

Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church



























NATIVITY OF CHRIST

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations"

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 3 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- December 4 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Barbara, 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- December 6 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Nicholas, 5:30 pm Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree & Pageant Practice
- December 8 - Parish Council Election & Pageant Practice
- December 9 - 10 am Liturgy Conception of Theotokos
- December 11 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- December 12 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Spyridon
- December 13 - 3:30 - 6 pm Bake Sale Pick Up
- December 14 - 11 am - 2 pm Bake Sale & Drive Thru
- December 15 - Christmas Pageant Practice
- December 17 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- December 18 - 5:30 Paraklesis
- December 20 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Ignatius (Antioch)
- December 22 - Christmas Pageant
- December 24 - 9:00 am Royal Hours & Vespers, 5:00 pm Orthros, 6:00 pm Liturgy for Nativity of Christ
- December 26 - 10 am Liturgy for Synaxis of Theotokos
- December 27 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Stephen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	2 	3 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	4 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	5 	6 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 5:30 pm Belhaven Singing Tree & Pageant Practice 	7 
8 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Parish Council Elections & Pageant Practice 	9 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	10 	11 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	12 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	13 Bake Sale Pick Up 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm 	14 Bake Sale Pick Up and Gyro Drive Thru 11:00 am - 2:00 pm 
15 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Pageant Practice 	16 	17 Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. 	18 5:30 p.m. Paraklesis 	19 	20 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	21 
22 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy Christmas Pageant 	23 	24 9 am Royal Hours & Vespers 5 pm Orthros 6 pm Liturgy 	25 	26 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	27 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	28
29 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	30 	31 	1 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy 	2 	3 9:00 am Royal Hours 	4

Strict Fast



Fish Allowed



Dairy Allowed



Wine and Oil Allowed



GREETINGS,

Greetings,

It should be said that the annual bake sale is coming up soon and the ladies have worked hard to put it together. We cannot thank them enough and they will need our help and support on the 13th and 14th.

However, the write-up in this month's newsletter will not focus on the parish council meeting or the events of our church. It will not focus on marketing, painting, or another gyro drive-through. This month's write-up will focus on continuing to celebrate the lives of those we have lost as we approach the Christmas season.

I will have a weak moment and break character and say that the loss of my grandfather has felt as fresh as ever for me recently. It sent me down this rabbit hole of thinking about all the people in our church who have lost family over the years and how they continued to uplift and support others despite their loss. I can't list them all, but recently people like Cristina Nica, Kari East, Father Andrew, and my Yia Yia (Ellen Hontzas). It has made me think about the people from our parish who have had an impact on my life. People probably had no idea that their actions left a longstanding impression on some child in the church. There has not been a Sunday in my life where I did not either hear or think about Chris Grillis' booming voice in the choir.

Whether your loss was recent or many years ago we want to remember them during a time of year that can be filled with both joy and sadness. We want to remember them during a time that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Here is to the loved one in your family that called too much. The one that stood on the porch waiting for you after a hunt even when you were 25. The one that marched across soccer fields so his great-grandson would know he was there. Here is to the incredible people in our parish who taught us to genuinely love others more than we love ourselves. Here is to your "Paddy".

"So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." John 16:22

**IN CHRIST,
THE PARISH COUNCIL (JONATHAN)**



On Sunday, December 8, 2024, the Archon Women in Orthodoxy Engagement Committee will present a webinar, The History of the Archons in America & Women Archons – Past, Present & Future. The featured presenters will be Archons George Demacopoulos, PhD, Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD, and John Fotopoulos, PhD. The webinar will be held on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. EST.

The program will focus on three topics:

- 1. The origins and evolution of the Archons, from classical Athenian times through the Byzantine Empire.**
- 2. The founding of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.**
- 3. Women Archons: Past, Present and Future**

The Women in Orthodoxy Engagement Committee is hosted by Co-Chair Archon Cary J. Limberakis, DMD and Professor Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD.

To sign up, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/55m32n5z>



GYRO DRIVE THRU & BAKE SALE



On Friday, December 13th from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 14th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. we will have our annual Philoptochos Bake Sale. Additionally, the bake sale will be accompanied by a Gyro Drive Thru on Saturday.

This is a very important event for Philoptochos, and as we all know, the ladies strive throughout the year to do so much for our community. The bake sale helps to provide the funding which makes much of that work possible.

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into the preparation for this event, but we still need help on the days of the event itself. If you are free on either or both days your time would be greatly appreciated.

We will look forward to seeing everyone there.



With great joy and emotion, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America was informed today, following a related telegram from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, of the unanimous election by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela as the new Metropolitan of Atlanta.

The same joy and emotion fill the hearts of the entire hierarchy, the holy clergy, and the faithful of the Holy Archdiocese, especially

those of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta, which has gained a new shepherd in the person of the beloved Metropolitan Sevastianos.

In consultation with the locum tenens of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, an encyclical from the Archbishop has been issued to the holy clergy of the Metropolis, urging them to commemorate from today the canonical name of their new shepherd, His Eminence Sevastianos, in the holy services.

Finally, it is announced that the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Holy Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta.

We all express our gratitude and thanks to our Mother Church of Constantinople and personally to its illustrious 34-year Primate, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the Holy and Sacred Synod for their attentive ear to the unanimous plea and proposal of the Archbishop, the members of our Holy Eparchial Synod, the clergy and the laity, as well as of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios himself, for the election of His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos, succeeding his venerable and respected predecessor.

Worthy is the new shepherd of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos!



You are invited to the

BELHAVEN SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

DEC. 6 5:30pm

Meet at the home of Ellen Hontzas @5:30
for pizza. We will carpool to Belhaven.
The program begins at 7:30.

3853 Sleepy Hollow Dr.
Jackson, Ms 39212

Please let us know in advance if you are able to attend.

✦ Text Kari @ 601-506-1950

The
**PILGRIMAGE OF
DISCOVERY**

2025 Applications

Opening December 1



PROGRAM MISSION

The Pilgrimage of Discovery is a transformational program dedicated to sending Orthodox Christian young adults to Constantinople each year to learn about Orthodoxy, our Patriarchate, the history of the Church, the challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the experience of the remaining Orthodox people living in Asia Minor and other important priorities. This rewarding experience helps participants better connect to their religious tradition and understand the relevance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as they prepare to lead the Orthodox Church in the future. This immersive journey creates a lasting impact on identity, faith, family, community and culture and helps secure the continuity of the Orthodox Church from a grassroots level.