

SYNDIAKONIA

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Marietta, GA

MAY 2015



Mid-Pentecost

In the midst of the venerable feast of Pentecost, in the midst of the Temple, the Master of all things stood, and speaking to the Jews, openly censured them, for their heavy handed daring against their King and God. Whereas, in His loving-kindness, He is granting great mercy to all of us who believe in Him.

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3431 Trickum Road

Marietta, GA 30066

Tel. 770 924-8080

Fax 770 924-3030

Website: www.holytrans.org

CHURCH OFFICE

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

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

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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/>

Indeed the Lord is Risen!



"He is Risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:16)

"The Lord is Risen indeed" (Luke 24:34)

Christ is Risen! we cry out over and over again as we celebrate this momentous historical event-the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There has been nothing else in human history that has gripped human imagination as powerfully as the life, death and resurrection of this Jewish man called Jesus. Generation after generation we stand in awe in front of the mystery of these events.

The greatest appeal of Jesus is actually found in his teachings: He turned upside down everything that his contemporaries had known.

He taught equality for men and women of all social states in a society of many inequalities. He taught love, caring and forgiveness in a world of revenge, selfishness and self gratification. He taught a peaceful resolution of conflicts in a world where the powerful always trampled upon the powerless. He was a revolutionary without weapons. His positions challenged the *status quo* of his time so much so that the leadership of his people sought to eliminate him to utter extinction. His condemnation on the cross was supposed to bring about his ultimate humiliation so that no one would ever remember him. What they did not take into account, however, was his real power. What they ignored was his ability to bend the laws of nature. What they did not believe was that he was indeed God. Their biggest fear, that he might rise from the dead, came true, in the end, to their great horror.

Although his teachings still retain the greatest of appeals, the power of his resurrection is the primary reason why Christianity still exists today. Christ's resurrection is the most significant part of the Gospel (*the Good News*). It was in the resurrection that Christ's divine nature was fully revealed. It is through the resurrection that those who unite with him are able to become free even if they remain slaves physically. It is in the resurrection that one could be rich on this earth even if he has few possessions. The appeal of Christianity was great to the people of that time who lived under oppressive and difficult conditions because of the hope of the resurrection, proclaiming with St. Peter: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* (1Peter 1:3).

Christianity continued to remain appealing through the centuries to all people who experienced oppression and suffering: It was in the celebration of the resurrection that the Greek people found hope while under the domination of the Turks for 400 years. It was the hope of the resurrection that kindled the spirits of the Christians of Russia and other countries during those oppressive years of communism.

Christ is Risen, my brothers and sisters! Let us look with a renewed heart and mind at this momentous event. During these difficult and uncertain times the power of God is revealed again through the resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. In Him is the Hope. In Him is the Love. In Him is the Life. Amen!

Fr. Panayiotis



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Marietta, GA 30066

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

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

May 2015

May 1, Friday, Blessing of the Water 11:00 am.

May 2, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

May 3, Sunday, Sunday of the Paralytic

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

May 4, Monday, Great Vespers for **Feast of St. Irene the Great Martyr** 6:00 pm

May 5, Tuesday, Feast of St. Irene the Great Martyr

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

May 9, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

May 10, Sunday, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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

May 15-17, Friday-Sunday, Greek Festival - Lectures and Tours of the Church

May 17, Sunday, Sunday of the Blind Man

Orthros 8:15 am and Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Note: Festival Sunday - The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 am

May 20, Wednesday, Great Vespers - Feast of Ascension & Sts. Constantine & Helen 6:00 pm

May 21, Thursday, Ascension of the Lord, Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen.

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

May 23, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

May 24, Sunday, Sunday of the 318 Holy Fathers of First Ecumenical Council.

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

Today we remember all the American heroes of the wars (Memorial Day Weekend)

May 29, Friday. Remembrance of the Fall of Constantinople - May 29, 1453 AD

May 30, Saturday, Saturday of the Souls. Ψυχοσάββατο.

Orthros 9:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

This service will be held at the *Green Lawn Cemetery* where we have been given space for an Orthodox Cemetery. A memorial has been built in the center, which we use as a chapel.

Afternoon: Great Vespers 5:00 pm (at the church)

May 31, Sunday of Holy Pentecost. Κυριακή τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς.

Orthros 8:30 am and **Divine Liturgy 9:45 am.** The Great Vespers of the Holy Spirit will follow the Divine Liturgy.

During this week (including Wednesday and Friday) we may eat all things - NO FASTING.

Holy Saints of May (May 9)

St. Christopher of Lycia, the Martyr



The Holy Martyr Christopher lived during the third century and suffered about the year 250, during the reign of the emperor Decius (249–251). There are various accounts of his life and miracles, and he is widely venerated throughout the world.

St Christopher was a man of great stature and unusual strength. According to tradition, St Christopher was very handsome, but wishing to avoid temptation for himself and others, he asked the Lord to give him an unattractive face, which was done. Before Baptism he was named Reprebus [Reprobate] because his disfigured appearance. Even before Baptism, Reprebus confessed his faith in Christ and denounced those who persecuted Christians. Consequently, a certain Bacchus gave him a beating, which he endured with humility.

Because of his renowned strength, 200 soldiers were assigned to bring him before the emperor Decius. Reprebus submitted without resistance. Several miracles occurred along the way; a dry stick blossomed in the saint's hand, loaves of bread were multiplied through his prayers, and the travelers had no lack thereof. The soldiers surrounding Reprebus were astonished at these miracles. They came to believe in Christ and they were baptized along with Reprebus by St Babylas of Antioch (September 4).

Christopher once made a vow to serve the greatest king in the world, so he first offered to serve the local king. Seeing that the king feared the devil, Christopher thought he would leave the king to serve Satan. Learning that the devil feared Christ, Christopher went in search of Him. St Babylas of Antioch told him that he could best serve Christ by doing well the task for which he was best suited. Therefore, he became a ferryman, carrying people across a river on his shoulders. One stormy night, Christopher carried a Child Who insisted on being taken across at that very moment. With every step Christopher took, the Child seemed to become heavier. Halfway across the stream, Christopher felt that his strength would give out, and that he and the Child would be drowned in the river. As they reached the other side, the Child told him that he had just carried all the sins of the world on his shoulders. Then He ordered Christopher to plant his walking stick in the ground. As he did so, the stick grew into a giant tree. Then he recognized Christ, the King Whom he had vowed to serve.

The name Christopher means "Christ-bearer." This can refer to the saint carrying the Savior across the river, and it may also refer to St Christopher bearing Christ within himself (Galatians 2:20).



Holy Feasts of May (May 7)

On May 7, we commemorate the Appearance in the Heavens of the Cross of the Lord at Jerusalem (351). After the death of the first Christian emperor, Constantine the Great, the imperial throne was occupied by his son Constantius, who inclined towards the heresy of Arius, which denied the one self-same essence of the Son of God with the Father. In the reaffirming of holy Orthodoxy, the Lord manifest at Jerusalem a wondrous sign. On the day of Holy Pentecost, 7 May 351, at the third hour of the morning in the heavens there appeared the image of the equal-proportioned Cross of the Lord, shining with an inexpressible light, and brighter than the light of the sun. All the people were eye-witness to this, and they were struck with great dread and amazement. The appearance of the Sign of the Cross began over holy Mount Golgotha, whereupon it was that the Lord had been crucified (Mt 27:32-33; Jn 19:17,41; Heb 13:12), and it reached to the Mount of Olives (Jn 8:1; 18:1-2), extending from Golgotha a distance of 15 stadia. The Sign was transfused with all the colors of the rainbow and it caught the sight of all the people. Many of the people, leaving off from whatever they were doing, went outside the houses and with awe stood contemplating the wondrous sign. Then a numerous throng of the people of Jerusalem with trembling and joy hastened to the holy Church of the Resurrection.

The holy Jerusalem Patriarch Cyril (350-387) advised the emissary of the emperor Constantius about this miraculous occurrence of the appearance of the Sign of the Cross, and he urged him to return to the Orthodox faith. And Sozomen, a historian of the Ancient Church, likewise testifies, that through this appearance of the Holy Cross many of the Jews and pagan Greeks came to the true faith, repenting in Christ God, and accepted Holy Baptism.

On Pain and Illness

My child, I pray that the good Comforter, the good and true Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will overshadow you, console you, and ignite in you the love of Christ.

I pray with all my soul that our Christ will grant you your health. I see and know from my experience, my child, that if one suffers various afflictions, whether bodily or spiritual, and patiently endures them with knowledge, and thanks God, then God is definitely obliged to send consolation to refresh his soul. But if we do not endure pain and labor, God does not console---He does not give His grace.

Do you see after you recover from pain how much the love of Christ ignites within you? Yes, it is the reward for your labor, your patience. If you didn't have this illness, you wouldn't have so much love and consolation. Do you see that when you recover, you feel like a child? This is a sign that God forgives your sins and you are free from blame. All this is caused by the patience you have when you are ill. When God deigns for you to get well, then you will see in practice what I am telling you. The more one suffers, the more grace one is given.

One monk was ill, and he had such a horrible disease that the brethren were disgusted by him and drove him away. He blamed himself by saying that he deserved such treatment. Because of his humility, God made him well. But afterwards, this holy monk kept saying, "Ah, my Christ, I was unworthy to suffer more for Thy love!" He knew from experience how much he gained from his illness.

Therefore, do not grieve at all. Only thank our Christ, Who loves you so much that He has given you temporary afflictions here in order to give you everlasting joy there. When you are ill and unable to fulfill your spiritual duties with exactitude, do not be sad, because it is not a sin since your will does not exercise authority over your health. Nevertheless, a monk must compel himself. But if he is ill, it is not a sin not to fulfill his duties---God is just. Obedience with humility and thanksgiving to God replaces the ascesis of fasting. Great is the benefit of self-reproach when one is unable to fast due to illness.

*Selected from Counsels from the Holy Mountain
From the Letters and Homilies of Elder Ephraim*

Remembering the Fall of Constantinople to the Muslim Turks - May 29, 1453



On May 29, 1453, the last Emperor, Constantine Palaeologos, falls defending the Christian City and the civilization it represents. The only Christian empire which lasted 1100 years became subjected to utter destruction under muslim rule.

May 29, 1453: The Fall of Constantinople

The fall of the city to the Ottoman Turks signaled the end of the longest civilization in the history of humankind, a Christian civilization that transformed the world.

On that fateful Tuesday of May in 1453, Constantinople fell to the hands of the Ottoman Turks, led by Mehmet the Conqueror. The Great City, which for 1,100 years represented the Christian Greco-Roman Civilization initiated by Constantine the Great, was overrun by the Asian warriors.

The Great Church of Ayia Sophia (built by Emperor Justinian), which for 900 years stood as the symbol of the triumph of Christianity in the world, was turned into a moslem mosque.

The Greco-Roman Christians, who preserved Orthodox Christianity for over 1,000 years, came under the rule of the muslim conquerors. For the next 400 years (and in some places even until today) they would suffer the ultimate humiliation and oppression, but would continue preserving the Faith undefiled.

The Christians lived under moslem yoke always looking to the miracle of the Resurrection of the Lord with the hope of liberation and freedom.



The Last Emperor
Constantine Palaeologos



The siege of the city

The Great Church of Ayia Sophia was converted to a mosque

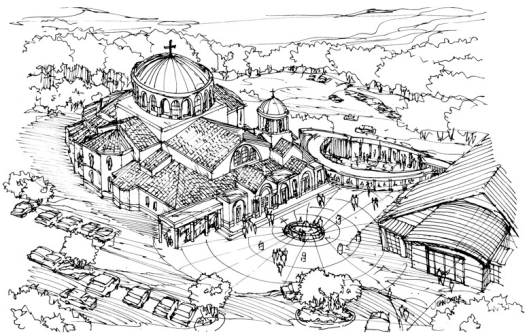


CHURCH OF AYIA SOPHIA IN CONSTANTINOPLE TODAY

Photo by Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, May 2001

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - MAY

5/1/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 8:40; 9:1-19	Gospel: John 6:48-54
5/2/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16	Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19
5/3/2015	Matins: Luke 24:13-35 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42	Gospel: John 5:1-15
5/4/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:1-16	Gospel: John 6:56-69
5/5/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:21-33	Gospel: John 7:1-13
5/6/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 14:6-18	Gospel: John 7:14-30
5/7/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 26:1, 12-20	Gospel: John 8:12-20
5/8/2015	Matins: John 21:15-25 Epistle: St. John's First Universal Letter 1:1-7 Gospel: John 19:25-28, 21:24-25	
5/9/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11	Gospel: John 8:31-42
5/10/2015	Matins: John 20:1-10 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30	Gospel: John 4:5-42
5/11/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:12-17	Gospel: John 8:42-51
5/12/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:25; 13:1-12	Gospel: John 8:51-59
5/13/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 13:13-24	Gospel: John 6:5-14
5/14/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 14:20-28; 15:1-4	Gospel: John 9:39-10:9
5/15/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 15:5-12	Gospel: John 10:17-28
5/16/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 15:35-41	Gospel: John 10:27-38
5/17/2015	Matins: John 20:11-18 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34	Gospel: John 9:1-38
5/18/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 17:1-9	Gospel: John 11:47-54
5/19/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 17:19-28	Gospel: John 12:19-36
5/20/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 18:22-28	Gospel: John 12:36-47
5/21/2015	Matins: Mark 16:9-20 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-12	Gospel: Luke 24:36-53
5/22/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8	Gospel: John 14:1-11
5/23/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 20:7-12	Gospel: John 14:10-21
5/24/2015	Matins: John 21:1-14 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36	Gospel: John 17:1-13
5/25/2015	Matins: Luke 7:17-30 Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15	
5/26/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 21:26-32	Gospel: John 16:2-13
5/27/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 23:1-11	Gospel: John 16:15-23
5/28/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 25:13-19	Gospel: John 16:23-33
5/29/2015	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 27:1-44; 28:1	Gospel: John 17:18-26
5/30/2015	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 4:13-17	Gospel: John 21:14-25
5/31/2015	Matins: John 20:19-23 Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11	Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12



Love One Another

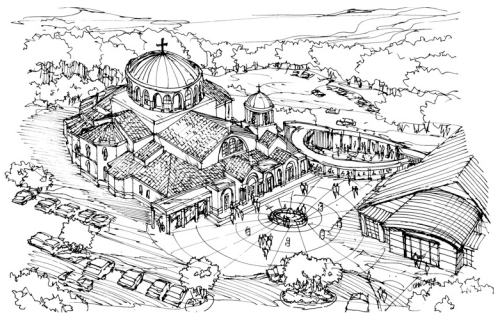
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Mr. & Mrs. Brett A. Strauch
Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Taoushiani
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Tassopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Ovidiu Teodorescu
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Thorne
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tidwell
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tiller
Ms. Maria Tingas
Mr. Steve Tingas
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Tsapoitis
Mr. Athan Tsarouhas
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Tsirnikas
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Tsoukalas
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner
Mr. George Tzortzinakis

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vachtsevanos
Mrs. & Mrs. Stavros Vacratsas
Ms. Becky Valagohar
Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Vamvakias
Ms. Elaine Vasilas
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Vastakis
Ms. Maria Vatzakas
Mr. Allen Vatzakas
Mr. & Mrs. Theodoros Vatzakas
Mr. & Mrs. Vaios Vlachos
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Vlahiotis
Mr. & Mrs. George Vlamis
Dr. Phillip Vodas
Mr. Tim Vouloupos
Mr. Julian P. Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Westmoreland
Mr. Benjamin Whitener
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Xanthakis
Ms. Peggy Yeotis
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Yiannovits
Ms. Eleftheria Young
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski
Mr. & Mrs. Marco Zavala
Mrs. Angela Ziros

Total: 327

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*"And above all things have
fervent love for one another,
for 'love will cover a multitude
of sins'. Be hospitable to one
another without grumbling.
As each has received a gift,
minister it to one another as
good stewards of the manifold
grace of God."*

I Peter 4:8-10

**Please fill out your Pledge
Card today and bring your
offering to the Lord.**

OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE Update

The Capital Campaign for
HOLYTRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ΟΛΟΙ ΜΑΖΙ!

All of us, working together, we continue to build our Faith, Hope and Love.

*From our Founders to our Newcomers, God calls His People to
His Holy Community in Marietta, Georgia.*

To Him belongs the Glory, Honor and Worship!



This parish is preparing to provide generations of its members for years to come with the ability to worship, be educated in the faith and celebrate as a family the Life and Teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, allowing God to transform their own lives through His Love.

JOIN US!

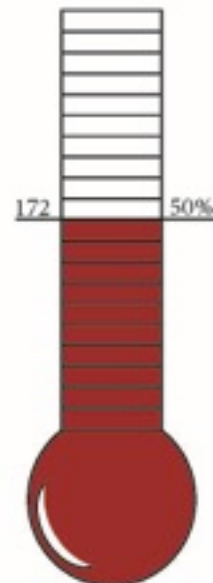
J. Fr. Panayiotis

OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

The Capital Campaign for
HOLYTRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Parish Participation

As of 4/23, We have 50 %!



"Η πίστη μας και το μέλλον μας"

Έρανος για την Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος.

Marietta, GA

Η προσπάθεια αυτή επικεντρώνεται στο να εκπληρώσουμε το στρατηγικό σχέδιο που έχει ξεκινήσει η ενορία μας για την ανακαίνιση των υφισταμένων κτιρίων, την ανέγερση εκπαιδευτικού κέντρου και γυμναστηρίου και την αύξηση του χώρου στάθμευσης γύρω από την εκκλησία και το νέο κτίριο.

Το καινούργιο κτίριο θα συμπεριλαμβάνει την αναδιαμόρφωση και επέκταση του υφιστάμενου κοινοτικού κέντρου της ενορίας μας σε 23,000 τετραγωνικά ποδιά, κτίριο πολλαπλών χρήσεων που θα ονομάζεται κέντρο «Διακονίας Αδελφότητας και Αλληλεγγύης».

Το έργο αυτό θα ενισχύσει όλες τις διακονίες της ενορίας και θα προωθήσει την αύξηση της συμμετοχής των μελών μας.

Το κόστος του έργου θα είναι \$6,400,000 και από το σύνολο αυτό \$3,400,000 θα συγκεντρωθούν από τον έρανο και το υπόλοιπο \$3.000.000 θα δανειοδοτηθεί μέσω τραπεζικού δανείου.

Η λατρεία, αδελφότης και η αλληλεγγύη, καλλιεργούνται καθημερινώς σε όλες τις διακονίες στην ενορία μας μέσω της αφοσίωσης μας που είναι και το βασικό χαρακτηριστικό της πίστης μας.

Η προσθήκη αυτή των καινούργιων κτιρίων θα συντελέσει στην ανάπτυξη της κοινότητας και αναβάθμιση του κοινοτικού περιβάλλοντος. Η επέκταση αυτή θα επιδεικνύει την συσπείρωση της ενορίας μας και την αγάπη και αφοσίωση μας προς τον Θεό.

Ο έρανος αυτός θα ενισχύσει την ανάπτυξη σε όλες της διακονίες παρέχοντας περισσότερους χώρους ώστε η κάθε διακονία να μπορεί να ανθίσει. Όλες οι διακονίες, από την διδασκαλία της ορθοδοξίας, το έργο της Φιλοπτώχου, τη μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής, την Ομάδα Βιβλίου, τη διδασκαλία της Ελληνικής γλώσσας, των Ελληνικών παραδοσιακών χορών ως και τη γλώσσα της Αγίας Γραφής, ΑΧΕΠΑ, HOPE & JOY και GOYA, θα έχουν την ευκαιρία να εξυπηρετούν καλύτερα όλα τα μέλη τους.

Στο νέο χώρο θα μπορούμε να αναπτύξουμε ευκαιρίες οι οποίες θα προβάλλουν την κοινότητα μας στους κατοίκους της περιοχής που ψάχνουν για αλήθεια και αγάπη. Αυτό θα δώσει τη δυνατότητα να μεγαλώσουμε την ενορία μας με την προσέλκυση νέων μελών.

Το Ελληνικό φεστιβάλ θα επωφεληθεί επίσης από την ανάπτυξη αυτή διότι ο χώρος εκδηλώσεων θα είναι μεγαλύτερος. Επίσης, η αύξηση του καλυμένου χώρου θα μειώσει τον κίνδυνο κακών καιρικών συνθηκών που οδηγεί πάντοτε στη μείωση των εισοδημάτων του Ελληνικού Φεστιβάλ.

Με την βοήθεια του Θεού και τη συμμετοχή και δωρεές των μελών της εκκλησίας ευελπιστούμε ότι η προσπάθεια μας αυτή θα ευοδώσει στην ανάπτυξη της κοινότητας μας και του πλούτου της ζωής της ενορίας μας εξασφαλίζοντας έτσι και τιμώντας την παράδοση μας και το μέλλον της πίστης μας.

Με τον επιπλέον κτιριακό χώρο, το μέλλον της Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας θα λάμψη πιο λαμπρά και θα αντανakλά την δόξα του Θεού για εκατοντάδες χρόνια.

ΜΑΖΙ ΚΤΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΕΛΛΟΝ ΜΑΣ.

Υπεύθυνες Μετάφρασης : Ελένη Κλέμεντ και Χριστίνα Λίλλι

Have you ever been running late on a Sunday morning only to get to church to find there is no place to legally park? Do any of you have children in our Youth or Catechism programs? Have you actually witnessed what 20+ high school Catechism students crammed into the conference room looks like? If so, then you can understand the need to move forward to our next building phase. Some of the benefits of the *Our Faith, Our Future* campaign will allow us to:

- Create 60+ additional parking spaces
- Have adequately sized classrooms for all Catechism, Hellenic Studies and Youth programs
- Have proper administration offices for our clergy and staff
- Add a multipurpose facility/gymnasium to support our athletic programs and banquet needs

In order to allow us to fulfill our commitments to the parish of entering the project debt free and raising our cash levels, pledges need to be turned in to Anne BEFORE the May 1st deadline. That will enable us to proceed with the plans to break ground in June. But we need your pledge to get there!!

I'm happy to report that we have received 173 gifts and pledges so far!! (Or 50% of the parish) We are striving for 100% Parish involvement, so if you haven't pledged yet and would like to, please see Mike Jacobs, Jimmy Frangis, or any Parish Council member for a pledge card. The cards are also in the Narthex and in the church office. And please remember, all gifts of all sizes make a significant impact!

We gratefully thank and acknowledge the following parishioners for their five year *Our Faith, Our Future* pledge, and we hope that their actions will inspire other parishioners to commit to the future of Holy Transfiguration as well:

Jeff & Maria Alberts
Stephanie Alberts
John & Donna Asimakos
Dorian Bafas
Tom & Lois Bafas
Brian & Irene Baleno
Trey & Sherry Bane
Peter & Jenny Basis
Roseann Bates
Richard & Sophia Bethune
Evelyn Bilson
Paul & Elaine Bilson
Pete & Kathy Bilson
Tony & Katerina Blasetti
Terry & Irma Bliss
Bob & Dorothy Botni
Aaron & Christina Bourgeois
Stephen & Dimitra Bournias
Mark & Lela Bridgers
Toula Brotsis
Andrew Brown
Patrice Brown
Kerry & Debra Buchan
Jim & Athena Burke
Melina Burke
Dino & Kathy Bylos
Jimmy & Helen Carlos
Greg & Michelle Cassimus
Harry & Elene Catrakilis
Thomas Cavalaris
Maria Ceisel
Dennis & Paula Christopher
Jim & Eleni Clement
Charles Coleman
Tom & Maria Comsudes
Marianna Constantinou
Cathy Costarides
Harry & Christine Demakis
Hailey Demakis
Nicholas Demakis
Julia Demakis
John & Elizabeth Doulgerakis

Marty Driscoll
Cedric & Peggy Dunkerly
Katina Dunkerly
Jimmy & Maria Duvlaris
Jimmy & Michelle Frangis
Maria Frangis
Joe & Donnis Gavalas
Michael Gavalas
Larry & Niki Gess
Phil & Michelle Giannaris
Christopher & Maria Goldsholl
Ted & Lea Gormanos
Christopher & Leslie Hansard
Chris & Sis Hondras
Charles Honey
Diana Honey
Chris & Georgia Hutt
Mike & Annette Jacobs
Katie Jacobs
Paul Jacobs
Brian & Victoria Jansma
Andy & Tina Johansen
Ioannis & Maria Kapsalis
Manoli & Tasia Kipreos
Mike & Themis Kipreos
Alan & Mary Ellen Knuchel
Connie Kollias
Zack & Margaret Kollias
Konstantinidis & Kyriaki Konstantinidis
Dennis & Ginny Kostulakos
Dennis & Pat Koutouzis
Stamatis & Stacey Levantis
Smith & Brooke Levenson
Kevin & Demetra Lilly
David & Ellen Linebaugh
Maria Linebaugh
Sophia Linebaugh
George & Linda Lopes
David & Stephanie Lukens
Fr. Paul & Eliana Lundberg

Bobby & Dorothy Macris
Christy Macris
Craig & Jennifer Mallie
Panagiotis & Courtney Maniatis
Dean & Susan Marianos
Bobis Markatos
Paul & Eliza Markley
George Matthews
Harry & Dawn Mavromatides
Autilia McGovern
Michael & Lukia McLean
John & Katherine McQueary
Andy Melissas
Panayiotis Michael
Stella Michael-Makri
Ioanna Michaels
Alex & Mary Miltiades
Andrew Miltiades
Charles & Jennie Miltiades
Demetri & Penny Miltiades
John & Anna Moraitakis
Kenny & Alexis Morgan
Patricia Morris
John & Kim Moutoukas
Paul & Alicia Moutoukas
George & Denise Nakos
Costa & Maro Neocleous
Jim & Kally Niarchos
Chris & Anthea Nichols
Evans Nichols
Marc & Lee Nichols
Mike & Georgia O'Brien
Jason Orologos
Nikki Palamiotis
Dean & Christina Pallas
Fr. George & Presbyteria Toula Pallas
Tasi Pallas
Aristotle & Cathy Papadopoulos
Pete & Charlene Papadopoulos

Fr. Panayiotis & Presbyteria Catherine Papageorgiou
Maria Paradisis/Walter Dorawa
Casey Pater
Alex Paulson
Dean & Friday Paulson
John Paulson
Stratton Paulson
Michael & Elaine Paulson
Keath & Jeannie Paxten
John & Rosemary Peppas
Mimi Pohlman
Tony & Nancy Porter
Anthony & Irene Purdy
Randy & Paula Rogers
Jay & Carol Sarmir
George & Sophia Sarris
Mike & Sharon Serkedakis
Taka & Kathy Shoji
Jeremy & Anna Simpson
Peter & Kathryn Sklikas
Eric & Donna Smith
Manning & Claudia Smith
Christina Solomon
Ron & Christine Sprouse
Christine Stavrou
Steve & Irene Steffas
Mary Stiakakis
Michael & Aliki Strakes
Connie Stratigos
Zach & Theresa Taoushiani
Tim & Maria Tassopoulos
Steve & Vicky Thorne
John Tiliacos
Steve Tingas
Athan Tsarouhas
Jim & Fran Tucker
Danny & Chelsie Vlahiotis
Ben Whitener
Anastasios & Virginia Yiannovits
Matthew & Ann Zakreski

ANNOUNCEMENTS



May 15, 16 @ 17

The weekend following Mother's Day!

Volunteers are needed!



Coffee hosting dates for 2015 are available. Don't forget to sign up for your preferred date to celebrate a birthday, nameday, remember a loved one, or just because. Sign ups are through the Sign Up Genius website (signupgenius.com). If you need an online invitation to join the group, please contact Stephanie Lukens at dsclukens@gmail.com or call at 678-230-8412 if you have any questions.



Sunday,
May 10th!

Monday,
May 25th!





On April 23, 2015, Fr. Panayiotis attended the 100th anniversary remembrance event of the Armenian genocide by the muslim Turks in 1915 - More than a 1.5 million Christian Armenians were either executed or died from starvation in a forced migration from their homeland.

The event was held at the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta.

Fr. Panayiotis represented Metropolitan Alexios and spoke to the gathering about the subsequent genocides committed by the Turks, the Germans and others since no one spoke out to condemn this heinous crime. "We need to speak against this today", Fr. Panayiotis said, "so that this will never happen again".

Fr. Panayiotis also said: *"We as Greeks and Greek Cypriots stand with you and condemn the Turkish atrocities against your people because we have also suffered at the hands of the Turks even as recently as 1974, when Cyprus was invaded by Turkey and we were forced out of our homes and ancestral lands, while thousands died at the hands of the invading forces."*



Lazarus Saturday



Because You bound Hades, Immortal One, because You caused death to die and raised up the world, with palm-leaves did babes acclaim You, O Christ, as Victor, crying loud to You today, “Hosanna to David’s Son!...Never again shall infants be slaughtered because of the infant of Mary; for, for all, young and old, You alone are hung on a Cross. Never again shall the sword split us asunder, because Your own side was pierced with a lance. Therefore rejoicing, we say, ‘Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again.’”

To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Dismissal Hymn for
Palm Sunday

Youth



Above, Michelle and Jimmy facilitate a HOPE & JOY event: planting flowers to beautify the parish grounds. HOPE & JOY is the fellowship group for youth in Kindergarten and elementary school.

Below, Stephanie and others help assemble the dance floor for the Prime Timers' Disco Night after helping organize the block house outside. GOYA is the fellowship group for middle and high school youth and meets every Wednesday evening at the parish.



HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS







May 15, 16, 17

2015 Marietta Greek Festival

Dear Parishioners,

Depending on when you are reading this message, thank you for the time and talent that you have invested in this year's Marietta Greek Festival. I would like to thank the numerous volunteers that have helped in the preparations for this year's event. I would especially like to thank the dedicated team that prepared all of the food prior to the Festival. The spirit and faith that was exhibited during those long, numerous cooking days was amazing.

Festival Volunteers:

Thank you, in advance, for the time and talent you can volunteer during the Festival. Even partial shifts are welcomed.

If you will not be in town during the Festival Weekend, there are other opportunities to volunteer during the evening set-up on the few days preceding the Festival. Even an hour or two of assistance is appreciated.

Please help by doing the following:

- SignUp Genius is Accessible through the Festival website: <http://www.marietagreekfestival.org>. Click on Volunteer in the top header to sign up to work a shift or two.
- Sign up yourself or send an email to Paula Rogers or Becky Valagohar letting her know when you can volunteer.
- If you cannot fit a full shift into your schedule, please still volunteer and add a note to that effect on the sign-up slot.
- If you have friends or neighbors interested in volunteering, please share this link with them.
- Volunteering for the Festival and pre-Festival activities typically counts as community service for Schools and other Service Organizations.

If you have any questions, please email Paula or Becky at: mgfvolunteers@gmail.com

Festival Parking:

Please park at the following locations during the Festival and reserve the Simpson parking lot for our guests. Many of our guests walk from Simpson, therefore allowing us to run fewer buses. The buses will pick you up from the following lots and take you to the Festival.

Friday: 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM - Park at Church of Latter Day Saints
4:00 PM to Closing - Park at Lassiter High School

Saturday: 8:00 AM to Closing - Park at Lassiter High School

Sunday: 8:00 AM to Closing - Park at Lassiter High School

The success of the Festival is based on our community coming together in fellowship and hard work. If you are interested in a leadership role for the 2016 Festival, please contact me, Danny Vlahiotis. I sincerely thank all of you for the time and talent invested in making this year's Festival a success.

Sincerely,
Danny Vlahiotis
2015 Marietta Greek Festival Chairman



VOLUNTEERS - THINGS TO KNOW

General Information:

- * Wear a Festival T-Shirt (available for purchase at the Festival Greek Shop or can be from previous Festivals). Everyone working in the Food Line, Taverna and Kafenion will be provided a Festival Apron to wear during their shift(s). Please leave these aprons at the Festival at the end of your shift(s) to be washed overnight.
- * If you are working in a warm area, please plan ahead and bring a fan or cooler from home.
- * Arrive 30 minutes before your shift begins.
- * Check in at the church house to receive a Festival name tag & Volunteer Food Gift Certificate.
- * Please be flexible if we need to reassign you to another area.
- * Smile and have fun. OPA!

Parking & Drop-off:

Due to the complexity of our parking and bus operations and time restrictions at Simpson Middle School, we ask that you park as follows:

Friday:

Park at *Church of Latter Day Saints* if you arrive prior to 4:00 pm. Shuttle buses will begin running Volunteers to/ from that lot at 12:00 noon. If you arrive prior to 12:00 noon, you may park at the church, but move your car to the *Church of Latter Day Saints* at 12:00 noon. If you arrive after 4:00 pm, park at *Lassiter High School*.

Saturday & Sunday:

Park at *Lassiter High School Lot* if you arrive after 8:00 am. The shuttle bus will begin running for Volunteers to/ from this lot at 8:00 am. If you arrive prior to 8:00 am, park at *Simpson Middle School* and walk to the Festival.

Please do not park on church grounds at any time during the Festival because you will interrupt the operations and cause unnecessary problems. If you park there, unfortunately you will be towed at your own expense. A few spaces are reserved at the Lower Parking Lot for VIPs and Runners who will display a VIP pass. If you do not have a VIP pass, do not park there. Parking at the house across the street is also not allowed. Drop-off and pick-up in front of the church is limited to persons with disabilities ONLY. Remember, the Festival has grown, the space is limited, and we try to serve our guests in the best and most convenient way, while making it easy and safe for them and our volunteers. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Food:

As we did last year, Volunteers will be given a \$5 Volunteer Food Gift Certificate for each shift they work at the Festival to use for food purchases. This means you will have to check in with Paula Rogers, Becky Valagohar or Anne Willcocks at the church office every morning to receive your badge and Food Certificate(s). Soft drinks and bottled water will still be available to volunteers for half price. This system has made our accounting much easier. Volunteers must wait in line for their food, just as our guests do. Please do not go behind the Food service areas to pick up your food. That looks very unprofessional. Please try to eat when business is slow to avoid the long lines.

Kitchen:

No one under the age of 15 will be allowed in the kitchen for an extended time. If you are working in the kitchen, please ask your kids to limit their visits into the kitchen.

Hired Workers:

The Festival utilizes hired workers to supplement the efforts of our Volunteers. These workers have been hired to work in particular areas and are not for everyone's use. If you need the assistance of one of these hired workers, please call one of the following and request their help:

1. Danny Vlahiotis 678-643-0343
2. Athan Tsarouhas 404-538-5469
3. Ellen Linebaugh 770-846-4640
4. Steve Tingas 770-845-5045

Emergency Procedures during Festival:

If a fire occurs, and you cannot immediately put it out, call 911, then do steps #1 and #2 below. If a Volunteer or Guest gets hurt or has some other type of medical emergency, and it is obvious that an ambulance is needed, call 911, then do steps #1 and #2 below. If it is not obvious that immediate medical attention is needed or you witness a non-medical emergency (suspicious individual, theft, dangerous equipment, etc.), please:

1. First, contact one of the following, in the order listed:
 Danny Vlahiotis 678-643-0343 (Prefer Text)
 Steve Tingas 770-845-5045
 Athan Tsarouhas 404-538-5469
2. Then, locate a Policeman and advise him/her of the situation.

Be on the Lookout:

If you see anyone that looks like they have had too much alcohol, please immediately send someone to notify the Church Office and Festival Security. Stay with the person. We do not want anyone leaving our Festival if there is the slightest concern that they are not fit to drive. Tell the person that we will pay for cab fare to their home, and ask them to stay until the taxi arrives.

Thank you,

Danny Vlahiotis
 2015 Festival Chairman

α β γ δ ε ζ
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THANK YOU!
FROM HELLENIC STUDIES



Another great year completed...

We would like to thank the parents, students and staff of our Hellenic Studies Program for another fantastic year. We have seen our school grow tremendously in the last few years, and we hope with your support, we will continue to grow. A special thank you to our Director Eleni Clement for her tireless work in making the program a great success – and to Tasia Kipreos for keeping us organized and communicating important information to parents. Stay tuned this summer for more details regarding the 2015-2016 school year. Enrollment will begin in August.

**YOUTH AND ADULT
 CLASSES**

**BIBLICAL GREEK:
 BEGINNER AND
 ADVANCED**

**READING, WRITING,
 GRAMMAR AND
 CONVERSATION**

**NO PRIOR
 EXPERIENCE
 NECESSARY**

**CLASSES BEGIN
 SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

**HOLY
 TRANSFIGURATION**
 Hellenic Studies Program

Eleni Clement, Director

eleni@mindspring.com
 404-783-5103

HELLENIC DANCE

Thank you to everyone that brought food for the coffee hour that the dance ministry hosted in April. We had an amazing turn out! Way to go Dance!!!

Also a BIG thanks to Come-n-Get It for supporting the workshop with food! We appreciate all of your support!

Last Practices before Festival!!!

Saturday, May 2

Eleftheria (9-12), 11-1 amphitheater or PLC

Sunday, May 3 ***extended day for Eleftheria (9-12)*** 1:30-4:00

Saturday, May 9

Eleftheria (9-12), 11-1 in the Amphitheater (PLC in case of rain)

Sunday, May 10 Mother's Day meet in the amphitheater

Pitsirikia (Pre-K) 12:30-1 in the Amphitheater

Eleftheria (9-12), 1-2:30 (early start and dismissal times for mother's day)

Phoenix(6-8), 1-2:30

Monday, May 11 meet in the amphitheater

Eleftheria (9-12), 7:30-10:00

Metamorphosi (adult), 8-10+

TUESDAY, MAY 12 – NOTE – times show designated time IN THE AMPHITHEATER, CHECK with your instructor to get the exact practice time.

Pitsirikia (Pre-K) 4:00-4:30

Palamakia (K-1)– 4:30-5:00

Asteria (2-3) – 5:00-5:30

Petaloudes (4-5) – 6:00-7:00

Phoenix (6-8) – 7:00-9:00

Eleftheria (9-12) – 7:30-10:00

Metamorphosi – 8:45-10:00+

Wednesday, May 13

Eleftheria (9-12) meet at BAPA Dance Studio, 7:30-10:00

Metamorphosi meet in the amphitheater Time to be announced

Thursday, May 14

Phoenix (6-8) meet in the amphitheater at 7:00-9:00

Eleftheria (9-12) meet in the amphitheater at 7:30-10:00

Metamorphosi meet in Amphitheater at 8:30-10:00



**JACOB'S GARDEN &
THE CHURCH CUPBOARD**
Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

Thank you to all who participated in the *Reverse Offering*, buying and returning groceries for distribution to families in the Trickum Road community. Our Parish gave away the food in the PLC on Saturday, March 28, 2015. This was our third Cupboard offering to local children. Our Parish provided 144 full bags of non-perishable food (up from 100 in October of 2014) which were divided between twenty families. Eighty six people (71 children) received specially planned and varied breakfasts, lunches and dinners designed to feed each family for at least one week.

The families were selected by Ms. Kim Evans, the Cobb County School Resource Coordinator for three local elementary schools and Simpson Middle. We give to our neighbors who are documented through Cobb County Schools.

Because of loyal Parish support of *Jacob's Garden*, the sale of vegetables las summer allowed for enough money to also provide each family one or two gallons of milk, fresh bread and sliced him and turkey sandwich meat. God willing, we will have another good crop from the garden this summer. Publix and Panera Bread Company made a combined donation of 100 loaves of bread and pastries.

While the mothers walked and talked with our Parish volunteers who filled the push carts, their kids came into the PLC to watch our youngsters practice Greek Dance. The kids were treated to fruit, muffins and juice.

The Cupboard makes an offering three times each year. Thank you to Philoptochos, without whose help none of this would have been possible. A special thanks to: Michael Gavalas, Theodore Georgacopoulos, Irene Kipreos, Stephanie Gianaris, Marty Driscoll, Demetrius Lymberopoulos, Michael and Kathy Parker, Strati Papageorgiou, Iancu Nica, Kim Evans, Mimi Pohlman, and Randy and Paula Rogers.

“In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots, and fill the whole world with fruit.”
Isaiah 26





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We are pleased to announce the Philoptochos Board members for the 2015-2017 term: Nancy Barke, Evelyn Bilson, Dorothy Botni, Athena Burke, Marty Driscoll, Peggy Dunkerly, Niki Gess, Stephanie Gianaris, Leslie Hansard, Annette Jacobs, Pat Koutouzis, Eleni Krause, Linda Lopus, Christy Macris, Dorothy Macris, Christine Sprouse, Irene Steffas

We have so many people to thank and are very blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers to help during Pascha. We could not do this without your help. We would like to thank Christine Sprouse for designing the beautiful Kouvouklion as well as all the ladies that came to help decorate. We would like to thank Theodore Georgacopoulos and Peter Tiller and their team for preparing the delicious Avgolemeno and Magaritsa for the Resurrection meal as well as the many ladies that dyed the eggs red at home and sent them in to share with our parish family. Last but not least, thank you to all those that baked Koulourakia.

Please visit the Philoptochos table in the PLC to pick up information about the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. We are accepting donations in any amount every Sunday throughout the year. Our chapter will send checks to the St. Nicholas National Shrine Initiative for the total amounts collected on a quarterly basis. For more information about this initiative, check out the following link:

www.stnicholaswtc.org.

Thank you to all who have joined or renewed your membership in Philoptochos. If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, please stop at the Philoptochos table in the PLC any Sunday to complete the membership form. You may also download the form from the church website: www.holytransfiguration.info (click on "ministries", then "Philoptochos"). To date, we have 100 members who have fulfilled their 2015 financial commitment and they are:

Maria Alberts	Christine Demakis	Connie Kollias	Anthe Modenos	Ron Sprouse
Liz Azimzadeh	Marty Driscoll	Lori Kollias	Patricia Morris	Christine Sprouse
Dorian Bafas	Peggy Dunkerly	Pat Koutouzis	Kim Moustoukas	Irene Steffas
Eleni Bafas	Harriette Gavrielides	Eleni Krause	Maro Neocleous	Mary Stiakakis
Lois Bafas	Niki Gess	Anna Leros	Kally Niarchos	Connie Stratigos
Nancy Barke	Stephanie Gianaris	Stacey Leventis	Lee Nichols	Theresa Taoushiani
Alexis Bass	Martha Gingles	Ellen Linebaugh	Yota Nicolopoulos	Zach Taoushiani
Sophia Bethune	Lea Gormanos	Linda Lopus	Toula Nielsen	Vicki Thorne
Evelyn Bilson	Irene Hammond	Stephanie Lukens	Georgia O'Brien	Renee Tiller
Dorothy Botni	Leslie Hansard	Christy Macris	Julie Orologas	Steve Tingas
Elizabeth Brewer	Christopher Hansard	Dorothy Macris	Nikki Palamiotis	Mary Beth Tsoukalas
Toula Argentis Brotsis	Sis Hondras	Eftichia Macris	Fr. George Pallas	Fran Tucker
Michelle Broussard-Hanes	Georgia Hutt	Xanthippe Marsico	Pres. Toula Pallas	Chelsie Vlahiotis
Athena Burke	Annette Jacobs	Despina Mavromatidis	Mary Papadimitriou	Anne Willcocks
Kathy Bylos	Victoria Jansma	Dawn Mavromatidis	Cathy Papadopoulos	Ann Zakreski
Helen Carlos	Michele Karetas	Dena McCollum	Jeannie Paxten	Angela (Kiko) Ziros
Elene Catrakilis	Jo Kastner	Artemis Michael	Rosemary Peppas	
Paula Christopher	Steve Kipreos	Ioanna Michaels	Paula Rogers	
Dennis Christopher	Irene Kipreos	Mary Miltiades	Kathy Shoji	
Agapi Chrysopoulos	Gerry Klementzos	Niko Miltiades	Donna Smith	
Eleni Clement	Mary Ellen Knuchel	Penny Miltiades	Mary Smith	

During the months of May/June our National Commitments support the following:

- **The 75th Anniversary Founders Fund** which provides assistance to Greek Orthodox older adults and their families, continuing care facilities and special projects
- **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)** which provides Orthodox Christian support to college students on campuses in the US

Soup Kitchen: On March 26 we served 78 meals at Must Ministries. Thank you to the following who helped with the meals and to those who served. Kally Niarchos, Nancy Barke, Mary Miltiades, Kathy Bylos, Rosemary Peppas, Mary Ellen Knuchel, Michelle Frangis, Stephanie Giannaris, Dorothy and Bobby Macris, Patricia Koutouzis, Michael Gavalas, and Athena Burke.

Please contact Athena Burke at ibgreek@bellsouth.net or 770-973-3111 if you would like to help prepare or serve food or would like to make a monetary donation. **Soup kitchen will be May 28.**

No book club in the month of May. Next book club will be June 25.

Important Dates:

May 3: Oath of Office for new board members
May 6: Board Meeting
May 28: Soup Kitchen
June 7: Summer Send off luncheon....details coming soon!



PRIME TIMERS!

WE ARE GOING TO BRANSON, MISSOURI!

SUNDAY, MAY 31 - SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!

CHECK OUT THIS LINK: www.GroupTrips.com/HolyTransfigurationGreekOrthodoxChurch

Trip includes: Motorcoach transportation
6 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights in Branson
10 meals: 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners
Admission to 7 Fabulous Branson Shows: 3 Morning, 3 Evening
Showboat Branson Belle

Cost: \$569.00 per person (payment may be made in installments)

Contact: Connie Stratigos, 770-992-9707

REMEMBER DAYS WITHOUT LAUGHTER ARE DAYS WASTED!!

Do not waste this fun trip. Come join us for joy and fellowship!



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

Our Parish has purchased 50 plots, which we are making available at a **reduced price of \$3,200**. This price includes one plot with a vault.

This is an effort of our parish to provide a resting place for our people where you can also have a 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. One of our parishioners has paid for the construction of a monument in the center of this Orthodox Cemetery, which provides an Altar for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

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



ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS AND HOLY EPARCHIAL SYNOD JOIN FAITH LEADERS, REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



NEW YORK— A few days before the U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments on the rights of states to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman, more than 30 religious leaders representing tens of millions of US citizens from diverse faith communities throughout the United States have reaffirmed their shared commitment to marriage and religious freedom. An open letter entitled "The Defense of Marriage and the Right of Religious Freedom: Reaffirming a Shared Witness" was issued to all in positions of public service on April 23.

Archbishop Demetrios of America, Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, signed the open letter on behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod. He was joined by other religious leaders, including Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage; and Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA).

"The Orthodox Church firmly believes that marriage is a sacred institution between one man and one woman and that the protection of religious freedom helps advance a stable and free society. It is our hope and prayer that this letter will inspire others, especially those in public service, to embrace these principles," said Archbishop Demetrios. "Unfortunately, while not all circumstances make it possible for children to be raised by both a loving mother and father, we uphold that marriage as the union of one man and one woman offers the optimal environment for the birth and raising of children. For this reason, we strongly feel that both Church and society ought to labor together to strengthen the unique bond between husband and wife."

The religious leaders stressed the need for civility and mutual respect, writing, "Government should protect the rights of those with differing views of marriage to express their beliefs and convictions without fear of intimidation, marginalization or unwarranted charges that their values imply hostility, animosity, or hatred of others."

The leaders close with a statement of their duty and love towards all: "In this and in all that we do, we are motivated by our duty to love God and neighbor. This love extends to all those who disagree with us on this issue. The well-being of men, women, and the children they conceive compels us to stand for marriage as between one man and one woman."

The letter is available at: <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/ecumenical/marriage-and-religious-freedom>. Other official Orthodox Christian statements on marriage and sexuality can be found at: <http://assemblyofbishops.org/about/documents/2013-assembly-statement-on-marriage-and-sexuality> and <http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/news/scoba/2003-08-13-moral-crisis>

Laughing is Good for your health

Making a delivery

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign appeared that read "Low bridge ahead." Before he knew it the bridge was right ahead of him, and he couldn't avoid getting stuck under the bridge. Cars became backed up for miles. Finally, a police car approaches. The police officer climbs out of his car and walks around to the truck driver. The officer puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck huh?"

The truck driver replies, "No, I was delivering this bridge when I happened to run out of gas."

Always there

A woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day. One day, when he came out of coma, he motioned for her to come nearer.

As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "My dearest, you have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side.

You know what?"

"What dear?" she gently asked, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

"I think you're bad luck."

THE GREEK HELL IS BETTER

A man dies and goes to hell. There he finds that there is a different hell for each country.

He goes to the German hell and asks, 'What do they do here?' He is told: 'First they put you in an electric chair for an hour. Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the German devil comes in and whips you for the rest of the day.' The man does not like the sound of that at all, so he moves on.

He checks out the American hell, as well as the Russian hell & many more. He discovers that they are all more or less the same as the German hell.

Then he comes to the Greek hell and finds that there is a long line of people from all nationalities waiting to get in. Amazed, he asks, 'What do they do here?' He is told, 'First they put you in an electric chair for an hour, and then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the Greek devil comes in and whips you for the rest of the day.'

'But that is exactly the same as all the other hells. Why are there so many people waiting to get in?'

He is told, 'Because the maintenance crew is always on strike, there is no electricity so the electric chair doesn't work, Albanians have stolen all the nails from the bed, and the Greek devil is a former Greek government employee, so he comes in, signs the register and then goes to have his kafethaki and eat kourabiethes all day...

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday of the Ascension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 9:55 AM Divine Liturgy 11:30 AM Catechism 11:45 AM A one year Memorial Service is given 11:50 AM A 10 year Memorial Service 12:30 PM HOPE/JOY Planting 	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:30 PM Palamakia Dance Practice</p> <p>4:30 PM Asteria Dance Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Biblical Greek</p> <p>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</p> <p>7:15 PM Petaloudes Dance Practice</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30 AM Stephen Lawson Funeral</p> <p>5:30 PM Biblical Greek</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. James</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p> <p>7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Feast of St. James</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club 	<p>1</p> <p>11:00 AM Blessing of the Water</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Prime Timers' Trip to Gibbs Gardens</p> <p>12:00 PM Pantelis Baptism (Angelina)</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 PM Pater Wedding Reception</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Sunday of the Paralytic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism ... Pater Wedding Reception 12:00 PM AHEPA Pancake Breakfast 1:00 PM GOYA Youth Leadership 	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Irene the Great Martyr</p> <p>7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Feast of St. Irene the Great Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 4:30 PM Palamakia Dance 4:30 PM Asteria Dance 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies 6:30 PM Holy Transfiguration and 2 more... 	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p> <p>7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Festival On-Site Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00 AM Lassiter Choral Fundraiser</p> <p>2:45 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>3:45 PM Bell Baptism (Brian)</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Mothers' Day</p> <p>Sunday of the Annunciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism Graduation 11:45 AM A Memorial Service is given by Ellie Turner 11:55 AM 40 day Blessing 	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 AM Festival Cooking (Dipping Melomacrona)</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Festival—Package Pastries</p> <p>7:00 PM Educational Development Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Festival—Package Pastries</p> <p>2:00 PM Festival Cooking (Souvlakia)</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM Festival—Set Up Pastry Booths</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Marietta Greek Festival</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Marietta Greek Festival</p> <p>Sunday of the Blind Man</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 PM Holy Transfiguration/Campaign Planning Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 PM Great Vespers – Feast of Ascension & Sts. Constantine and Helen</p> <p>7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Ascension of Jesus and Helen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 PM Great Vespers</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Sunday of the Ascension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:30 AM Soup Kitchen (Philoptochos)</p> <p>6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Remembrance...29, 1453 AD</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Saturday of the Souls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers
<p>31</p> <p>Prime Timers—Branson, Missouri</p> <p>Sunday of Holy Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Great Vespers of the Holy Spirit 12:30 PM Parish Assembly for Dev. Go Ahead 	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Children's Play Date</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM Holy Transfiguration/Campaign Planning Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 PM Educational Development Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:00 PM Byzantine Liturgy</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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, Protopresbyter
Anne Willcocks, Parish Secretary

Scan to view our Website

DATE	PC DUTY	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	PROSFORO
May 3	P. Giannaris/G. O'Brien	St. Peter	H. Arp/B. Valagohar	A. Leries/L. Lopos/K. Melissas
May 10	C. Pater/A. Tsarouhas	St. James	P. Dunkerly/S. Lukens	P. Miltiades/K. Niarchos/E. Turner
May 17	M. Nichols/R. Rogers	St. John	Greek Festival	L. Nichols/R. Peppas
May 24	M. Alberts/S. Tingas	St. Peter	C. Kollias/P. Koutouzis	C. Sprouse/I. Steffas/S. Tidwell
May 31	S. Steffas/T. Voulupos	St. James	K. Johnson/M. Pohlman	M. Miliades/M. Tingas/F. Tucker/

St. James Altar Servers: Eli Nichols-Captain, Chris Bridgers, Michael Bridgers, Evan Bilson, Aaron Brown, Matthew Buchan, Constantine Gavalas, George Gavalas, Alex Goldsholl, Jack Goldsholl, Yianni Gormanos, Gabriel Hennenfent, Paul Jacobs, Spiros Kefalas, Kris Kollias, Tommy Kollias, Nicholas Levantis, Nicholas Lukens, Angelos Makris, Gabriel Mavromatidis, Jeremy Mavromatidis, Aubrey Moraitakis, George Moraitakis, Angelo Nichols, Alexander Skarpelis, Mitchell Starks, Nick Zakreski

St. John Altar Servers: Dean Papastrat-Captain, Chris Alberts, Stephen Ardagna, Matthew Azimzadeh, Andrew Bass, Theo Bliss, Michael Brotsis, Anthony Bundros, Carter Copses, Jay Copses, Mason Copses, Chris Danos, Nick Danos, Cole Foster, Alex Gekas, Nicholas Gekas, William Jansma, Michael Marianos, Alexander Morgan, Evan Nakos, Tommy O'Brien, Evan Papadopoulos, Matthew Paulson, Nicholas Tassopoulos, Alexander Thorne, Braden Thorne, Niko Tiller, Csaba Wagner

St. Peter Altar Servers: Yianni Turner-Captain, Peyton Agne, Zack Bethune, Christopher Bilson, Hal Bradford, III, Brody Brooks, Christos Costarides, Yianni Costarides, Nicholas Demakis, Michael Farina, Leo Frangis, Manuel Frangis, Jacob Harrah, Stephen Harrah, Zayne Isaac, Panayiotis Jordanopoulos, Michael Jordanopoulos, Andrew Levine, Morgan Lilly, Luke Melissas, Zacharias Melissas, Alek Nikolich, Lucas Porter, Matthew Shanahan, Evan Strakes, Michael Tsogas, Luke Turner, Matthew Turner, Panayiotis Vlachos

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