SYNDIAKONIA

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

ΗΟLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ

OF

JANUARY 2008 HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Happy New Year



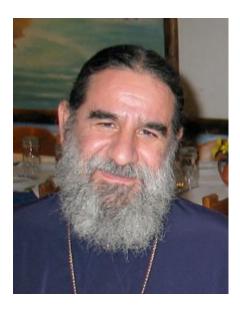
May the New Year 2008 bring to all of you abundant blessings from God.

Best Wishes from the Christian Orthodox Community of the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church of Marietta, Georgia.



We are an Orthodox Parish in continuity with the Apostolic Traditions of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Fr. Panayiotis' Message



GOD'S MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

As the New Year dawns upon us, we begin to think about new resolutions, new plans for our lives, new hopes for the future. But we should also look back and ponder over our accomplishments and our blessings.

As a parish, we have a lot to be thankful about: In 2007 we have grown in numbers; many new families have joined our parish because they find here a stronger sense of community and a better family atmosphere. Our ministries are growing, especially the Prime Timers group and the Philoptochos, but the younger groups are thriving also; the HOPE and JOY children have been meeting regularly every other Sunday and have done several activities together. The GOYA group has met throughout the year every Wednesday. They are a good group of kids, which speaks volumes about their parents and families and our Parish Family at large. They love to come together every Wednesday because they are learning about the Faith, socializing and forming bonds that will last for a lifetime.

Several other important things have also happened this year: Thanks to the Carlos family, the Pantocrator of the Chapel was installed in June and more recently the beautiful Platytera in the main Sanctuary. Iconography is transforming our worship space into a truly inspiring Orthodox environment.

More than anything else, however, I feel that we are growing spiritually. Earlier in the year, we had a series of presentations on spiritual topics during Great Lent, addressing the Faith from different perspectives. These were attended by over a hundred people every time. The Philoptochos Society organized a Lenten Retreat at the Diakonia Center, which was a wonderful opportunity of spiritual growth and fellowship. Many of our ladies took part in it.

A small group of us traveled together to Arizona in November and had a tremendously uplifting and lifetransforming retreat at St. Anthony's monastery.

We are offering many more Vespers and Divine Liturgy services, Holy Unction and the other Sacraments to people who are are seeking God's Grace. We are visiting the sick and offering help to those in need. We are experiencing the power of God acting in the lives of our people! God is with us!

Finally, many people (including a great number of children) are coming to receive the Holy Sacrament of Confession and/or asking for spiritual guidance and direction. This is the ultimate way to spiritual growth!

As we enter the New Year 2008, I am glad to report to you that this Christian family, the parish of Holy Transfiguration, is alive and well, and ready with open arms to embrace anyone who is willing to be part of it. It takes some effort to join in and a certain level of commitment, but the rest comes as a gift from God.

With the coming of the new year, I am hoping to see more people tapping into the wealth of the Faith and the Grace of God poured out at Holy Transfiguration. It is my desire (as your priest) to see every person, member of this Parish, gain spiritually from the many Blessings which God is setting before us; it is really in your power to receive God's Gifts. God is waiting with open arms to receive you, to comfort you, to guide you, to heal you, to Love you. All you need to do is step forward "with the fear of God, with Faith and Love." God will do the rest!

In Christ's Love,

J.Fr. Pamayistis



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 2008

January 1, Tuesday, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ, Feast of St. Basil the Great Sunday before Theophany. Κυριακή πρό τῶν Φώτων. Orthros 9:15 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Ὅρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία. On Monday afternoon (December 31st) Great Vespers at 6:00 pm.

January 5, Saturday, Forefeast of Theophany (Kalanta), Προεόρτια τῶν Φώτων (Κάλαντα). The Great Hours 9:00 am On Saturday Evening - Vespers of Theophany 5:00 pm

January 6, Sunday, Holy Theophany. Feast of the Baptism of Christ. Τά Ἄγια Θεοφάνεια. Orthros, 8:30 am and Divine Liturgy 9:30 am, Great Ayiasmos (Great Blessing of the Waters)

January 12, Saturday, Great Vespers, 5:30 pm. Μέγας Ἐσπερινός, 5:30 μμ.

January 13, Sunday after the Feast of Theophany, Κυριακή μετά τά Φῶτα. Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Ὅρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία. Vasilopita Sunday. Today we will celebrate the Vasilopita for the benefit of St. Basil's Academy. Σήμερα ὁ ἑορτασμός τῆς Βασιλόπιτας γιά τήν Ἀκαδημία Ἀγ. Βασιλείου.

January 16, Wednesday, Great Vespers, 6:00 pm. Μέγας Ἐσπεϱινός, 6:00 μμ. **January 17, Thursday,** Feast of St. Anthony the Great. Today we also celebrate the feast of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril, moved from January 18.

Μνήμη 'Αγίου' Αντωνίου τοῦ Μεγάλου. Σήμερα τελοῦμε καί τήν ἑορτή τῶν 'Αγίων 'Αθανασίου καί Κυρίλλου, μετακίνηση ἀπό 18 Ίανουαρίου.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. "Οθθος καί Θεία Λειτουργία.

January 19, Saturday, Great Vespers, 5:30 pm. Μέγας Ἐσπεǫινός, 5:30 μμ.

January 20, Sunday, 12th Sunday of Luke. ΙΒ΄ Κυριακή Λουκα (Τῶν Δέκα Λεπρῶν). Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Ὅρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία.

January 26, Saturday, Great Vespers, 5:30 pm. Μέγας Ἐσπεϱινός, 5:30 μμ.

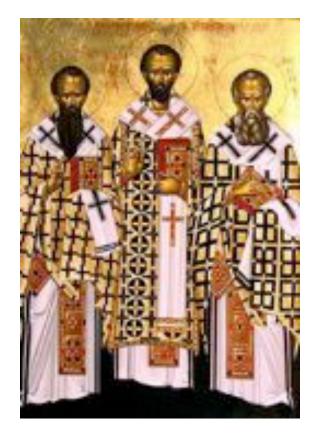
January 27, Sunday, 15th Sunday of Luke. ΙΕ΄ Κυριακή Λουκᾶ (Τοῦ Ζακχαίου). Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Celebration of the Three Holy Hierarch's / Day of Greek Letters. Ἐορτή γιά τούς Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες καί τά Ἑλληνικά Γράμματα

January 29, Tuesday, Great Vespers, 6:00 pm. Μέγας Έσπερινός, 6:00 μμ.

January 30, Wednesday, Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs. Μνήμη τῶν ἀγίων Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν. Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Ὅρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία.

Feast of the Three Hierarchs

JANUARY 30



"The three greatest luminaries of the three-sun Divinity, who with rays of divine dogmas have set the world afire. They are honey-flowing rivers of wisdom, who flooded all creation with streams of divine knowledge. Basil the Great, and Gregory the Theologian, along with John the renowned, the golden-mouthed orator -- all of us who are admirers of their words -let us gather and with hymns honor them; for they intercede for ever, to the Trinity for all of us." Apolytikion of The Three Hierarchs

In 11th century Constantinople every conversation turned to the same controversy. which of the three 4th-century saints was the greatest of the Orthodox church? Was it St. Basil the Great, the beloved spiritual leader who created orphanages and hospitals? Was it St. Gregory the Theologian, whose leadership kept the church together during a time of crisis? Or was is St. John Chrysostom, the wonderful speaker who had "a mouth of gold"? In 1081, Bishop John of Galatia had a vision in which the three saints appeared to him telling him that they were equal in the eyes of God. The church set aside a day to commemorate their equality. Greek schools have celebrated this day as the Holiday of the Three Hierarchs ever since.

The New Age Movement and Spiritual Deception: It's a Miracle! - Or Is It?

In Deut. 13: 1-3 God warns the Israelites (and, equally, us today) that if a (false) prophet works wonders (miracles), do not get excited about it and be carried away like leaves in the winds and follow their attempts to lead you away from the God of Truth. Instead, steadfastly love and worship God only. Importantly, that steadfast love and worship charge us with boldly speaking the *Truth* without fear of reprisal, as He will always be with us when we do so (Acts 18:9-10). Moreover, He assures us that should the masses be offended by the Truth, we should not be surprised nor constrained, "for many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). *It is for those few who will accept the Truth that the Truth must be taught.*

The New Age Movement so active currently in our society is one of today's most visible and seductive "false prophets." For example, mediumism as one of the innumerable elements of the New Age Movement encompasses several kinds of phenomena that *appear* to be "miraculous." As an umbrella term, <u>mediumism</u> includes various forms of "miraculous" psychic abilities, such as divination, which is directly biblically condemned (Deut. 18:10). <u>Psychic</u> ("miraculous") healers believe that <u>they</u> (not God) are the <u>source</u> of healing. Examples include televangelists like Peter Popoff and other alternative health practitioners who use New Age techniques, such as <u>Reiki, Therapeutic Touch</u>, etc.,; practitioners of Native American Shamanism, Christian Science and the proverbial *traveling snake oil salesman*.

<u>Clairvoyance</u> within the New Age Movement refers to mind-reading; mental telepathy; and knowledge of past, present and future events. Again, the New Age/occult clairvoyant claims to be the <u>source</u> of their supernatural "abilities." God is not acknowledged as the Source of all true miracles.

Contrasted with the falsehood and trickery of New Age/occult clairvoyance, the *true* divine gift of clairvoyance of godly S/saints involves spiritual **discernment**, knowing intuitively the true spiritual condition and needs of others. Some examples are found in the lives of St. Nektarios2, and St. Rachel of Borodino3.

Closely associated with clairvoyance is the gift of *prophecy*. Whereas New Age "prophecies" focus on *self*-fulfillment (e.g. palm reading etc.) and the *end times* with **no element of repentance** and with **specific time** determination, true Judeo-Christian prophecy focuses on <u>repentance</u> and <u>return to God</u> as means of salvation, but without specific time determination; for as Christ told us, not even *He* knows the exact day (Matt. 24:36). Examples of *true* prophecy are found in Isaiah, Daniel, Anna the Prophetess and St. Claudia4, the wife of Pilate, whose prophetic dream and warning attested to Christ's sinlessness (divine nature). In more recent times various Orthodox S/saints, such as those listed previously, have also had divinely inspired prophetic <u>visions</u>.

Unlike the godless character of mediumistic activities, Christian communication with the "dead" constitutes **God**-given spiritual experiences, usually of appearances of Christ (rarely), the Theotokos or Saints of the Church Victorious (heaven). The aim of such experiences is the spiritual good of the person receiving the experience, even when it is through miraculous healings by God. Orthodox hagiography is rich with such examples of divine appearances and communication in the lives of S/saints, such as St. Nektarios., Eldress Myrtidiotissa5, and St. Nicholas Planas6.

One of the gifts the Church has witnessed in the lives of certain saints is **levitation** ("floating" above the ground). As have many others, St. Nektarios, Abbess Xeni¹, St. Nicholas Planas, Mother Martha⁵ of St. Planas's <u>synodia</u> (group of disciples) and St. Seraphim of Sarov7 have been seen levitated. Such levitations from the power and will of God occur during intense prayer or other spiritual endeavors and usually apart from other people. To prevent being thought holy, they usually humbly deny its happening. Levitation within the New Age/occult realm involves human-created *illusion*, like those of illusionist David Copperfield or demonic **magick** as portrayed in movies such as "*The Exorcist*" and "*The Eyes of Laura Mars.*" Such levitation is a form of telekinesis/psychokinesis and is not from the will of God.

Even **love** suffers the perverted twist of the New Age Movement, as it emphasizes **humanistic** concerns centered on **self** (e.g. self-love, self-esteem and the eros so prominent in the ethos of the 1960's exemplified by the Hindu-based concept of love promoted by the Beatles phenomenon). As we Orthodox faithful know above all, "God *is* love." (1Jn4: 7, 8). God's love is **not of self**, supremely shown by the Holy Cross, but is **sacrificial** and therefore devoid of the <u>lust</u> of the flesh that so often is falsely equated with love, resulting in the sins of adultery and fornication, which involve self-promotion and the manipulation of others to satisfy one's self-centered worldly passions.

In conclusion, the false "miracles" of the New Age Movement and the true miracles of God are distinguished, as Christ taught, "by their fruits" (Matt. 7: 15 - 20). The false New Age "miracles" are the "wolves in sheep's clothing," the "false prophets" (Matt. 7: 15), that lure us by their surface attractiveness and, by the design of the Evil One, take us toward self and <u>away from God</u>. True divine miracles bring us toward God through love, and repentance. Their *fruits* reveal the *truth*. Christ warns us not to let the false *apparent* "miracles" (false prophets) of the New Age lead us astray (Matt. 24:4,5) and that it is only knowing the Truth that shall set us free from its soul-destroying snares (John 8:32).

¹ Saint Nektarios: The Saint of Our Century by Sotos Chondropoulos

³<u>All of the Women of the Bible</u> by Edith Deen

⁴Eldress Myrtidiotissa: The Ascetic Struggler of Klissoura (1886 – 1974) by Metropolitan Cyprian

⁵Papa – Nicholas Planas: The Simple Shepherd of the Simple Sheep by Mother Martha

⁶Modern Saints (Vol. 5): St. Seraphim of Sarov by Constantine Cavarnos and Barbara Zeldin

² <u>Consoler of Suffering Souls</u> by Archpriest Sergei Lebedev



Inspirational-Theological



The Glory of God Hidden in His Creatures

Contemplation begins only after the completion of ascetical exercises (praxis), the aim of which is the achievement of interior freedom (apatheia), that is to say, the possibility of loving. Contemplation consists of two stages: direct communion with God is the aim, of course, but first we must come to 'knowledge of creatures' or 'contemplation of nature' (physike theoria), that is, the contemplation 'of the secrets of the glory of God hidden in his creatures'.

«Faith is the doorway to the mysteries. What the eyes of the body are for physical objects, faith is for the hidden eyes of the soul. Just as we have two bodily eyes, so we have two spiritual eyes, and each has its own way of seeing. With one we see the glory of God hidden in creatures: with the other we contemplate the glory of God's holy nature when he deigns to give us access to the mysteries.» Isaac of Vineveh Ascetic Treatises, 72 (p. 281)

People who know nothing of God - and there are plenty of them in our time -none the less have an inkling of him through the things he has created, when they look at them, apart from their practical uses, in their sheer beauty and their strange gratuitousness. Then they are filled with wonder. For the real miracle, as Wittgenstein said, is that things exist! The cosmos -a word that for the ancient Greeks meant at the same time order and ornament- by the continual process of death changing into life and decay into growth, bears witness specifically to an intelligence at work, which, in a time of apparently continuous scientific advance, our intelligence is able to decipher. 'Ever since the world began, his invisible attributes, that is to say his everlasting power and deity, have been visible to the eye of reason in the things he has made' (Romans I.20). As Dumitru Staniloae emphasizes in his Dogmatic Theology (Bucharest 1978) the very rationality of the world would be inexplicable without an eternal Subject. It 'presupposes the rational, the more than rational, the apophatic depth of an eternal Person, and has meaning only if it is addressed by that eternal Person to persons with rational and more than rational powers, so as to bring about an agreement and a communion of love with them'.

For the Fathers there is a question here not so much of natural theology as of an original revelation, a covenant with the Logos 'through whom all things were created' (Colossians 1.16), a covenant that has been renewed and wonderfully deepened by the incarnation of the Logos. Evagrius makes it clear that the Wisdom and the Power of God, of which St Paul goes on to speak, are the Son and the Spirit. Making sense of the universe is only possible with the Trinity. For the purpose of the universe is revealed by the Logos, and it is the Spirit, the life-giving breath, who is causing each thing and the universe as a whole to tend in the direction of that purpose. The world, for a Christian, is a Trinitarian text, or better it is a woven cloth: the fixed threads of the warp symbolize the Logos, the moving threads of the wool the dynamism of the Pneuma.

From The Roots of Christian Mysticism; first published in English 1993 by New City. Translated by Thedore Berkeley O.C.S.O.

DAILY BIBLE READING - JANUARY

1/1/2007	Gospel: Luke 2:20–21, 40–52	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12
1/2/2007	Gospel: John 3:1–15	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 5:4-10
1/3/2007	Gospel: John 1:18–28	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:44-48;11:1-10
1/4/2007	Gospel: John 3:1–5	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 3:13-16;4:1-5
1/5/2007	Gospel: Luke 3:1–18	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:19-27
1/6/2007	Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
1/7/2007	Gospel: John 1:29–34	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 19:1–8
1/8/2007	Gospel: John 3:22–33	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:3-11
1/9/2007	Gospel: Mark 1:9–15	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 2:1-10
1/10/2007	Gospel: Luke 3:19–22	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13
1/11/2007	Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16
1/12/2007	Gospel: John 10:39–42	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 18:22–28
1/13/2007	Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17
1/14/2007	Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13
1/15/2007	Gospel: Luke 12:32-40	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
1/16/2007	Gospel: John 21:14–25	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:1–11
1/17/2007	Gospel: Luke 6:17–23	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21
1/18/2007	Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16
1/19/2007	Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
1/20/2007	Gospel: Luke 6:17–23	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15
1/21/2007	Gospel: Luke 19:1–10	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15
1/22/2007	Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 1	9:27–30 Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:3–8
1/23/2007	Gospel: Mark 2:23–28; 3:1–5	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1-3
1/24/2007	Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
1/25/2007	Gospel: John 10:9–16	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2
1/26/2007	Gospel: Mark 12:1-12	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-16
1/27/2007	Gospel: John 10:9–16	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2
1/28/2007	Gospel: Luke 18:9-14	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15
1/29/2007	Gospel: Mark 9:33-41	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:32-38
1/30/2007	Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16
1/31/2007	Gospel: Matthew 10:1, 5-8	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians



Fellow Parishioners,

I wish you all a Happy New Year! Let us make this a great year for Holy Transfiguration. I really look forward to serving you in 2008. We have so much to look forward to.

In February, we will have our Gala Banquet. At that banquet, we will burn the Construction Loan on our Sanctuary. We will still have a substantial permanent loan balance remaining, and we need to all do what we can to help reduce this loan as well. We will all be asked to donate over a two year time frame towards paying off this loan. Our goal is to have 100% stewardship in the building fund. I hope we will be able to reduce this loan in half by 2010.

Also on March 2nd, we will have a General Assembly. At this assembly, we will approve the budget. As you know from the October assembly, we approved the hiring of an Activities Director. We hope to have this person identified and begin working in our parish in June.

If you will look across the street from the church, you will see tremendous progress on the house we purchased a year ago. Through the generous donations, and work of some of our parishioners, this property will be ready for use by the Activities Director and our ministries. When the project is complete, we will have an open house for all to see the beautiful work that has been done. God bless those families who have done so much to make this a reality.

I want to congratulate our GOYA for representing our parish at last December's Winter Youth Rally. They performed well in all the activities. The senior boys placed second in the basketball tournament. It was a close game with us losing by only one point to St. Nektarios. Thank you to the coaches and advisors and to the GOYANs.

Again, I wish you all the best in 2008.

Yours in Christ,

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2008



THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS FOR THE 2008 PLEDGE YEAR!

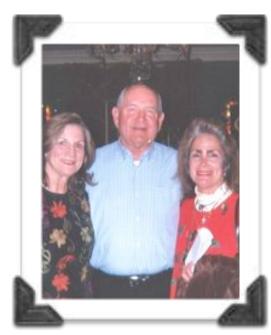
PIN	Name
0002.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adamson
0001.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Alberts
0712.01	Miss Melissa C. Alexander
0523.01	Mr. & Mrs. Genard Basto
0707.01	Miss Dorian Bafas
0022.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas
0023.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bakatsas
0030.01	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bates
0034.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Bilson
0035.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bilson
0036.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bilson
0043.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bothi
0612.01	Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourgeois
0048.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers
0051.01	Dr. & Mrs. Dan Brown
0560.01	Mr. & Mrs. Keny Buchan
0054.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bundros
0055.01	Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Burke
0572.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris A. Carlos
0075.01	Mr. & Mrs. Solir Christopher
0067.01	Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clement
0658.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Copses
0096.01	Mr. Arthur Costakis
0087.01	Mr. Shawn & Dr. Despina Dalton
0069.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Danos
0654.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Den
0661.01	Ms. Eleni Dodys
0641.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Donkar
0644.01	Mr. George Dracos
0106.01	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Driscoll
	Mr. & Mrs. Drew Dudley
0709.01	Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly
0108.01	Dr. Marjorie Economopoulos
0113.01	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Ellas
0508.01	Mr. & Mrs. Stratton Frank
0128.01 0134.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ignatios Galtanoglou
	Mr. & Mrs. Evan Gekas
0144.01	
0149.01	Dr. & Mrs. Larry Gess Mr. & Mrs. George Gianaris
0151.01	Miss Martha Gingles
0155.01 0595.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Gormanos
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0188.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Johnston

2N	Name
201.01	Mr. & Mrs. David Kay
0711.01	Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Kimble
213.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Klementzos
215.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Knuchel
216.01	Miss Constance Kollias
10.685(01	Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Kollias
1219.01	Ms. Natalie Konstadinidis
2221.01	Mr. James Kontratouris
1223.01	Ms. Marilyn Kontrafouris
1232.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis
0664.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dionyssios Koutsoukali
0710.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Kretsedemas
0234.01	Mr. & Mrs. Cristos Kyprianou
0236.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Lake
0608.01	Dr. Anna Lambros
0241.01	Mr. & Mrs. David Linebaugh
0517.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Linos
0244.01	Mrs. Florence Lockmuller
0245.01	Mr. & Mrs. Elton Longshore
0623.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Lopos
0248.01	Mr. David & Dr. Stephanie Lukens
0250.01	Dv. & Mrs. Alien Macris
0251.01	Dr. & Mrs. Bobby Macris
0252.01	Mrs. Catherine Maoris
0254.01	Mrs. Irene Macris
0259.01	Mr. Angelo Mallis
0267.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marianos
0269.01	Mrs. Xanthippe Marsico
0272.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Matthews
0274.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mavridis
0278.01	Mr. & Mrs. Frank McAteer
0631.01	Mr. & Mrs. Sam R. McClurd II
0281.01	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McCollum
0283.01	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Melissas
0284.01	Mrs. Krystalia Metropoulos
0266.01	Dr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Michaelides
0289.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Millades
0289.03	Mr. Andrew Milliades
0292.01	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Miltiades
0293.01	Mr. & Mrs. Leo Modenos
0297.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moorehead
0650.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Moraitakis
0304.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Nakos
0307.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jancu Nica
0309.01	Dr. & Mrs. Evans Nichols
0313.01	Mr. 5 Mrs. Caryl Nielsen
0324.01	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Orologan
0326.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pallas
0327.01	Rev. & Mrs. George Pallas
0328.01	Mr. Tasi Palas
0335.01	Mr. & Mrs. Aristotle Papadopoulos
0657.01	Rev. & Mrs. Panayiotis Papageorgi
0339.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jon Papastral
0639.01	Dr. Maria Paradisis
10000	PLAT INCOME TO A REPORT OF THE PLAT OF THE

PIN	Name
0344.01	Mr. & Mrs. Casey Pater
0347.01	Mr. Alex Paulson
0349.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paulson
0351.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Paulson
0528.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Peppas
0354.01	Mr. & Mrs. Arestedes Petaros
0357.01	Mrs. Athena Pickett
0361.01	Mr. & Mrs. William Porter
0367.01	Dr. & Mrs. Dorel Radivoj
0372.01	Dr. & Mrs. Lambros Rigas
0376.01	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rogers
0384.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Sampanes
0386.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Sarmir
0387.01	Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Sams
10.8860	Mr. & Mrs. George Sarris
10.6890	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Scherer
0394.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Seraphim
0395.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Shanahan
0398.01	Mr. & Mrs. Takanori Shoji
0708.01	Dr. & Mrs. Michael Skardasis
0520.01	Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Skarpelis
0412.02	Mr. James Smith
0412.01	Mrs. Mary C. Smith
0420.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sprouse
0422.01	Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Starks
0428.01	
0527.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strakes
0558.01	Mrs. Constance Stratigos
0435.01	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Tassopoulos
0698.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ovidiu Teodorescu
0441.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Thompson
0445.01	Mrs. Helen J. Tiliacos
0447.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tiller
0448.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tingas
0453.01	Mr. & Mrs. Athan Tsarouhas
0455.01	Mrs. Maria Tsilopoulos
0460.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner
0461.01	Mr. & Mrs. Lester Tyra
0694.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vachtsevanos
0466.01	Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Varnvakias
0475.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Voulopos
0666.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Wildom
0484.01	Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Worden
0493.01	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski
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148 Pledges received

ANNOUNCEMENTS



For all of my family and friends of our beautiful and beloved Holy Transfiguration...

Best Wishes for the New Year 2008 from Governor Sonny and Mrs. Mary Perdue and Eleni Dodys.

Chronia Polla!

Congratulations!

Spyros Papadimitriou & Suzanne Watson





Congratulations to Nick & Gerre Klementzos on their 50th Wedding Anniversary -

January 8th, 2008!



Mommy and Me A young mothers' group

You are invited to attend The <u>Mommy and Me playgroup</u>. This group is open to all mothers and children under the age of 5.

Jan 3: 10:00-11:30 Parish Life Center

Jan 16: 10:00-11:30 Parish Life Center

Feb 7: 10:00-11:30 Skardasis Home

Feb 20: 10:00-11:30 Outing TBA

March 6: 10:00-11:30 Parish Life Center

March 19: 10:00-11:30 Parish Life Center

To register for the group and for more info, please contact
 Kate Lewis at 678-715-8664 or klgl@comcast.net



Building Fund GALA

Let Us Commit Ourselves

The Building Fund Ministry of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Cordially Invites You to an

⁶Evening of Celebration

Saturday, February 9, 2008 Kartos Ballroom Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Community Center 2500 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia

Cocktails - 5:30pm Dinner - 6:30pm

Dancing to the Music of A Night In Athens

> Semi-Formal RSVP

Please contact the Church office for ticket information, additional invitations, or for any questions you may have.

WINTER YOUTH RALLY PHOTOS











CATECHISM



Catechism Students 3rd to 12th Grade and Their Parents:

Christ teaches us that the best way to express our thanksgiving to God is to love and serve others. Through His words and His actions, He models this very behavior. As such, Christ is our model of a Servant Leader or "steward."

We often consider stewardship an adult responsibility; however, becoming an effective steward as an adult begins with learning to become a good steward as a youth. Many young people are already stewards of their church but do not realize it. This year Holy Transfiguration is expanding its stewardship program to include the youth of the parish.

Sunday, January 13th is Stewardship Sunday for the Catechetical School. Catechism students will receive a youth stewardship pledge card and a stewardship letter in their Catechism classes. Students should read both carefully and should prayerfully discuss them with their parents. The stewardship card requires both a youth and a parental signature. There is no request for an annual monetary pledge. Instead, the card encourages youth to think about three separate, but equally important, areas in which they can contribute to the Church time, talent, and treasure. While donating financially (treasure) is one aspect of stewardship, helping others in need, serving in the altar, and reading the Epistle (time and talent) during the Divine Liturgy are just a few of the many ways youth can serve Christ and His Church.

For students who would like to become youth stewards of Holy Transfiguration, the stewardship card should be filled out and returned to their Catechism classroom. Baskets will be available in each room for students to return their completed cards. Please return cards the following **Sunday, January 20th** or upon return to Catechism class. After returning the stewardship card, each student will receive a thank you note and youth stewardship envelopes.

If anyone has questions, please contact Connie Kollias conniekollias@yahoo.com.

HELLENIC DANCE



Please Note: Dance practice for grades K-5th grades will begin on Tuesday, January 15th.

HELLENIC STUDIES



It has been a great year so far for Hellenic Studies students and their teachers. We have seen lots of enthusiasm from our students, and they have been working very hard and learning a lot.

As part of our curriculum, Mr. Leo Modenos has been meeting with the students every Tuesday and teaching them Greek Hymns as well as Greek Christmas carols in preparation for our outing to Heritage Assisted Living on December 18th, the last day of class before the holiday. We were welcomed by 25 residents of the home, who w . The students sang Greek and English Christmas carols with Mr. Leo's assistance. Once the performance was over, each student gave a small Christmas gift which consisted of lotion and/or socks to each resident. The residents were very appreciative of our visit and our gifts.

We ended our evening with a family night dinner. Thank you to all the parents who donated money for the pizza. A special thank you to Anthea Nichols for the donuts and hot chocolate.

We look forward to seeing all of our teachers and students back on Tuesday, January 8.

I wish everyone has a Happy New Year!

Isabelle Fleshman Director of Hellenic Studies



Mark Your Calendars!

The 19th Annual....*Marietta Greek Festival*.....May 16, 17 and 18, 2008

Thanks to the following persons for volunteering to be festival board members this year:

Chairperson	Maria Alberts
On Site Oversight	Athan Tsarouhas
Food	Mary Miltiades
Culture & Entertainment	Cynthia Moorehead
Fund Raising	Lela Bridgers

Thanks also to all of the people who volunteered to be committee chairs – almost 50 people in total! There is always an opportunity to help. Everyone adds value to our biggest fundraising effort of the year.

<u>We need your help</u> - Our biggest immediate need is for people to help sell ads in the program book. Do you patronize a business that would benefit from exposure to over 13,000 festival attendees? What about a Greek Restaurant or Greek owned business? Or, how about advertising your own business? These would be natural fits for our Program Book. Please contact Linda Lopos at 404-839-0297 or <u>llopos@bellsouth.net</u>, if you can help in this area.

Below are the Festival Meeting dates from now until Festival time. All meetings will be held after Liturgy at 12:30PM.

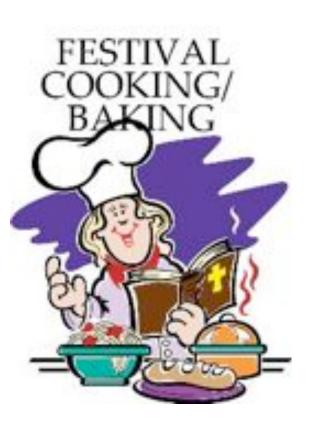
All Committees - Sunday, January 13 th – Chapel	
Board – Sunday, February 10 th – PLC, Downstairs Classroom	
All Committees – Sunday, March 9 th – Chapel	
Board – Sunday, April 6 th – PLC, Downstairs Classroom	
All Committees – Sunday, May 4 th – Chapel	

For questions or to volunteer, please contact Maria Alberts at 404-966-6694 or <u>mariaalberts@comcast.net</u>. We look forward to a great Festival!



FESTIVAL COOKING/BAKING DATES:

Tues, Jan. 15	Koulourakia	9–1pm
Thurs. Jan. 17	Koulourakia	9–1pm
Sat. Feb. 2	Kourlourakia	9–2pm
Thurs. Feb. 21	Kourabiethes	9–1pm
Tues. Feb. 26	Dolmades	4-10pm
Wed. Feb. 27	Dolmades	4-10pm
Sat. Mar. 1	Kourabiethes	9–2pm
Thurs. Mar. 6	Kourabiethes	9–1pm
Tues. Mar. 18	Keftedes	4-10pm
Sat. Mar. 29	Melomacarona	9–2pm
Tues. Apr. 8	Melomacarona	9–1pm
Thurs. Apr. 10	Melomacarona	9–1pm
Tues. Apr. 15	Spanakopita	4-10pm
Wed. Apr. 16	Spanakopita	4-10pm
Sat. May 3	Galatoboureko	9–2pm
Tues. May 13	Melomarcarona (dipping)	9–1pm
Tues. May 13	Pastitsio	4-10pm
Wed. May 14	Samplers and Trays	9–1pm
Wed. May 14	Pastitsio & Souvlakia	4-10pm
Thurs. May 15	Set up Stations, supplies	9–1pm
Thurs. May 15	Souvlakia	4-10pm



WE NEED MANY HELPING HANDS TO PUT ON THE FESTIVAL!!! PLEASE SEE MARTY DRISCOLL martydriscoll@bellsouth.net or MARY MILTIADES mmiltiades@bellsouth.net to volunteer in the kitchen!

PHILOPTOCHOS



2007-2009 Philoptochos Board

President: 1st Vice President: 2nd Vice President: Recording Secretary: Corresponding Secretary: Treasurer: Asst. Treasurer: Advisor: Membership:

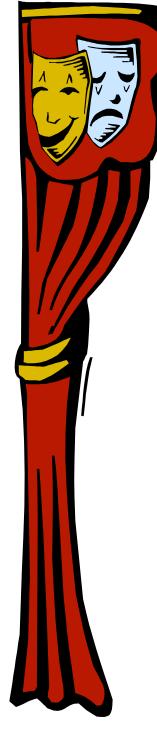
Board Members: Shirley Kiritsy Niki Gess Nikki Palamiotis Connie Stratigos Athena Burke Mary Smith Frances Mavridis Xanthippe Marsico Annette Jacobs Christine Sprouse Dorothy Macris Mary Miltiades Dorothy Botni Marty Driscoll Evelyn Bilson Kate Lewis

Philoptochos wants to thank our wonderful **Parish family** for all of the support you have given us this past year. A special thanks to all who purchased Spanakopitas, Sweets and Treats, and bookstore items for Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Of course, none of this would have been possible without all of our talented bakers and helpers! Our Parish Hall was beautifully decorated through the efforts of Angeliki & Ioannis Parashis and Jim & Athena Burke. Michelle, Greg, & Christine Cassimus graciously offered their home for our wonderful Christmas Party in December. Two generous donations were made to Philoptochos Social Services: **Grant Pursley**, representing **Ball Heating and Air**, made a donation through Christine Sprouse; co-workers **Dan and Patsy Jenkins** made a donation in honor of **Al Knuchel**. We are grateful for their generosity.

Soup Kitchen - December 27th. We fed 80+ homeless adults and children. Thank you to our helpers/servers: Kally Niarchos, Evelyn Bilson, Christine Sprouse, Niki Gess, Michelle Broussard Hanes, Linda Lopos, Athena Burke, Xanthippe Marsico and a special thank you for the **Greek Food to Go** leftovers....

Philoptochos has many exciting events planned for the coming year and would like for everyone in our parish to participate. There are many different ways one can become involved.

Upcoming Ev	vents for January: Jan. 13 Cutting of the Vasilopita
	Thank you to our bakers: Julie Orologas, Presbytera Pallas, Xenia Mantgiaris, Marty Driscoll
	Jan. 14 Board Meeting; 7:00, OCR
	Jan. 24; Soup Kitchen, MUST Ministries, 11:30 am.
	Please contact Athena Burke at <u>ibgreek@bellsouth.net</u> or 770.321.9948.
	Jan. 24: Book Club at the home of Athena Burke
	Jan. 25, 26, 27 Metropolis Retreat (Please call the church office for forms.)
<u>February:</u>	Feb. 3: Membership Tea Luncheon, PLC following Divine Liturgy
	Feb. 11: Board Meeting, OCR, 7:00 pm
	Feb. 20: General Meeting, Chapel, 7:00 pm.
	Topic: Discussion on preparing for Pascha
	Feb. 21 Soup Kitchen, MUST Ministries, 11:30 am.
	Please contact Athena Burke at <u>ibgreek@bellsouth.net</u> or 770.321.9948.
	Feb. 21: Book Club, 7:00
	Feb. 24: Godparent's Luncheon, PLC, following Divine Liturgy.
	If you would like to chair this event, please stop by the Philoptochos table or see a Board Member.



Prime Timers Theater Opportunities

Peachtree Battle Sunday, February 10, 2008 3:00 P.M. (leave church parking lot at 1:45 P.M.) Ansley Park Playhouse

\$26./person (\$24. if group of 20 or more) Reservations due by Jan. 10, 2008

Menopause the Musical Sunday, March 9, 2008 2:00 P.M. (leave church parking lot at 12:45 P.M.) 14th Street Playhouse

\$36.50/person Reservations/payment due by Feb. 1, 2008

Checks should be made payable to Prime Timers and mailed or given to Dorothy Botni, 3019 Walker Dr., Marietta, GA 30062 or Linda Lopos, 407 Pine Grove Way, Woodstock, GA 30189

Questions? Please contact:Linda Lopos678-445-3556Dorothy Botni770-971-9956

Prime (prīm), adj.

...6. The best, most vigorous, or most fully mature period or stage of a person or thing*

*Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition, 1962, The World Publishing Company

Prime Timer (prīm tīm'er), n.

A parishioner, age 50 or older, in good standing with Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church**, who feels in the "prime" of his/her life and enjoys fellowship with other adults through group activities.

******The Prime Timers of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta, Georgia, "Rules and Regulations"



ALZHEIMER/DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church INITIAL MEETING MONDAY—JANUARY 28, 2008

7:00 PM

PARISH LIFE CENTER



If you have a loved one that suffers from Dementia or Alzheimers disease, come & join others who share similar situations . . . let's offer monthly support & assistance to one another.

Light refreshments will be served

For more information, contact Steve Tingas at 770/845-5045 or <u>TingasAtl@comcast.net</u>

January 2008

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DATE	PARISH COUNCIL DUTY	ACOLYTES	OUTREACH	PROSFORO
Jan. 6	Burke/Paulson	Team I	M. Alberts/K. Moustoukas	F. Tucker/T. Vamvakias
Jan. 13	Matthews/Miltiades	Team II	A. Burke/S. Kiritsy	N. Barke/T. Blalock
Jan. 20	Lopos/S. Miltiades	Team I	Niki Gess/C. Sprouse	A. Burke/M. Driscoll
Jan. 27	Burke/Knuchel	Team II	D. Botni/T. Isaac	E. Kay/F. Tucker

Acolyte Team I	Zach Blasetti (Captain), Nico Orologas (Captain), Strati Papageorgiou (Captain), Christopher Bilson, George Caras, Leo Frangis, Nicholas Gekas, Alexander Georgacopoulos, Charlie Honey, Paul Jacobs, Michael Marianos, Zach Melissas, Stratton Paulson, Jonathan & Nicholas Radivoj, Giovanni Ray, Dylan Rogers, Matthew Shanahan, Alex Skarpelis, Chase Smith, Yianni Turner
Acolyte Team II	Cosmon Bylos (Captain), Arthur Tingas (Captain), Nicholas Azimzadeh, Daniel, Michael & Chris Bridgers, Nick Catrakilis, Chase Eckerman, Alexander Elias, Jacob Harrah, Eli & Evans Nichols, Dean Papastrat, Lukas Porter, Michael Sarris, Nick & Michael Steffas, Luke & Nicholas Tassopoulos, Nicholas Zakreski

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30am -5:30pm	Alex Miltiglas Devict Courseil Devident	
770.924.8080, Fax - 770.924.3030	Alex Miltiades - Parish Council President Alex Paulson - Parish Council VP David Linebaugh - Catechism School Dir. Demetri Miltiades - Choir Director	
Email: <u>holytrans@comcast.net</u>		
Web Page: <u>www.holytrans.org</u>		
Web Page: www.mariettagreekfestival.org		
	Paulina Vastakis - Hellenic Dance Artistic Dir.	
Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter	Isabelle Fleshman - Hellenic Studies George Lopos - Outreach/Welcoming Frances Mavridis - Philoptochos President Linda Lopos- Prime Timers President	
Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter		
ite with George Lanas, Frotopresbyter		
	Elias Modenos (Leo) - Psalti	
	Alan Knuchel - Stewardship	
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HOLYTRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 3431 TRICKUM ROAD MARIETTA, GA 30066-4660

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