which He gives to those who love Him!

*"We praise you, we bless you,  
we thank you, O Lord and we  
pray to you O our God."*

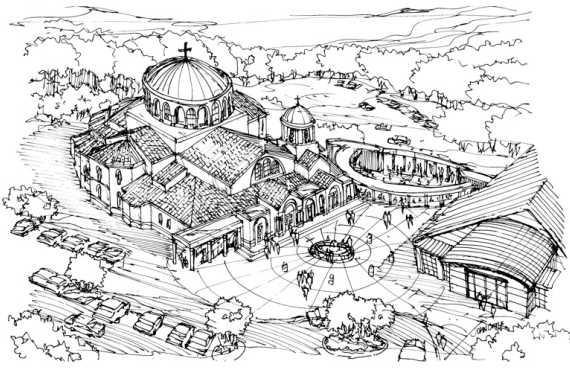
### **The Necessity of Stewardship**

Our Parish depends on the Stewardship of its members. Our Parish is funded by us.

Let us offer to our Parish from the Gifts of God to us. Let us offer in proportion of His Gifts to us. Let us bring our offering with a joyful heart.

You will be Blessed greatly if you support the work of our Parish and the work of His Church.

Have you submitted your Stewardship Form? If not, please do so today.



*Come and See*

## STEWARDSHIP FOR 2011

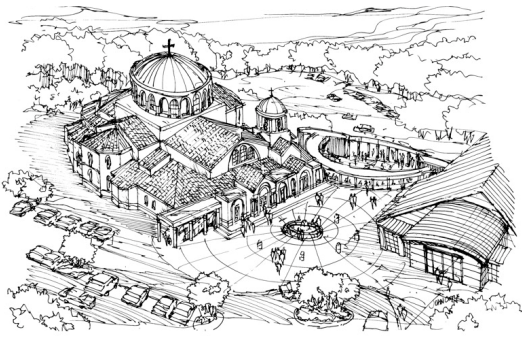
THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO  
HAVE SUBMITTED STEWARDSHIP FORMS FOR  
2011!

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adamson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Alberts  
Ms. Pamela Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. George Andros  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ardagna  
Mr. & Mrs. John Asimakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Azimzadeh  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas  
Miss Dorian Bafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bakatsas  
Mr. & Mrs. Elia Ballas  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barke  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Basto  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bates  
Mr. Mrs. Rick Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. George Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Blasetti  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bliss  
Mr. & Mrs. George Bogdan  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Botni  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourgeois  
Mr. & Mrs. John Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers  
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Brilakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Brooks  
Mr. Lee Brooks  
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Dr. & Mrs. Dan Brown  
Mr. Travis Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Buchan  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bundros  
Mr. & Mrs. John Burgeson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burke  
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bylos  
Mr. & Mrs. George Caras  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Carlos  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Cassimus  
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Miss. Irene Ceisel  
Mrs. Mary Anne Chanos  
Mr. & Mrs. Radu Chereches  
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Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copses  
Mr. Arthur Costakis

Mrs. Cathy Costarides  
Mr. & Mrs. George Coundouriotis  
Ms. Margaret Csonka  
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*Come and See*

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**310 Stewards - \$307,224.78**

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**141 Stewards - \$147,546.00**





## ICONOGRAPHY FUND FOR 2011

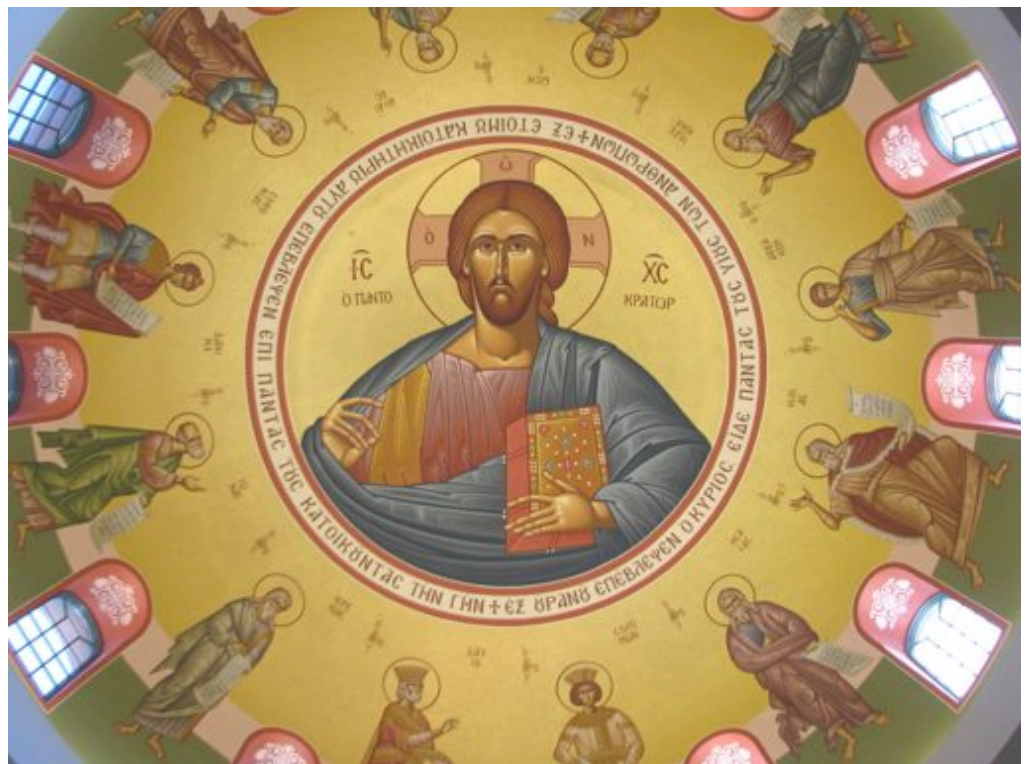
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**87 Stewards - \$34,442.00**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Christmas is just around the corner!



The children of the Hellenic Studies Program will be spreading some holiday cheer again this year, by singing traditional Greek and American Christmas carols (Κάλαντα) for our community. We will be hitting the road to visit local business and families throughout Cobb County, and beyond. This fundraiser was a huge success last year and we gladly return again this year on:

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
and

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

If you are interested in receiving a visit from our talented young children, please contact Eleni Clement at 404-783-5103 or [liebel7@yahoo.com](mailto:liebel7@yahoo.com)



In the New Year, we will be rehearsing on Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary to prepare our regular Sunday worship music as well as work on our Holy Week service material. Start date to follow.

Please join us in singing a "Joyful Noise Unto the Lord". For further info, please contact the church office or Demetri Miltiades at [dmiltiades@mslogistics.us](mailto:dmiltiades@mslogistics.us)



### ***"As Iron Sharpens Iron, One Man Sharpens Another" (Proverbs 27:17)***

#### **Upcoming Events--BLOCK YOUR CALENDAR!**

December 11	Christmas Party, Kollias Home
December 13	Second Tuesday Meeting
January 8	AHEPA Soup Sunday
January 10	Second Tuesday Meeting w/ Guest Speaker from Kennestone Hospital "Men's Health Issues"
February 7	First Tuesday Meeting (changed due to Valentine's Day)
February 10-12	AHEPA Mid-Winter Conference, Greenville, SC

CABIN FEVER. Eleven Brothers enjoyed an excellent weekend in Blairsville, GA in early November. The leaves were in glorious color, good food was abundant, the cabin was very comfortable...but most importantly...the fellowship was superb. In addition, five Brothers trekked to Knoxville, TN during Cabin Fever weekend to visit with AHEPAN Athan Tsarouhas at the UT Medical Center.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST. A very grateful thank you to those who worked to make our two pancake breakfasts so successful...and especially to those who supported the event. It takes a lot of hungry parishioners to eat 480 pancakes and 20 pounds of bacon and sausage in one sitting! Thank you again...we will do it again in January.

Questions about AHEPA? Interested in being a member of this great organization? Please contact any Board Member.

Your Board: Ron Sprouse, Harry Kipreos, Zack Kollias, Phillip Vodas  
Vice Presidents: Keath Paxten, Jim Tidwell, Greg Muse, Andy Johansen

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Hellenic Dance Schedule - January



Please note that our younger dancer groups' practice schedule will begin on Tuesday, January 17th as follows:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 4:15 pm | Asteria Dance Practice-PLC (2nd and 3rd Grades)<br><i>Teacher: Friday Paulson</i>                     |
| 4:30 pm | Palamakia Dance Practice-PLC (K and 1st Grade)<br><i>Teacher: Elaine Bilson</i>                       |
|         | Pitsirikia Dance Practice-PLC (Pre-K, age 3 and up)<br><i>Teacher: Paulina Vastakis</i>               |
| 7:15 pm | Petaloudes Dance Practice-PLC (4th and 5th Grades)<br><i>Teachers: Dorian Bafas and Tina Johansen</i> |

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## HOPE & JOY

HOPE and JOY hosted a very successful Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 6th! Many thanks to everyone who graciously participated by bringing various items to make our table so plentiful. We also greatly appreciate those helping hands who worked set-up and clean-up.

On Sunday, November 13th, HOPE and JOY families met for a pizza and salad lunch which was followed by our second Speaker event. Paula Marchman led a discussion about discipline and the Orthodox family which was both informative and uplifting. Paula was so well received that we hope to book her as our final Speaker in 2012.

Mark your calendars HOPE and JOY families as our **Christmas event** will be held on **Sat., December 3rd, in the PLC from 3-5 pm**. We have various activities for the kids including crafts, games, and, of course, pictures with Santa! Kids will be provided with snacks and watch a Christmas themed movie. Following the party, Father will have Vespers for all those who can attend. The only thing you have to remember is to bring an unwrapped toy for the St. John the Wonderworker Toy drive. Hope to see everyone there!!!

In His Service,

Elaine Bilson - 404-825-9454, [eleni\\_cosma@yahoo.com](mailto:eleni_cosma@yahoo.com)  
Katerina Quintero - 973-668-0981, [kquintero@yahoo.com](mailto:kquintero@yahoo.com)



## GOYA- CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER

**Tue., 12/06/2011**  
**Saint Nicholas**  
**the**  
**Wonderworker,**  
**Archbishop of**  
**Myra**



“The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.”

-Apolytikion of St. Nicholas

**Sat.,**  
**12/17/2011**  
**Ananias,**  
**Azarias, and**  
**Misail, the**  
**Three Holy**  
**Youths**



“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and to be praised and exalted above all forever. And blessed is Thy glorious and holy name, which is highly praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy holy glory, and to be praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art Thou that beholdest the depths, that sittest upon the cherubim, Thou that art praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art Thou on the glorious throne of Thy kingdom, Thou that art praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art Thou in the firmament of the heaven, Thou that art praised and exalted above all forever.”

-The Seventh Ode- A Prayer of the Holy Three Children (Daniel 3:26-56)

**Tue.,**  
**12/20/2011**  
**Saint**  
**Ignatius, the**  
**God-bearer,**  
**Bishop of**  
**Antioch**



“Be deaf, then, when anyone speaks to you apart from Jesus Christ, who was of the family of David, who was of Mary, who was truly born, ate and drank, was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate, was truly crucified and died, while heavenly, earthly, and subterranean beings looked on. He was also truly raised from the dead, when His Father raised Him up, as in similar fashion His Father will raise up in Christ Jesus us who believe in Him- without Whom we have no true life.”

-St. Ignatius' Epistle to the Trallians

**Sun.,**  
**12/25/2011**  
**Nativity of our**  
**Lord and**  
**Savior, Jesus**  
**Christ**

**Merry Christmas!**



“Heaven called the Magi by a star, and thus it brought the first-fruits of the Gentiles to You, the infant lying in the manger. And they were amazed, not by scepters and thrones, but by the utter poverty. For what is more shabby than a cave? And what is more humbler than swaddling clothes? But it was through these that the riches of your divinity shone forth. Lord, glory to You!

-Hypakoe, Orthros of Christmas



## GOYA QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES



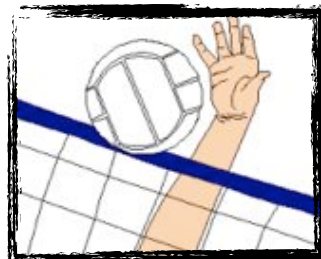
WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS  
COLLEGE STUDENTS



## WINTER YOUTH RALLY

DECEMBER 27-30, 2011

PRACTICE HARD. PLAY HARD. HAVE FUN.



MA-RI-ETTA!

### Saint John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church, Atlanta, GA Christmas Basket Program

The Christmas Basket Program is for needy families in the inner city of Atlanta in which we collect food boxes and toys for the children which the families pick up generally on the Saturday before Christmas every year. Our program begins around the first of November as we collect food and toys.

Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church supports this Christmas Basket Program every year- toys for older ages are especially needed. Please bring your toys to the Church Office for collection. GOYAN's will help out again this year at St. John the Wonderworker with wrapping gifts, or whatever other needs they might have- Saturday, December 17th. Please RSVP with Ty Emery- [tyemery.htgocmarietta@gmail.com](mailto:tyemery.htgocmarietta@gmail.com) -if your GOYAN would like to volunteer this year.



# GOYA QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

## ALTAR SERVERS WORKSHOP



Altar Servers Workshop  
Sat., December 10th  
1:00pm- 4:00pm

## WYR 2011- BIBLE BOWL TEAMS NOW GETTING READY



**THE BOOK OF EXODUS  
&**

**THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO SAINT  
MARK**



## St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2012

### Topics, Tips, and Resources

#### Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. Many times in the New Testament, we see Jesus caring about the blind, the paralyzed, and others with physical disabilities (for example, Matthew 9:2 and 9:27–29). Following Christ's footsteps, discuss the Christian attitude toward disabled people.
2. Discuss the lives of Sts. Cyril and Methodios and their missionary work. How can we follow their example by responding to Christ's commandment to "go forth" (Matthew 28:19)?
3. In the Old Testament, we see many stories involving disagreements among siblings. What can families learn from these stories today?
4. Discuss one of the Great Feasts of the Church. How has this feast become important to you and your family?

Pascha (the Feast of Feasts)

The Twelve Great Feasts:

- Nativity of the Theotokos
- Annunciation of the Theotokos
- Elevation of the Holy Cross
- Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem
- Presentation of the Theotokos
- Ascension of the Lord
- Nativity of the Lord
- Pentecost
- Theophany
- Transfiguration of the Lord
- Presentation of the Lord
- Dormition of the Theotokos

5. In our day, when people's lives have become more and more scheduled with events, how might we reclaim our understanding of Sunday (the Sabbath) as a day of rest and honoring the Lord?

#### Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. In Leviticus 19:33, we read, "And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him." Immigration has always been a source of growth and change in American society. What should be the attitude of an Orthodox Christian toward immigration and immigrants?
2. Discuss the prayers and Biblical references of the Sacrament of Holy Unction in the Orthodox Church (James 5:14–15). What does the sacrament tell us about faith, healing, and our relationship with God?
3. In Matthew 18:21–22, Jesus tells Peter that one should forgive one's brother not just seven times but "seventy times seven." Discuss how and why we should forgive wrongdoers, even when something within us cries out for justice—especially if we're the injured party.
4. Discuss the famous speech of St. Paul in Athens (Acts of the Apostles 17:22–31). Why is the speech meaningful, and what is its relevance for our today?
5. Stress and anxiety seem to be inevitable nowadays, in our every relationship and activity. How are we as Christians supposed to act in times of worry and uncertainty?

You can also find the Topics, the Topic Tips, and Bibliography at [www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/)

**Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta  
will host District level Oratorical Festival this year!**



# Hellenic Dance Ministry

## *Olive Oil Fundraiser*



***Just in time for the holidays!***

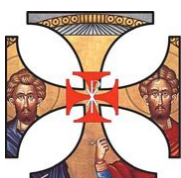
The Hellenic Dance Ministry will be selling  
*Gourmet Olive Oils and Vinegars*  
...which make fantastic holiday gifts for friends and family!

Please see our table in the PLC!  
We'll be set up to sell every Sunday in December,  
until supplies run out!

Try one of these delicious flavors...

Gourmet California Olive Oils:  
*Basil-flavored, Rosemary-flavored, and Orange-flavored*  
Gourmet Vinegars:  
*Pomegranate Balsamic and Fig Balsamic*





## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Don't miss the Christmas Party on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Kathy Bylos!

The next Book Club will be **December 1<sup>st</sup>** at the home of Evelyn Bilson. The book is *Expecting Adam* by Martha Beck. See you at 6:30pm!



**Sweets 'n  
Treats**

**SWEETS 'n TREATS**...little bags of KOULOURAKIA and pans of SPANAKOPITA!!! You will be a welcomed guest or a perfect hostess when you offer these delicious treats. Sale will continue through the holidays every Sunday while items are available. BAKLAVA will be added for sale on December 11<sup>th</sup>. If you want to pre-order several gift items, please contact Marty Driscoll by December 1<sup>st</sup> at [martydriscoll@bellsouth.net](mailto:martydriscoll@bellsouth.net) or (770) 977 – 0467.

Thanks you for supporting Philoptochos and may you have a blessed Christmas with family and friends.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the **Soup Kitchen** served 91 homeless with chicken, rice, salad and fruit. Those that helped serve, prepared food and gave a donation were: **Christos Costarides, Maro Neocleous, Lisa Moraitakis, Kally Niarchos, Nicholas Steffas, Xanthippe Marsico, Dorothy Botni, Michelle Broussard-Hanes, Linda Lopos, Dawn Orr, Basile Zafiroulis and Athena Burke**. The next Soup Kitchen is **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

The next Board Meeting will be **January 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the OCR.

*Saturday, December 10th*  
*Appetizers & Cocktails 5 P.M.*  
*Dinner 6 P.M.*



*\*Prime Timers*  
*Christmas Dinner / Dance*



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*Roswell, GA 30076*

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*Order off Menu*

*Salads*

*Small Plates*

*Big Plates*



# December 2011

- US Holidays

Sacraments

Social Events/Rentals

Divine Services

Ministry Meetings
- Divine Services
- Ministry Meetings
- Sacraments
- Social Events/Rentals

Facilities

Fr. George Schedule

Fr. Panayiotis Schedule

Sacraments

Social Events/Rentals

November 2011							December 2011							January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	3	4	5									
6	7	8	9	10	11	12						1	2	3						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19						4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26						11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	28	29	30									18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
												25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>13th Sunday of Luke</b> 8:30 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:30 AM A Memorial Service is given by Ellen pos/Solomon Families - 1:30 PM Phoenix/Elleftheria	27 8:30 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 12:05 PM PC Election 12:00 PM Sweets 'N' Treats 1:00 PM Adult Men's Bas- 1:30 PM Phoenix/Elleftheria 2:30 PM Girls' Basketball	28 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle 7:00 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy	30 Feast of St. A...f our Chapel 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	1 11:00 AM Blessing of the Water 6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club 7:00 PM Bible Study	2 10:30 AM Prime Timers' Board Meeting	3 9:00 AM Hellenic Studies 9:00 AM Candidates Seminar 3:00 PM HOPE/JOY Event 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<b>10th Sunday ...reat Martyr.</b> 8:30 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 12:05 PM Sweets 'N' Treats 1:00 PM Adult Men's Bas- 1:30 PM Phoenix/Elleftheria 2:30 PM Girls' Basketball	4 6:00 PM Philoptochos Christmas Party 6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas	5 Feast of St. ... Myra of Lycia 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 7:00 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy	6 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	7 7:00 PM Bible Study	8 7:00 PM Bible Study	9 9:00 AM Hellenic Studies 10:00 AM New Testament Greek Class 1:00 PM Altar Boy Workshop 5:00 PM Prime Timers' Christmas Dinner 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<b>11th Sunday ...cember 17).</b> 8:30 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 12:00 PM PC Election 12:05 PM Sweets 'N' Treats 1:00 PM Adult Men's Bas- 1:30 PM Phoenix/Elleftheria	11 Feast of St. S...f Trimythus. 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting	12 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 7:00 PM Education, Culture and Youth Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy 7:00 PM AHEPA Meeting	13 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	14 7:00 PM Bible Study	15 7:00 PM Bible Study	16 9:00 AM Hellenic Studies 10:00 AM New Testament Greek Class 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<b>Sunday before...y Theotokos.</b> 8:30 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 11:50 AM The Artoklasia is 12:05 PM Sweets 'N' Treats 1:00 PM Adult Men's Bas- 1:30 PM Phoenix/Elleftheria	18 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies Christmas Caroling 7:00 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy	19 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies Christmas Caroling 7:00 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy	20 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	21 11:30 AM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Bible Study	22 9:00 AM The Great Hours of Christmas	23 5:30 PM The Nativity of Christ Christmas Liturgy; Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. 7:30 PM Christmas Reception
<b>Christmas</b> Christmas D.... Jesus Christ 8:45 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	25 Christmas (observed)	26 WYR	27 WYR	28 5:00 PM Tingas Rehearsal	29 4:00 PM Heather Tingas Wedding 6:30 PM Tingas Wedding Reception	30 3:00 PM Frank Baptism 4:00 PM Frank Wedding 5:00 PM Great Vespers, Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great.



# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Web Page: [www.holytransfiguration.info/](http://www.holytransfiguration.info/)

Web Page: [www.mariettagreekfestival.org](http://www.mariettagreekfestival.org)

Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter

Tyrone-Stavros Emery, Pastoral Assistant

Anne Willcocks, Parish Secretary

DATE	PARISH COUNCIL DUTY	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	PROSFORO
Dec. 4, 2011	D. Dudley/C. Dunkerly	Team II	D. Botni/N. Gess	R. Peppas/N. Porter
Dec. 11, 2011	T. Isaac/R. Rogers	Team I	A. & T. Johansen	S. Tidwell/M. Tingas
Dec. 18, 2011	M. Alberts/H. Catrakilis	Team II	D. Bafas/K. Niarchos	I. Steffas/F. Tucker
Dec. 25, 2011	P. Bilson/J. Tidwell	Team I	TBA	N. Barke/Tina Vamvakias

## Altar Boy Teams

**Team 1:** Chris Alberts, Nicholas Azimzadeh, Christopher Bilson, Broderick Brooks, Anthony Bundros, Yianni Costarides, Chris Danos, Leo Frangis, Nicholas & Alex Gekas, Alexander Georgacopoulos, Yanni Gormanos, Paul Jacobs, Morgan Lilly, Michael Marianos, Luke & Zach Melissas, Michael Papadimitriou, Evan Papadopoulos, Stratton Paulson, Matthew Shanahan, Alex Skarpelis, Yianni Turner

**Team 2:** Gabriel Beneda, Theo Bliss, Alex & Nick Brewer, Chris, Daniel, & Michael Bridgers, Christos Costarides, Nick Danos, Jacob & Stephen Harrah, Gabriel & Jeremy Mavromatides, Eli & Angelo Nichols, Evans Nichols, Dean Papastrat, Lucas Porter, Michael Sarris, Mike Steffas, Luke & Nicholas Tassopoulos, Nicholas Zakreski