# SYNDIAKONIA

### THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

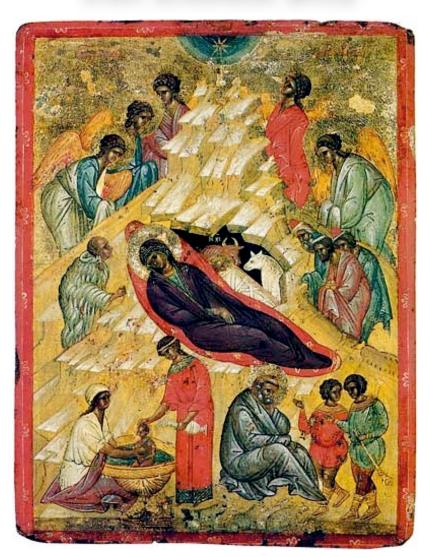
OF THE

### HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Marietta, GA

### DECEMBER 2012



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

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Open Monday-Friday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm E-mail: holytrans@comcast.net

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

Orthros...... 8:30 am Divine Liturgy..... 10:00 am

### **PARISH CLERGY**

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

Rev. Father George Pallas, Protopresbyter

Pastoral Assistant: Paul Lundberg

### PARISH COUNCIL-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.......Maria Alberts
First Vice-President.....Pete Bilson
Recording Secretary....Randy Rogers
Treasurer....Steve Steffas
Assistant Treasurer....Christopher Hansard

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Cathy Costarides, Ellen Linebaugh, George Lopos, Alex Miltiades, John Moustoukas, Jim Tidwell, Athan Tsarouhas

### **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/

### Fr. Panapiotis' Message





In the "Epistle to Diognetus" (written at the beginning of the third century by an unknown Christian author), we learn of something special with regard to the Christians: The author explains, "We (Christians) are in this world, but we are not of this world...We inhabit specific lands, but we are citizens of another country--the Kingdom of God". We are merely "sojourners" ( $\pi$ άροικοι) in this world--just passing through.

A lot of historical evidence shows that Christians of the early centuries saw themselves as "sojourners" (πάροικοι). They called their communities "παροικίες" or "parishes" (a term we still use today) homes away from home. They lived as citizens of the countries they dwelled in, but yearned for the Kingdom of God, their ultimate and true homeland. This understanding provided tremendous freedom and incentive for the early Christians to do what God called them to do and fulfill the primary mission of the Church. They were willing to share all of their goods with those around them so that no one would be hungry or

naked. They were willing to risk their lives to help those stricken by diseases (especially during the great plagues--here is where the Holy Unmercenaries appear, the Christian healers who accepted no money for their services). Early Christians were willing to stand up for the teachings of Christ (as they were handed down to them) and even give their lives as martyrs (witnesses) of the love they had for God and for the faith they had inherited.

It is imperative for us (contemporary Christians) that we return to that model of Christian living and understanding if we want to have an effect on modern society. No other model can reconcile itself with this early Christian one. If we were to get tangled up in modern politics in order to promote our faith, we would get lost in the whirlwinds of the contemporary political system, where morality and Christian values have either been compromised or utterly exploited for political gain. If we were even to start our own political party, we would risk becoming tangled up in the political maneuverings which corrupt even the most moral of characters. The only choice we have is to trust in God's providence for us as we shape ourselves and our children and turn our focus to the Kingdom of Heaven rather than the kingdoms of the earth, doing those things that will lead us there.

If the Orthodox Church in America is to succeed in its primary mission to bring the Gospel of Salvation and Sanctification to the world--we must return to the prime theological teachings of the divinity of Christ and the salvation offered through Him. We need to establish our own schools where we will cultivate in our children the Orthodox Christian principles of life as the early Christians did. We cannot shape souls effectively unless we undertake a serious effort of immersion of our people from a young age in the Faith and Orthodox way of life. A serious Christian education is the way to do that. An Orthodox Christian education in particular is the only way to counter the intellectual onslaught of the secular society upon the minds of our people.

For years, as immigrants, we sought to establish ourselves as a respectable minority in America. We have succeeded and surpassed most other minorities. We now stand at a crossroads: we either continue to seek further political and societal acceptance through the use of the wealth God has given us, or we turn our focus to the greatest treasure we have, the FAITH, and find ways to effectively share it with those around us.

We can either use our wealth to further impress the secular world with our successes so that we can continue to gain their respect and recognition, or we can seek ways to present the treasure of ancient Christianity that has been handed down to us by creating opportunities for theological education for those around us, especially those who are looking for authentic Christian teaching. Do we become

anchored citizens of this world through our secular successes, or do we cultivate our citizenship in heaven through a witness of authentic Christian life?

This is a critical moment in the life of our Parish. We have established ourselves by the grace of God as a respectable "faith group" in this corner of the earth. People are now ready to listen to us if we do have a serious message to offer. But we need to first understand what this message really is and make it an integral part of our own lives. As a group of people who claim to be followers of Christ, we need to begin living according to His teaching. People around us have to recognize us from our love for each other and our good works. We need to make a mark in the local community as both philanthropists as well as lovers of God.

We also need to dig into our treasure chest of theological learning and bring out what is beautiful for the "seekers of authentic Christianity". There are many people in America today who are looking for what we have. There are thousands of people wandering around looking for authentic Christian theology and meaningful worship. They are looking for us, but we are hiding behind beautiful, fancy buildings, ethnic and cultural barriers. It is time to open the doors and receive these "Seekers of Truth". This is the MISSION of the parish, given to us by God; we need to become J.Fr. Pameyistis

witnesses of the amazing Faith we have inherited through both a practical witness as well as a theological one.

### **Epistle to Diognetus**, Translation by Lightfoot & Harmer

### CHAPTER 5

- 5:1 For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of mankind either in locality or in speech or in customs.
- 5:2 For they dwell not somewhere in cities of their own, neither do they use some different language, nor practice an extraordinary kind of life.
- 5:3 Nor again do they possess any invention discovered by any intelligence or study of ingenious men, nor are they masters of any human dogma as some are.
- 5:4 But while they dwell in cities of Greeks and barbarians as the lot of each is cast, and follow the native customs in dress and food and the other arrangements of life, yet the constitution of their own citizenship, which they set forth, is marvelous, and confessedly contradicts expectation.
- 5:5 They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign.
- 5:6 They marry like all other men and they beget children; but they do not cast away their offspring.
- 5:7 They have their meals in common, but not their wives.
- 5:8 They find themselves in the flesh, and yet they live not after the flesh.
- 5:9 Their existence is on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven.
- 5:10 They obey the established laws, and they surpass the laws in their own lives.
- 5:11 They love all men, and they are persecuted by all.
- 5:12 They are ignored, and yet they are condemned. They are put to death, and yet they are endued with life.
- 5:13 They are in beggary, and yet they make many rich. They are in want of all things, and yet they abound in all things.
- 5:14 They are dishonoured, and yet they are glorified in their dishonour. They are evil spoken of, and yet they are vindicated.
- 5:15 They are reviled, and they bless; they are insulted, and they respect.
- 5:16 Doing good they are punished as evil-doers; being punished they rejoice, as if they were thereby quickened by life.
- 5:17 War is waged against them as aliens by the Jews, and persecution is carried on against them by the Greeks, and yet those that hate them cannot tell the reason of their hostility.

### **CHAPTER 6**

6:1 In a word, what the soul is in a body, this the Christians are in the world.

http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/diognetus-lightfoot.html



### 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 2012

- December 1, Saturday, Blessing of the Water 8:45 am followed by Parish Council Workshop Saturday Evening: Great Vespers 5:00 pm
- December 2, Sunday, 14th Sunday of Luke. St. Barbara the Great Martyr (transfer from Dec 4) Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.
- December 5, Wednesday Evening: Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Nicholas.
- December 6, Thursday, Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra of Lycia. Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.
- December 8, Saturday, NO Vespers Service today.
- December 9, Sunday, Tenth Sunday of Luke. Conception of Theotokos by St. Anna. Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.
- December 11, Tuesday Evening: Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Spyridon.
- December 12, Wednesday. Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus. Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.
- December 15, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm
- December 16, Sunday. Feast of the Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Feast of St. Modestos. Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. *Blessing of the Animals, 3:00 pm.*
- December 22, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm
- December 23, 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 24, MONDAY. GREAT HOURS OF CHRISTMAS, 9:30 am MONDAY EVENING: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS LITURGY 5:30 pm, Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. A Christmas Reception will follow the Divine Services at the Church Hall.
- December 25, Tuesday, Christmas Day, The Nativity of Christ The Birth of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh. Ἡ κατά Σάρκα Γέννησις τοῦ Κυρίου καί Θεοῦ καί Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 10:00 am.
- December 31, Monday, Great Vespers 6:00 pm Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great.

### **CHRISTMAS**

### THE GREATEST GIFT FOR ALL

Paul Craig Roberts

Christmas is a time of traditions. If you have found time in the rush before Christmas to decorate a tree, you are sharing in a relatively new tradition. Although the Christmas tree has ancient roots, at the beginning of the 20th century only 1 in 5 American families put up a tree. It was 1920 before the Christmas tree became the hallmark of the season. Calvin Coolidge was the first president to light a national Christmas tree on the White House lawn.

Gifts are another shared custom. This tradition comes from the wise men or three kings who brought gifts to baby Jesus. When I was a child, gifts were more modest than they are now, but even then people were complaining about the commercialization of Christmas. We have grown accustomed to the commercialization. Christmas sales are the backbone of many businesses. Gift giving causes us to remember others and to take time from our harried lives to give them thought.

The decorations and gifts of Christmas are one of our connections to a Christian culture that has

held Western civilization together for 2,000 years.

In our culture the individual counts. This permits an individual person to put his or her foot down, to

take a stand on principle, to become a reformer and to take on injustice.

This empowerment of the individual is unique to Western civilization. It has made the individual a citizen equal in rights to all other citizens, protected from tyrannical government by the rule of law and free speech. These achievements are the products of centuries of struggle, but they all flow from the teaching that God so values the individual's soul that he sent his son to die so we might live. By so elevating the individual, Christianity gave him a voice.

Formerly only those with power had a voice. But in Western civilization people with integrity have a voice. So do people with a sense of justice, of honor, of duty, of fair play. Reformers can reform, investors can invest, and entrepreneurs can create commercial enterprises, new products

and new occupations.

The result was a land of opportunity. The United States attracted immigrants who shared our values and reflected them in their own lives. Our culture was absorbed by a diverse people who became one.

In recent decades, we have begun losing sight of the historic achievement that empowered the individual. The religious, legal and political roots of this great achievement are no longer reverently taught in high schools, colleges and universities. The voices that reach us through the millennia and connect us to our culture are being silenced by "political correctness." Prayer has been driven from schools and religious symbols from public life. Georgetown University, a Jesuit institution, is too fearful of offending diversity to display the crucifix.

There is plenty of room for cultural diversity in the world, but not within a single country. A Tower of Babel has no culture. A person cannot be a Christian one day, a pagan the next and a Muslim the day after. A hodgepodge of cultural and religious values provides no basis for law — except the

raw power of the pre-Christian past.

All Americans have a huge stake in Christianity. Whether or not we are individually believers in Christ, we are beneficiaries of the moral doctrine that has curbed power and protected the weak. Power is the horse ridden by evil. In the 20th century, the horse was ridden hard. One hundred million people were exterminated by National Socialists in Germany and by Soviet and Chinese communists simply because they were members of a race or class that had been demonized by intellectuals and political authority.

Power that is secularized and cut free of civilizing traditions is not limited by moral and religious scruples. V.I. Lenin made this clear when he defined the meaning of his dictatorship as "unlimited

power, resting directly on force, not limited by anything."

Christianity's emphasis on the worth of the individual makes such power as Lenin claimed unthinkable. Be we religious or be we not, our celebration of Christ's birthday celebrates a religion that made us masters of our souls and of our political life on Earth. Such a religion as this is worth holding on to even by atheists.

Paul Craig Roberts is a columnist for The Washington Times and is nationally syndicated. http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20011225-60524294.htm

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS - DECEMBER

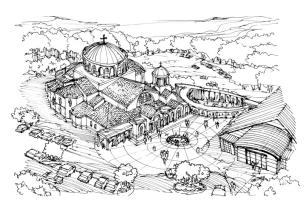
12/1/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:8-12	Gospel: <u>Luke 12:32-40</u>
12/2/2012	Matins: Luke 24:1-12 Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Eph Gospel: Luke 18:35-43	nesians 5:8-19
12/3/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 5:1-10	Gospel: <u>Luke 20:27-44</u>
12/4/2012	Matins: Matthew 25:1-13   Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Gal Gospel: Mark 5:24-34	atians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
12/5/2012	Matins: <u>Luke 6:17-23</u> Epistle: <u>St. Paul's Letter to the Gal</u> Gospel: <u>Matthew 11:27-30</u>	atians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
12/6/2012	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: Luke 6:17-23  Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Help	prews 13:17-21
12/7/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:1-2; 8-18	Gospel: <u>Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8</u>
12/8/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Gospel: <u>Luke 13:19-29</u>
12/9/2012	Matins: <u>Luke 24:13-35</u> Epistle: <u>St. Paul's Letter to the Gal</u> Gospel: <u>Luke 13:10-17</u>	atians 4:22-27
12/10/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 2:20-26	Gospel: <u>Mark 8:11-21</u>
12/11/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4	Gospel: Mark 8:22-26
12/12/2012	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: John 10:9-16  Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Eph	nesians 5:8-19
12/13/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:5-14	Gospel: <u>Mark 9:10-15</u>
12/14/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:15-16; 2:1-10	Gospel: <u>Mark 9:33-41</u>
12/15/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18	Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5
12/16/2012	Matins: <u>Luke 24:36-53</u> Epistle: <u>St. Paul's Letter to the Cole</u> Gospel: <u>Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14</u>	ossians 3:4-11
12/17/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2	Gospel: <u>Luke 11:47-54; 12:1</u>
12/18/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:1-13	Gospel: <u>Mark 10:2-12</u>
12/19/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8	Gospel: <u>Mark 10:11-16</u>
12/20/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:32-38	Gospel: <u>Mark 9:33-41</u>
12/21/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:18-25	Gospel: Mark 10:24-32
12/22/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:8-12	Gospel: <u>Luke 13:19-29</u>
12/23/2012	Matins: <u>John 20:1-10</u> Epistle: <u>St. Paul's Letter to the Heb</u> Gospel: <u>Matthew 1:1-25</u>	prews 11:9-10; 32-40
12/24/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-12	Gospel: <u>Luke 2:1-20</u>
12/25/2012	Matins: Matthew 1:18-25 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Gal	atians 4:4-7
12/26/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:11-18	Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
12/27/2012	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60	Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42
12/28/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:8-16	Gospel: <u>Mark 12:1-12</u>
12/29/2012	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 6:11-16	Gospel: Matthew 12:15-21
12/30/2012	Matins: <u>John 20:11-18</u> Epistle: <u>St. Paul's Letter to the Gal</u> Gospel: <u>Matthew 2:13-23</u>	atians 1:11-19
l <i>.</i>		

Gospel: Mark 12:13-17

12/31/2012 Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:17-31

### HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

### Love One Another



"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. .... You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. .... I choose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, .... These things I command you that you may love one another.

John 15:12-17

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

# If you have not done so yet, please send in your 2013 Membership/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 2012

### THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED FORMS FOR 2012!

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adamson Mr. Michael Adare Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Alberts Mr. & Mrs. George Andros Mr. & Mrs. John Asimakos Mr. & Mrs. Gianis Asprakis Mr. & Mrs. Amir Azarvan Mr. & Mrs. Ben Azimzadeh Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas Miss Dorian Bafas Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bakatsas Mr. & Mrs. Brian Baleno Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barke Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bass Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Basto Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bates Mr. & Mrs. Rick Bell Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bennett Mr. & Mrs. George Bilson Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bilson Mr. & Mrs. Pete Bilson Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bilson Mr. & Mrs. Tony Blasetti Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bliss Mr. & Mrs. George Bogdan Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bond Mr. & Mrs. Bob Botni Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourgeois Mr. & Mrs. Hal Bradford

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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers

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Mrs. Mary Anne Chanos

Mr. & Mrs. Sotir Christopher Mr. & Mrs. Grigorios

Chryssopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Jim Clement

Ms. Marianna Constantinou

Ms. Cherie Cookorinis

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copses Mr. Arthur Costakis Ms. Cathy Costarides Ms. Margaret Csonka Mr. & Dr. Shawn Dalton Mr. & Mrs. Chris Danos

Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Dascalos

Mr. Mike Davino

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Davis

Mr. & Mrs. William Dennison

Ms. Eleni Dodys Mr. George A. Dracos Mrs. Marty Driscoll Mr. & Mrs. Drew Dudley

Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Duvlaris Ms. Marjorie Economopoulos

Ms. Marilyn Eleftheriou Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Elias Mr. & Mrs. Paul Farina Mr. & Mrs. Ken Farrey

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Mr. & Mrs. Manolis Kipreos Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kipreos

Mrs. Irene Kipreos Mr. Steve Kipreos

Mr. & Mrs. Phil Kiritsy

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Klementzos Mr. & Mrs. Alan Knuchel

Mr. Scott Knuchel

Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Kollias

Ms. Connie Kollias Mr. & Mrs. Zach Kollias

Ms. Natalie Konstadinidis Mrs. Athena Kontrafouris

Mr. James Kontrafouris Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kopsias

Mrs. Mary Koss

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kostas Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kourafas

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis

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Mr. & Mrs. Cristos Kyprianou

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Lake

Dr. Anne Lambros Mr. Brian Lasenyik

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lawson

Ms. Anna Lerios

Mr. & Mrs. Stamatis Levantis

Mr. & Mrs. Smith Levenson

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Levine Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lilly

Mr. & Mrs. David Linebaugh

### STEWARDSHIP FOR 2012

Mr. & Mrs. Caryl Nielsen

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Ms. Nicole Sigalos

### FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

As we enter into this Christmas season and approach the end of 2012, I reflect on God's many blessings and give thanks for a wonderful year for our Holy Transfiguration family.

In 2012, we were blessed with several new families joining the parish. We were blessed to have many more pledged members than we had in 2011. We have been blessed to have an increase in pledges to the building and iconography funds as these funds are continuing to grow. We were blessed to be able to complete another phase of iconography in the sanctuary – "Extreme Humility" and "Melchezidek" – and we were also blessed to be able to complete the iconography (Reclining Christ) in the Chapel. We were blessed that so many people contributed to purchase and install new pews in the sanctuary. We have been blessed to be in the position to payoff our current mortgage for the sanctuary within the next two years, and we have been blessed to be guided through a process to develop conceptual plans for the future facilities of our community.

In 2012, we were blessed with the return of Paul Lundberg to our community, and we look forward to many more years with him. We are continuing to be blessed with great ministry leaders, youth leaders and spiritual leaders within our parish. We are truly blessed to have so many opportunities to grow spiritually through Introduction to Orthodoxy Classes, Bible Study, and Spiritual Book Club. On Wednesday evenings during the Lenten Season, Father Panayiotis provides an enlightening spiritual discussion for all of us to participate in.

We were blessed in 2012 to provide support to OCMC for two mission trips. We were blessed to have an excellent group of people working for many months to make our festival the best one ever. We were blessed to have three Eagle Scout projects completed on our grounds this year. We were blessed when we had a very successful 1st Annual Family Luncheon to acknowledge and welcome the new families to our Parish. We were also blessed to host the Lykion Megara dance workshop and performance in our amphitheater, which was a joint venture with our brothers and sisters from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta.

Please forgive me if I forgot to include something, but the point is...we have much to be thankful for in 2012 and, as we look forward to 2013, we will see more exciting things happening in the parish.

This beautiful sanctuary will be consecrated on April 27, 2013. This will be the Saturday of Lazarus (the day before Palm Sunday). All of us will have the opportunity to help as we will be hosting many guests, including clergy, elected officials, and many families and friends from other parishes, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians. We will have many new furnishings installed in the sanctuary in the spring of 2013 – just in time for the Consecration (please visit the Church website to download the Donation Catalogue for specific information). The Fathers of the Church iconography is scheduled to be installed in the fall of 2013. We will continue to develop plans for the future of our parish, including strategic planning where we will discuss the goals and vision of the parish for the next several years and into the future. We are also planning to add more ministries to our parish in 2013 – stay tuned for more details. If you have any suggestions, please contact any Parish Council member, and let them know your thoughts.

If we truly believe that our many blessings flow directly or indirectly from God and that our parish is one of these many blessings, then it should be easy to step up and volunteer for a committee, attend a meeting, or participate in the many opportunities available in the future.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Parish Council, and it is my sincere wish that everyone will have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

In His Service,

Pete Bilson, Vice President

### <u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>



ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. ALLELUIA.

Olivia Bell - November 17, 2012 Athan Lynch - November 24, 2012



Sunday, December 9th (following the Divine Liturgy)

All members in good standing are eligible to vote.



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

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

<u>Toys for Tots</u> -We will be placing collection boxes in the PLC to collect toys for children who are less fortunate. Please bring a new, unwrapped present for a young child. The boxes will be in the PLC until December 17.

<u>Christmas Party</u> - Sunday, December 9, 5pm to 8pm. The party will be at Ron and Christine's home. Please bring a toy and a side dish.

Our monthly meeting will held be Tuesday, December 18. Watch your email for time and location.

Your Board: Harry Kipreos, Jim Tidwell, Zack Kollias, Dr. Phillip Vodas

Vice Presidents: Alan Levine, Michael Gavalas, Theodore Georgacopoulos, Ron Sprouse

### **UPDATE ON THE PEW FUND**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we approach the end of 2012, Holy Transfiguration thanks all of you who have contributed to the pew fund. We will be installing our last phase in the choir area soon. This will complete the pew installation. When completed, we will have spent approximately \$97,000. This is \$3000 under our estimate. We eventually want to purchase some chairs but will hold off for now due to all of the other furnishings to be purchased for the consecration.

To date, we have pledges of **\$85,700** and have collected **\$84,630**. We would like to collect the entire amount of **\$97,000**. If you have not made a pledge or donation towards this fund, please consider doing so before the end of the year. It would make a great Christmas gift for the Church.

In his service, Jimmy Carlos and Alex Miltiades Pew Fundraiser Co-Chairs

### Stewardship



Thanks to those who helped serve at the Philoptochos fundraiser in October and at the Stewardship Luncheon in November. Many hands make lighter labor!

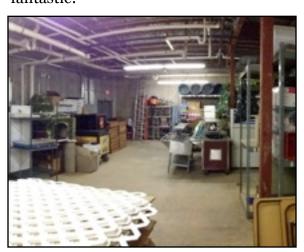
We offer to You these gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all.

From the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom





Thanks to all who offered their time to come to help organize the basement storage area in November! It looks fantastic!

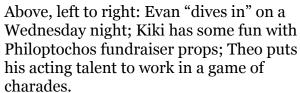




### **GOYA**









# GOYA Wednesday Nights in December 7-9pm in the PLC

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Stocking Stuffers		
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Survivor: Alaska		
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Circus Night		
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	"Winter Camp"		

### **HELLENIC DANCE NEWS**

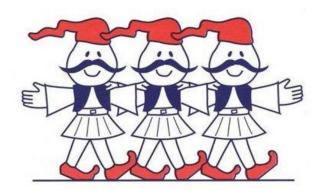
A tremendous *thank you* to all the dancers who participated and performed at the ATHENS GREEK FESTIVAL! We appreciate your dedication -- and job *well done*!!!

### ightarrow DECEMBER PRACTICE SCHEDULE $\leftarrow$

Practice still continues for dancers who want to participate in HDF...

Sunday, December 2 – 1:00-3:00pm PLC
Tuesday, December 4 – 6:00-7:00pm (Make Up Session) PLC
Sunday, December 9 – 1:00-3:00pm PLC
Tuesday, December 11 – 6:00-7:00pm (Make Up Session) PLC
Sunday, December 16 – 1:00-3:00pm PLC
Tuesday, December 18 – 6:00-7:00pm (Make Up Session) PLC

THERE WILL BE MORE PRACTICES ANNOUNCED SOON!



Phoenix or Eleftheria Dancers who wish to perform at HDF must attend these practices!

### Reminder - ALL HDF forms are due December 10!

Looking ahead to *January*...

ALL dancers will begin regular (festival) dance practice immediately following MLK weekend.

For those in grades 5 or younger - practices will begin on Tuesday, January 22nd

### Hellenic Studies December Announcements...

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to everyone who helped support our **Fall Bake Sale** on November 11<sup>th</sup>...your support of our program is *greatly* appreciated!

Coming this month...

On **Saturday**, **December 8**<sup>th</sup> – Hellenic Studies will lend our support to Lykion Ton Ellinidon Atlanta Chapter – who will be screening the film, *El Greco* in the Parish Life Center. Please join us at 6pm for the screening of this interesting film. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

On **Sunday**, **December 16**<sup>th</sup> – the Hellenic Studies program will host coffee hour in honor of the Christmas holiday. The children of our program will serenade parishioners with traditional Greek *kalanta*…beautiful carols.

On **Tuesday**, **December 18**<sup>th</sup> – parents of our program are invited to take part in our holiday Christmas celebration, from 5:30-7:00pm (during normal class time). The children will sing traditional *kalanta*, and light refreshments will be served.

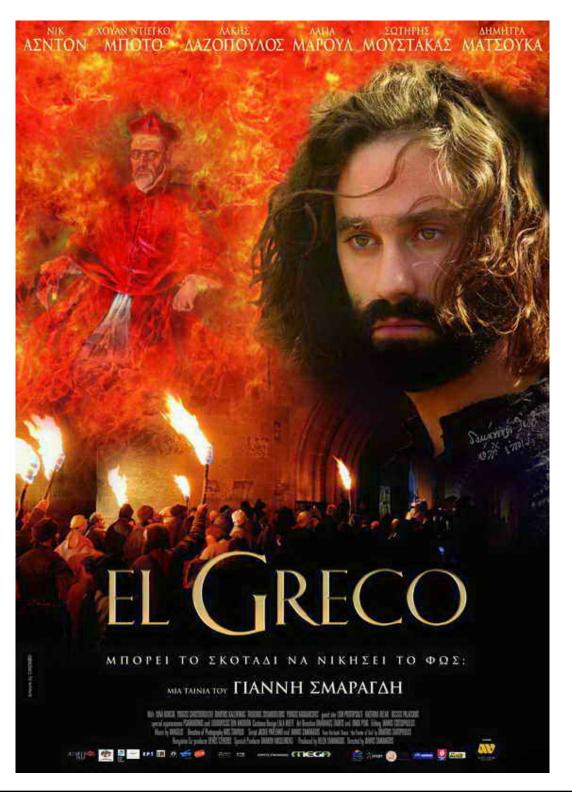
Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 8th

Χρονια πολλά και Καλή Χρονια!!!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### Hellenic Studies and Lykion Ton Ellinidon Atlanta Chapter Invite you to a screening of the movie "El Greco" Saturday, December 8th, 6:00 pm, Parish Life Center

The movie is the life story of the famous Cretan painter and defender of freedom, Dominikos Theotokopoulos, known to us all as "El Greco." Admission is free. Light fare and Refreshments Available for purchase. Film is recommended for adults and children over the age of 12.



### **Missions**

### A Good Year for Missions

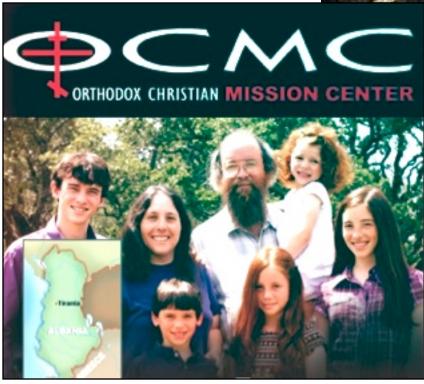
2012 was a significant year for missions at Holy Transfiguration. We established a missions committee, helped Leslie Hansard take a mission trip to Moldova (see the picture on the right), and organized a fundraising dinner for the Macdonald family (pictured below), who will be going to serve in Albania.

For more information about our Missions Committee or to get involved, please contact Leslie by email at leslie.hansard@gmail.com or by phone at 770-365-2066.

Pictures and an article by Leslie about her trip to Moldova are available online, on our parish website at

www.holytransfiguration.info/missions/





Go therefore
and make disciples
of all the nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe
all things that I have
commanded you.

Matthew 28.19-20

### Orthodox Christian Fellowship



In January, a new OCF chapter was formed at Kennesaw State University. The chapter's six members are actively searching for students who would like to remain connected with the Orthodox faith while on campus. During the summer semester, we hosted an OCF table at the incoming freshman orientation sessions. We made visits to Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church, and St. Elizabeth's Carpatho-Russian Church and continue to hold weekly prayer sessions on campus. We're currently planning several exciting activities for the coming year. Interested KSU students should contact Rachel Philips at sunflowerra@comcast.net for more info. Rachel is pictured above with Fr. Frederick Watson of St. Elizabeth's.





### **Upcoming Opportunities**

College students are invited to help at the Winter Youth Rally. Interested students should contact the parish office for more information.

College Conference and Real Break registration are now open! To register, visit ocf.net.



### PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS





**Soup Kitchen** will be on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like to cook, serve or make a monetary donation, please contact Athena Burke at <a href="mailto:ibgreek@comcast.net">ibgreek@comcast.net</a> or 770.973.3111.

The next **Board Meeting** is Monday, January 21 at 7pm in the OCR.

SAVE the DATE: **Metropolis Philoptochos Retreat** at the Diakonia Center - Friday, January 18 through Sunday, January 20. All women are invited to attend. The speaker for the retreat is Father Paul Costopoulos, Dean of Holy Cross-Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Birmingham, AL. His topic is "Overcoming Anxiety by Keeping Our Focus on Christ".

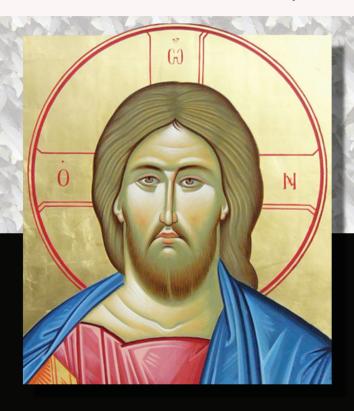




Volunteers are needed to join the **Godparents' Luncheon Committee**. The luncheon is Sunday, **February 17, 2013**. There are opportunities for helping with: theme/favors/décor, advertising/invites, tickets, menu/cooking, food donations/sponsors, favors-photo frames, set up, serving and clean up. Come be a part of this special event. Please contact Penny Miltiades at 404.630.7083 or <a href="mailto:pmiltia@gmail.com">pmiltia@gmail.com</a>.

# Spiritual Retreat Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos January 18 - 20, 2013 Diakonia Center, Salem SC

OVERCOMING ANXIETY BY KEEPING YOUR FOCUS on Christ



### Presented by Fr. Paul Costopoulos

Dean, Holy Cross-Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Birmingham AL

All Women of the Metropolis are Welcome Located at the Beautiful Diakonia Center in Salem, South Carolina Registration Information will be sent to all Chapters in November Registration Deadline is January 9, 2013

Cost per person is \$150.00. To register, please contact Irene Politis, 105 Kuralt House Court, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210 or 704.451.4243, <a href="mailto:ipolitis3@yahoo.com">ipolitis3@yahoo.com</a>.



### Please patronize the following 2012 Marietta Greek Festival Visitor's Guide sponsors.

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Marietta Fish Market

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Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen

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Sage Woodfire Tavern Alpharetta

Sage Woodfire Tavern Perimeter Spice Brick Oven Kitchen

The Diner at North Point The Diner at Sugar Hill

Town Lake Diner Trattoria LaStrada

White House Restaurant

Zaxby's

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Ricamo International

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Yianna's at Northlake

# December 2012

Saturday	8:45 AM Blessing of the Water 9:00 AM PC Candidate Workshop 10:30 AM New Testament 4:00 PM Byzantine Chart 5:00 PM Great Vespers 6:00 PM PHiloptochos	8:30 AM Strategic Planning Meeting 10:30 AM New Testament Greek Class 4:00 PM Pentzakis Baptism (Ava) 6:00 PM Hellenic Studies Movie	15 Greek Class 12:00 PM Tidwell Baptism (Harrison and Isabelle) 4:00 PM Byzantine Chant Class 5:00 PM Great Vespers	22 3:45 PM Maitra Baptism (Monali) 5:00 PM Great Vespers	29 — 12:00 PM Smith Baptism/ Chrismation	ın
Friday	30  Eeast of Sthe First Called  = 9:00 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	2	14	21	288	4
Thursday	29  E 6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle  7:00 PM Bible Study	Feast of StMyra of Lycia.  = 9:00 AM Orthros = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy = 6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club = 7:00 PM Bible Study	13 = 7:00 PM Bible Study	20 = 7:00 PM Bible Study	27 = 11:30 AM Soup Kitchen	= 11:30 AM Presentation to Scouting Group = 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	28 = 11:00 AM Thomas Funeral = 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	5  10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas  7:00 PM GOYA Meeting  7:00 PM Consecration  Meeting	12 Feast of St. Sof Trimythus = 9:00 AM Orthros = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy = 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	19 = 10:00 AM Bible Study = 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	Kwanzaa 26	2
Tuesday	= 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies = 7:00 PM Intro. to Orthodoxy	4  = 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies = 6:00 PM Neighborhood Gathering Meeting = 6:00 PM HDF Practice - 7:00 PM Education, Youth, & Culture Committee - 7:00 PM Intro. to Orthodoxy	11  5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 6:00 PM HDF Practice 6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Spyridon 7:00 PM Intro. to Ortho- doxy	18 = 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies = 6:00 PM HDF Practice = 7:00 PM Intro. to Orthodoxy	Christmas Divity of Christ Christmas Day  = 8.45 AM Orthros = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	New Year's Day
Monday	26	m	10 Meeting	17	= 9:30 AM Great Hours of Christmas = 5:30 MM Christmas Celebration, The Nativity of Christ, Christmas Liturgy, Vesperal Divine Liturgy of S:300 PM Christmas Reception	Circumcisionsil the Great  = 6:00 PM Great Vespers  = 9:30 PM New Year's Eve Dance
Sunday	Thirteenth SGreat Martyr  = 8:30 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  = 11:00 AM A 6 month  Memorial Service is given  = 11:50 AM The Artoklasia is  = 12:00 PM Lopos/Solomon/  = 12:30 PM GOYA Officers'	Eourteenth Sfrom Dec. 4)  = 8:30 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  = 11:15 AM Catechism  = 11:45 AM 40 day Blessing  = 12:00 PM Rogers Coffee  = 12:00 PM Church Library and 5 more	Tenth Sundaby St. Anna. Hanukkah = 8:30 AM Orthros = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy = 11:15 AM Carechism = 11:40 AM A 6 month and 8 more	Feast of theSt. Modestos.  = 8:30 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  = 11:15 AM Catechism  = 12:30 PM Hellenic Studies  = 12:30 PM HOPE/JOY Meet-  = 1:00 PM Adult Mens' Bas- and 4 more	Sunday befoecember 17).  = 8:30 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  = 11:40 AM A 40 day Trisagion Service is given by Grigorios Chryssopoulos and family for his mother, Kerasena. May her memory	Sunday afterivity of Christ  = 8:30 AM Orthros  = 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Eastern Time Time Zone

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

Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter Paul Lundberg, Pastoral Assistant Anne Willcocks, Parish Secretary



Scan to view our Website

DATE	PARISH COUNCIL DUTY	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	PROSFORO
Dec., 2, 2012	J. Moustoukas/A. Tsarouhas	Team II	S. Lukens/E. Markley	R. Peppas/I. Steffas
Dec., 9, 2012	E. Linebaugh/J. Tidwell	Team I	L. Sampanes/M. Zavala	S. Tidwell/M. Tingas
Dec., 16, 2012	C. Costarides/G. Lopos	Team II	P. Dunkerly/D. Levine	F. Tucker/T. Vamvakias
Dec., 23, 2012	P. Bilson/A. Miltiades	Team I	M. Alberts/K. Bilson	N. Barke/A. Burke
Dec., 30, 2012	M. Alberts/Christopher Hansard	Team II	C. Kollias/B. Valagohar	C. Costarides/M. Driscoll

**Team 1:** Chris Alberts, Matthew Azimzadeh, Nicholas Azimzadeh, Gabriel Beneda, Christopher Bilson, Evan Bilson, Alex Brewer, Nick Brewer, Chris Bridgers, Daniel Bridgers, Michael Bridgers, Nicholas Brotsis, Anthony Bundros, Cole Foster, George Gavalas, Constantine Gavalas, Jacob Harrah, Stephen Harrah, Zayne Isaac, Paul Jacobs, Andrew Levine, Luke Melissas, Zach Melissas, Evan Papadopoulos, Lucas Porter, Matthew Shanahan, Mike Steffas, Luke Turner, Matthew Turner, Yianni Turner, Nicholas Zakreski

<u>Team 2:</u> Theo Bliss, Matthew Buchan, Brody (Thomas) Brooks, Christos Costarides, Yianni Costarides, Chris Danos, Nick Danos, Leo Frangis, Manuel Frangis, Niko Gekas, Alex Gekas, Alexander Georgacopoulos, Yianni Gormanos, Morgan Lilly, Michael Marianos, Gabriel Mavromatidis, Jeremy Mavromatidis, Jacob Mavromatidis, Eli Nichols, Angelo Nichols, Evans Nichols, Tommy O'Brien, Michael Papadimitriou, Dean Papastrat, Matthew Paulson, Alex Skarpelis, Mitchell Starks, Evan Strakes, Luke Tassopoulos, Nicholas Tassopoulos, Braden Thorne, Alex Thorne