

# *SYNDIAKONIA*

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***THE MONTHLY BULLETIN***

*OF THE*

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

**Marietta, GA**

**JANUARY 2019**



***THE THREE HIERARCHS***

St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and  
St. John Chrysostom

# 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

Parish Administrator: 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*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Bilson

Terry Bliss

Dennis Christopher

Christopher Hansard, Asst. Treasurer

Mike Jacobs, Vice President

Dennis Koutouzis

Ellen Linebaugh, Vice President

Harry Mavromatidis

Jon Papastrat

Casey Pater, Secretary

Steve Tingas, President

Danny Vlahiotis, Treasurer

### **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/>

# Happy New Year 2019



*May the New Year 2019  
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*

## A NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Many new years ago, Jesus said this parable:

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none.

Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" (Luke 13:6-9)

We as a parish are a fig tree planted by the Lord. Each one of us, as members of the parish, are branches of this fig tree receiving nourishment from the Holy Spirit. This new year offers us the opportunity to fulfill the desire of the Lord for us to present to Him the spiritual fruits of our lives. He has blessed us with so much. He expects us to bear the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Long-

suffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control (Gal. 5:22). He expects us to shine with His light to the world around us to those who live in darkness.

The Holy Spirit Himself, who waters and nourishes us, is pleading with the Lord for one more year! "Grant them, Oh Lord, one more year and they will show their fruits!" This New Year 2019 must become the best year of our spiritual growth. We have no excuse. We have all the material things we need. We have a beautiful church. We have new buildings, new classrooms, new conference rooms, a new athletic court, even a new parking lot.

This new year offers us the opportunity to produce real spiritual fruits. Of course, there can be no fruits if we do not grow personally, if we do not learn how to overcome selfishness and egotism and humble ourselves, if we do not learn how to pray and surrender to the Will of God, if we do not allow Him to lead our lives. There can be no spiritual growth if we do not take control over our passions, our anger and gluttony, the fleshly desires and our love of material things. There can be no growth if we do not cultivate the virtues of love, humility, obedience and self-sacrifice for the Lord.

This new year is a new opportunity for personal development according to the Will of God. We don't know how many more years He will patiently afford us, so we need to get to work.

The Orthodox Church, through the experience of generations of holy men and women, has built a worship cycle to help us connect with God more easily. She has put in place the holy sacraments to help us receive God's Grace in order to transform ourselves and heal our wounds and passions.

The new year offers us the opportunity to utilize these tools for personal growth. We are called this year to make the extra effort to attend a Saturday Vespers, to arrive early in church on Sundays and experience the Orthros prayers and hymns, to come to an overnight vigil and immerse ourselves in uplifting worship, to make sure not to miss a single service during Holy Week and experience Christ's life on earth, which brought our redemption. Let's make an extra effort this year to read a spiritual book and challenge our minds to love God more. Let's take advantage of Confession to wash away the filth from our souls. This year we need to approach Holy Communion with the "fear of God, faith and love" after proper preparation so that we may truly taste of the Kingdom of God.

Let us live this new year as if it were our last one on this earth, so that the Lord may bless it and grant us many more years filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

May the generations after us find nourishment in the spiritual fruits of our labors for many more new years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Panayiotis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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 2019

**December 31st Monday evening, New Year's Eve.** Great Vespers at 6:00 pm.

**January 1, Tuesday,** Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ, and St. Basil the Great.  
Orthros 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**January 2, Wednesday Evening:** Vespersal Liturgy for the Feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov 6:00 pm

**January 5, Saturday, Forefeast of Theophany.**

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

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

**Evening:** Great Vespers of Theophany 5:00 pm.

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

Orthros, 8:15, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am followed by the Great Ayiasmos (Blessing of the Waters).

**Sunday Evening:** Great Vespers 5:00 pm - Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner.

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

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

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

**January 9, Wednesday,** Feast of St. Efstratios the Wonderworker.

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

**January 12, Saturday,** Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

**January 13, Sunday,** Sunday after the Feast of Theophany.

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

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

**January 16, Wednesday,** Great Vespers 6:00 pm. Feast of St. Anthony the Great

**January 17, Thursday,** Feast of St. Anthony the Great

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

**Evening:** Great Vespers 6:00 pm - Feast of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril.

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

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

**January 19, Saturday,** Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

**January 20, Sunday,** 12th Sunday of Luke.

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

**January 24, Thursday, Evening:** Great Vespers 6:00 pm, Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian

**January 25, Friday,** Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES . . .

### January 2019

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

**January 26, Saturday,** Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

**January 27, Sunday,** 15th Sunday of Luke.

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

Special Celebration of Greek Letters and the Three Hierarchs

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

**January 30, Wednesday,** Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.

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

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### The Holy Three Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers



### WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS ON PRAYER

#### ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM SAYS:

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

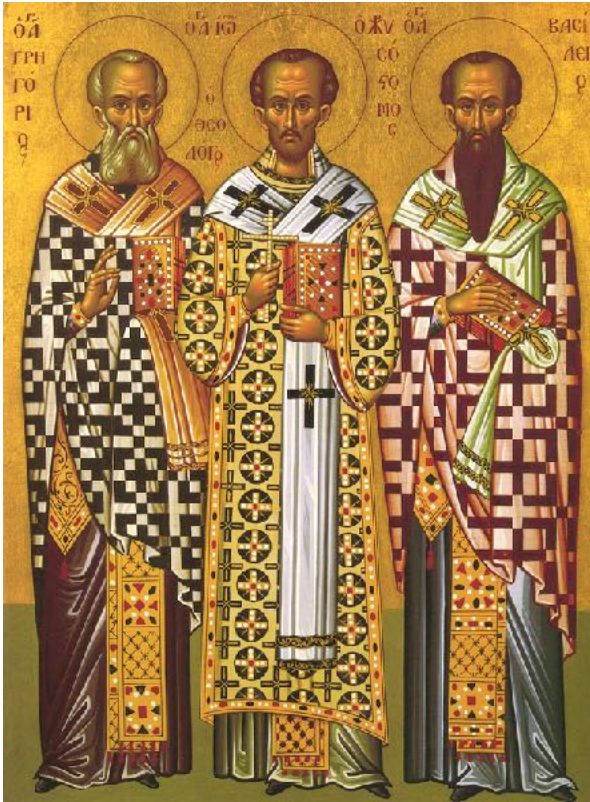
*"Prayer silences the passions of the soul, assuages the rebellion of anger, dismisses envy, dissipates evil desire, withers the love of worldly things, and brings great peace and serenity to the soul."*

Pray unceasingly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thessalonians 5:17-18)

# Feast of the Three Hierarchs

JANUARY 30

*Feast of the Three Hierarchs - Celebration of Hellenic Learning*



In 11th century Constantinople every conversation turned to the same controversy: Which of the three 4th-century saints was the greatest in the Orthodox church? Was it St. Basil the Great, the beloved spiritual leader who created orphanages and hospitals and left a legacy of great spiritual and theological writings in the finest form of the Greek language? Was it St. Gregory the Theologian, whose leadership kept the church together during a time of theological crisis and also contributed beautiful works of poetry and prose to the literary corpus of Hellenic learning? Or was it St. John Chrysostom, the wonderful speaker who had "a mouth of gold" and left behind a great legacy of writings in the Hellenic tongue which parallel the great philosophers and rhetoricians of classical times? 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. Since then, Hellenes around the world have celebrated this day as the holiday of the Three Hierarchs, honoring the contribution of the three great saints to Orthodoxy and Hellenic Learning.

## **Celebration of the Three Hierarchs and Hellenic Learning**

at Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

**Presenter**

**Fr. Michael Tishel**

**New Assistant Priest of Holy Transfiguration**

**Theme: "Not Just a Wardrobe: The Surprising Truth About Faith & Education"**

**Place:** Parish Hall of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

**Time: Sunday, January 27, 2019**

immediately following the Divine Liturgy at 12:00 pm  
in the Parish Hall

Luncheon offered by AHEPA in co-operation with Hellenic Studies

All proceeds to support the AHEPA Scholarship Fund

*Please secure your tickets by calling the church office*

## THEOPHANY OR EPIPHANY THE FEAST OF LIGHTS (TA PHOTA)

WATERS. TODAY HE WILL BLESS THE WATER SO THAT, IN THE WORDS OF THE PRAYER:

"THOSE WHO POUR AND PARTAKE THEREOF (OF THE HOLY WATER) MAY RECEIVE IT FOR THE CLEANSING OF SOULS AND BODIES, FOR THE HEALING OF SUFFERING, FOR SANCTIFICATION OF HOMES AND FOR EVERY NEED."

WHEN LEAVING THE CHURCH WE SHALL ALL TAKE A BOTTLE OF THIS HOLY WATER WITH US TO BLESS OURSELVES AND OUR HOMES. IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, BISHOPS THROW A CROSS INTO THE SEA, OR A RIVER, TO BE RETRIEVED BY A SWIMMER. IN THIS WAY THEY BLESS THE WATERS, PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL THROUGH THEM TO BE PROTECTED.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP A SMALL BOTTLE OF HOLY WATER AND PLACE IT NEXT TO THEIR ICON AND USE IT THE YEAR ROUND. THEY CAN PARTAKE OF THE HOLY WATER WITH A SPOON IN THE MORNING BEFORE THEY EAT AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A SPECIAL NEED FOR THE LORD'S PRESENCE IN THEIR LIVES. THUS, THEY WILL KEEP EPIPHANY THE YEAR ROUND.

THIS FEAST IS REMEMBERED BY SOME OF THE WESTERN CHRISTIANS AS THE VISITATION OF THE MAGI. THIS WAS PROBABLY THE EMPHASIS GIVEN TO THE DAY IN THE WESTERN CHURCH FROM EARLIER TIMES.



ON JANUARY 6, WE CELEBRATE THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY OR EPIPHANY, ONE OF THE MAJOR HOLY DAYS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH. IT WAS ON THIS DAY THAT CHRIST APPEARED BEFORE JOHN THE BAPTIST AT THE RIVER JORDAN AND ASKED TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN. DURING HIS BAPTISM THE HEAVENS OPENED AND GOD WAS REVEALED AS TRINITY. THEOPHANY MEANS THE APPEARANCE OF GOD. SIMILARLY, EPIPHANY MEANS THE APPEARANCE. THIS FEAST IS ALSO CALLED THE FEAST OF LIGHTS BECAUSE THE DIVINE LIGHT SHINES INTO THE WORLD WITH THE COMING OF THE LORD.

A FEW DAYS AGO (CHRISTMAS) WE SAW CHRIST AS A NEW BORN BABE. TODAY (THEOPHANY) WE SEE HIM A FULL GROWN MAN OF 30 BEGINNING HIS MINISTRY AMONG THE PEOPLE. GOD WHO SHONE FORTH FROM THE VIRGIN SHINES TO DAY FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO BEGIN HIS MINISTRY.

TODAY THE SMALL ENTRANCE OF THE DIVINE LITURGY IS EXPANDED INTO A FULL CELEBRATION. IN THE PROCESSION OF COMING FORTH FROM THE HOLY ALTAR CARRYING THE GOSPEL ALOFT, THE PRIEST REPRESENTS CHRIST COMING FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE. THE SMALL ENTRANCE OF THE DIVINE LITURGY IS IN REALITY A SMALL EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE LITURGY ON THEOPHANY THE PRIEST WILL PERFORM THE SPECIAL SERVICE OF THE BLESSING OF THE



# Introduction to the Orthodox Church

The "Intro to Orthodoxy" Class meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in St. Basil's Conference Room. Please call the church office and register with Anne.

This class is not only for those who are entering the Orthodox Church, but is also beneficial to everyone who wants to refresh their knowledge of the Faith and continue to learn new things.

Topics addressed in the Class:

1. Sources of the Christian Faith - Our roots
2. History of Christianity - Our path of Faith
3. Holy Sacraments - Tapping into Divine Grace
4. Orthodox Spirituality - The Mystical Life
5. Holy Icons - Windows into Heaven
6. Orthodox Worship - Divine Liturgy

For any further questions, please speak with Fr. Panayiotis.



Where the Kingdom of God is made manifest!



St. Paul on the road to Damascus

## *Bible Study:*

*The Epistles to the Corinthians*

*Every Wednesday at 10:00 am  
and 7:00 pm*

*Join us in  
St. Basil's Conference Room.  
Read and discuss the Word of God  
from an Early Christian Patristic  
Perspective!*

*We use the Orthodox Study Bible,  
available at our Bookstore.*

*Supplemental Readings will also be suggested  
during the course of the study.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - JANUARY

1/1/2019	Tuesday:	John 10:1-9	Colossians 2:8-12	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
1/2/2019	Wednesday:	Hebrews 5:4-10	Mark 1:1-8	
1/3/2019	Thursday:	II Timothy 4:5-8	John 1:18-28	
1/4/2019	Friday:	I Corinthians 4:9-16	John 1:18-28	
1/5/2019	Saturday:	I Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5	Matthew 3:1-6	
1/6/2019	Sunday:	Mark 1:9-11	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matthew 3:13-17
1/7/2019	Monday:	Acts 19:1-8	John 1:29-34	
1/8/2019	Tuesday:	Romans 6:3-11	John 3:22-33	
1/9/2019	Wednesday:	II Timothy 2:1-10	Mark 1:9-15	
1/10/2019	Thursday:	Ephesians 4:7-13	Luke 3:19-22	
1/11/2019	Friday:	Luke 6:17-23	Hebrews 13:7-16	Luke 4:1-15
1/12/2019	Saturday:	Ephesians 6:10-17	Matthew 4:1-11	
1/13/2019	Sunday:	John 21:14-25	Ephesians 4:7-13	Matthew 4:12-17
1/14/2019	Monday:	Acts 2:38-43	Luke 4:1-15	
1/15/2019	Tuesday:	Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Luke 12:32-40	
1/16/2019	Wednesday:	Acts 12:1-11	John 21:14-25	
1/17/2019	Thursday:	Matthew 11:27-30	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
1/18/2019	Friday:	John 10:1-9	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19
1/19/2019	Saturday:	Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Matthew 8:5-13	
1/20/2019	Sunday:	Matthew 28:16-20	II Corinthians 4:6-15	
1/21/2019	Monday:	Philippians 1:12-20	Luke 12:8-12	
1/22/2019	Tuesday:	II Timothy 1:3-8	Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30	
1/23/2019	Wednesday:	Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1-3	Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5	
1/24/2019	Thursday:	Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Matthew 9:27-35	
1/25/2019	Friday:	John 10:1-9	Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	John 10:9-16
1/26/2019	Saturday:	Romans 6:18-23	Matthew 22:35-46	
1/27/2019	Sunday:	Mark 16:1-8	Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	Luke 19:1-10
1/28/2019	Monday:	Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Luke 6:17-23	
1/29/2019	Tuesday:	Hebrews 10:32-38	Mark 9:33-41	
1/30/2019	Wednesday:	John 10:9-16	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19
1/31/2019	Thursday:	I Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8	Matthew 10:1, 5-8	

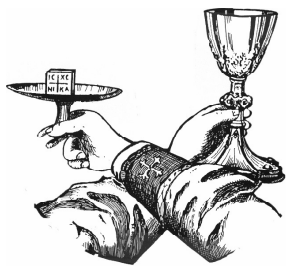
## *You are a Member of the Church!* *Are you a Steward also?*

A question always asked by our parishioners is "How can I be a member of the Parish? I am already an Orthodox Christian. Isn't that enough?"

The answer to this is very simple: All people baptized and chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Church are automatically members of the Church, but it takes a little more to be "members in good standing" in the Orthodox Church and in the Parish. First, it is required that a person be married in the Church and live their life as an Orthodox Christian, participating in the Holy Sacraments, in order to be in good standing within the Orthodox Church. If one has been married outside the Orthodox Church or has gone through a civil divorce and has not obtained a Church divorce may not be in good standing with the Church. Please check with the priest of the parish in order to find out where you are.

### **How can one be a member of the Parish?**

It takes participation in the parish by supporting the operation and ministries of the parish to be a member in good standing. In order to do that, you have to fill out the Membership/Stewardship Form and indicate on it how you are going to participate in the Parish with your Time, Talents and Treasure. When you join the Parish in this way you make a Pledge to God that you will support the work of the Church with the gifts He has given you so that the Gospel may be preached and people may be saved through the ministries of the Church. **Please join us at Holy Transfiguration and serve God with us!**



*"YOUR OWN GIFTS,  
OF YOUR OWN,  
WE OFFER UNTO YOU."*

### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT PARISH MEMBERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP**

#### **Why should I complete a Membership/Stewardship Form?**

- When we were baptized, promises were made to serve Christ as our Lord and King for our entire life – So if you have not since rejected Him, you are still pledged to serve Him with your life and there is no better way to do so than serve His Church, His parish where His work is done.
- To show Him that you love Him and thank Him for your abundant blessings, there is no better way to respond than complete the Membership/Stewardship Form and indicate what you pledge to Him throughout the year. This is a way to recommit your life to God every year.

#### **Why do we have to complete a Membership/Stewardship (M/S) Form every year?**

- The Archdiocese Regulations requires us to do so in order to be in "Good Standing".
- The Parish's needs change from one year to the next, so it is good for both parish and for us that we re-examine our commitment to the Universal Church (Christ's Living Body on earth) each year. By filling out a new form, we re-commit our gifts as per the needs of the Parish and the Church.
- We provide accurate information about us and/or our families each year for the Parish records.

# MEMBERSHIP / STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2019

THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2019!

*(If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2019, please do so; your personal commitment of time, talent and treasure is so important, and so appreciated.)*

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Alberts  
Mr. & Mrs. James Andros  
Mr. Panayiotis Antoniadis  
Ms. Eleni Bafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas  
Mr. & Mrs. Trey Bane  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregoriy Barsky  
Mrs. Evelyn Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bliss  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Botni  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers  
Mr. & Mrs. Olen Bruce  
Ms. Anne Bruno  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Buchan  
Mr. & Mrs. Miltiades Chacholiades  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Christopher  
Mr. Charles Coleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Comsudes  
Ms. Elizabeth Cook/Wade Hampton  
Mrs. Nancy Copeland  
Ms. Cathy Costarides  
Ms. Judy Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Doulgerakis  
Mrs. Marty Driscoll  
Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Duvlaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Frangis  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gess  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Gormanos  
Miss Anca Guvir  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hansard  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hendrix  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Herbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Holmes  
Mr. Troy Horton  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hutt  
Mrs. Jo Kastner  
Mr. & Mrs. David Kay  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Klementzos  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Knuchel  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Kollias  
Mr. & Mrs. Zack Kollias  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kostas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Kostulakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis  
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Lane  
Ms. Christine Lavey  
Ms. Anna Lerios  
Miss Maria Linebaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. George Lopos

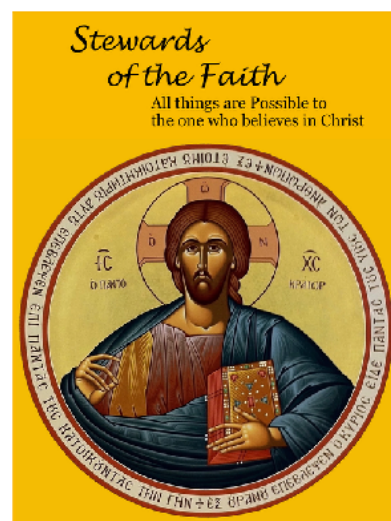
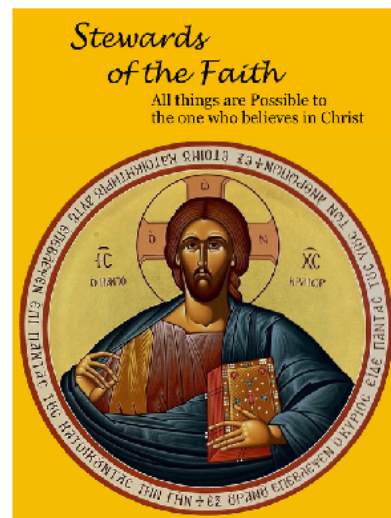
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Macris  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Markley  
Mr. George Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. John McCarty  
Mr. Joshua Means  
Mr. Andrew Melissas  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Miltiades  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Miltiades  
Ms. Patricia Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. John Moustoukas  
Mr. & Mrs. Erik Musto  
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Neocleous  
Mr. Iancu Nica  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nicholas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pallas  
Miss Olympia Papageorgiou  
Fr. & Mrs. Panayiotis Papageorgiou  
Mr. Stratis Papageorgiou  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Papastrat  
Mr. & Mrs. Casey Pater  
Mr. & Mrs. George Pentzakis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Peppas  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Poradzisz  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Roger  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Rury  
Mr. & Mrs. George Sarris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Skarpelis  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sklikas  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Spanos  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sprouse  
Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Stephens  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Steffas  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strakes  
Mr. & Mrs. John Szwast  
Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Taoushiani  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Tassopoulos  
Mr. Steve Tingas  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Vamvakias  
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Vastakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Vlahiotis  
Mr. Julian Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Yiannovits  
Ms. Eleftheria Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski  
Mr. & Mrs. Marco Zavala

**TOTAL: 99**

## 2018 Pledges

The year ended with  
384 pledged members!

Let's see if we can beat this  
number in 2019!!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER



**CAMP**

Plans are underway for 2019 Summer Camp; dates are June 17 - 21st. We need a co-director, classroom teachers, an arts/crafts leader and GOYAnS to assist. Camp will be open to students K-5th grade and potty trained 3 and 4 year olds, as space allows. Please volunteer; more details will be offered in the coming weeks!

Hazel Bruce  
Director  
757.870.5977

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## COFFEE HOUR ELVES

**Celebrate a family birthday or anniversary, name day or milestone by sponsoring coffee/fellowship hour! Become a "Coffee Hour Elf"**

New dates through May 26th, 2019 have been added to Sign-Up Genius:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4cabad23a2fe3-coffee>

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Alberts at  
[maria.alberts29@gmail.com](mailto:maria.alberts29@gmail.com)



AHEPA Marietta Chapter #519 News & Notes—December 2017

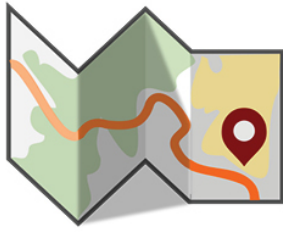
***"As Iron Sharpens Iron, One Man Sharpens Another" (Proverbs 27:17)***

**Upcoming Events -- Block your Calendar**

January 27 - Greek Letters Day  
February 16 - Casino Night  
March 9 - Adopt A Highway

Casino Night: This year AHEPA will hold its 7th Annual AHEPA Chapter #59 Casino Night on February 16, 2019. Proceeds will go to the funding of our Scholarships for 2019. Another "5 Star" dinner will be provided. Please **BLOCK** your calendars for this event.

For those of you who are not members of AHEPA, consider joining us at our Christmas Party. Our dues are just \$75 per year! Want to learn more about the chapter, then go to : FACEBOOK & to the HOLY TRANSFIGURATION WEBSITE or contact one of the AHEPA Board members: Keath Paxten, Zack Kollias, Ron Sprouse or Jim Burke.



# Grief Recovery: A Journey of Healing and Discovery



A common belief about grief is it follows an orderly and predictable pattern, which is comprised of five stages that begins with shock and proceeds along a linear path through denial, anger, depression, bargaining, and finally to acceptance. Everyone goes through these stages in this order. This belief is actually an adaptation of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's theory about how people with terminal illnesses process their feelings about dying.

Megan Divine in a *HuffPost Healthy Living* blog post clarifies, "In her later years, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross wrote that she regretted writing the stages the way that she did, that people mistook them as being both linear and universal. Based on what she observed while working with patients given terminal diagnoses, Ms. Ross identified five common experiences, not five required experiences. Her stages, whether applied to the dying or those left living, were meant to normalize and validate what someone might experience in the swirl of insanity that is loss and death and grief."

The result, according to Ms. Divine, is that mental health professionals and the general public alike "believe there is a right way and a wrong way to grieve, that there is an orderly and predictable pattern that everyone will go through, and if you don't progress correctly, you are failing at grief. You must move through these stages completely, or you will never heal."

While finding a sense of order where none seems to exist is appealing, it can be a trap that locks us into a belief system that is not true and may cause unnecessary suffering and prolong our recovery. What is true is grief is a unique experience. None of us will experience grief in the same way or follow the same path. Further, there is no set timeline to recover from grief, but recovery is possible.

Grieving is a journey of discovery, not a journey of direction. Social behaviorist Kimberly Calderwood describes grieving as transformational. This means that when we engage with the journey and focus on our experiences along the way, we have the chance to gain a greater understanding of ourselves, heal from grief, and grow spiritually and personally.

Please join us for the Grief Recovery Support Group on Saturdays, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the St. Basil Conference Room. It is never too soon or too late to begin your journey! Please contact me for more information at 404.771.9335 or [bjspanos@ekteleo.org](mailto:bjspanos@ekteleo.org).

BJ Spanos  
Grief Recovery Support Group Leader

Divine, M. 2013. The five stages of grief and other lies that don't help anyone. *HuffPost Healthy Living*. Huffington Post. December 11, 2013. Available online at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-devine/stages-of-grief\\_b\\_4414077.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-devine/stages-of-grief_b_4414077.html).

# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

## SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB



**Do you**

- Enjoy reading spiritual books about the Orthodox Faith?
- Like talking about what you have read?
- Want to expand your knowledge about our faith?

**If so, You are invited to join our Church's very own**

## SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

-We meet on a Sunday afternoon (look for announcements).

-**Time** : 6.30pm till 8.30pm

-**Where**: At the Atrium of our new building.

-Light refreshments and soft drinks will be served, as well as coffee and dessert.

Members can contribute to refreshments if they so wish.

### **Meeting Format**

- Food and fellowship for the first half hour, followed by reading and discussion.

- The discussion leader is Fr. Panayiotis, but other people present and propose themes and topics.

- Each participant should try to read as much of the assigned book as possible and bring their questions/topics or a favorite passage to talk about.

### **Currently**

- The Book: ***Of Water and the Spirit*** by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (*Available at our Bookstore*).
- **Date of the next meeting: Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 6:30 pm** in the Atrium of our new building.

Under the guidance of a spiritual father, spiritual book clubs are a great way to enhance one's spiritual growth, challenge oneself to examine new ideas, and get to know others on a journey where deeply personal ideas are shared and explored together.

Any questions can be directed to Fr. Panayiotis at [fr.panayiotis@comcast.net](mailto:fr.panayiotis@comcast.net).

### **About the Book:**

#### **Of Water and the Spirit:**

In this study of the Orthodox understanding of Christian initiation, the rites of baptism and chrismation, Fr Schmemmann invites us to 'rediscover' our own baptism. He penetrates the Church's rubrics and rituals and reveals the message of man's entrance into the new life provided by Christ, into the Church and into God's Kingdom. The result is a powerful statement of the meaning baptism should hold in our lives.

# Home Blessings



## Home Blessing Form

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

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	X						
Afternoon							
Evening							

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



# HELLENIC DANCE



**Hellenic Dance Festival:** This year's HDF will be held in Atlanta, GA, and our parish is sending three groups to compete: Asteria/Petaloudes, Phoenix, and Eleftheria. Please go out and support our dancers during the competition, Jan. 18-20, 2019. For more information, go to <https://www.hellenicdancefestival.com/>

**Coffee Hour Jan. 6, 2019, to Wish our HDF Dancers Good Luck:** Hellenic Dance will host coffee hour for the parish on Jan. 6. If you have not signed up to help, please do so via Sign Up Genius. If you need an invitation to join the group, contact Stephanie Lukens at [dsclukens@gmail.com](mailto:dsclukens@gmail.com) to be added to the list. Many hands make light work.

**Greek Festival Practice** \*\*Festival practice begins for all groups on **Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019\*\*  
Schedule for Every Sunday Unless Noted Otherwise by Your Instructor:**

Pitsirikia/Pre-K: 12:30-1:00 p.m. Alex Matthews and Cecilia Lukens, instructors, classroom

Palamakia/K-1<sup>st</sup> grade: 12:30-1:00 p.m. Eleni Bafas and Tina Johansen, instructors, classroom

Asteria/2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 1:00-1:45 p.m. Peggy Dunkerly and Karen Fox, instructors, classroom

Petaloudes/4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade: 1:00-1:45 p.m. Maria Linebaugh and Alexa Sarmir instructors, classroom

Phoenix/6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Elaine Bilson and Ted Gormanos, instructors, classroom/gym

Eleftheria/9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Paulina Vastakis and Demetra Lilly, instructors, Hall/gym

**You must begin practicing by Feb. 3** to be counted as a dancer and be guaranteed a costume for the festival. If your child has a prior commitment and cannot start by Feb. 3, please contact the instructor of their group or Paulina Vastakis to arrange make-up practices. THANKS!

**Greek Festival Mandatory Parent Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.** Please attend according to your child/children's age. This meeting will include important information regarding dance requirements, give you an opportunity to register your dancer if you have not done so, as well as ask questions.

Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade: 12:30-1:15 p.m., Atrium

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: 1:30-2:15 p.m., Atrium

## HELLENIC DANCE



**Eleftheria 2018**



**Phoenix 2018**

**Stewardship News:** Did you know that our middle school and high school dancers devote about 36 hours of service to the church in time spent practicing for their festival performances? By the end of the festival, each dancer has devoted about 72 hours in practice and performance time to help make our festival a success. Our middle school and high school instructors annually devote over 100 hours in preparation, practice, and performance time as well. Please thank these talented stewards of our church the next time you see them!

# HELLENIC DANCE

## Featured Instructors



Ted Gormanos dancing with his daughter, Kiki

## Ted Gormanos, Phoenix instructor

Ted danced with Parea Hellas, the Houston, TX, Greek Dance group, for 15 years. During that time the group was invited to many folk festivals and the International Dance Festival in Lefkatha, Greece.

After Ted stopped dancing with Parea Hellas, he started teaching dance for the Houston Greek Festival dancers. Currently, he has helped teach the Phoenix dance group for 13 years at HTGOC. During this time, Ted has participated as a teacher with the Phoenix dance group at 7 different HDF events as well as many different workshops on Greek dance.

## Elaine Bilson, Phoenix instructor

Elaine's love of Greek music and dancing started from birth listening to Greek music at home and at her Yiayia's house. At age 7, she started dancing with her church group at St. George in Bloomfield Hills, MI. During high school, Elaine's director, Sandie Koukoulas, combined two dance groups, which became known as the Glendi Dancers. It was during these years, that the group became more serious about acquiring authentic costumes and learning authentic dances and songs, traveling and performing at various events around the metro Detroit area.



Elaine attended the Winter Dance conference for the past 6 years, which was hosted by Levendia in Tarpon Springs, FL, and she attended workshops given by members of Dora Stratou as well as Joe Graziozi, Paul Ginnis and John Lulias.

Upon moving to Atlanta, Elaine participated as a member of the Metamorphosi group for 3 years while teaching preschool and K-1 classes. She transitioned to middle school 4 years ago and loves teaching this age group. Last year, this group won a Bronze Medal at HDF and hopes to seriously compete again this year. Elaine notes, "It's been an honor to share our culture and history via music and dance with our middle school kids. It's my hope that we continue to make this a priority and that one day my dancers will continue to pass down our rich traditions."



# HOPE/JOY



**Jan. 6 (Sunday) – Epiphany “Jump for Joy and for Jesus Our Savior”** event at Xdrenaline trampoline park for Hope & Joy aged children and siblings. We will meet at this **trampoline park by 1:45 (or sooner), because the jump time STARTS at 2:00 and goes for 90 minutes.** Each jumper will need to have a waiver filled out by his or her parents before they will be allowed to play. The waiver is ONLY electronic, so please use this link beforehand (if you are able, otherwise, you will have to input information into a computer on-site):

<https://xdrenaline.centeredgeonline.com/waivers>

As this event will be paid for by H&J, we need to budget for the number of jumpers who will attend. Please, please let me know if you plan to attend! Xdrenaline is a fantastic trampoline park! The kids are sure to have an awesome time! **Address:** Xdrenaline, 1611 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA 30062 770-604-1367, <https://xdrenaline.com> .

**Jan. 11 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) — Fellowship Friday** event at HTGOC in the Atrium and Olympic gym for Hope & Joy aged children and their families. The event will run from 6-8:30ish and will include music, play, pizza and fellowship. Dinner, drinks and dessert will be provided. Our Saint of reflection will be Saint Vasilios. (If you are interested in learning a bit about this wonderful saint ahead of time, here’s a link to some cliff notes about him:

<https://www.greekboston.com/new-year/agios-vasilios-saint-basil/>

Additionally, please feel free to bring jump ropes, wacky balls, playing cards, age board games, and your best ideas for red light / green light, sharks and minnows and Simon Says. We already have a multitude of basketballs and squishy dodge balls, so in that area, we are covered! Also, please consider bringing sneakers for yourself and your children as we are sure MOST of us will play in the gym!!

Finally, thank you for sharing your precious children with Hope & Joy. Please let me know what you think, especially if you have any ideas you would like to share! **Also, as we need to know how many people will be joining us for the Jan. 6, Epiphany “Jump for Joy...” event (especially to secure pricing as H&J plans to cover jumping and jump socks per child), please RSVP** to our FB page or to [mariatm@mindspring.com](mailto:mariatm@mindspring.com) as soon as you are able!

Thank you so much for your family’s participation and support,

In His name,  
Maria Comsudes  
404.274.5020



## JANUARY PHILOTOCHOS NEWSLETTER

Start off the year 2019 by joining the Panagia Chapter Ladies Philoptochos Society. The membership drive will begin on Sunday, January 13 with a Mimosa Membership Luncheon in the Atrium following Divine Liturgy and the cutting of the Vasilopita. If you are unable to attend, please complete the enclosed membership form and return it to the Philoptochos table in the Parish Hall or the church office. Philoptochos, which means “friend of the poor” is the second largest women’s organization in the United States. A significant portion of the budget is allocated towards local social services. For the year 2018, \$12,674.82 was spent helping families in Cobb County or parishioners in our church. The help might be for someone who lost a job or became ill and fell behind on bills such as rent, utilities and/or medical. The goal is to help them get “back on their feet”. Your pledge, donation and support of Philoptochos helps accomplish this goal. All women (and men) are invited to join.

Philoptochos will provide opportunities to learn to make Prosforo (January 12), Koliva (Feb. 9), participate in the Lenten Retreat (April 6), and decorate the Epitaphion (April 26). The Ladies and men of Philoptochos enjoy working with other ministries of the church. For example, Goyans helped pack backpacks with school supplies for needy children and the homeless. In December, HOPE, JOY, Hellenic Studies and Philoptochos members sang Christmas Carols at the Heritage Nursing Home (pictured below).

If you know of someone who needs a phone call, a card, or a visit from the Visitation Committee, please contact Niki Gess at [n.gess@comcast.net](mailto:n.gess@comcast.net)

### January Dates:

January 12, Saturday, 10:30 am Kitchen: Prosforo Baking Class (see enclosed flyer)

January 13, Sunday, Vasilopita; Membership Luncheon (enclosed flyer)

January 24, Thursday, MUST Ministries, Soup Kitchen.

Please contact Athena Burke ([ibgreek@bellsouth.net](mailto:ibgreek@bellsouth.net)) if you would like to cook, serve or donate towards the MUST Ministry Soup Kitchen.

January 24, Thursday, Book Club, 6:30, Atrium- Pot luck; The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper by Phaedra Patrick.





**2019 Parish Council**



**2018 Basketball Champions WYR**



**Demetra Lilly-Dottie Gavalas Award Recipient**



## **2018 Winter Youth Rally**

Congratulations to our Youth Teams for their outstanding performance at the 2018 Winter Youth Rally of the Metropolis of Atlanta.

They not only excelled in Sports and Bible Bowl, but also in character and behavior.

We are very proud of them!

We also thank their advisors, coaches and chaperons for their outstanding leadership.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Senior Boys 2018 WYR**



**Junior Boys 2018 WYR**



**Bible Bowl 2018 WYR**



# Memorable Moments & Events



# Philoptochos Prosforo Baking Class



**Saturday, January 12 @ 10:30am**

Philoptochos will conduct a hands-on/demonstration prosforo baking class in the Parish Hall kitchen.

Experienced bakers will teach you how to make the bread with and without a KitchenAid mixer. You will also learn the significance of the symbols on the seal.

This class is open to women, men and children of *all ages*.

A light lunch will be served.

In order for us to have enough ingredients & food,

RSVP:

[koutouzisjd@comcast.net](mailto:koutouzisjd@comcast.net).

Phone: 404.542.1924



Join us for the Philoptochos

*Mimosas*

& Membership  
Luncheon

Start the New Year by Renewing your  
Philoptochos Membership for 2019!

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Atrium; 12:30

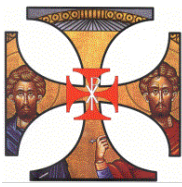
Quiche Lorraine, Fresh Fruit,  
Muffins, Dessert & Mimosas



Not a Member? Not a problem! Come learn about us and join!

General meeting: Discuss plans for 2019 programs and events





# Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

Panagia Chapter #5070

2019 Membership Form

Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

3431 Trickum Road,, Marietta 30066-4660

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

<b>NAME:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>CITY/STATE/ZIP:</b>	
<b>HOME PHONE:</b>	<b>CELL PHONE:</b>
<b>EMAIL:</b>	

In gratitude for God's blessings, I pledge the following for Christ's work as a Philoptochos member. My donation will be allocated to Local, Metropolis, and National Philoptochos as follows:

1. Panagia Chapter (Local Philoptochos Stewardship) PLEASE CIRCLE: \$10 \$15 \$20 OTHER_____	\$_____ LOCAL CHAPTER
2. National donation per member:	\$15.00 NATIONAL
3. Metropolis donation per member:	\$10.00 METROPOLIS
My total Philoptochos donation (total all three lines): *tax deductible (501c3)	\$_____ TOTAL

I would like to offer MY TALENTS to assist the following Philoptochos efforts (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Soup Kitchen: 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. each month (Please circle) Prepare food / Donate / Serve at MUST ministries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visit homebound
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare meals for sick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help with Makaria (prepare and serve meal in PLC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baking (Please circle) Koulouria Paximadia Vasilopita
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calling Committee (Call members for meetings)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Godparents Luncheon (Please circle) Co-chair food prep set-up clean-up
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easter Egg Dyeing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare the Epitaphion for Holy Friday
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Desserts for Parish Events
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Fundraiser (Please circle) Co-chair serve on committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide snacks/beverages for general meetings



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019 to everyone! Hope your Christmas was delightful and enjoyable!**

**Our board thanks everyone who attended our Christmas party. It was a huge success; we had over 40 attendees. As always, everyone enjoyed singing our favorite Christmas song, *The 12 Days of Christmas!* Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal catered by Magnolia Moments! Well, mark your calendars for December 1, 2019 for a repeat performance. Anyone can attend; you do not have to be a member.**

**Hope our seniors will join our ministry again this year. Our group has fun and plans different kinds of activities. We are planning a short trip to Nashville, TN to visit the Gaylord Hotel and the Grand Ole Opry. During our general meetings, we will plan activities such as health and exercise, bingo, etc. Please come join our group! Don't be a couch potato! Dues are only \$15.**

**Each ministry is required to have a fundraiser each year. Last year we chose to sell gift baskets. We did not clear as much money as we anticipated. We are open for suggestions. Last year we cleared after expenses nearly \$800.**

**Our first activity this year will be "CHILDREN'S DAY" on February 10. We invite all children 10 and under to join us after church in the Parish Hall. Prime Timers will also have coffee hour and will serve hot dogs with all the trimmings. Also, as an added feature this year, we will sell tickets for \$1 for an electronic tablet; the drawing will also take place after the children select their prizes. Bring your little ones, your grandchildren and children. What is "CHILDREN'S DAY"? Well we celebrate MOTHER'S DAY and FATHER'S DAY so Prime Timers 2 years ago decided to celebrate the little ones in our community. PLEASE JOIN US!!!**

**On Tuesday, February 12, we have our first general meeting at 11:30am. After a short meeting, we will have lunch and play fun games. One interesting event will be a round table discussion about how you met your sweetie. Why Tuesday? Well, all Saturdays are booked.**

**Remember a day without laughter is a day wasted!! Enjoy every minute !!!**

**May God Bless You today and always!!**

# 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.

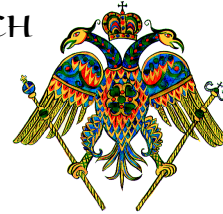
**Let's become Ambassadors of Orthodox Christianity, the Ancient Faith, the Faith of the Apostles!**

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>WYR</p> <p>Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>NO Catechism Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12:15 PM Claudia Smith</li> <li>12:30 PM Bible Bowl Practice</li> <li>12:30 PM Asteria/and 3 more...</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> <li>5:30 PM No Classes-Hellenic Studies (Winter Break)</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Feast of the Crowning of the Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Eleftheria Dance Practice</li> <li>11:00 AM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> <li>5:30 PM No Classes-Hellenic Studies (Winter Break)</li> <li>6:00 PM Vespers Liturgy for St. Seraphim of Sarov</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> <li>6:00 PM Hellenic Dance Lock-In</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>Forefeast of Theophany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM The Great Hours of Theophany</li> <li>10:00 AM Hellenic Dance Lock-In</li> <li>3:30 PM Baptism of Christy Hockmeyer (tentative-not for sure)</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers for Theophany (the Feast of Lights)</li> </ul>
<p>6</p> <p>Holy Theophany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15 AM Orthros</li> <li>9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Atyas</li> <li>11:30 AM Catechism</li> <li>12:15 PM Hellenic Dance</li> <li>12:15 PM Oath of Office for</li> <li>1:00 PM Phoenix Dance</li> <li>3:30 PM Miltiades Baptism</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <p>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of St. Efratios the Wonderworker</li> <li>6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy Class</li> <li>7:00 PM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <p>Feast of St. Efratios the Wonderworker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Eleftheria Dance Practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM Young Children's Play Group</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> <li>6:30 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM HOPE/JOY Fellowship Friday</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Grief Recovery Support Group</li> <li>10:30 AM Philoptochos Prosforo Making-Explain the Seal to the Bakers</li> <li>3:00 PM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>13</p> <p>Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany</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>12:15 PM Philoptochos Vasilopita and 2nd tray for</li> <li>12:30 PM Philoptochos</li> <li>12:30 PM Oratorical Festival</li> <li>1:00 PM Phoenix Dance</li> <li>1:30 PM Eleftheria Dance</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Eleftheria Dance Practice</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>6:30 PM EYC Committee Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Eleftheria Dance Practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy Class</li> <li>7:00 PM Phoenix Dance Practice</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of St. Anthony the Great</li> <li>7:00 PM Bible Study (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group Practice</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <p>Feast of St. Anthony the Great</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>10:30 AM Young Children's Play Group</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of Sts. Athanasios</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational</li> <li>7:00 PM Eleftheria Dance</li> <li>7:00 PM Phoenix Dance</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <p>Hellenic Dance Festival</p> <p>Feast of Sts. Athanasios and Alexandria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>20</p> <p>Hellenic Dance Festival</p> <p>12th 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> </ul>	<p>21</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM No Classes-Hellenic Studies (MLK Holiday)</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>5:30 PM Pantry Distribution</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy Class</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Bible Study (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM Young Children's Play Group</li> <li>11:30 AM Soup Kitchen (Philoptochos)</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> <li>7:00 PM Philoptochos Book Club</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <p>Feast of St. Gregory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Cretan Glendi (tentative)</li> <li>9:00 AM Strategic Planning Session for the PC</li> <li>10:00 AM Grief Recovery Support Group</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<p>27</p> <p>15th Sunday of Luke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:45 AM A 10 year Palamakia (K &amp; K)</li> <li>12:30 PM Hellenic Dance</li> <li>12:30 PM Pitsirikia (Pre-K)</li> <li>12:30 PM Asteria Dance</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:45 AM Kafenion</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers-Feast of the Three Hierarchs</li> <li>7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Intro to Orthodoxy Class</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <p>Feast of Holy Trinity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Orthros</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:30 PM Hellenic Studies</li> <li>7:00 PM Bible Study (GOYA)</li> <li>7:00 PM Youth Group</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM Young Children's Play Group</li> <li>6:30 PM Men's Recreational Basketball</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Aqlasmos—the Blessing of the Waters</li> <li>6:00 PM Great Vespers—Presentation of the Lord</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p>The Presentation of the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Orthros—Presentation of the Lord</li> <li>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy—Presentation of the Lord</li> <li>5:00 PM Great Vespers</li> </ul>

# HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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. 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
1/6	T. Bliss/D. Koutouzis	St. James	S. Gianaris/P. Koutouzis	C. Smith/C. Sprouse/S. Tidwell	B. Reid/J. Dymond/I. Dymond
1/13	D. Christopher/D. Vlahiotis	St. John	I. & J. Dymond	M. Tingas/F. Tucker/T. Vamvakias	P. Bilson/A. Zakreski/M. Zavala
1/20	C. Hansard/H. Mavromatidis	St. Peter	K. Johnson/V. Worden	E. Bilson/P. Christopher/R. Peppas	E. Nikolas/C. Sprouse/M. Strakes
1/27	M. Jacobs/H. Mavromatidis	St. James	P. Dunkerly/E. Markley	C. Costarides/M. Driscoll/I. Dymond	S. Alberts/T. Argentis/A. Reale

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

Chris Bridgers, Evan Bilson, Andrew Bourgeois, Chris Bridgers, Aaron Brown, Matthew Buchan, Joaquin Edwards, Constantine Gavalas, Alex Goldsholl, Yianni Gormanos, Gabriel Hennenfent, Nicholas Levantis, Nicholas Lukens, Jeremy Mavromatidis, Jacob Mavromatidis, Aubrey Moraitakis, George Moraitakis, Matthew Paulson, Angelos Powell, Nicholas Rury, Mitchell Starks, Niko Tiller, Nikolas Wiegand.

**St. John Altar Servers:** Captain-Alex Gekas

Christopher Alberts, Steven Ardagna, Vassilios Asprakis, Andrew Bass, Anthony Bundros, Christian Coleman, Carter Copses, Jay Copses, Mason Copses, Nick Danos, Cole Foster, Stephen Harrah, Kaleb Hotnog, William Jansma, Alexander Morgan, Robbie O'Brien, Tommy O'Brien, Roberto Radu, Alexander Thorne, Braden Thorne, Csaba Wagner, Romeo Wagner.

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

Zach Bethune, Hal Bradford, III, Zack Bradford, Brody Brooks, Yianni Costarides, Nicholas Demakis, Manuel Frangis, Zayne Isaac, Aeneas Maniatis, Luke Melissas, Alex Miltiades, Alek Nikolich, Matthew Shanahan, Evan Strakes, Luke Turner, Matthew Turner, Leo Tzavaras, Ted Tzavaras, Jianni Vacratsas, Stefano Vacratsas, Michael Vastakis, Panayiotis Vlachos.

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