

SYNDIAKONIA

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Marietta, GA

JANUARY 2016



THEOPHANY-BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

When You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You the Beloved Son, and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, O Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

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.....Steve Steffas

Secretary.....Casey Pater

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dennis Christopher, Paul Markley, Marc Nichols, Randy Rogers,
Athan Tsarouhas, Becky Valagohar, Tim Voulpos

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/>

Happy New Year □□□□



*May the New Year 2016
bring to all of you
abundant blessings from God!*

Best wishes from

*The Orthodox Christian Community
of the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church,
Marietta, Georgia.*



**We are an Orthodox Christian parish in
continuity with the apostolic traditions of the
Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church**

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLES?



One more year has gone by and we still need to ponder over this basic question: What is the purpose of the Church to us? Why do we go to church? Why do we profess to be Orthodox Christians? Is this just filling a social need, or is there more to it for us?

The Apostles, who established the first Church communities, following the "Great Commission of Christ" (Matt. 28:19-20), empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and equipped with both the "message" and personal conviction, stood bravely in front of tyrants and the learned men of the time preaching the power of Christ over death and His promise of eternal life. They moved from town to town proclaiming the "Good News" to all who would listen, baptizing those who would accept the "message" and teaching them how to observe those things which Christ had

commanded them. The Apostles established Christian communities which continued to proclaim the "Good News", adding more and more members to those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47). For them, the Church was the vehicle of salvation for those who embraced "the new faith", "the new philosophy".

The main concern of the Apostles and the leaders of the Early Church was not the establishment of communities and providing activities for their members, but the salvation of human beings by bringing them to the Faith in the Risen Lord and attaching them to the Church (the Body of Christ). Their life as a community was simple, centered around the teaching and preaching of the words of Christ and the joining together in the "Agape Meals", the Eucharistic dinners, where the more affluent brought food for everyone and they all shared in a meal before they received from the blessed bread and cup - the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Early Christians were characterized by the love they had for God and the affection and kindness they showed to each other. This dedication to God and others became a major factor in the growth of the Early Church; as people of the surrounding community witnessed the authentic love of these Christians, they joined the ranks of the Church as followers of Christ.

In the 21st century, at a time when Christianity is being marginalized, we have much to learn by looking at the Early Church. The Roman society, in which Christianity emerged was very similar to ours. People were self-centered and hedonistic. Their moral values were based on their desires. Yet, the Christians did not conform to that, but broke the norms, living as Christ taught.

Christians proposed a message contrary to many of the norms of their society. Yet, their message became attractive to the people who felt the pain and suffering of life, to those who were looking for the life beyond this temporary world, those asking for redemption from their sinful existence, those looking for forgiveness and peace.

The message of Christ remains the same. He still offers peace and forgiveness, redemption and eternal life. This remains the purpose of the Church; to offer this opportunity to people seeking, to offer Christ Risen from the dead and His Kingdom, forgiveness, peace and love that are real.

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

January 2016

December 31st Thursday evening. Great Vespers at 6:00 pm.

January 1, Friday, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ, and St. Basil the Great.

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

January 2, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

January 3, Sunday before Theophany.

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

January 5, Tuesday, Forefeast of Theophany.

The Great Hours of Theophany 9:30 -11:00 am.

Today we hold the fast in preparation to receive the Holy Water of Theophany (strict fast).

January 6, Wednesday, Holy Theophany. Feast of the Baptism of Christ (the Feast of Lights).

Orthros, 8:30, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am followed by the Great Ayiasmos (Blessing of the Waters).

Evening: Great Vespers 6:00 pm - Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner.

January 7, Thursday, Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist.

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

January 8, Friday, Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Efstratios the Wonderworker.

January 9, Saturday, Feast of St. Efstratios the Wonderworker.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

Evening: Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

January 10, Sunday after the Feast of Theophany.

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

Vasilopita Sunday: Today we will celebrate the Vasilopita for the benefit of St. Basil's Academy.

January 16, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

January 17, Sunday, 12th Sunday of Luke. Feast of St. Anthony the Great.

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

Evening: Great Vespers 5:00 pm - Feast of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril.

January 18, Monday, Feast of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

January 20, Wednesday, Great Vespers 6:00 pm - Feast of St. Maximos.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES . . .

January 2016

January 21, Thursday, Feast of St. Maximos the Confessor.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

January 23, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

January 24, Sunday, 14th Sunday of Luke.

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

Evening: Great Vespers 5:00 pm. Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian.

January 25, Monday, Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

January 27, Wednesday, Great Vespers 6:00 pm - Feast of Sts. Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians.

January 28, Thursday, Feast of Sts. Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

January 29, Friday, Great Vespers for the Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs 6:00 pm.

January 30, Saturday, Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

Evening: Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

January 31, Sunday, 15th Sunday of Luke.

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

WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS ON PRAYER

At prescribed times (Feasts like the ones listed above) the Church gathers in common prayer and worship. The prayers of many faithful gathered together are more readily received and heard by God. Let us pay close attention to these words of St. Symeon the New Theologian:

"Stand in church as if you are in heaven together with the angels, and consider yourself unworthy to be praying together with your brothers. And be vigilant not to be looking back and forth to observe the brothers and sisters, how they are standing or chanting, but observe only yourself, your chanting and your sins."

St. John Chrysostom says:

"Prayer is a harbor in the storms of life, an anchor for those who are storm-tossed, the treasure of the poor, the security of the rich, the healing of the sick, the preservation of health. Prayer banishes evil things, and preserves the good."

"Prayer silences the passions of the soul, assuages the rebellion of anger, dismisses envy, dissipates evil desire, withers the love of worldly things, and brings great peace and serenity to the soul."

St. Gregory of Sinai further explains:

"Prayer is a pleasant fire for beginners, 'a light made fragrant when activated' for the advanced. Prayer informs the heart; it is the hope of salvation, the sign of purification, a symbol of holiness, the knowledge of God, the engagement of the Holy Spirit, the joy of Jesus, the gladness of the soul, the mercy of God, the sign of reconciliation, the seal of Christ, the ray of the intelligible sun, the confirmation of Christianity, proof of angelic life."

FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
~ All are Welcome ~

The Orthodox Church has preserved the original Apostolic Faith pure and unblemished. The Orthodox Church did not experience a reformation or counter reformation because the Faith was kept untouched by time and people. That does not mean all Orthodox people are always perfect, but that the Faith has remained perfect.

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 continually return to the core Faith, to the prime theological teachings of the divinity of Christ and the salvation offered through Him.

We also 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 (Greeks, Russians, Serbs and others), 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 ORTHODOX 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, as well. 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. Then we will be able to make a difference in American Society, not through monetary wealth, but rather through the Wealth of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions that we have inherited.

Let's become Ambassadors of Orthodox Christianity, the Ancient Faith, the Faith of the Apostles!

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 - JANUARY

1/1/2016	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12	
1/2/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 5:4-10	Gospel: John 3:1-15
1/3/2016	Matins: John 20:19-31 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8	
1/4/2016		Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:44-48; 11:1-10	Gospel: John 1:18-28
1/5/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:19-27	Gospel: Luke 3:1-18
1/6/2016	Matins: Mark 1:9-11 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	
1/7/2016		Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8	Gospel: John 1:29-34
1/8/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:3-11	Gospel: John 3:22-33
1/9/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17	Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11
1/10/2016	Matins: John 21:1-14 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13	
1/11/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16	Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30
1/12/2016		Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 18:22-28	Gospel: John 10:39-42
1/13/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5	Gospel: Luke 20:1-8
1/14/2016		Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:38-43	Gospel: Luke 4:1-15
1/15/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Gospel: Luke 12:32-40
1/16/2016		Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11	Gospel: John 21:14-25
1/17/2016	Matins: John 21:14-25 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21	
1/18/2016	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16	
1/19/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26
1/20/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15	Gospel: Luke 6:17-23
1/21/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 1:12-20	Gospel: Luke 12:8-12
1/22/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:3-8 Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30	
1/23/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1-3	Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5
1/24/2016	Matins: Matthew 28:16-20 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17	
1/25/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	Gospel: John 10:9-16
1/26/2016		Epistle: St. James' Universal Letter 3:1-10	Gospel: Mark 11:11-23
1/27/2016	Matins: John 10:1-9 Gospel: John 10:9-16	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	
1/28/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Gospel: Luke 6:17-23
1/29/2016		Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:32-38	Gospel: Mark 9:33-41
1/30/2016	Matins: John 10:9-16 Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16	
1/31/2016	Matins: Mark 16:1-8 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15	

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, people's circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment - we are glad you are a part of this parish.

Christian Stewardship Is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe..." , as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as parish, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

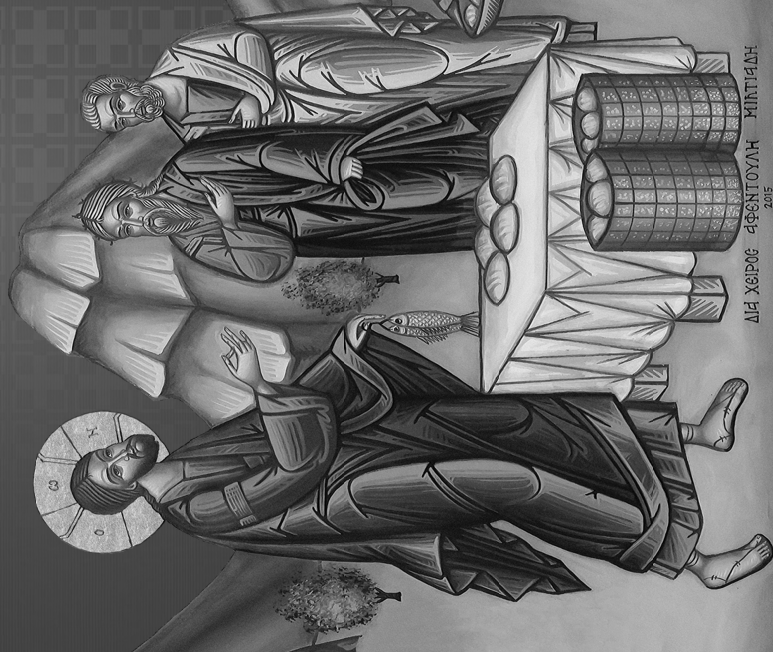
from Oriented Leadership by Williams & McKibben



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

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those that seek the
LORD SHALL
NEVER
be in want of any
GOOD THING



ΑΙΔ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΦΕΝΤΟΥΑΗ ΜΙΝΤΙΔΗ
2015



STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

CAMPAIGN

OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE Update

The Capital Campaign for
HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ΟΛΟΙ ΜΑΖΙ!



Become a part of the
“Our Faith, Our Future”
building fund campaign
in 2016!

The walls are rising up, built on the
strong foundation of our Faith!

*“For no other foundation can any
one lay than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ”.
(1Cor 3:11)*

*We are building “upon the
foundation of the apostles and
prophets...”
(Eph. 2:20)*



The Divine Liturgy: The Vesting of a Priest

As a recently ordained priest, I am now learning the divine services of the Church in a practical way, but I also continue to learn by reading. Each month in *Syndiakonia*, I will share a few excerpts of what I've recently read in a commentary on the Divine Liturgy by Hieromonk Grigorios. —Fr. Paul

For the *sticharion*: “My soul will rejoice in the Lord, for He has clothed me with a garment of salvation and enfolded me in a robe of gladness; He has set a crown upon my head as on a bridegroom, and adorned me with jewels as a bride.”

For the *epitrachelion*: “Blessed is God, who pours out His grace upon His priests, like myrrh upon the head, which runs down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runs down to the fringe of his garment.”

For the belt: “Blessed is God, who girds me with power and has made my way blameless.”

For the right cuff: “Your right hand, Lord, has been glorified in strength; your right hand, Lord, has shattered enemies, and by the greatness of your glory you have crushed the adversaries.”

For the left cuff: “Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding and I will learn Your commandments.”

For the *phelonion*: “Your priests, Lord, will clothe themselves with righteousness, and your holy ones will rejoice with gladness.”



On the Holy Vestments

The holiness of the vestments has been emphasized since Old Testament times: “Let the people not touch the garments in which the priests minister, for they are holy” (Ezekiel 42.14). Before he puts them on, the priest blesses the sacred vestments one by one with the sign of the cross, kisses them, and prays (see above for the text of the prayers)—by these actions, he shows that the vestments are holy, sanctified by the cross of Christ, and that the wearing of them transmits sanctification. By wearing priestly dress, the priest reminds us that although he comes from this world, he does not belong to this world alone. He stands between man and God, a bridge by which our prayers arise to the Most High and the gifts of God come down.

Originally white in color to connote purity, the *sticharion* symbolizes the robe of light, the grace given to all Christians at their baptism. At baptism, God adorns us with Himself, with His own beauty. The priest uses the *epitrachelion* at every rite he performs because it symbolizes the performative grace of the Holy Spirit. The *epitrachelion* symbolizes the relationship between Christ, who is the head of the Church; the priest, who is to submit humbly to Christ's yoke and perform the services under His direction; and the rest of the faithful, who are represented by the fringes at its bottom.

The Divine Liturgy: The Vesting of a Priest

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As expressed in the prayer for putting it on, the belt or girdle represents the power that the priest receives from God and the purity and sobriety to which he is called. St. John Chrysostom writes that like the Hebrews who ate the Passover meal girded and ready to depart for the Promised Land, so too we Christians should be in a state of readiness and watchfulness when receive Christ in Holy Communion. This watchfulness, readiness, and expectation are important aspects of our Christian life to which the Lord calls us through several of His parables.

The prayers for the cuffs (*epimanikia*) recall the creation of humanity and the divine economy for our salvation. God made and fashioned us with His hands, but we turned away from Him and fell under the power of sin. But God then delivered and saved us from sin, death, and the Devil, “shattering our enemies” and “crushing our adversaries.” The priest acts as the hand of Christ, who has entrusted the priest with carrying out His own task—our recreation and regeneration through the sacraments.

Bishops and the priests to whom they bestow a certain rank wear the *epigonation*, which is shaped like a rhombus so that it appears sword-like. The *epigonation*, which literally means “upon the knee” since that is where it is worn, signifies “victory over death and the incorruption of our nature, as well as the greatness of God’s power over the tyranny of the Devil...That is why it is shaped like a sword.”

The final garment a priest dons is the *phelonion*, which is a symbol of Christ as our divine righteousness. The incarnation of Christ introduced true and perfect righteousness to us. We who were formerly under the indictment of the Law became friends of God and righteous through His death. When we participate in the sacred Mysteries, Christ causes His own righteousness and life to rise in our souls.

After he has put on all the vestments, the priest (and deacon) washes his hands. Whatever work we do, we do with our hands. Because the hands are a symbol of every action, by washing them we signify the need to clear our conscience and purify our mind and heart (the hands of our soul) before approaching the Holy Altar. At the time of St. John Chrysostom, it was actually a common practice of all the worshipping faithful (not just the priests) to wash their hands upon entering the Church.

The work of cleansing our soul is performed by Christ, if we desire it, just as He did at the Last Supper when He girded Himself with a towel and washed the feet of the disciples. As St. Peter learned when he initially did not accept to be washed by Christ, there is a place with Christ only for those who have accepted, with awe, that the master should perform within them the washing of mind and heart. This spiritual washing occurs through the sacrament of confession, which is why it is important for us to receive this sacrament regularly and whenever else we need it.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Once Again...Coffee Hour Hosts Are Needed!

True or False: Everyone enjoys the treats, drinks, and fellowship of coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy.

True or False: The treats and drinks are set up by magical little elves during Divine Liturgy, and they even do all of the clean up afterwards.



I'm pretty sure everyone can guess which of these two statements is false. The truth of the matter is, hosting coffee hour is an easy way to offer your service to our church. Please go to the Sign up Genius website:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4cabad23a2fe3-coffee> and choose your date to play the part of the magical elves for the rest of us, then email Anne Willcocks at holytrans@comcast.net to have your name or the special occasion included in the weekly bulletin.

If you are new and need an invitation to join the group, contact Stephanie Lukens at dsclukens@gmail.com. Stephanie can also send you detailed directions for hosting.

Thank you for your service,

Parish Life Ministry
Outreach Ministry

SOUP KITCHEN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All Church members are invited to participate in a wonderful giving experience! On every 4th Thursday of the month, Philoptochos provides a nutritious lunch to needy men, women and children at Must Ministries in Marietta. Volunteers are needed to prepare either baked chicken, rice or salad. Help is also needed for the serving of the food. Even doing this just once a year or every month will be an enriching experience for you as you serve those in need, as Christ called us to do. Philoptochos generously serves over 1,200 meals a year! Please consider being part of this Christian outreach service by contacting Athena Burke at 770 973-3111 or email ibgreek@bellsouth.net

In October, we served 87 hot meals at Must Ministries. A special thank you to the following people who helped prepare, or served on that day: Kally Niarchos, Fran Tucker, Cathy Costarides, Ellen Linebaugh, Dorothy Botni, Niki Gess, Annette Jacobs, Elaine Paulson, Athena and Melina Burke, Dorothy Macris, Linda Lopos, Pat Koutouzis, and Michael Gavalas.

HELLENIC DANCE

Dance will start practicing for the 2016 Marietta Festival in February. If you do not receive emails from Dorian Bafas with dance updates, please make sure to get in touch with her to be added to the distribution list: mariettahellenicdance@gmail.com

5th grade and under will start on Tuesday afternoon, February 2nd; Middle School & High School will start on Sunday, February 7th.



Hellenic Studies

Below are some updates regarding our Hellenic Studies program...Check in with us frequently at: www.holytransfiguration.info/our-culture/hellenic-studies/

A friendly reminder
to all of our students:

Regular classes will resume on **Tuesday, January 5th** for our *adult* and *youth* program.

We will have a brief **cutting of the Vasilopita** at the beginning of the evening, before classes begin.



~~~ Save the Date ~~~

You are *cordially* invited to attend the  
annual

**Apokriatiko Glendi**

Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

*Details to follow soon...stay tuned!!*

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**We're looking for Prosforo bakers!**



**If you would like to prepare the bread for the Divine Liturgy service, please contact Anne in the parish office (770.924.8080). The more bakers we have, the fewer weeks you will be needed during the ecclesiastical year.**



# HOPE/JOY



**December 5, 2015**

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Christmas Ornament Decorating, Spaghetti Dinner, and Bethlehem Walk"



**December 19, 2015** - "Falalalala: Christmas Caroling at Arbor Terrace with the Choir; Hot Cocoa and Cookies at Starbucks"

We have a ton of activities planned in the New Year! Info to follow shortly...

Shutterfly: <https://hopeandjoy.shutterfly.com/>

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

Contact Christina Bourgeois, 678-923-6255 (cell/text), [christinabourgeois@yahoo.com](mailto:christinabourgeois@yahoo.com)



## Arts & Crafts at GOYA



Above, GOYA starts a new monthly assembly at the Frangis home. Below, “speed friending”.





# Winter Youth Rally



Ready for the trip downtown for the Winter Youth Rally



Posing with the Trophy - 3rd place in girls basketball





# NEWS YOU CAN USE!

**PRIME TIMERS WISHES EVERYONE A BEAUTIFUL HAPPY HEALTHY 2016.  
EACH DAY IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT SO 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 12:30 PM. 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

## 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.



# January 2016

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Monday                                                                                                                                                                   | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                                                                               | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>27</p> <p>WYR</p> <p>after Christm...First Martyr.</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>5:30 PM Dymond/Cledaras Wedding</p> <p>8:30 PM Winter Youth Rally begins</p>                                   | <p>28</p> <p>5:30 PM No Classes--Hellenic Studies</p> <p>7:00 PM No Intro to Orthodoxy</p>                                                                               | <p>29</p> <p>7:00 PM No Bible Study Class</p>                                                                                                                      | <p>30</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers--Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great</p>                                                                                                                                           | <p>31</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Circumcision...asil the Great</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p>                                                                                               | <p>1</p> <p>12:00 PM Miltiades Baptism (Katina)</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p>                                                                     | <p>2</p>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>3</p> <p>Afterfeast of...he Confessor</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 AM Catechism</p> <p>11:30 AM PC Oath of Office --tentative</p> <p>3:30 PM McQueary Baptism (Lydia)</p>                | <p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM Funeral of Eugenia Smith</p>                                                                                                                        | <p>5</p> <p>Forefeast of Theophany</p> <p>9:30 AM The Great Hours of Theophany</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</p>               | <p>6</p> <p>Holy Theoph...ast of Lights)</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Avias--</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers--</p> <p>Synaxis of St. John the</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Synaxis of St...r and Baptist</p> <p>8:45 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>7:00 PM Patristic Theology Seminar</p>                                                                            | <p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers--Feast of St. Efratios the Wonderworker</p>                                                                        | <p>9</p> <p>Feast of St. E...nderworker</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>12:00 PM Kipreos Baptism (Michael)</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>Sunday after...il's Academy.</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 AM Catechism</p>                                                                                                     | <p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM Facilities Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Educational Development Committee Meeting</p>                                                           | <p>12</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</p> <p>7:00 PM ECY Committee Meeting</p>                                                   | <p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM AHEPA Social Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting</p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>15</p> <p>HDF</p> <p>10:00 AM Prime Timers' 2016 Welcome</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p> | <p>16</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>17</p> <p>HDF</p> <p>Twelfth Sund...ny the Great.</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 AM Catechism</p> <p>11:50 AM Artoklasia is given--</p> <p>12:00 PM Artoklasia is given--and 2 more...</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Feast of Sts...of Alexandria.</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting</p> | <p>19</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>6:30 PM Council of Ministries Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM NO Intro to Orthodoxy today because of Council of Ministries</p> | <p>20</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers--Feast of St. Maximos</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p>21</p> <p>Feast of St...the Confessor</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>7:00 PM Patristic Theology Seminar</p>                                                                             | <p>22</p>                                                                                                                                            | <p>23</p> <p>8:30 AM Catechism Workshop</p> <p>3:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>3:45 PM Baptism of Natasha Patino</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p>                           |
| <p>24</p> <p>Fourteenth Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 AM Catechism</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers--Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian</p>                                      | <p>25</p> <p>Feast of St...the Theologian</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p>                                                                      | <p>26</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club</p> <p>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</p>                                                  | <p>27</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers--Feast of Sts. Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians.</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>                                                                                                                              | <p>28</p> <p>Feast of Sts...ac the Syrians</p> <p>9:00 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:30 AM Soup Kitchen (Philoptochos)</p> <p>6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club</p> <p>7:00 PM Patristic Theology</p> | <p>29</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs</p>                                                                     | <p>30</p> <p>Feast of the...n Chrysostom</p> <p>8:45 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>                                          |
| <p>31</p> <p>Fifteenth Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 AM Orthros</p> <p>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 AM Catechism</p> <p>12:30 PM Special Event--tentative</p> <p>1:00 PM Greek Letters Day</p>                               | <p>1</p> <p>Hellenic Dance...actice begins</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</p>                                                         | <p>2</p>                                                                                                                                                           | <p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>4</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>5</p> <p>AHEPA Adopt A Highway</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>                                                        | <p>6</p>                                                                                                                                                                                            |



# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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770.924.8080, Fax - 770.924.3030

Email: [holytrans@comcast.net](mailto:holytrans@comcast.net)

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

Rev. Fr. Paul Lundberg, Presbyter

Anne Willcocks, Parish Administrator



**Scan to view our Website**

| DATE    | PC DUTY                   | ACOLYTES  | GREETERS                | PROSFORO                              |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jan. 3  | A. Miltiades/A. Tsarouhas | St. John  | S. Gianaris/D. Levine   | A. Burke/M. Driscoll/M. Eleftheriou   |
| Jan. 10 | D. Christopher/G. O'Brien | St. Peter | C. Kollias/B. Valagohar | S. Gianaris/N. Kakissis/E. Kay        |
| Jan. 17 | C. Pater/B. Valagohar     | St. James | K. Johnson/E. Markley   | P. Koutouzis/L. Lopos/J. Miltiades    |
| Jan. 24 | M. Nichols/R. Rogers      | St. John  | P. Koutouzis/D. Smith   | M. Miltiades/P. Miltiades/K. Niarchos |
| Jan. 31 | P. Markley/S. Tingas      | St. Peter | L. Sampanes/M. Zavala   | K. Panov/C. Sprouse/I. Steffas        |

## **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.