

# Holy Trinity - St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church












## **NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

*John the Forerunner received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though The Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man. From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men.*

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- January 1 - 10 am Liturgy for St. Basil
- January 3 - 9 am Royal Hours
- January 5 - Cutting Vasilopita & Blessing of Waters
- January 6 - 10 am Liturgy for Epiphany
- January 7 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- January 8 - 4:30 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting & 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- January 11 - 10 am Hope and Joy
- January 12 - Parish Council Meeting & Outdoor Blessing of the Waters
- January 14 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- January 15 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- January 18 - 10 am Liturgy for Sts. Athanasios and Cyril
- January 19 - Vasilopita Auction and Luncheon
- January 21 - 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- January 22 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- January 25 - 10 am Enthronement
- January 26 - GOYA Meeting
- January 28 - 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- January 29 - 5:30 pm Paraklesis
- January 30 - 10 am Liturgy for Three Hierarchs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy For St. Basil	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Royal Hours for Epiphany	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>Cutting of the            Vasilopita &amp;            Blessing of the            Waters</b> 	<b>6</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>Theophany &amp;            Blessing of the            Waters</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Women's Bible            Study            4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8</b> 4:30 p.m. Philotochos Board Meeting  5:30 p.m. <b>Paraklesis</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Hope and Joy</b> 
<b>12</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>Parish Council            Meeting            4:30 Outdoor            Blessing of the            Waters</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Men's Bible            Study 5:30 p.m</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Paraklesis</b> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>Sts. Athanasios            and Cyril</b> 
<b>19</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>Vasilopita            Auction and            Luncheon</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Women's Bible            Study            4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>22</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Paraklesis</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 am <b>Enthronement            of Bishop            Sebastian</b> 
<b>26</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy <b>GOYA Meeting</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Men's Bible            Study 5:30 p.m</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Paraklesis</b> 	<b>30</b> 8:45 Orthros 10:00 Liturgy	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 

<b>Strict Fast</b> 	<b>Fish Allowed</b> 	<b>Dairy Allowed</b> 	<b>Wine and Oil Allowed</b> 
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## **GREETINGS,**

**It was a big 2024 for our church. The amount of progress made in ministries, processes, and physical improvements can not be overstated. The beautiful sanctuary renovation that included the assembly of our iconostasis and the placement of our Panagia. The painting inside and out. The current marketing campaign and the increased traffic of visitors over the past year. More events in youth festivals, gyro drive-throughs, and more. We will call it the year of support as it was unbelievable to see so many come together to make it all possible.**

**We want to take this time to introduce the parish council for 2025: Jonathan Hontzas, Michael Glisson, Kari East, TJ Hare, Ted Thompson, Michael Fowler, Erynn Sturgen, Malissa Zouboukas, and Constantine Zouboukas. Each member has agreed to serve the church faithfully and to the fullest of their ability.**

**Also, with the turn of the new year, it is now a good time to remind you about a stewardship card submission. The stigma attached to that "card" is generally one of finances and it is true that the church cannot operate without the fruitful giving of its parishioners and the stewardship cards go a long way in planning and budgeting out the year. However, equally important, is the time and talents section of the card. This helps us identify those who are able and willing to serve in different capacities and what their interests are. Sunday school, choir, etc. are all options and in need of help.**

**IN CHRIST,  
THE PARISH COUNCIL**



# VASILOPITA

**On Sunday, January 5th after the Liturgy we will have the cutting of the Vasilopita. We hope that everyone will join us for this annual tradition as we begin the new year.**

**On Sunday the 19th we will also have the Vasilopita auction and luncheon.**



**ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH AT 10:00 A.M. WE WILL HAVE HOPE AND JOY AT FR. MIKE'S HOUSE. WE WILL DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VASILOPITA DURING THIS TIME OF LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP.**



## Blessing of the Waters and House Blessings

**On Sunday, January 5th we will have a Blessing of the Waters in the church. This holy water will be used for house blessings. Starting on Tuesday, January 7th Fr. Mike will be visiting homes for house blessings. Soon everyone will be receiving emails to sign up for times that work for you. You may also get calls or text messages as Fr. Mike tries to schedule as many of our parishioners as possible to take part in this annual tradition.**

**On Sunday, January 12th at 4:00 p.m. we will meet with the other Orthodox communities at Crab's Seafood Shack on the reservoir for the outdoor Blessing of the Waters. We hope that everyone will make an effort to join us and represent our community at this annual pan-Orthodox event.**



*The Enthronement*  *of Metropolitan*  
S E V A S T I A N O S of A T L A N T A

January 25, 2025 • Annunciation Cathedral - Atlanta, GA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We pray you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With many thanks to God, on Jan 25th, 2025, we will gather to celebrate the Enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta. This significant event is a time of thanksgiving and joy for our Metropolis as we welcome our new spiritual leader.

We express our gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, who shepherded the Metropolis of Atlanta with unwavering dedication and love for decades. His fatherly care, spiritual guidance, and countless contributions have profoundly shaped our Metropolis. From ordaining many of our clergy to establishing ministry programs, organizations, and retreats, his vision and leadership will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

We also express our sincere gratitude to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the members of the Holy and Sacred Synod for their God-inspired decision to elect Metropolitan Sevastianos as our next Metropolitan. Having previously served our Metropolis as a Clergyman and more recently as an Auxiliary Hierarch in our Metropolis, His Eminence's deep love and familiarity with our Metropolis make his election especially meaningful. Our prayers and supplications for a new shepherd have been graciously answered, filling our hearts with immense joy.

The Enthronement of His Eminence is a truly joyous occasion, one that many faithful may never have witnessed before. It is an opportunity for people from near and far to come together and celebrate. Our goal is to host a weekend of celebration that reflects Christ's love and extends the warm southern hospitality for which our Metropolis is known.

To make this event a success and to support the ministries of the Metropolis, we humbly invite parishes and parishioners to contribute toward the Enthronement Celebration. Your generous donations will help us create a memorable and welcoming event for our new Metropolitan and all who attend. Donations will also go toward the ministries of the Metropolis. We encourage you to give any amount you are able – \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, or more. Every contribution, large or small, demonstrates our collective support and dedication to the future of our beloved Metropolis of Atlanta and its ministries.

There will be a celebration luncheon Saturday after the Enthronement service. The ticket price for the luncheon will be \$100 per person in order to cover the specific costs of lunch. The broader sponsorship proceeds will go to cover all the other expenses associated with the weekend including hospitality, transportation, communications, and the Sunday brunch after the liturgy. There is no charge for the Sunday brunch and no reservations needed. Any surplus funds from the weekend will go to support the ministries of the Metropolis.

We have created the following sponsorship levels, but all donation levels are welcome and appreciated.

<b>Grand Benefactor</b>	<b>\$25,000+</b>	Receives: Two Tables/20 Tickets to Enthronement Celebration Meal, Recognition in the Program Booklet
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	Receives: Entire Table/10 Tickets to Enthronement Celebration Meal, Recognition in the Program Booklet
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	Receives: 6 Tickets to Enthronement Celebration Meal, Recognition in the Program Booklet
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	Receives: 4 Tickets go Enthronement Celebration Meal, Recognition in the Program Booklet
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	Receives: 2 Tickets to Enthronement Celebration Meal, Recognition in the Program Booklet

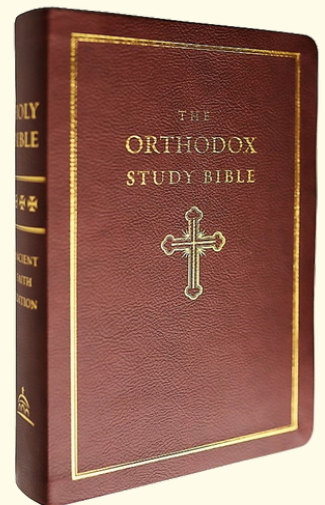
With the celebration quickly approaching, we kindly ask that you visit the Enthronement website ([ATLMETROPOLISEVENTS.ORG](http://ATLMETROPOLISEVENTS.ORG)) and make your pledge by January 12, 2025. Pledges received after the 12<sup>th</sup> are also greatly appreciated but the recognition may not be listed in the program book. Please make checks payable to the Metropolis of Atlanta and include "Enthronement Celebration Donation" in the memo line or donate online via the website. Thank you for your generosity and prayers as we prepare for this momentous occasion. May God continue to bless our Metropolis and guide us as we embark on this new chapter together.

With Gratitude and Joy in our Hearts,

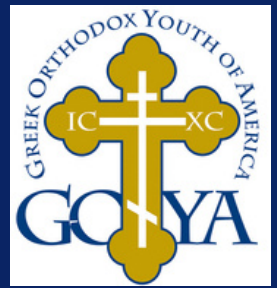
Enthronement Celebration Committee

## Men and Women's Bible Study

**Our Men and Women's Bible Studies will be starting up again for the new year as of January 7th. They will again alternate Tuesdays, with the Women's Bible Study beginning on Tuesday, January 7th at 4:30 p.m. at Ellen Hontzas' house and the Men's Bible Study resuming the next week on January 14th at 5:30 p.m. at Broad Street Baking Company. We hope that everyone who is available will try to take advantage of this opportunity for learning and fellowship. We will look forward to seeing you there.**



# GOYA Meeting



**On Sunday, January the 26th after the Liturgy we will have our next GOYA meeting. We hope that everyone with middle school and high school students will make the effort to join us as we continue to develop this ministry for our young members.**

## **Our Deepest Sympathies to the Family of Carol Burland**

**Carol Burns Burland, born November 10, 1937, in Jackson, Mississippi, passed away, Saturday, December, 28, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. She was a devoted wife, mother, "Yia Yia," and friend, who touched the lives of many with her warmth and generosity.**

**A faithful member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Mobile, Alabama, and later the Holy Trinity-St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church in Jackson, Mississippi, Carol's life was deeply rooted in her faith and community.**

**A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 50 South Ann Street in Mobile, AL. Visitation will be one (1) hour prior to the start of the service (10 a.m.). Interment at nearby Magnolia Cemetery.**

**In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Penelope House (<https://penelopehouse.org/>) or Helping Mamas (<https://helpingmamas.org/>).**

