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HOLY TRANSFIGURATION



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

Secretary: Anne Willcocks

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

Rev. Father Paul Lundberg, Presbyter

PARISH COUNCIL-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....Steve Tingas

Vice-President.....Alex Miltiades

Treasurer.....Georgia O'Brien

Assistant Treasurer.....Maria Alberts

Secretary.....Casey Pater

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dennis Koutouzis, Marc Nichols, Randy Rogers, Steve Steffas,

Athan Tsarouhas, Becky Valagohar, Tim Voulopos

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/>

A Call to Holiness!!!

*"You shall **be holy** to me; for I the Lord am holy." (Lev. 20:26)*

At Holy Transfiguration we have experienced many successes. In a short 27 years we have built a Community Center, a beautiful Sanctuary like none other in the whole State of Georgia, and we are now in the process of completing an amazing renovation and extension of our buildings which will provide classrooms for a school, administration offices, a beautiful gymnasium and more parking for our parishioners. As a community, we are about success and growth.

But this is a good time to stop for a moment and ask ourselves: "What is the purpose of these buildings? What is the benefit from such growth?"

We are an Orthodox Christian parish. We represent the most ancient form and tradition of Christianity. We are the repository of two thousand years of experiences with God. We have a lot to learn from the many

thousands of holy men and women who left their mark of faith and holiness on the architecture of our buildings, our music, our iconography and most especially on the way of life that we are called to live.

There is one common thread that runs through the lives and example of our holy ancestors: They loved God and the people around them. They lived lives of obedience to God, humility, temperance, kindness and repentance. They lived on earth as human beings, but their hearts were turned to God in Heaven. Following God's call to **be holy**, they lived in holiness even in this life, preparing and practicing for our final home in the Kingdom of God.

This is the path that we are called to follow, as well. This is exactly what we should use these buildings for. We should worship in our Sanctuary, where we should encounter the God of Love spiritually in prayer and physically at the Holy Chalice and then we should practice this encounter of Divine Love in the classrooms and corridors of our new buildings, in the offices and parking lot and most especially on the basketball court of our new gym. We should let our light shine, that people may see our holiness, faith and love and be transformed by the presence of God in our lives. This parish should shape and cultivate saints, because we are the Church that produces saints. Our primary mission is to sanctify ourselves, the people around us and the whole world. We are called to holiness by the Lord Himself: "*You shall **be holy** to me; for I the Lord am holy.*" (Lev. 20:26) "*Consecrate yourselves therefore, and **be holy**; for I am the LORD your God.*" (Lev. 20:7) "*I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves therefore, and **be holy**, for I am holy.*" (Lev. 11:44)

The Apostles, who experienced the life and teaching of Christ first hand, came to the same conclusion. St. Peter opens up his first universal epistle with a call to holiness: "*but as he who called you is holy, **be holy** yourselves in all your conduct,*" (1Pet. 1:15) "*and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house.*" (1Pet. 2:5)

We have put so much effort into the buildings, which some day will be torn down as they grow old, but are we trying as much to make ourselves the living temples of the Holy Spirit for eternity? "*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*" (1Cor. 3:16)

How much more effort should we apply in order to make sure that we continue to sanctify ourselves? How much more attention should we give to become Christ-like? How much more time and effort should we be investing so that we may make sure that we will enter the Kingdom of God and reach the ultimate state of perfection in the likeness of God - *theosis*!

This is the ultimate success we are called to achieve! Let's listen to the call of the Lord and "**Be Holy**"!



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 2015

December 1, Tuesday, Blessing of the water 11:00 am

December 3 Thursday, Great Vespers - Feast of St. Barbara 6:00 pm

December 4, Friday, Feast of St. Barbara the Great Martyr
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 5, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm. Feast of St. Nicholas.

December 6, Sunday, Tenth Sunday of Luke. Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra of Lycia.
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 8, Tuesday, Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna. Great Vespers 6:00 pm

December 9, Wednesday, Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna.
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 11, Friday Evening: Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Spyridon.

December 12, Saturday. Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus.
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.
Saturday Evening, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

December 13, 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 19, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

December 20, 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, THURSDAY. GREAT HOURS OF CHRISTMAS, 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY EVENING: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS LITURGY 5:30 pm, Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

DECEMBER 25, FRIDAY, 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 καὶ Θεοῦ καὶ Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 10:00 am.

December 26, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

December 27, Sunday after Christmas. Feast of St. Joseph the betrothed to the Virgin Theotokos, David the Prophet and James the brother of the Lord. Feast of St. Stephanos the First Martyr.
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

December 31, Thursday, **Great Vespers 6:00 pm** - Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great.

The Mission Statement of our Parish

Our Parish is the local eucharistic community of the Church in this locality;

The aims and purposes of our Parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled.

The diakonia (ministry) of the Parish includes proclaiming and teaching the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Faith; sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy and the other sacraments; enhancing its parishioners' spiritual life; and adding to the numbers of the faithful by receiving persons into the Church through instruction, Baptism and/or Chrismation. In addition, the Parish has established educational and philanthropic activities to foster the aims and mission of the Parish and to edify its parishioners in the Faith and ethos of the Church.

The ultimate goal of our Parish is to lead its members into the Kingdom of God.

See UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS. CHAPTER ONE, ARTICLE 15

The Practice of "Confession" In the Bible

Old Testament

"He shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong." Num. 5:7

"Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and they stood and confessed their sins and the guilt of their fathers. While they stood in their places, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day and spent another fourth of the day in confession and worship of the LORD their God." Nehemiah 9:2-3

New Testament

"Confessing their sins, they were baptized by John in the Jordan River." Matthew 3:6

"And there went out unto John all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized by him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." Mark 1:5

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

"Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices." Acts 19:18

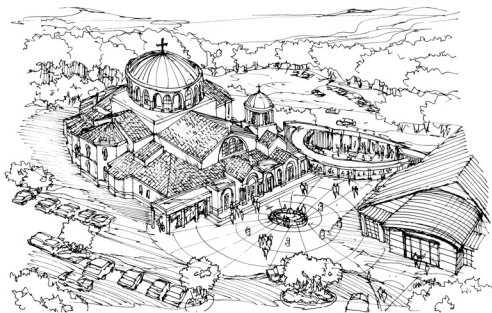
"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - DECEMBER

12/1/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 5:11-21	Gospel: Luke 19:45-48
12/2/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 5:22-25; 6:1-11	Gospel: Luke 20:1-8
12/3/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 6:17-21	Gospel: Luke 20:9-18
12/4/2015	Matins: Matthew 25:1-13 Gospel: Mark 5:24-34	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
12/5/2015	Matins: Luke 6:17-23 Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
12/6/2015	Matins: Luke 24:13-35 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21
12/7/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 2:20-26	Gospel: Luke 20:27-44
12/8/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4	Gospel: Luke 21:12-19
12/9/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27	Gospel: Luke 8:16-21
12/10/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:5-14	Gospel: Luke 21:28-33
12/11/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 1:15-16; 2:1-10	Gospel: Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8
12/12/2015	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: John 10:9-16	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19
12/13/2015	Matins: Luke 24:36-53 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11
12/14/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19	Gospel: Mark 8:11-21
12/15/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18	Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5
12/16/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8	Gospel: Mark 8:30-34
12/17/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2	Gospel: Mark 9:10-15
12/18/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:18-25	Gospel: Mark 9:33-41
12/19/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:8-12	Gospel: Luke 13:19-29
12/20/2015	Matins: John 20:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40
12/21/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 8:7-13	Gospel: Mark 9:42-50; 10:1
12/22/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:8-23	Gospel: Mark 10:2-12
12/23/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:1-18	Gospel: Mark 10:11-16
12/24/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-12	Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
12/25/2015	Matins: Matthew 1:18-25 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7
12/26/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 6:11-16	Gospel: Matthew 12:15-21
12/27/2015	Matins: John 20:11-18 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60
12/28/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:17-31	Gospel: Luke 14:25-35
12/29/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:11-18	Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
12/30/2015	Epistle: St. James' Universal Letter 1:1-18	Gospel: Mark 11:22-26
12/31/2015	Epistle: St. James' Universal Letter 1:19-27	Gospel: Mark 11:27-33

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Mr. & Mrs. Steven Hanes
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Mrs. Rosemary Hendrix
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Mrs. Diana Honey
Mr. Charlie Honey
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Ms. Sheila Howington
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Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lilly
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Mr. & Mrs. Jim Linos
Mr. Efthimios Lironis



Love One Another

MEMBERSHIP/STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2020

2020 PLEDGES: 375

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Ms. Sylvia Lisgaris
Mr. Drew Logothetis
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Mr. Bobis Markatos
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Markley
Mrs. Xanthippe Marsico
Mr. George Matthews
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Mr. & Mrs. John McCarty
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Ms. Autilia McGovern
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McLean
Mr. & Mrs. John McQueary
Ms. Alexandra Merisotis
Mr. Panayiotis Michael
Ms. Stella Michael-Makri
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Michaelides
Ms. Ioanna Michaels
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Mr. Andrew Miltiades
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miltiades
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Miltiades
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Fr. & Presbyter George Pallas
Mr. Tasi Pallas
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Mr. Athan Pohlman
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Mrs. Mary Smith
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Mr. & Mrs. Ovidiu Teodorescu
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thomas
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Mr. Allen Vatzakas
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Dr. Phillip Vodas
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Mr. Julian P. Wade
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Mr. & Mrs. Marc Westmoreland
Mr. Benjamin Whitener
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Xanthakis
Ms. Peggy Yeotis
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Yiannovits
Ms. Eleftheria Young
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Young
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski
Mr. & Mrs. Marco Zavala
Mrs. Angela Ziros

Total: 375

OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE Update

The Capital Campaign for
HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ΟΛΟΙ ΜΑΖΙ!

Jeff & Maria Alberts
Stephanie Alberts
Panayiotis Antoniadis
Christina Arp
John & Donna Asimakos
Ben & Liz Azimzadeh
Dorian Bafas
Tom & Lois Bafas
Brian & Irene Baleno
Trey & Sherry Bane
Nancy Barke
Peter & Jenny Basis
Roseann Bates
Richard & Sophia Bethune
Evelyn Bilson
Ken & Celeste Bilson
Paul & Elaine Bilson
Pete & Kathy Bilson
Tony & Katerina Blasetti
Terry & Irma Bliss
Bob & Dorothy Botni
Aaron & Christina Bourgeois
Francis & Rosalie Bourgeois
Stephen & Dimitra Bournias
John & Elizabeth Brewer
Mark & Lela Bridgers
Toula Brotsis
Andrew Brown
Patrice Brown
Kerry & Debra Buchan
Tom & Lara Bundros
Jim & Athena Burke
Melina Burke
Dino & Kathy Bylos
Theodora Campbell
George & Maria Caras
Jimmy & Helen Carlos
Greg & Michelle Cassimus
Harry & Elene Catrakilis
Thomas Cavalaris
Maria Ceisel
Johanna Ceisel-Miller
Daniela Chereches
Dennis & Paula Christopher
Grigorios & Agapi
Chrysosopoulos
Jim & Eleni Clement
Charles Coleman
Tom & Maria Comsudes
Marianna Constantinou
Cathy Costarides
Margaret Csonka
Chris & Annemarie Davis
Philip & Rosemary Davis
Harry & Christine Demakis
Hailey Demakis
Nicholas Demakis
Julia Demakis

John & Elizabeth Doulgerakis
Marty Driscoll
Cedric & Peggy Dunkerly
Katina Dunkerly
Jimmy & Maria Duvlaris
Paul & Lisa Farina
Jimmy & Michelle Frangis
Maria Frangis
Joe & Donnis Gavalas
Michael Gavalas
Michael & Harriette Gavrielides
Larry & Niki Gess
Stephanie Gianaris
Phil & Michelle Giannaris
Martha Gingles
Christopher & Maria Goldsholl
Ted & Lea Gormanos
Christopher & Leslie Hansard
Chris & Sis Hondras
Charles Honey
Diana Honey
Chris & Georgia Hutt
Richard & Barbara Imbeault
Frank & Sue Jacobs
Mike & Annette Jacobs
Katie Jacobs
Paul Jacobs
Brian & Victoria Jansma
Andy & Tina Johansen
Kurk & Tomi Johnson
Radostin & Mona Jordanov
Jim & Becky Kanelos
Ioannis & Maria Kapsalis
Irene Kipreos
Manoli & Tasia Kipreos
Mike & Themis Kipreos
Phil & Shirley Kiritsy
Nick & Gerre Klementzos
Alan & Mary Ellen Knuchel
Connie Kollias
Zack & Margaret Kollias
Konstantinidis & Kyriaki
Konstantinidis
Jim Kontrafouris
Matthew & Christina Koozer
Dennis & Ginny Kostulakos
Dennis & Pat Koutouzis
Blake Lawson
Elyse Lawson
Stamatis & Stacey Levantis
Smith & Brooke Levenson
Alan & Dawn Levine
Kevin & Demetra Lilly
David & Ellen Linebaugh
Maria Linebaugh
Sophia Linebaugh
Jim & Jean Linos
George & Linda Lopus

David & Stephanie Lukens
Fr. Paul & Eliana Lundberg
Bobby & Dorothy Macris
Christy Macris-Bell
Craig & Jennifer Mallie
Panagiotis & Courtney Maniatis
Dean & Susan Marianos
Bobis Markatos
Paul & Eliza Markley
Xanthippe Marsico
George Matthews
Filipos & Despina Mavromatides
Harry & Dawn Mavromatides
Jacob Mavromatides
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Andy Melissas
Panayiotis Michael
Stella Michael-Makri
Ioanna Michaels
Alex & Mary Miltiades
Andrew Miltiades
Charles & Jennie Miltiades
Demetri & Penny Miltiades
Leo & Anthea Modenos
John & Anna Moraitakis
Kenny & Alexis Morgan
Patricia Morris
John & Kim Moustoukas
Paul & Alicia Moustoukas
George & Denise Nakos
Costa & Maro Neocleous
Jim & Kally Niarchos
Carl & Mary Nicholas
Chris & Anthea Nichols
Evans Nichols
Marc & Lee Nichols
Eleni Nikolas
Mike & Georgia O'Brien
Jason Orologos
Nikki Palamiotis
Dean & Christina Pallas
Fr. George & Presbyteria
Toula Pallas
Tasi Pallas
Nikolai & Karen Panov
Aristotle & Cathy Papadopoulos
Pete & Charlene Papadopoulos
Fr. Panayiotis & Presbyteria
Catherine Papageorgiou
Jon & Ann Papastrat
Maria Paradisis/Walter Dorawa
Casey Pater
Alex Paulson
Dean & Friday Paulson
John Paulson

Stratton Paulson
Michael & Elaine Paulson
Keath & Jeannie Paxten
George & Sarah Pentzakis
John & Rosemary Peppas
Mimi Pohlman
Tony & Nancy Porter
Poly Potter
Anthony & Irene Purdy
Francesco & Katerina Quinterno
David & Mary Roberts
Randy & Paula Rogers
Samer & Debra Saba
Ted & Linda Sampanes
Jay & Carol Sarmir
George & Sophia Sarris
Mike Serkedakis
David & Cassandra Shelby
Taka & Kathy Shoji
Jeremy & Anna Simpson
Peter & Kathryn Sklikas
Eric & Donna Smith
Manning & Claudia Smith
Mary Smith
Christina Solomon
Ron & Christine Sprouse
Ben & Pam Starks
Christine Stavrou
Steve & Irene Steffas
Mary Stiakakis
Michael & Alik Strakes
Connie Stratigos
Zach & Theresa Taoushiani
Tim & Maria Tassopoulos
Luke Tassopoulos
Steve & Vicky Thorne
John Tiliacos
Peter & Renee Tiller
Steve Tingas
Athan Tsarouhas
Jim & Fran Tucker
Ray & Ellie Turner
Becky Valagohar
Dimitri & Paulina Vastakis
Vaios & Amalia Vlachos
Danny & Chelsie Vlahiotis
Tim Voulpos
Ben Whitener
Richard & Zoe Xanthakis
Anastasios & Virginia Yiannovits
Matthew & Ann Zakreski

"WE PRAISE, BLESS AND THANK YOU"

FR. ALEXANDER G. LEONDIS

As Orthodox Christians we experience the Eucharist as the epicenter of history, sanctifying and transforming the world, making us a new creation in Christ and returning us to Paradise once again. We live and understand the Church in the compelling light of the Eucharist. At the Liturgy we experience the very presence of God in a tangible way. Whenever, we the people of God, gather together as the Body of Christ in worship, we perpetuate the Lord's ministry on earth.

At the Liturgy, God accepts our offering of bread and wine, changes them into the Body and Blood of Christ and returns them to us for the remission of our sins and life everlasting. The Liturgy or Eucharist is the par excellence service of the Church, by which we sacramentally offer ourselves and the whole world to God.

As Christian Stewards, what we experience at the Liturgy is incorporated into our everyday lives. Worship motivates us to eagerly and enthusiastically support the ministry of the Lord. Through Stewardship, we are afforded the extraordinary privilege to respond tangibly to God by offering our time, talents and treasures to His Church with gratitude and thanksgiving. In so doing, we aspire to attain the true definition of the word Liturgy, which means the people working in communion with God, the common work of all.

Through the Divine Liturgy we participate in the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the summation of the entire history of salvation in Christ and the foretaste of the Kingdom to come. In Response to God's blessings "we praise, bless and thank" Him for all He has done for us. These words are sung at the climax of the eucharistic prayer, fulfilling our ultimate calling, which is to offer all things to God in thanksgiving.

The words "praise, bless and thank" are intrinsically related to the three "t's" of Stewardship, which are "time, talents and treasures." Saint James tells us in his Epistle: "Faith without works is dead." Therefore, it is not enough to offer "praise" to the Lord without returning to Him the gift of our "time" through worship and doing His will on earth. It is not enough to "bless" God without returning our "talents" to Him through our good works, which bring glory to His name. It is not enough to "thank" the Lord without returning a fair measure of our "treasures," our possessions to Him through the Church, the Kingdom of God on earth. Thus, as Orthodox Christians, our worship finds its fulfillment in ministry.

Stewardship is not a matter of words but of works. All we are and all we have are gifts from the Lord. It is the offering of our time, talents and treasures to God, the Owner, who has freely given them to us to manage as Stewards, with the understanding that they are on loan. Christ expects us to return a fair portion of these gifts for His ministry through the Church. Our hearts experience the true joy of giving when we give freely, unselfishly and generously, as He has given to us. Generous giving without constraint is a mark of freedom and spiritual maturity.

The Old Testament speaks of offering the "first fruits" to the Lord from what He has allowed us to earn. First fruits means giving thanks first to God and recognizing Him as the Provider of all our possessions. Christian Stewardship means taking what God gives us, and making the support of Christ's work on earth our first priority as a gesture of our thanksgiving for what He has given us. When King David contemplated giving to God he said: "For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You." (1 Chronicles 29:11, 14)

As Orthodox Christians we too have the high privilege to humbly, freely and generously offer ourselves and our possessions to Christ and His Church. We have the opportunity to graciously put into action our response to the manifold blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. Our gratitude to God motivates us to support the Church's ministry. Your Stewardship perpetuates the Lord's work throughout our Orthodox Church, both for the parish and national ministries.

As you determine your 2016 Stewardship Commitment in thanksgiving for God's blessings to you, make it resonate with the words "we praise, bless and thank You."

*Please return your 2016 Stewardship form on or before **Sunday, Dec. 20th**, to be included in a special Blessing that day. If you have any questions, contact Becky Gess Valagohar at 404.357.4842 or beckyvala@gmail.com .*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Remembrance



If you would like to make a donation for a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the church this holiday season, please contact Anne in the Church office, holytrans@comcast.net or 770.924.8080 or fill out this form and put it in the mail or offering tray. (NOTE: Please Print!)

Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

or

For the Health of: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

The names of donors & dedications will be published in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20th.



HELLENIC DANCE



A BIG THANK YOU to all the dancers and dance parents that helped with Greek Night in November! Also, THANK YOU to everyone that helped with Dance Coffee Hour!

Dance will be breaking for the holidays. Please make sure you are on the dance email list so you can get updates for when we start practices in late January 2016. If you are not on the email list, please email Dorian at mariettahellenicdance@gmail.com with your contact information.



Hellenic Studies December Announcements...

Thank you to everyone who helped support our **Fall Bake Sale** on November 8th...your support of our program is *greatly* appreciated!

Coming this month...

On **Sunday, December 13th** – the children of our program will serenade parishioners with traditional Greek *kalanta*...beautiful carols...immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Please support us by staying to enjoy this brief musical program.

On **Tuesday, December 15th** – 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 5th**

Our Ministry's end of year statement:

There is no end to education. It is not the case that you read a book, pass an exam, and finish with learning. The whole of our lives (from the moment we are born to the moment we die) is a process of learning.

The Hellenic Studies Ministry will continue to do the very best we know how, the very best we can. With Christian Faith and continuous devotion we will strive to further our mission --- a focused commitment and dedication to the lifelong pursuit of learning!

Χρόνια πολλά και Καλή Χρόνια!!!

HOPE/JOY

5th (Saturday) 5:00-7:30pm, “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Christmas Ornament Decorating, Spaghetti Dinner, and Bethlehem Walk” We’ll get into the Christmas spirit by decorating ornaments (5:00pm) and enjoying a delicious Lenten spaghetti dinner (5:45pm) at the Church office building. The fun will continue just up the road at Mountain View United Methodist Church (6:30pm) where we’ll experience a walk through Bethlehem and a live Nativity. Come for all or a portion of this fun, three-part festive event. We will also stop by the Chapel during Vespers (5:00pm) for a special blessing on the eve of St. Nicholas Day. **NOTE:** HOPE & JOY has invited GOYA to join us for this fun, festive evening.

13th (Sunday) 6:30-8:30pm, HOPE & JOY Planning Meeting and Dinner It’s time to plan our January – June events. This meeting is open to all parents of HOPE & JOY aged kids (K-5th graders) and anyone who would like to play a role in helping to shape this growing, vibrant ministry. We’ll meet for dinner at Christina Bourgeois’ house: 247 Rockwood Court, Marietta 30068. Leave the kiddos at home; this is an adults-only event. Bring your ideas and be ready to brainstorm.

19th (Saturday) 1:00-2:30pm, “Falalalala: Christmas Caroling, Hot Cocoa, and Gingerbread” The kids will take the ornaments they decorated to a local nursing home (Arbor Terrace) where we will sing carols and bring a little Christmas cheer to the residents and staff. After falala-ing the afternoon away, we’ll head to the nearest Starbucks for hot cocoa and yummy gingerbread cake. **NOTE:** HOPE & JOY has invited the Holy Transfiguration Choir to join us for this festive outing.

For more information about HOPE & JOY, contact Christina Bourgeois, 678-923-6255 (cell/text), christinabourgeois@yahoo.com

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1703869489836476/>

Join us on Shutterfly: <https://hopeandjoy.shutterfly.com/>



Preparing Lunches for the Homeless at St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church (November 14th)

Arts & Crafts at GOYA



PARISH COUNCIL RETREAT

Be Holy

Our Parish Council members withdrew on November 20 and 21 to the Diakonia Retreat Center in SC to consider and ponder on the state of their spiritual life and the parish's condition. At the end of the two days of prayer and reflection, we concluded that the main purpose of the parish is to lead its members to the Kingdom of God. The parish should lead people to holiness, responding to the call of God for us to be holy as He is holy.



*"You shall be holy to me;
for I the Lord am holy."*

(Lev. 20:26)



The beautiful Diakonia Retreat Center-
view from the lake.

Home Blessings



Home Blessing Form

Name: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Availability: please write an “X” below to indicate the times when you are generally not available, or use a checkmark (✓) to indicate when you generally are available.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	X						
Afternoon							
Evening							

Please send this completed form (or a copy of it) to the parish office as soon as possible. We will be in touch with you to schedule home blessings, which will begin on January 6th.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

PHILOPTOCHOS FALL FUNDRAISER! MANY THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, SPONSORS AND DONORS!!!

The Panayia Chapter of Philoptochos would sincerely like to thank all of the people who supported our Philoptochos through attending the Fall Charity Fundraiser. Our Greek Night took place at the beautiful Cosmopolitan Restaurant, under the direction of owner Tom Lambros, General Manager, Niko Lambros and Manager, Marko Lisinac. The food was exquisitely prepared and the service was exceptional. We hope that many of you will give your business to them for a wonderful dining experience in return for their gracious assistance.

Guests danced the night away with the beautiful music provided by the Grecian Echoes. The highlight of the evening came with the fabulous performances of our very own Eleftheria dance troupe! They really dazzled the crowd!

Evelyn Bilson headed the Silent Auction with the help of so many of our own ministries and members generous donations and the donations of area businesses all listed below. It was a big success!

We could not have been as successful without the participation of the Sponsors and the Auction Donors of our event. We thank you for your support!

Most importantly, the proceeds will be serving the following:

- **Philoptochos Social Services**
Commitments & Projects (Mainly our Social Service Funds, Soup Kitchen, Assistance to Vets & Military, Area school children assistance)
- **Georgia's Camp Kudzu for Children with Diabetes**
- **The Center for Family Resources in Marietta**

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT MADE A DIFFERENCE IS SO MANY LIVES!!! YOU HAVE DONE WHAT OUR LORD HAS ASKED. YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN A WITNESS TO WHAT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS CAN DO IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND! YOUR COMPASSION IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

Auction Donors & Sponsors:

Liz Azimzadeh	Hellenic Studies	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nicholas	Zach & Theresa Taoushiani
Bafas Family	High Museum	Lee Nichols	Tim & Maria Tassopoulos
Bearor Chiropractic	Hope Ministry	Rosemary Peppas	Renee Tiller
Brand Mortgage	International Bakery	Philoptochos Book Club	Tiller & Co. Realty/Keller Williams
Toula Brotsis	Joy Ministry	Plaka Taverna	Turf Masters
Buckhead Life Restaurants	Jo Kastner	Prime Timers	Eleni Tsortzis
Choir Ministry	Lori Kollias	Katerina Quintero	Fran & Jim Tucker
Clay Oven Restaurant	Landmark Diner	Randy Rogers	Tina Vamvakias
Cosmopolitan Restaurant	Theodore Georgacopoulos	Salon on Canton Street	Zaxby's Sandy Plains
Marty Driscoll	Anna Lerios	Salon Solo	
Dunkerly Family	Ellen Linebaugh	Salt MedSpa	
East of Main Salon	Linda & George Lopus	Peter & Kate Sklikas	
Ember Hot Yoga	Lucia's Restaurant	Stella & Dot	
Irene Hammond	Mary Miltiades	Stewardship Ministry	
Hellenic Dance	Costa & Maro Neocleous	Tania Gardere MacLeod	

HTGOC Dance Troupe Eleftheria:

Chris Alberts	Kiki Gormanos	Marina Mavromatidis	Gabriel Mavromatidis	Theodora Tsogas
Maria Chryssopoulos	Yianni Gormanos	Jeremy Mavromatidis	Mike Tsogas	
Parent Volunteers: Agapi Chryssopoulos and Eleni Nikolas				

Philoptochos Fall Fundraiser Committee: Chair-Peggy Dunkerly, Nancy Barke, Christy Macris-Bell, Evelyn Bilson, Marty Driscoll, Niki Gess, Pat Koutouzis, Linda Lopus, Dorothy Macris.



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

**PRIME TIMERS WISHES EVERYONE A BEAUTIFUL HAPPY HEALTHY 2016.
EACH DAY IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT TO PLAN TO MAKE IT FUN
REMEMBER - LAUGHTER IS AN INSTANT VACATION**

COME JOIN OUR GROUP ON **JAN 16** FOR OUR FIRST GENERAL MEETING -
TO BE HELD AT LUCIA'S AT 12:30PM. PLEASE READ THE LETTER BELOW;

WE WELCOME ALL SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO JOIN US

QUESTIONS: CONNIE STRATIGOS, 770-992-9707; DOROTHY BOTNI, 770-971-9956

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Prime Timers of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church would like to invite you to attend our General Meeting to be held at 12:30 pm on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at LUCIA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 4705 WOODSTOCK ROAD NE, ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30075.

Prime Timers is a ministry of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church. We gather together several times each year for fellowship, travel (both near and far), and organize events to generate funds that help support various needs within our Holy Transfiguration family.

Our annual 2015 trip took us to Branson, Missouri where we enjoyed several family oriented shows and dinners.

Our signature 2015 event, Disco Night, featured great music, dancing, food and fun for all who attended. In the past, we have also visited Gibbs Gardens; Biltmore Estates in Asheville, North Carolina; Tellus Museum in Cartersville; Dahlonega, Georgia; and IMAX at Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta. Summer ended with our annual 2015 picnic/ice cream social which offered fried chicken and all the trimmings, iced tea and lemonade, berry cobbler and peach cobbler, and of course, ice cream with toppings galore.

To dispel any misconceptions that may occur, our Prime Timers are dynamic individuals dedicated to our Parish, offering fellowship and fun to all. As a ministry of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, we work hard to help meet the needs of our Holy Transfiguration Parish. Many hands make light work for all, and we would love to have you join us in our endeavors.

Sincerely,

YOUR PRIMERS' BOARD

Prime Timers' Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13, 5:00 pm
The Diner at North Point



1st course - Appetizers

Cheese Quesadillas
Dolmades
Bruschetta

2nd Course - Salads

Greek Salad
Vinaigrette
Caesar

3rd Course - Entrees

Woodfire Grilled Chicken Breast
Oven Roasted Lemon Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
Mushroom Bordelaise

Broiled Flounder
Basmati Rice and Vegetable Medley
Lemon Buere Blanc

Black Angus Chopped Sirloin
Oven Roasted Lemon Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
Mushroom Bordelaise

Boneless Pork Chops
Oven Roasted Lemon Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
Bourbon Demi Glaze

4th Course - Desserts

Chocolate Cake
Key Lime Pie



Includes: Soft Drinks or Iced Tea, Coffee or Hot Tea, Bread and Butter

Appetizers and Wine furnished by Prime Timers

\$30 per person - includes gratuity/tax**

Entertainment: Brain Games with Fun Prizes

*Please bring a gift card from Walmart or Target
for the needy.*

Questions? - Call:
Connie Stratigos - 770-992-9707
or
Dorothy Botni - 770-971-9956

TRANSFIGURATION GARDENS ORTHODOX CEMETERY AT GREEN LAWN CEMETERY, ROSWELL, GA

Our Parish has purchased an additional 105 plots, which we are making available at a price of \$3,200.00, which includes one plot and a vault.

Our parish is blessed to be able to provide a resting place for our people - a place where you can have an upright headstone with a cross and the names of the deceased; and where the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on a regular basis and our people will be commemorated for centuries to come.

The family of Betty & Tikie Paulson (Paulson & Jacobs families) has contributed a monument in the center of this Orthodox Cemetery, providing an Altar for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

You may purchase plots through the church office - No interest financing is available.





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NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECTACULAR

SARANTIS & VASSILIS SALEAS

ALONG WITH



Along with a surprise **SPECIAL GUEST!**

12-31-15 STARTING AT 8 PM

Ring in the New Year with dinner, dancing, & a complimentary champagne toast at midnight.

\$75 per person (+ applicable fees).

Book your tickets now at <https://musesnewyears.eventbrite.com>

1255 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA 30062

www.AndrettiKarting.com

A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to support the Building Fund of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta, GA

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



at the
Clay Oven Restaurant
1115 Powder Springs Street
Marietta, GA 30064

Greek Mediterranean
Restaurant
678 - 581 - 1533
1115 Powder Springs St
Marietta, GA 30064

31st of December 2015

Starting at 7:30 pm to early hours of the New Year

Come join us for a fun-filled evening

with an amazing Buffett

Live Band "The Holidays"

D.J. of Greek Music - Strati

Put on your dancing shoes and join us

Reservations are necessary. Please call 678-581-1533

Price: \$30 adults
\$10 children under 12
Bar: Cash



December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>Thirteenth Sunday of Luke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 11:35 AM A Memorial Service 11:40 AM A 3 year Memorial Service 11:45 AM A Memorial Service 12:00 PM 40 day Blessing 12:05 PM Artoklasia is given and 4 more... 	<p>30</p> <p>Feast of St. A...First Called.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>1</p> <p>11:00 AM Blessing of the Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy 	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Bible Study 	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers - Feast of St. Barbara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club 7:00 PM Patristic Theology Seminar 	<p>4</p> <p>Feast of St. Barbara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM PC Candidate Training 12:00 PM Saba Baptism (Hannah Mary) 4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers - Feast of St. Nicholas 5:00 PM HOPE/JOY Ornament Decorating/spaghetti Dinner/Bethlehem Walk
<p>6</p> <p>Tenth Sunday...Myra of Lycia</p> <p>"Bring a Friend...teach Sunday"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 12:00 PM Philoptochos 12:45 PM GOYA Youth 1:00 PM Adult Recreational 2:00 PM Boys' Basketball 3:00 PM Girls' Basketball & 3 more... 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Philoptochos Christmas Party/General Meeting 6:30 PM AHEPA Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy 	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA) 	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 PM Patristic Theology Seminar</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers - Feast of St. Spridon of Trimythos</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Feast of St. S...of Trimythos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 2:30 PM Theodosios/Maravegias Wedding 4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<p>13</p> <p>Feast of the...f St. Modestos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 11:55 AM Christmas Kalanidos 12:05 PM 40 day Blessing 12:30 PM PC Elections 1:00 PM Boys' Basketball 2:30 PM Girls' Basketball & 3 more... 	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy 	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA) 	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM Patristic Theology Seminar</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 PM Baptism of Ceisel-Miller (Abigail Stephanie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM HOPE/JOY Christmas Caroling 4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<p>20</p> <p>Sunday before...from Dec. 17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 1:00 PM Boys' Basketball Practice 2:30 PM Girls' Basketball & Volleyball Practice 	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 PM College Student Reunion</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 PM No Classes-Hellenic Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM No Intro to Orthodoxy because of Council of Ministries 	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM No Bible Study Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Great Hours of Christmas 5:30 PM Christmas Celebration, The Nativity of Christ, Christmas Liturgy, Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. 	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>The Nativity of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 	<p>26</p> <p>Day After Christmas Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Rodriguez Baptism (Alexandros & Evangelia) 3:45 PM Schumacher Baptism 5:00 PM Great Vespers 5:30 PM Dymond/Cledaras Wedding Rehearsal
<p>27</p> <p>Sunday after...First Martyr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 9:00 AM WYR 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 1:00 PM Schumacher Wedding 5:30 PM Dymond/Cledaras Wedding 	<p>28</p> <p>... WYR</p>	<p>29</p> <p>... WYR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 AM No Classes-Hellenic Studies 7:00 PM No Intro to Orthodoxy because of Council of Ministries 	<p>30</p> <p>... WYR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM No Bible Study Class 	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Great Vespers - Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great 	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Circumcision...asil the Great</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 PM Miltiades Baptism (Katina)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy Choir Rehearsal

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Marietta, GA 30066-4660

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United We Stand

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770.924.8080, Fax - 770.924.3030

Email: holytrans@comcast.net

Web Page: www.holytransfiguration.info/

Web Page: www.mariettagreekfestival.org

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

Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter

Rev. Fr. Paul Lundberg, Presbyter

Anne Willcocks, Parish Administrator



Scan to view our Website

DATE	PC DUTY	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	PROSFORO
Dec. 6	C. Pater/A. Tsarouhas	St. James	D. Bafas/S. Gianaris	K. Niarchos/L. Nichols/K. Panov
Dec. 13	M. Nichols/R. Rogers	St. John	S. Lukens/M. Pohlman	R. Peppas/C. Sprouse/I. Steffas
Dec. 20	M. Alberts/S. Tingas	St. Peter	D. Levine/E. Markley	S. Tidwell/M. Tingas/F. Tucker
Dec. 27	S. Steffas/T. Voulopos	St. James	K. Johnson/P. Koutouzis	T. Vamvakias/S. Bethune/E. Bilson

St. James Altar Servers: Paul Jacobs-Captain

Chris Bridgers, Evan Bilson, Matthew Buchan, Constantine Gavalas, Alex Goldsholl, Jack Goldsholl, Yianni Gormanos, Gabriel Hennenfent, Kris Kollias, Nicholas Levantis, Nicholas Lukens, Gabriel Mavromatidis, Jacob Mavromatidis, Aubrey Moraitakis, George Moraitakis, Angelo Nichols, Matthew Paulson, Alexander Skarpelis, Mitchell Starks, Niko Tiller, Nick Zakreski

St. John Altar Servers: Nicholas Tassopoulos-Captain

Christopher Alberts, Matthew Azimzadeh, Andrew Bass, Christopher Bilson, Theo Bliss, Anthony Bundros, Christian Coleman, Carter Copses, Jay Copses, Mason Copses, Nick Danos, Cole Foster, Alex Gekas, Nicholas Gekas, William Jansma, Angelo Makris, Michael Marianos, Alexander Morgan, Tommy O'Brien, Evan Papadopoulos, Alexander Thorne, Braden Thorne, Csaba Wagner, Romeo Wagner

St. Peter Altar Servers: Lucas Porter-Captain

Zach Bethune, Hal Bradford, III, Christos Costarides, Yianni Costarides, Michael Farina, Leo Frangis, Manuel Frangis, Stephen Harrah, Andrew Levine, Morgan Lilly, Luke Melissas, Alek Nikolich, Matthew Shanahan, Evan Strakes, Michael Tsogas, Luke Turner, Matthew Turner, Gianni Vacratsas, Stefano Vacratsas, Michael Vastakis, Panayiotis Vlachos.

Note: If your son is not listed and should be, please contact Fr. Paul.