

# SYNDIAKONIA

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## THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Marietta, GA

**DECEMBER 2017**



### THE BIRTH ACCORDING THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

What shall we offer You, O Christ, who for our sakes has appeared on earth as man? Every creature made by You offers You thanks. The angels offer You a hymn; the heavens a star; the Magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, its cave; the wilderness, the manger: and we offer You a Virgin Mother. O pre-eternal God, have mercy upon us.

# **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION**

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*3431 Trickum Road*

*Marietta, GA 30066*

Tel. 770 924-8080

Fax 770 924-3030

**Website:** [www.holytrans.org](http://www.holytrans.org)

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

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

Secretary: Anne Willcocks

E-mail: [holytrans@comcast.net](mailto: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 John Brown, Protopresbyter*

*Rev. Father Paul Lundberg, Presbyter*

## **PARISH COUNCIL-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President.....Steve Tingas

Vice-President.....Alex Miltiades

Treasurer.....Steve Steffas

Assistant Treasurer.....Danny Vlahiotis

Secretary.....Paul Markley

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Ken Bilson, Terry Bliss, Jim Burke, Dennis Christopher,

Ellen Linebaugh, Jon Papastrat, Becky Valagohar

### **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. You can't miss it!**

<http://www.holytransfiguration.info/directions/>

### THE REAL GIFT OF CHRISTMAS



Christmas is at our doorstep one more time. The stores glimmer again in colorful lights and decorations inviting customers to peruse their merchandise and purchase gifts for others and for themselves.

At the church and at home, we will soon begin to sing the Christmas carols that everyone loves. We are going to decorate a tree and put gifts and toys under it. This is a very special time filled with the magic of this incredible season. We love it! We cannot wait every year for it. We love to get together as a family and celebrate one of our best meals of the year. We love to surround ourselves with those who are special in our lives.

This joy and love that we share during this special season is really God's Will for us. As the angels hovered over the cave of Christ's birth they sang joyfully "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth peace, goodwill to humankind!". That joy has been transmitted through the centuries to all generations. That joy is the Gift of God for us as He tries to repair our fallen condition. He understood that even His Incarnation (His taking flesh and sharing our humanity) would not be able to convince us fully to come to Him, so He planted in our lives this festive season along with the need for each other's company as a means of bringing us together to celebrate His love for us. He does not want us to forget this special time, so He even uses the desire of businesses for profits to keep reminding us of the birth of His Son into the world-if business could do it, they would start the celebration of Christmas in July (I remember, in fact, one store in New York that did just that some years back). The fact that Christmas is the most celebrated feast in our society is not by accident, but rather within the plan of God to bring us closer to Him.

Our rebellious nature, of course, seeks to devise new ways to break away from the embrace of our Creator. Some of us, like teenage children who want to assert their individuality, lash back at the love of their Father by rejecting the Christmas manger in the public square, by coming up with new greetings to replace "Merry Christmas", by devising new feasts to fill the emptiness of their souls. They still want to wipe out their sins, but seek do it by wiping God from their life!

Christmas and its message of peace, love and salvation are deeply rooted in our nature. God in His wisdom and caring for us has reserved a special place in our souls for the birth of His Son into the world. That's why we will again light trees and build mangers, we will again flock to the churches on Christmas Eve to celebrate, we will again buy presents for those around us.

Through these things the joy of God's presence, which is residing in our souls, is re-energized. In these, we relive the joy of the shepherds who beheld Him as a baby.

Rejoice, therefore, my fellow Christians. Rejoice for the Real Gift of Christmas, *God's Joy*, will fill our hearts again!

In Christ's Love,

*Fr. Panayiotis*



**3431 Trickum Road**

**Marietta, GA 30066**

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

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

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **December 2017**

**December 1, Friday.** Blessing of the water 11:00 am

**December 2, Saturday Evening:** Great Vespers 5:00 pm (Feast of St. Porphyrios-Transferred)

**December 3, Sunday.** 14th Sunday of Luke. Feast of St. Porphyrios - Transferred from Dec 2.  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**December 5, Tuesday.** Great Vespers for Feast of St. Nicholas 6:00 pm.

**December 6, Wednesday.** Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra of Lycia.  
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**December 9, Saturday.** Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

**December 10, Sunday.** Tenth Sunday of Luke  
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**December 11, Monday Evening:** Great Vespers for Feast of St. Spyridon 6:00 pm

**December 12, Tuesday.** Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus.  
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**December 16, Saturday.** Great Vespers 5:00 pm

**December 17, Eleventh Sunday of Luke.** Feast of St. Dionysios Archbishop of Aegina the Wonderworker. *Feast of St. Modestos the healer of Animals.*  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. *Blessing of the Animals, 3:00 pm.*

**December 23, Saturday before Christmas.** THE GREAT HOURS OF CHRISTMAS, 9:30 am  
**Saturday Evening:** Great Vespers 5:00 pm

**December 24, Sunday before Christmas.** Feast of all the Righteous people from Adam to Joseph, the betrothed to the Most Holy Theotokos.  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**CHRISTMAS EVE-SUNDAY EVENING: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
**EVENING, CHRISTMAS LITURGY 5:30 pm, Divine Liturgy** of St. John Chrysostom  
A Christmas Reception will follow the Divine Services at the Parish Hall.

**DECEMBER 25, MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
The Birth of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh.  
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 am.

**December 26, Tuesday.** Great Vespers 6:00 pm

**December 27, Wednesday.** Feast of St. Stephanos the First Martyr.  
Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**December 30, Saturday,** Great Vespers 5:00 pm

**December 31, Sunday before Epiphany**  
Orthros 8:30 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**Sunday Evening,** Great Vespers 5:00 pm - Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great.

## A New Saint for the Orthodox Church - ELDER IAKOVOS (TSALIKIS) OF EVIA



The Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate decided today to officially number the blessed Elder Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia among the saints of God.

The meeting was chaired by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

St. Porphyrios said of the late Elder Iakovos, “Mark my words. He’s one of the most far-sighted people of our time, but he hides it to avoid being praised.”

He lived for the Divine Liturgy, which he celebrated every day, with fear and trembling, dedicated and, literally, elevated. Young children and those with pure hearts saw him walking above the floor, or

being served by holy angels. As he himself told a few people, he served together with Cherubim, Seraphim and the saints. During the Preparation, he saw angels of the Lord taking the portions of those being remembered and placing them before the throne of Christ, as prayers. When, because of health problems he felt weak, he would pray before the start of the Divine Liturgy and say, “Lord, as a man I can’t, but help me to celebrate.” After that, he said, he celebrated “as if he had wings.”

He was a wonderful spiritual guide, and through his counsel thousands of people returned to the path of Christ. He loved his children more than himself. It was during confession that you really appreciated his sanctity. He never offended or saddened anyone. He was justly known as “Elder Iakovos the sweet.”

He always had the remembrance of death and of the coming judgement. Indeed, he foresaw his death. He asked an Athonite hierodeacon whom he had confessed on the morning of November 21, the last day of his earthly life, to remain at the monastery until the afternoon, in order to dress him. While he was confessing, he stood up and said, “Get up, son. The Mother of God, St. David, St. John the Russian and St. Iakovos have just come into the cell.” “What are they here for, Elder?” “To take me, son.” At that very moment, his knees gave way and he collapsed. As he’d foretold, he departed “like a little bird.” With a breath like that of a bird, he departed this world on the day of the Entry of the Mother of God. He made his own entry into the kingdom of God. It was 4:17 in the afternoon.

His body remained supple and warm, and the shout which escaped the lips of thousands of people: “Saint! You’re a saint,” bore witness to the feelings of the faithful concerning the late Elder Iakovos. Now, after his blessed demise, he intercedes for everyone at the throne of God, with special and exceptional confidence. Hundreds of the faithful can confirm that he’s been a benefactor to them.

The memory of Elder Iakovos will be celebrated on November 22 according to the New Calendar.

Read a fuller life of [Elder Iakovos \(Tsalikis\) of Evia](http://orthochristian.com/108671.html) here.

<http://orthochristian.com/108671.html>

Protomartyrs of America—Saint Juvenaly (+1796) and Saint Peter (+1815)  
September 24th & December 12th (Synaxis of the First Martyrs on American Land)



St. Juvenaly // St. Juvenaly preaches to the Alaskan Natives // St. Peter the Aleut



The Protomartyr (the first martyr) of the Christian Church is the Archdeacon Stephen, who suffered from the Jews who refused the Gospel of Christ. He died with the heavens opened up to him, asking God's forgiveness for his murderers (Acts 7:54-60). From that day to this, the blood of the martyrs has been the seed of Christianity; every Christian land has had its martyrs, and in giving up everything earthly and laying down their very lives for Christ, they have served as the source of the flowering of Christianity for each separate people.

The first martyrs in each country are usually from the heathen; and once Christianity has been established on their blood, a second wave of martyrs has been produced by the heterodox--those, who while calling themselves Christians, have distorted the Gospel of Christ and rise up attempting to destroy the true Church of Christ. Finally, the godless, or those who have rejected Christ altogether, make a final attack against the Church.

Thus it was with Byzantium, which after the pagan persecutions of the first three centuries, had to endure numerous persecutions from the Arians, the Iconoclasts, and others, until the very city of Constantinople was sacked and its holy things defiled by the Latin Crusaders; and finally it was reduced to merciless slavery at the hands of the Turks, the only light in this period coming from its new martyrs who went boldly to endure tortures and death at their hands.

The Orthodox land of Russia, which suffered little from persecutions in earlier periods, has in this century brought forth an abundant multitude of new martyrs from the godless, who have raised up the worst attack ever to afflict the Church of Christ.

America, a land late to receive the light of Orthodoxy, has also had its martyrs, although up to now they have received little veneration or even attention. Hieromartyr Juvenal, at the very dawn of Orthodoxy on this continent (1796), suffered from the pagan natives of Alaska to whom he was preaching the Gospel so zealously; and New Martyr Peter the Aleut, one of the first generation of Orthodox converts in America, suffered cruel torture and death at the hands of Roman Catholic missionaries in San Francisco (1815) for refusing to abandon Orthodoxy for the heterodox Christianity of the West.

# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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

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

If the Orthodox Church in America is to succeed in its primary mission to bring the Gospel of Salvation and Sanctification to the world--we must continually return to the core Faith, to the prime theological teachings of the divinity of Christ and the salvation offered through Him.

We also need to establish our own schools where we will cultivate in our children the Orthodox Christian principles of life as the early Christians did. We cannot shape souls effectively unless we undertake a serious effort of immersion of our people from a young age in the Faith and Orthodox way of life. A serious Christian education is the way to do that. An Orthodox Christian education in particular is the only way to counter the intellectual onslaught of the secular society upon the minds of our people.

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

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

This is a critical moment in the life of our Parish, as well. We have established ourselves by the grace of God as a respectable "faith group" in this corner of the earth. People are now ready to listen to us if we do have a serious message to offer. But we need to first understand what this message really is and make it an integral part of our own lives. As a group of people who claim to be followers of Christ, we need to begin living according to His teaching. People around us have to recognize us from our love for each other and our good works. We need to make a mark in the local community as both philanthropists as well as lovers of God. Then we will be able to make a difference in American Society, not through monetary wealth, but rather through the Wealth of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions that we have inherited.

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

## **The Mission Statement of our Parish**

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

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

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

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

**See UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS. CHAPTER ONE, ARTICLE 15**

### **The Practice of "Confession" In the Bible**

#### **Old Testament**

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

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

#### **New Testament**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - DECEMBER

12/01/2017	Friday:	I Timothy 4:4-8	Luke 20:19-26	
12/02/2017	Saturday:	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 12:32-40	
12/03/2017	Sunday:	Luke 24:1-12	Ephesians 5:8-19	Luke 18:35-43
12/04/2017	Monday:	Matthew 25:1-13	Galatians 3:23-29;4:1-5	Mark 5:24-34
12/05/2017	Tuesday:	Luke 6:17-23	Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2	Matthew 11:27-30
12/06/2017	Wednesday:	John 10:1-9	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
12/07/2017	Thursday:	I Timothy 6:17-21	Luke 21:28-33	
12/08/2017	Friday:	II Timothy 1:1-2;8-18	Luke 21:37-38,22:1-8	
12/09/2017	Saturday:	Galatians 4:22-27	Luke 8:16-21	
12/10/2017	Sunday:	Luke 24:13-35	Ephesians 6:10-17	Luke 13:10-17
12/11/2017	Monday:	II Timothy 2:20-26	Mark 8:11-21	
12/12/2017	Tuesday:	John 10:1-9	Ephesians 5:8-19	John 10:9-16
12/13/2017	Wednesday:	II Timothy 4:9-22	Mark 8:30-34	
12/14/2017	Thursday:	Titus 1:5-14	Mark 9:10-15	
12/15/2017	Friday:	II Timothy 1:8-18	Mark 2:23-28;3:1-5	
12/16/2017	Saturday:	Ephesians 1:16-23	Luke 14:1-11	
12/17/2017	Sunday:	Luke 24:36-53	Colossians 3:4-11	Luke 14-16-24
12/18/2017	Monday:	Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19	Mark 9:42-50;10:1	
12/19/2017	Tuesday:	Hebrews 4:1-13	Mark 10:2-12	
12/20/2017	Wednesday:	Hebrews 10:32-38	Mark 9:33-41	
12/21/2017	Thursday:	Hebrews 7:1-6	Mark 10:17-27	
12/22/2017	Friday:	Hebrews 7:18-25	Mark 10:24-32	
12/23/2017	Saturday:	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:19-29	
12/24/2017	Sunday:	John 20:1-10	Hebrews 11:9-10;32-40	Matthew 1:1-25
12/25/2017	Monday:	Matthew 1:18-25	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:1-12
12/26/2017	Tuesday:	Hebrews 2:11-18	Matthew 2:13-23	
12/27/2017	Wednesday:	Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-60	Matthew 21:33-42	
12/28/2017	Thursday:	Hebrews 10:35-39;11:1-7	Matthew 21:33-42	
12/29/2017	Friday:	Hebrews 2:11-18	Matthew 2:13-23	
12/30/2017	Saturday:	I Timothy 6:11-16	Matthew 12:15-21	
12/31/2017	Sunday:	John 20:11-18	II Timothy 4:5-8	Mark 1:1-8

## STEWARDSHIP 2018

At Holy Transfiguration, we are truly thankful for each and every member who has chosen to be a part of the Holy Transfiguration family. Every individual is a vital part of our Parish. As we look back on 2017, we offer all of you, our deepest appreciation for the time, talent and treasure you have so generously given to the work of our Parish and to Christ's Church.

With 2017 coming to a close, and the Christmas season and 2018 upon us, please give consideration to your Stewardship offering in the New Year.

In order to enable the Parish Council and the Parish Ministries to plan for the coming year, please take a few minutes to review and complete the 2018 Stewardship Form. (Stewardship Forms were handed out the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and they are also being mailed to your home. You can also pick one up at the Parish office or in the Narthex.)

Please return your completed Stewardship Form by any of the following methods; by mail to the Parish office, by bringing it to the Parish office, by giving it to any Parish Council member, or by placing it in the tray on Sunday.

Father Panayiotis will be blessing the completed Stewardship Forms in Church on Sunday, December 17th, 2017. In this season of joy and good will as we approach Christmas, this is a perfect time to give back to the Church from the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

Your Stewardship commitment ensures the success of the programs undertaken for the spiritual needs of the families entrusted to our care, it provides the foundation of our Parish Ministries, and it supports our efforts in spreading Christ's word through our Orthodox faith.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of our commitment. May the grace of our Lord bless you and your loved ones to experience the joy of Christ's birth through the joy of giving.

Once again, thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure in 2017, and thank you for giving careful consideration to your Stewardship commitment for 2018.

### ***Stewardship Prayer***

*Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## STEWARDSHIP 2018 (continued)

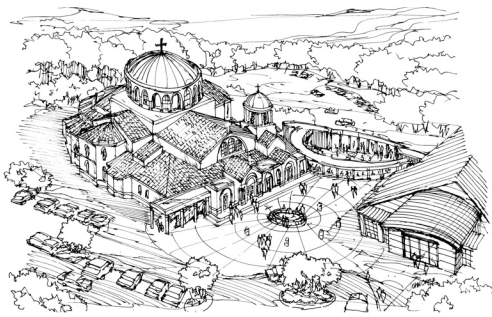
### *A Message of Thanks*

*We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all those who so generously shared their time and talents with us during our recent 2018 Stewardship Drive and Stewardship Luncheon:*

- *Those who spoke from their hearts about Stewardship in the Sanctuary....*
- *Those who decorated our Parish Hall so beautifully for the Luncheon....*
- *Those who prepared the delicious Lenten meal.....*
- *Those who served the meal and set up the drinks and coffee....*
- *Those who brought such wonderful Lenten deserts....*
- *Those who cleaned up after all of us enjoyed the Luncheon....*

*The above is just an attempt to mention the many wonderful contributions of time and talent by dedicated individuals ... the help and support goes beyond the list above, and a heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you. Thank you!*





## MEMBERSHIP/STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2017

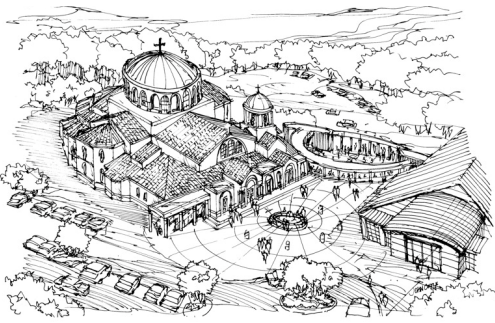
THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO HAVE  
SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2017!

*(If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2017, please  
do so; your personal commitment of time, talent and treasure  
is so important, and so appreciated.)*

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Agne  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Alberts  
Ms. Pamela Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Andros  
Mr. Chiron Antoniadis  
Mr. Panayiotis Antoniadis  
Ms. Toulia Argentis  
Mrs. Elissaveta Arnaoudova  
Ms. Christina Arp  
Ms. Eva Arp  
Mr. & Mrs. John Asimakos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Asprakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Azimzadeh  
Ms. Eleni Bafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bakatsas  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Baleno  
Mr. & Mrs. Trey Bane  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Barrett  
Mr. Gregory Barsky  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bass  
Mr. & Mrs. Danut Batin  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bethune  
Mr. Mark Bigelow  
Mrs. Evelyn Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Bilson  
Ms. Miranda Black  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Blalock  
Ms. Stacey Blalock  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Blasetti  
Mrs. Betty Bliss  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bliss  
Ms. Alexis Boothe  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Botni  
Mr. & Mrs. George Boudouris  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourgeois  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Bourgeois  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Bournias  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Bourquin  
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Bradford  
Mr. & Mrs. John Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Brown  
Fr. & Mrs. John Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Olen Bruce  
Ms. Anne Bruno  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Buchan  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bundros  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burke  
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bylos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cacavias  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Cantrell  
Mr. & Mrs. George Caras  
Mr. George Caras, III

Mr. Thanos Caras  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Carlos  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carra  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Castro  
Ms. Anna Ceisel  
Mrs. Johanna Ceisel-Miller  
Mrs. Mary Anne Chanos  
Ms. Daniela Chereches  
Ms. Mary Chiotellis  
Mrs. Penny Chotas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Christopher  
Mr. & Mrs. Grigorios Chryssopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Clement  
Mr. Charles Coleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Comsudes  
Ms. Marianna Constantinou  
Mrs. Cherie Cookorinis-O'Connell  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copses  
Ms. Athena Costarides  
Ms. Cathy Costarides  
Ms. Margaret Csonka  
Mr. Gregory Daglis  
Dr. Despina Dalton  
Mr. Christopher Davis  
Ms. Judith L. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Demakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Djonis  
Ms. Eleni Dodys  
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Doulgerakis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Doulgerakis  
Mrs. Marty Driscoll  
Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly  
Ms. Diana Dusa  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Duvlaris  
Mr. & Mrs. John Dymond  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Edwards  
Mrs. Marilyn Eleftheriou  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Elias  
Mr. Rex Erickson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Farrey  
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Foster  
Mr. Constantinos Fotopoulos  
Mr. Dimitrios Fotopoulos  
Ms. Zoe Fotopoulos  
Ms. Karen Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Frangis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Franji  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. Stratton Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gavalas  
Mr. Michael Gavalas  
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Gavalas  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Georgacopoulos  
Mr. Philip George  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gess  
Mrs. Stephanie Gianaris  
Mr. John Gianopoulos  
Ms. Martha Gingles

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Goldsholl  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Gormanos  
Mr. & Mrs. Tanyo Gospodinov  
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Graf  
Mr. Andy Green  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gwynn  
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Hamilton  
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Hammond  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hansard  
Mr. Patrick Hartnett  
Mrs. Rosemary Hendrix  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hendrix  
Miss Leycei Hendrix  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hondras  
Ms. Diana Honey  
Mr. Troy Horton  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Houstoulakis  
Ms. Sheila Howington  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hutt  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Imbeault  
Mrs. Tina Isaac  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jacobs  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Jansma  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Johansen  
Mr. Kurk Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Radostin Jordanov  
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Kamilaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kanelos  
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Kapsalis  
Mr. David Karamitros  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kargas  
Mr. & Mrs. David Kay  
Mr. & Mrs. Tasso Kefalas  
Mr. & Mrs. Fouad Kerdahi  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kipreos  
Ms. Irene Kipreos  
Mr. & Mrs. Manolis Kipreos  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kipreos  
Mr. Steve Kipreos  
Mr. Phil Kiritsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Klementzos  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Knuchel  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Kollias  
Mr. & Mrs. Zach Kollias  
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Konstadinidis  
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos  
Konstantinidis  
Mrs. Athena Kontrafouris  
Mr. Jim Kontrafouris  
Dr. Michael Kostas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Kostulakos  
Mr. & Mrs. James Kourafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis  
Mrs. Leah Koutsoukalis  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kwiatkowski  
Ms. Christine P. Lavey  
Mr. Blake Lawson  
Mrs. Elyse Lawson



## MEMBERSHIP / STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2017

THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO HAVE  
SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2017!

*(If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2017, please  
do so; your personal commitment of time, talent and treasure  
is so important, and so appreciated.)*

Ms. Anna Leros  
Mrs. Maria Levantis  
Mr. & Mrs. Stamatis Levantis  
Mr. & Mrs. Kostantinos Liakakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lilly  
Mr. & Mrs. David Linebaugh  
Ms. Maria Linebaugh  
Ms. Sophia Linebaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. George Lisgaris  
Mr. Drew Logothetis  
Mr. & Mrs. Elton Longshore  
Mr. & Mrs. George Lopos  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Lozier  
Mr. & Mrs. David Lukens  
Fr. Paul Lundberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Lymberopoulos  
Dr. & Mrs. Allen Macris  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Macris  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Mallie  
Mrs. Andrea Mancil  
Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Maniatis  
Mrs. Xenia Mantgiaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marianos  
Mr. Bobis Markatos  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Markley  
Mrs. Xanthippe Marsico  
Ms. Alex Matthews  
Mr. George Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. Filipos Mavromatidis  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mavromatidis  
Mr. & Mrs. Rich Mayk  
Mr. & Mrs. John McCarty  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McCollum  
Ms. Maria McGovern  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McLean  
Mr. & Mrs. John McQueary  
Mr. Andy Melissas  
Dr. & Mrs. Adam Mellis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Mermigkas  
Mr. Panayiotis Michael  
Dr. Stella Michael-Makri  
Ms. Ioanna Michaels  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Miltiades  
Mr. Andrew Miltiades  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miltiades  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Miltiades  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Modenos  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moorehead  
Mr. & Mrs. John Moraitakis  
Ms. Patricia Morris  
Ms. Demetra Moshonas  
Mr. & Mrs. John Moustoukas  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moustoukas  
Mr. Theofilos Moyssiadis  
Mr. & Mrs. Erik Musto  
Mr. & Mrs. George Nakos  
Ms. Kathleen Nash  
Mr. & Mrs. George Nasr  
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Neocleous  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Niarchos  
Mr. Iancu Nica  
Mr. Christopher Nicholaou  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nicholas  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Nichols  
Ms. Eleni Nikolas

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nikolich  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Orologas  
Mr. & Mrs. John Pacheco  
Ms. Nikki Palamiotis  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pallas  
Fr. & Mrs. George Pallas  
Mr. Tasi Pallas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolai Panov  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Pantelis  
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Papadakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantine Papadimitriou  
Mr. & Mrs. Aristotle Papadopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Papadopoulos  
Fr. & Mrs. Panayiotis Papageorgiou  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Papastrat  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Papleacos  
Dr. Maria Paradisis  
Mr. & Mrs. Casey Pater  
Mr. & Mrs. Panayiotis Patrikakis  
Mr. Alex Paulson  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paulson  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Paulson  
Mr. & Mrs. Keath Paxten  
Mr. & Mrs. George Pentzakis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Peppas  
Ms. Soteria Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. William Pettas  
Mrs. Athena Pickett  
Mr. James Pickett  
Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Pittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Poradzisz  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Porter  
Mrs. Poly Potter  
Mr. George Poulos  
Ms. Susan Purcell  
Mr. & Mrs. Francesco Quinterno  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Reale  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Regas  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Richards  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Reid  
Dr. & Mrs. Lambros Rigas  
Mr. & Mrs. David Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Rudy  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Sampanes  
Ms. Alexa Sarmir  
Ms. Christina Sarmir  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Sarmir  
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Sarris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Sarris  
Mr. & Mrs. Gheorghe Schipor  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Schumacher  
Mr. & Mrs. Bojidar Sekoulov  
Mrs. Andigone Seraphim  
Mr. Mike Serkedakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Vasileios Sfyris  
Mrs. Julie Shanahan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Shelby  
Mr. & Mrs. Taka Shoji  
Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Sideris  
Mr. Costas Simoglou  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Skarpelis

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sklikas  
Ms. Dimitra Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Manning Smith  
Ms. Marcy Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Sotir-Simms  
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Soulios  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Spanos  
Ms. Alexandra Spanoudis  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sprouse  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Starks  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Steffas  
Mr. & Mrs. Tracey Stephens  
Mrs. Mary Stiakakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strakes  
Mrs. Connie Stratigos  
Mr. & Mrs. Brett Strauch  
Mr. & Mrs. Stoyan Sugarliev  
Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Taoushiani  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Tassopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Ovidiu Teodorescu  
Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas  
Mrs. Stephanie Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Thorne  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tidwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tiller  
Ms. Maria Tingas  
Mr. Steve Tingas  
Mr. & Mrs. Kiril Todorov  
Mr. Athan Tsarouhas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Tsoukalas  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tucker  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vachtsevanos  
Mr. & Mrs. George Vachtsevanos  
Mr. & Mrs. Stavros Vacratsas  
Ms. Becky Valagohar  
Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Vamvakias  
Mrs. Elaine Vasilas  
Mr. Gregory Vassilious  
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Vastakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Luigi Vattelana  
Ms. Maria Vatzakas  
Mr. & Mrs. Vaio Vlachos  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Vlahiotis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Vlamis  
Ms. Athena Vlamis  
Dr. Phillip Vodas  
Mr. Tim Vouloupos  
Mr. Julian Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Waggoner  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Westmoreland  
Mr. Benjamin Whitener  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Whiteside  
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Worden  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Xanthakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Yiannovits  
Ms. Eleftheria Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski  
Mr. & Mrs. Marco Zavala  
Mrs. Angela Ziros

**Total: 361**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



We have wonderful prosforo bakers in our parish...if you would like to learn how to make the bread or you would like to join our bakers list, please contact Anne in the office - [holytrans@comcast.net](mailto:holytrans@comcast.net).



Did you know the church library catalog does more than let you know what is available to borrow? Explore the catalog <http://htgoc.phoebe.opalsinfo.net/bin/home> by searching for Kastner.

To honor the living and remember those who have passed, these new books have been given by Jo Kastner and Paula Christopher. How did they know what to buy for the Library?

Jo and Paula used the **HTGOC Church Library Wish List**

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1BH2YD0S1TZ1H/ref=cm\\_sw\\_su\\_w](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1BH2YD0S1TZ1H/ref=cm_sw_su_w).

The HTGOC Amazon wish list is easy to use. Your selection will be sent to the Church office with a note telling who the book is given by and who is to be honored.

Name days, birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays are perfect times to give a book to the library. Who would you like to honor and remember with a new book given to the Church Library?

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## Stocks and Securities Donations

Dear Parishioners,

Did you know that you can donate stocks and other securities to our Church? These donations can count towards Stewardship and Building Fund/Capital Campaign pledges. Like most donations to the Church, they might be tax deductible\*. If you are interested in donating stocks or securities, please reach out to Anne in the church office for instructions.

Thank you,  
Danny Vlahiotis, Assistant Treasurer

\*Please discuss with a qualified tax professional if your donation will qualify as a tax deduction.



# Christmas Remembrance

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

or

For the Health of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_

The names of donors & dedications will be published in the bulletin on Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve.



## Poinsettias

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## COMMUNITY



## CHRISTMAS CARD

*If you would like for your name to be included in our Community Christmas Card, please complete the form below and return it along with your free-will donation to the Church Office or drop it in the offering tray during Church services no later than **Sunday, December 3rd!** Thank you!*

I would like my name(s) to read as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to: HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GOC*

**Mail to:** Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church  
3431 Trickum Road  
Marietta, GA 30066



## Hellenic Studies December Announcements...

Thank you to everyone who helped support our **Fall Bake Sale** on November 12<sup>th</sup>...your support of our program is *greatly* appreciated!

*Coming this month...*

On **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** – the children of our program will serenade parishioners with traditional Greek *kalanta*...beautiful carols...immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

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

On **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – parents of our program are invited to take part in our holiday Christmas celebration, from 5:30-7:00pm (during normal class time). The children will sing traditional *kalanta*, and light refreshments will be served.

Classes will resume on **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Our Ministry's end of year statement:*

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

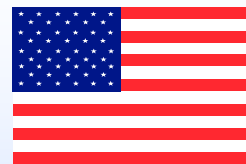
*The Hellenic Studies Ministry will continue to do the very best we know how, the very best we can. With Christian Faith and continuous devotion we will strive to further our mission --- a focused commitment and dedication to the lifelong pursuit of learning!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Χρονια πολλά και Καλή Χρονια!!!



# Ellinomatheia Lessons for the Certificate of Attainment in the Greek Language



## Hellenic Studies of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

3431 Trickum Road  
Marietta, GA, 30066

Tel: 770-924-8080

Fax: 770-924-3030

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



- Students who obtain the Ellinomatheia Certification *are recognized worldwide for their Greek language qualifications*, which can be used to study in universities in Greece, Europe and the United States.
- The official institution authorized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs to conduct the exams is the Center for the Greek Language in Thessaloniki, which works in cooperation with the Aristotle University.
- The examination for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek is held *once per year* in mid-May, in 165 examination centers worldwide.

The examination center in Atlanta is the  
**Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation**  
2500 Clairmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329  
(404)633-5870 ([www.atlcoc.org](http://www.atlcoc.org))

**Group classes are limited to 8 students  
and offered on Thursdays from 5:30 – 7:00 pm**

For any questions, please email us at:  
[eleni@mindspring.com](mailto:eleni@mindspring.com) OR [gloupeti@gmail.com](mailto:gloupeti@gmail.com)

Instructor: Georgia Loupeti

(Classics/Greek Literature - National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)



## NOVEMBER PHILOPTOCHOS NEWSLETTER

The Panagia Philoptochos chapter is ending the 2017 year with 111 members. We have spent \$12,006 on local social services. **What is social services?** The 2017 social service expenses include:

- Feed the Hungry Children Everywhere; 20,000 children fed locally
- Approximately 800 homeless meals through MUST Soup Kitchen
- Habitat for Humanity home build for a needy family
- Women's veterans organization donation
- Threads of kindness, clothes for 3 children in Cobb Co.
- St. John the Wonderworker homeless program: 60 backpacks, 72 pairs of gloves, 72 knit hats and 180 pairs of tube socks.
- 27 backpacks full of new school supplies for middle school students in Marietta
- Donation for LiveSAFE, Marietta, organization for abused women and elderly abuse
- \$575 phone cards for soldiers to call their families
- Local requests from within our community and Cobb county for help with utilities, rent, food, gas, medications.

The word Philoptochos comes from the Greek words meaning "friend of the poor". There are over 26,000 members nationwide, who support who support local, national and international programs that help make a difference in peoples' lives. Archbishop Demetrios of American called Philoptochos "an army of nobility and a jewel of the church". A special thank you to all who helped support Philoptochos this year.

The 2018 membership drive will begin **on Sunday, January 14, 2018** following Divine Liturgy. Please join us to start off the new year at the **Membership and Mimosa Luncheon** in the church atrium to renew or join Philoptochos. Look for details in the near future.

**Philoptochos Christmas Party**, Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 H helping a Greek Orthodox priest, his wife and four children v Florida hurricanes. Please stop by the angel tree in the atrium donation towards the item on the angel. We will continue to see attached flyer for details.

**Soup Kitchen:** On October 26 we served 72 meals at MUST Ministries. Thank you to all those who helped prepare and/or served meals. Pat and Dennis Koutouzis, Lois Bafas, Peggy Dunkerly, Christine Sprouse, Dorothy Botni, Margaret Kollias, Sandra McAteer, Dorothy Macris and Athena Burke. Please contact Athena Burke at [ibgreek@bellsouth.net](mailto:ibgreek@bellsouth.net) if you would like to be a part of this ministry.





### Greek Dance

Exercise, dance and parea (fellowship) were offered at our first Greek Workout and Dance class! A great group of men, women and Goyans joined in! They were all such great students! It was fun having the Goyans there too! All ages and levels participated from, "What's a Kalamatiano?" to "I've been dancing Greek all my life!"

A special thanks goes to Michael Gavalas, who set the sound system up and moved all the tables!!!! Xanthippe Marsico was a great audience too!

Everyone is enthusiastic about wanting to do it again, so our next class will be in January.



**Save the Date: Oct. 20, 2018: Philoptochos Fall Fundraiser!** We will have another great and entertaining performance directed by Ellen Linebaugh and catered by Mary Miltiades. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and acted in Death By Dessert! Not only was the evening fun and exciting, but it was also a successful fundraiser.



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AHEPA Marietta Chapter #519 News & Notes—December 2017

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

### Upcoming Events - BLOCK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 2 Adopt - A- Mile (Trickum Road)

December 10 Christmas Party / Toys for Tots @ Ron Sprouse's home

Your Board has been very busy planing a jam packed event calendar. Please come to any and all that you are able. We understand that everyone is very busy and we have lots of choices, especially around the holidays. If you believe in the AHEPA Ideals, the AHEPA scholarship program, and want to associate with like-minded Christian men, please join us and attend when you can.

Questions about AHEPA? Interested in being a member of this great organization? Please contact any Board Member.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Your Board: Keath Paxten, Zack Kollian, Jim Burke, Ron Sprouse



# PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**Tuesday**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 6:30**

Holy Transfiguration Atrium

## Lenten Pot Luck

A-F Side dish or Salad

G-L Dessert

M-R Appetizer

S-Z Main Dish

**Come for an evening of *Fun, Fellowship* and a  
*Christmas Sing-a-Long!***

This year we will be supporting a Greek Orthodox Priest and his family of four children who had significant losses in Florida hurricanes.

There are two ways Philoptochos members can help:

- **Walmart or Target gift cards**, showing the amount
  - **Purchase an "angel" off of the angel tree in the atrium**; monetary donations can be made for the items listed on the angel.
- Angel tree will be up after Thanksgiving.

**RSVP:**

[koutouzisjd@Comcast.com](mailto:koutouzisjd@Comcast.com) • 404-542-1924

[dorothymmacris@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymmacris@gmail.com) • 678-428-2407

**St. Nicholas Market:** December 10: 12:00-4:00. Our fifth annual event. Begin and finish your Christmas shopping! Please come as a vendor or a shopper!



Dear Vendor,

We invite you to join us for the fifth annual ST. NICHOLAS HOLIDAY MARKET at the Marietta Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church.

ST. NICHOLAS HOLIDAY MARKET is a perfect opportunity for you to be rewarded for your talents while helping those in need this holiday season. This year's market will be held

**Sunday, DECEMBER 10, from noon to 4:00 pm**

**LOCATION** - Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church  
3431 Trickum Road, Marietta 30066

The market will take place in the Parish Hall next to church. Parking is available along the circle around the Parish Life building.

**SPONSOR** - Ladies Philoptochos (friend of the poor) Society

**VENDOR TERMS** - \$55 table fee due by Wednesday, November 29, to reserve a table; please make checks payable to "Philoptochos" and mail to the church with a description of your items

**SPACE** - One 6' or 8' table ready to be uniquely decorated by you

**SET UP TIME** - Sunday, December 10, 9:00 am - noon

**HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS CHARITABLE EVENT!**

Sincerely,

Marty Driscoll

Event Chair

[martydriscoll@bellsouth.net](mailto:martydriscoll@bellsouth.net) - RSVP or for more details





## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

On November 4, twenty-five of our church members met in the Parish hall to hear about the Viking River and Ocean Cruises. The personnel from the Cruise Line served delicious sandwiches, potato salad and luscious cupcakes. They even brought their own plates, silverware, napkins and bottled water. They brought information about the cruises in cloth bags along with coffee cups filled with candy. And at the end of the presentation, we drew for prizes. Because 60 people had signed up for the presentation, the Cruise Line brought enough of everything for that many people.

Unfortunately, when only 25 showed up to attend this presentation, we set a poor example for our church; it was very embarrassing for those that did attend. Thanks to the two members who did call to cancel.

Movie night was a total success. The movie was an oldie but a goodie. We enjoyed popcorn during the movie and sandwiches, chips, and candy afterward. We hope to have a repeat performance in January if weather permits. Of course, it will be a different movie. Do you have any suggestions?

We met with Father Panayiotis at our last meeting. Our board discussed several issues with Father and afterward the officers decided to stay on for possibly another six months.

We are planning fun get-togethers. Please remember, wake up happy - stay happy - you will live longer. Exercise if you can - walk around the block - don't be a couch potato. ENJOY EVERY DAY!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

## **PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**

**Led by Reverend Father Panayiotis Papageorgiou  
of Holy Transfiguration Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, GA  
May 28-June 7, 2018: 11 Days / 9 Nights**



### ***Rome, Pompeii, Assisi, Florence, Ravenna & Venice***

Take a journey through the most important sites Italy. Arrive in the ancient city of Rome. Our visit to the Eternal city includes the Vatican, St Peter's Basilica, St. John in Lateran Cathedral and the Holy Stairs, San Peter in Chains, Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Paul's Outside the Walls, the Colosseum, Roman Forums and the St. Priscilla Catacombs. Enjoy a day trip to the ancient buried city of Pompeii, covered in ash after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Continue to Florence with a stop in the city of Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, one of Italy's patron saints and visit the Basilica of San Francesco where the saint is buried and the Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli. Arrive in Florence with its magnificent Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Ghiberti Paradise Doors and Giotto Bell Tower. Visit the Chapel of the Magi in Palazzo Medici Riccardi. See Michelangelo's famous statue David and the Uffizi Gallery as well as the Churches of St. Lorenzo and Santa Croce. Visit the city of Ravenna which was the capital city of the Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire and see the Battistero Neoniano, San Vitale, Mausoleo di Galla Placidia, Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Church of San Francesco and the Tomb of Dante. Arrive by motor launch into the romantic city of Venice with its canals and waterways. Visit St George Cathedral at the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Venice, the Greek Orthodox Icon Museum and the Basilica of San Marco and the Pala D'Oro.

**Rates: Air & Land: Double occupancy, per person: \$4495\***

**Single occupancy: \$5850\***

*\*All rates reflect a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made in any other way.*

*\*All Air tax/fuel surcharge of \$400 are included in the above rate but not guaranteed until ticketing takes place.*

**SPACE IS LIMITED and on a FIRST COME BASIS**

**Deposit of \$500 due by January 12, 2018 or late booking fee of \$700 per person will apply!**

### **TOUR INCLUDES:**

\*International air ATL/ROM & VCE/ATL on Delta Airlines.

\*First class hotel accommodations with 4 nights in Rome, 3 nights in Florence and 2 nights in Venice

\*Private roundtrip motor launch transfers in Venice

\*All hotel taxes, service fees and daily breakfast and three dinners

\*Private arrival transfers in Rome via deluxe air conditioned motorcoach

\*English speaking escort and headsets throughout

\*Private sightseeing with a deluxe air conditioned motor coach, entrance fees and English Speaking licensed tour guide as follows: Rome 2 ½ days, Pompeii: ½ day, Assisi: 2 hours. Florence 2 full days, Ravenna ½ day and Venice: 1 full day

**Cloud Tours Inc. 31-09 Newtown Ave. Long Island City, NY 11102**

**Tel: 718-721-3808 Toll Free 800-223-7880 Fax: 718-795-4356 Email: [stephen@cloudtours.com](mailto:stephen@cloudtours.com)**



# WAS JESUS BORN ON DECEMBER 25? AND WHY THIS MATTERS



**CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 25 – A UNIFYING EVENT FOR ALL CHRISTIANS.  
ORTHODOX-CATHOLIC ECUMENICAL GATHERING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017, 7:00 P.M.**

**GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

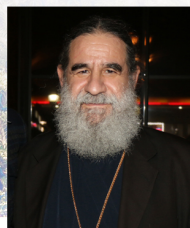
2500 CLAIRMONT RD NE • ATLANTA, GA 30329  
(404) 633-5870



## OFFICIANTS & SPEAKERS

HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

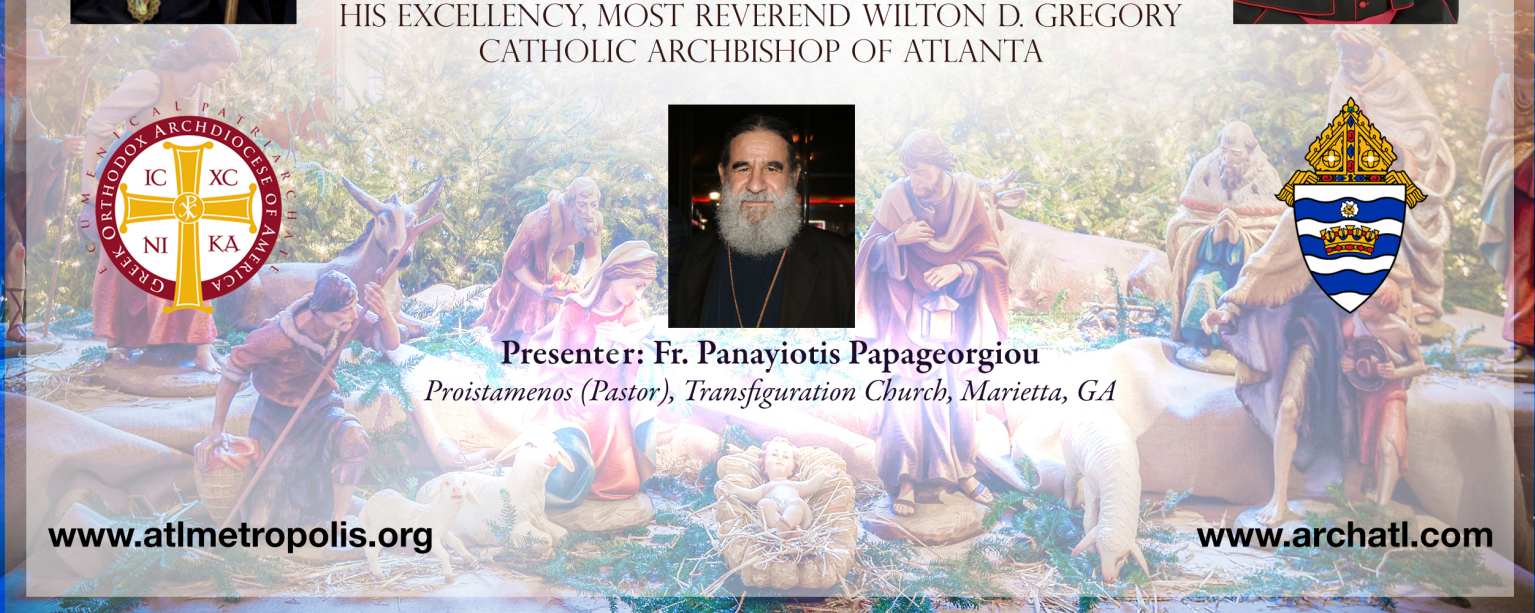
HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND WILTON D. GREGORY  
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF ATLANTA



**Presenter: Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou**  
*Proistamenos (Pastor), Transfiguration Church, Marietta, GA*

[www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

[www.archatl.com](http://www.archatl.com)





THE PERSECUTION OF  
**CHRISTIANS**  
IN THE HOLY LANDS & THE MIDDLE EAST

Consequences and Solutions

## FACTS ON PERSECUTION:

- † The 21st Century has seen an exponential increase in the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and Africa.
- † Nearly 90,000 Christians were killed for their beliefs worldwide last year. A third were at the hands of extremists like ISIS.
- † While 30% of the world's population identifies as Christian, 80% of all acts of religious discrimination are against Christians.
- † Christians face persecution in over 60 countries.
- † Each month over 200 Churches and Christian properties are destroyed.
- † Between 2007 and 2014, Christians have been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group.
- † Religious persecution was the focus of only 2.5 percent of reports published by *Human Rights Watch* between 2008 and mid-2011. Fewer than half of those reports focused on Christian persecution.
- † In spite of all this, Christian responses to persecution are almost always nonviolent (see Gospel of Matthew 5.38-40).

Sources: US State Department, Under Caesar's Sword, Pew Research Center, Open Doors, Aid to the Church in Need, and Religious Freedom Institute.

On December 4-6, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will engage scholars, human rights advocates, top government officials, and religious leaders from around the world to confront this Christian crisis.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LEARN MORE AT: [conference.archons.org/persecution](http://conference.archons.org/persecution)

JOIN OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS and SHARE the info:

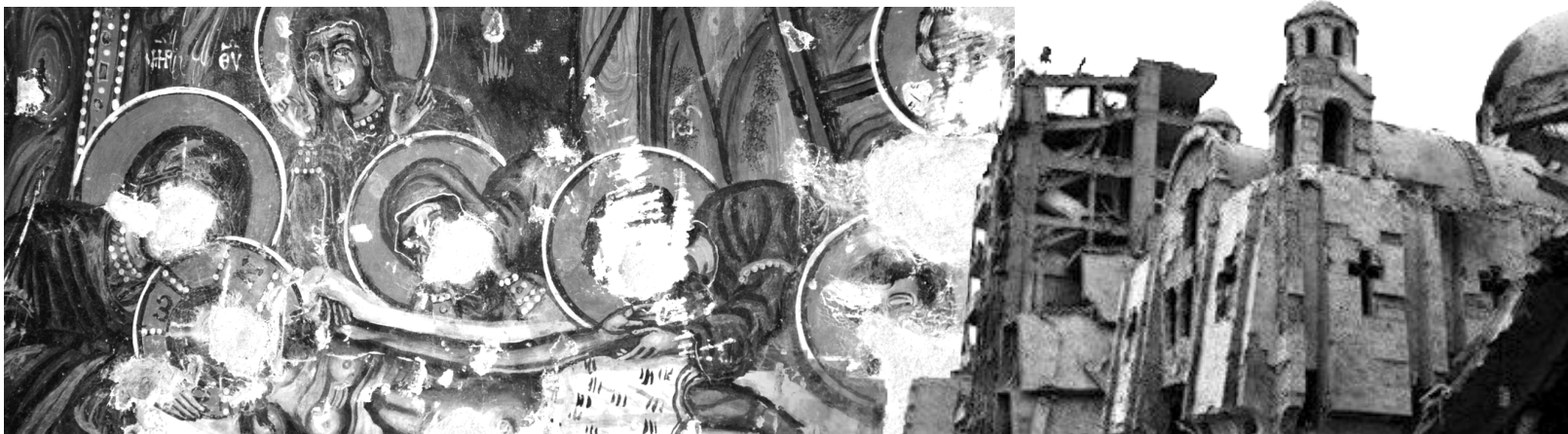


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Let us stand together to **#EndPersecutionOfChristians**



THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ARCHON  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DECEMBER 4-6, 2017  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

[conference.archons.org](http://conference.archons.org)

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



Our Parish owns a large selection of burial plots, which we are making available to our parishioners at a price of \$3,200.00, which includes one plot and a vault.

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

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

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



# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>Thirteenth Sunday of Luke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30 AM Catechism</li> <li>11:45 AM A 9 month</li> <li>12:00 PM Artoklasia is given</li> <li>12:45 PM Bible Bowl Practice and 4 more...</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM NO Children's Playdate today</li> <li>5:00 PM Rental: Linden Basketball</li> <li>7:30 PM Coed Volleyball Night</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy Class</li> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir Practice</li> <li>7:00 PM WYR Boys' Basketball Practice (8-12 grade)</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <p>Feast of St. Andrew...east of the Chapel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:00 PM Rental: Linden Basketball</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM Agiasmos—the Blessing of the Waters</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM AHEPA Adopt A Highway</li> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> <li>5:50 PM A Memorial Service is given by Tom Bafas for his father, Nickoloas</li> </ul>
<p>3</p> <p>Fourteenth Sunday...red from Dec 2nd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30 AM Catechism</li> <li>11:45 AM A five year</li> <li>12:30 PM WYR Volleyball</li> <li>12:30 PM WYR Advisor/ and 7 more...</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>10:00 AM Young Children's Playdate</li> <li>7:30 PM Coed Volleyball Night</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-St. Christmas Party/General</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</li> <li>7:00 PM WYR Boys' Basketball</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>Feast of St. Nicholas...hop to Myra Lydia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group</li> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry and 2 more...</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>5:00 PM Rental: Linden Basketball</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>Advanced Course</li> <li>6:30 PM Philoptochos Book Club</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Bulgarian Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>4:00 PM Rental: Les Marmions of Atlanta</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>10</p> <p>Tenth Sunday of Luke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30 AM Catechism</li> <li>12:00 PM St. Nicholas Marathon</li> <li>12:00 PM Parish Council</li> <li>12:30 PM WYR Volleyball</li> <li>and 5 more...</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>10:00 AM Young Children's Playdate</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus</li> <li>7:30 PM Coed Volleyball Night</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <p>Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry and 2 more...</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>5:00 PM Rental: Linden Basketball</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>17</p> <p>Eleventh Sunday...red from Animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30 AM Catechism</li> <li>11:55 AM Christmas</li> <li>12:30 PM WYR Volleyball</li> <li>12:45 PM Bible Bowl Practice and 3 more...</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Young Children's Playdate</li> <li>7:30 PM Coed Volleyball Night</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> <li>7:00 PM WYR Boys' Basketball Practice (8-12 grade)</li> <li>7:00 PM Parish Council</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Rental: The Local</li> <li>8:00 PM GOYA Christmas Lock-In</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <p>Saturday before Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM The Great Hours of Christmas</li> <li>... GOYA Christmas Lock-In</li> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>24</p> <p>Sunday before Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12:30 PM WYR Volleyball</li> <li>5:30 PM Evening Christmas</li> <li>7:30 PM Christmas Reception</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>The Nativity of Our Lord...savior Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <p>No Kafenion</p> <p>No Classes-Hellenic...Christmas Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers</li> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <p>Winter Youth Rally</p> <p>Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30 AM Soup Kitchen (Philoptochos)</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> </ul>		<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>31</p> <p>Sunday before Epiphany</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>3:00 PM Rental: New Year's Eve</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers-Circumcision of Christ, St.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Circumcision of Our Lord...savior Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Rental: New Year's Eve Party</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p>No Classes-Hellenic...Christmas Break</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity...savior Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Men's Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM HDF Practice College Group</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>Evening of the Epiphany...savior Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>The Epiphany...savior Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:00 PM Byzantine Music Lesson</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>

# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3431 TRICKUM ROAD NE

Marietta, GA 30066-4660

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 am-5:30 pm

770.924.8080, Fax - 770.924.3030

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

Web Page: [www.holytransfiguration.info/](http://www.holytransfiguration.info/)

Web Page: [www.mariettagreekfestival.org](http://www.mariettagreekfestival.org)

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

Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter

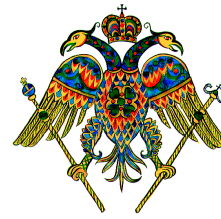
Rev. Fr. Paul Lundberg, Presbyter

Rev. Fr. John Brown, Presbyter

Anne Willcocks, Parish Administrator

Michael Gavalas, Liturgical & Facilities Support

Iancu Nica, Sexton



**Scan to view our Website**

DATE	PC DUTY	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	PROSFORO	USHERS
12/3	P. Markley/S. Tingas	St. James	P. Koutouzis/ M. Pohlman	E. Bilson/A. Burke/ P. Christopher	J. & I. Dymond/R. Peppas/B. Reid
12/10	J. Papastrat/S. Steffas	St. John	P. Dunkerly/ S. Linebaugh	C. Costarides/M. Driscoll/I. Dymond	S. Kargas/Z. Kollias/ C. Sprouse/M. Zavala
12/17	J. Burke/A. Miltiades	St. Peter	B. Valagohar/M. Zavala	S. Gianaris/N. Kakissis/E. Kay	K. Johnson/ H. Mavromatidis/ E. Nikolas/A. Reale
12/24	K. Bilson/A. Miltiades	St. James	Open for Volunteers	P. Koutouzis/L. Lopos/I. Michaels	T. Argentis/P. Bilson/ N. Gavalas/A. Zakreski
12/31	T. Bliss/B. Valagohar	St. John	TBA	J. Miltiades/M. Miltiades/M. Neocleous	D. Botni/A. Lilly/ K. Lilly/M. Strakes

## **St. James Altar Servers:** Captain-Gabriel Mavromatidis

Chris Bridgers, Evan Bilson, Andrew Bourgeois, Aaron Brown, Matthew Buchan, Constantine Gavalas, Alex Goldsholl, Jack Goldsholl, Yianni Gormanos, Gabriel Hennenfent, Kris Kollias, Nicholas Levantis, Nicholas Lukens, Jeremy Mavromatidis, Jacob Mavromatidis, Aubrey Moraitakis, George Moraitakis, Angelo Nichols, Matthew Paulson, Angelos Powell, Mitchell Starks, Niko Tiller.

## **St. John Altar Servers:** Captain-Matthew Azimzadeh

Christopher Alberts, Steven Ardagna, Andrew Bass, Theo Bliss, Anthony Bundros, Christian Coleman, Carter Copses, Jay Copses, Mason Copses, Nick Danos, Cole Foster, Alex Gekas, Kaleb Hotnog, William Jansma, Alexander Morgan, Tommy O'Brien, Evan Papadopoulos, Alexander Thorne, Braden Thorne, Csaba Wagner, Romeo Wagner

## **St. Peter Altar Servers:** Captain-Morgan Lilly

Zach Bethune, Hal Bradford, III, Brody Brooks, Yianni Costarides, Nicholas Demakis, Manuel Frangis, Stephen Harrah, Zayne Isaac, Luke Melissas, Alek Nikolich, Matthew Shanahan, Evan Strakes, Michael Tsogas, Leo Tzavaras, Ted Tzavaras, Gianni Vacratsas, Stefano Vacratsas, Michael Vastakis, Panayiotis Vlachos.

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