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**SAVE THE DATES !**

**St. Theodore Name Day Dinner/Dance**  
**Saturday, February 14, 2026**

**Annual Greek Festival Next Year**  
**September 25, 26, 27, 2026**

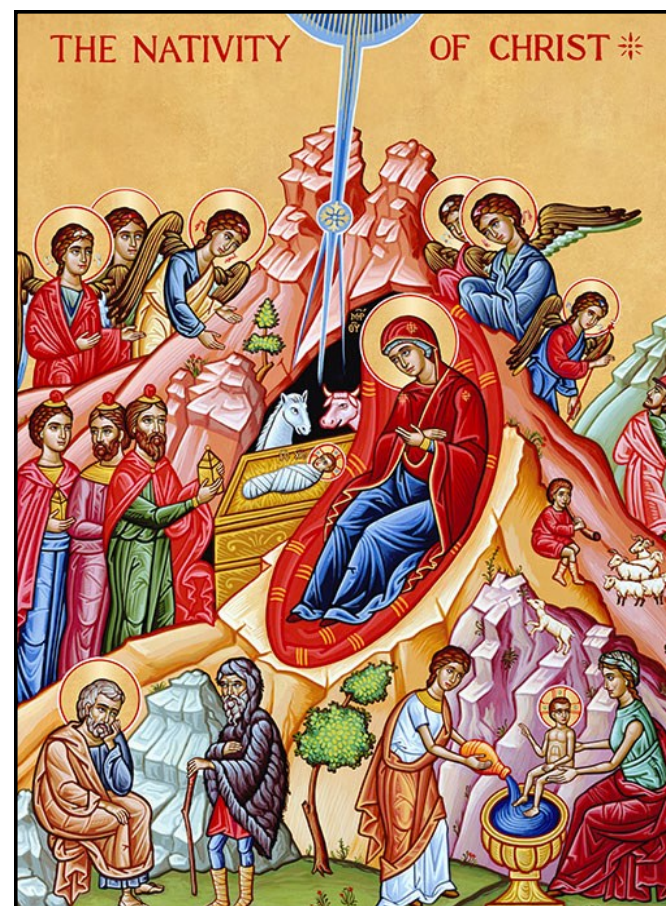


# **Saint Theodore**

## **Greek Orthodox Church**

### **Monthly Newsletter**

#### **DECEMBER 2025**



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Church Office: 301-552-3540

[office@sttheodores.org](mailto:office@sttheodores.org) [father@sttheodores.org](mailto:father@sttheodores.org)

Church website [www.sttheodores.org](http://www.sttheodores.org)

For emergencies call Fr. Manuel J. Burdusi at 410-241-9690

## **Father's Message** **"INVISIBLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS"**

St. Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians states, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." There is such beauty in that expression of St. Paul's and when we apply it to our personal lives, it can be a dynamic force of goodness. As followers of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit assists us to live in accordance with God's will and His divine plan. God will guide us to live with love in our hearts and to have joy in our everyday activities. He will help us to show kindness towards our fellow man and to excel in goodness in our lives and in our faith. God wants us to use gentleness with one another and to exercise self control where needed. This indeed is what the Holy Spirit can do to help us in our lives. As we quickly approach this Christmas season, let us express our faith and our love in simpler ways by following some of the below suggestions:

- Between now and Christmas make every effort to mend a quarrel you had with someone.
  - Seek out a forgotten friend and reconnect.
  - Share some of your wealth with others.
  - Answer others with a soft voice and not a harsh one.
  - Encourage our young people to achieve their dreams.
  - Keep your promises to others.
  - Find time to do things that are important but get put to the side all the time.
  - Listen to those around you and listen to your heart. God speaks through others and directly to your heart through reading and prayer.
  - Apologize to others when you are wrong, don't let pride get in your way of making amends.
  - Be gentle with yourself and others.
  - Learn and practice more laughing.
  - Express your gratitude to one another.
  - Feed the stranger and the hungry and do not forget those in prison.
  - Gladden the hearts of your children and the hearts of children less fortunate than yourselves.
  - Stop rushing through life and take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of God's creation.
  - Speak your love to one another. Speak it again and again.
  - Let resentment and hatred melt from your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and abide there forever.
- May you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas season!

In Christ's Love,  
*Fr. Manuel*

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

**President—**  
Pantelis Zairis  
**Vice President—**  
Timothy Halkos  
**Treasurer—**  
Nora Presti  
**Secretary—**  
Antoni Gemetzopoulos  
**Members—**  
Theodore Adamos  
John Lazarou  
Philip Plangetis  
Gregory Skarvelis  
Three Vacancies

## **PHILOPTOCHOS**

President—  
Helen Bekos  
Vice Pres—  
Maria Kapsalis  
Treasurer—  
Zoe Lazarou  
Secretary—  
Malama Burdusi  
Advisor  
Anthie Zairis  
Board Members:  
Nora Presti  
Georgia Plangetis  
Christina Villano  
Alexandra Tsiglifis

## **Sunday School**

Maria Banis Adamos  
Georgia Plangetis

## **GOYA/YAL Advisors**

John and Zoe Lazarou

## **Chanters**

Juliana Moniodis  
Paul Moniodis  
A.Gementzopoulos



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

[info@sttheodores.org](mailto:info@sttheodores.org)

### **INTRODUCTORY PRICES**

#### **1/4 PAGE:**

6 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$75.00  
12 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$125.00

#### **1/2 PAGE:**

6 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$100.00  
12 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$175.00

#### **FULL PAGE:**

6 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$150.00  
12 ISSUES CONTRACT: \$250.00

OUR NEWSLETTER reaches  
our extended community  
via mail, email and web every month

For more information call: 301-552-3540

## **Stewardship List**

**As of 12/1/2025  
99 stewards/families  
have pledged \$59,500.10  
Average pledge is  
\$601.01. Annual pledges  
vary from \$40 to \$5,000.  
If your name does not  
appear on this list,  
please contact the  
church office.**

Adamos, Theodore & Maria  
Alevrofas, Victoria  
Alexion, Angelina  
Angelis, Bill  
Bakalides, Sirmatenia  
Banis, Nick & Eleni  
Bekos, Panagiotis & Helen  
Bickell, Brad & Eleni  
Bonner, TJ and Christina  
Burdusi, Fr Manuel & Malama  
Burdusi, Nicholas & Julie  
Burdusi Mosi, Aristeia & Krista  
Burnett, Doug & Olivia  
Caprinolo, Mary  
Cirillo, Christina and James  
DeFalco, Jessie  
Dimopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Demetri  
Dimopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. John  
Exis, Ekaterina  
Fanourgakis, Angeliki  
Frantzis, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios  
Galiatsatos, Andreas  
Galiatsatos, Spiro & Voula  
Gementzopoulos, Antonios & Alexandra  
Georhristodoulos, Mr & Mrs Andreas  
Gerohristodoulos, Anastasia  
Gionis, Paul  
Grow, Anna & Randy  
Halkos, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew

Halkos, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy  
Herschbach, Dennis & Mary Pittas  
Hestnes, Dag & Phyllis  
Higgs, Veronica  
Hodge, Christa  
Johnsen, Peter & Maria  
Poulakis  
Jones, Angela  
Kakitsis, Kassiani  
Kapsalis, Panagos & Maria  
Karahalis, Olga  
Katcheves, Konstantina  
Katsakis, Angela & John  
Katsigiannakis, Evangelia  
and Georgios  
Key, Jackson  
Key, Julius  
Kiotsekoglou, Kyriakos & Argiro  
Kirby, Nicolette & Keith  
Kolazas, Athanasios & Marilu  
Koustenis, Maria  
Kretsis, Marianna  
Kretsis, Vasiliki  
Magoulas, Paula  
Malliakos, Mr & Mrs Assimios  
Malliakos Knepper, Christina & Joshua  
Malliakos Todd, Elizabeth  
and Andrew  
Manessis, Angelos  
Manessis, Ourania  
Manessis, Polymnia  
Manitaras, Alexandros  
& Eugenia  
Mantzouranis, Athanasia  
Mantzouranis, Vasiliki  
Marousis, Panagiotis  
Michaelides, Mr & Mrs Nicholas  
Miltiadou, Kyriacos  
Moniodis, Mr & Mrs Paul  
Tice-Myer, Mark & Katherine  
Orfanidis, Vasilika  
O'Rourke, Ryan & Nicole  
Papadopoulos, Afroditi

Papadopoulos, Miltiadis  
Papadopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios  
Paschalidis, Nick & Maria  
Pelekanos Georgios & Konstantina  
Perelas, John & Deborah  
VanDamm  
Plagakis Lester, Sofia & Patrick  
Plangetis, Phillip & Georgia  
Presti, Anthony  
Presti, William & Nora  
Romas, Georgia  
Sakaria, Elpis  
Sakaria, Mr & Mrs Raj  
Sakaria-Kori, Basu & Maria  
Scott, Deborah Ioanna  
Sergotick, Michael & Anna  
Siarmalis-Urrutia, Henry & Iliana  
Skarvelis, Greg & Anastasia  
Speropulos, James  
Stefanias, Maria & Panagiotis  
Theodorou, Toumazos & Loukia  
Tsiglitis, Vasilios & Alexandra  
Tsioumas, Maria  
Tsioumas, George & Majida  
Villano, Christina & Robert  
Walker, Michael & Tina  
Whitlock, Edward & Panagiota  
Yakas, Peter & Eleni  
Harlepas  
Zairis, Pantelis & Anthie  
Zick, Mr. & Mrs. Bob

**YOUR NAME CAN BE  
HERE NEXT MONTH.  
MAKE A PLEDGE  
TODAY**

## **Parish Community News & Events**

### **Updating Church Database**

Please send an email to [presmalama@gmail.com](mailto:presmalama@gmail.com) and give her all the email addresses of your entire household. Next to each email also identify who is the bearer of the email. Our data base only has people's email addresses and there are many that we do not know who's email it belongs to. For example, luckylady123@gmail does not let us know who the recipient is. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. To help better our communication to you, respond by 12/15.

### **Ladies Philoptochos Society**

**A meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7th after church.** Many topics and fevents will be discussed. December begins our Christmas Bake Sale. A Ladies Bingo Night will be planned in the future as well as ideas to further help the homeless and needy. It looks like the meetings will be on the first Sunday of each month after the coffee hour unless otherwise specified. Join us for the next meeting. Officers are President- Helen Bekos; Vice Pres- Maria Kapsalis; Treasurer- Zoe Lazarou; Secretary- Malama Burdusi and Advisor is Anthie Zairis. Board Members are Nora Presti, Georgia Plangetis, Christina Villano & Alexandra Tsiglitis.

### **Feed the Hungry - Coats & Sweater Drive**

Every year during the month of December we collect canned foods and other non perishable items for the homeless and also collect coats and sweaters, scarves and gloves for those less fortunate than us. You can continue to bring things this Sunday and leave your items at the bar area of the social hall. We will be collecting up until the last Sunday before Christmas. Also our young adults have started a program whereby they prepare food on the last Friday of the month and take it on the last Saturday of each month to a place in Washington where the food is distributed. If anyone would like to help with this effort, donations can be made through the Church website earmarked for homeless meals. It averages \$150-\$200 per month to prepare the food and take it to the facility. Thank you for donating to this worthy cause and God bless everyone this Christmas season and always.

## **December 2025 Calendar**

Tue. Dec. 2 — 7 pm Parish Council  
Wed. Dec. 3— 5:30pm Greek Class, 7pm Bible Study  
Fri. Dec. 5 — 6:30 pm Great Vespers St. Nicholas Church Baltimore  
Sat. Dec. 6— **Feast of St. Nicholas** 9 am Orthros, 10am Divine St. Theodore Church)  
Sun. Dec. 7— 9am Orthros, 10:30am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. Dec. 10— 5:30pm Greek Class, No other classes this evening  
Fri. Dec. 12— **Feast of St. Spyridon** 9am Orthros, 10:30am Divine Liturgy  
Sun. Dec. 14 - 9am Orthros, 10:30am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. Dec. 17— 5:30pm Greek Class, 7pm Bible Study  
Sun. Dec. 21— 9am Orthros, 10:30am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. Dec. 24— 10 am Vespers Divine Liturgy of Christmas; 9 pm Orthros, 10 pm Divine Liturgy of Christmas  
Thu. Dec. 25—**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
Sun. Dec. 28— 9 am Orthros, 10:30 am Liturgy  
Thu. Jan. 1—**New Years Day and Feast of St. Basil** 9 am Orthros, 10 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Liturgy

## **SAVE THE DATE AND TIME**

### **Upcoming Christmas Services 2025**

**Christmas Eve Morning, Wednesday December 24th**

10a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy of Christmas Eve

**Christmas Eve Night, Wednesday, December 24th**

9 p.m. Orthros of Christmas

10 p.m. The Divine Liturgy of Christmas (will conclude Midnight, therefore no services Christmas morning)

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School Classes have begun and are after Holy Communion and all children 4-16 are welcome to attend.

### **Greek Language Studies**

You are invited to join the online Greek Class via Zoom. When: Every Wednesday 05:30- 07:00 PM Eastern Time. Register in advance for this meeting:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/7AoGpLxBT1CNJkw4y1pTsw>**

### **Bible Study**

Join us for our weekly Bible Study every Wednesday from 7—8:15 p.m. The Bible Study will become hybrid which means you can attend in person at the Church hall each Wednesday unless otherwise noted. You can also attend online and follow the bible study but we need to send to you the pdf of the passage we are reading via email. Also you must have a gmail account in order to attend online. The link for the bible study is as follows: **<https://meet.google.com/adh-cguj-cng>**.

### **Men's Fellowship Group**

Every Friday from 7-8 p.m. we will be having a men's fellowship group which is geared to all men, but definitely young adult men who struggle with various issues to live the Orthodox Christian life to the best of their ability. We are currently discussing the readings from the book "Addiction and Grace" by Gerald May. Group meets every Friday unless otherwise noted.

### **Catechism Class**

Everyone who is interested in learning about Orthodoxy or interested in becoming Greek Orthodox through baptism or chrismation is asked to attend the class every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. from now til Christmas. The class will be each Wednesday unless otherwise noted.

### **Stewardship Appeal**

It is so vital for the progress of our Church that we are supportive on a regular basis. In order to be a supporting steward, please complete the Stewardship form online at **[www.sttheodores.org](http://www.sttheodores.org)** under Giving, or complete the form which is available in the Narthex where you light your candles. Stewardship payments can be made monthly directly from your bank to our Church. Please email **[square@sttheodores.org](mailto:square@sttheodores.org)** with your pledge and the desired frequency of your payments. Stewardship pledges and donations can also be mailed directly to the church by check. You can also set up with your checking account for a check to be mailed automatically from your bank to the Church, if desired. Smaller, regular payments are more easier to manage than a payment of one lump sum. Your ability to give is stronger when you contribute on a regular basis and the Church operates better.





Preparations for Festival



Our talented St. Theodore Dancers



Metropolis Awards Banquet Nov 9th



Angeliki Fanourgaki & Ourania Manassis honored



Chrysostomos Tsiglifs honored for GOYA Helen Bekos our New Philoptochos President



Recent Bible Study Photo



Feeding the Homeless & Hungry

## NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that eleven (11) members of the Church have been nominated for the forthcoming election for the (11) eleven positions. The members will be elected and affirmed to their term of office for the Parish Council will be for two years, 2026 and 2027. The elections will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 in the lower level founder's hall of the Church. The elections will begin immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and will conclude at 2:00 p.m. The nominees are as follows in alphabetical order:

**Adamos, Theodore**  
**Angelis, Bill (Vasilios)**  
**Bickell, Brad (Iakovos)**  
**Gemetzopoulos, Antonios**  
**Halkos, Timothy**  
**Lazarou, John**  
**Manassis, Angelo**  
**Plangetis, Georgia**  
**Presti, Nora**  
**Skarvelis, Gregory**  
**Zairis, Pantelis**

All members in good standing are urged to come and vote for the 11 nominees. The Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese and the Parish By-Laws note the following: 1) In order to vote, a member must pay in full his/her Stewardship commitment for 2025 before he/she casts their vote. 2) In order to have the right to vote, a new member must be a registered member of the Parish for at least three (3) months prior to the elections. 3) A voter must have been baptized or chrismated in the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Sincerely,

***The Election Committee***

***Nick Michaelides, Chairman Vasilios Tsiglifs, member***  
***Helen Banis, member Paula Magoulas, member***

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM 2026

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be stewards of our Church. When we are faithful to this calling, then our Lord will say to us as he did to the faithful steward, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Mt 25:23).

NAME	MOBILE PHONE
NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)	MOBILE PHONE
STREET ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)
HOME PHONE	

In gratitude for God's many blessings, I/we commit to the stewardship of St. Theodore's and pledge the following amount..

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per month x 12 months = \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year.

## Suggested amounts for giving:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per week (\$520/yr)   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40/mon (\$480)        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 400/yr     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 per week (\$780 /yr)  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50/mon (\$600)        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500/yr     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per week (\$1040 /yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75/mon (\$900)        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1,000/yr   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 per week (\$1300 /yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100/mon (\$1,200)     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1,500/yr   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per week (\$2600 /yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150/mon (\$1,800)     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 2,000/yr   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other per week \$_____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other per month \$_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____ |

## VERY IMPORTANT

To help with printing costs and conserve on paper we agree to receive the Parish Newsletter by e-mail only. ☐ Yes

Please check to indicate that St. Theodore's Church is your primary place of worship. ☐

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Once you make your pledge, you have the entire year to fulfill your pledge. You can pay by cash, check, through PAYPAL, or even through Bill Pay through your bank's checking account. You can also make a payment by going to our Church's website: [www.sttheodores.org](http://www.sttheodores.org) and click the "Online Store" to make a credit card payment. Children 18 and over and who are working should become members separate from their parents. Children in college or graduate school can remain under their parent's membership but should still fill out this form.

Make payments to: St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church, 7101 Cipriano Rd., Lanham, MD 20723.

Dependent Children's names and birthdates:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Your time & talent

I would like to offer my time and talents for the ministry of St. Theodore's ☒ (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church School    | <input type="checkbox"/> GOYA/YOUTH              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek School/PTO | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chanting         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philoptochos     | <input type="checkbox"/> Baking Prophora         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival         | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds and Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Boy               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Group      | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers/Decorations     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____             |

## Saint Theodore Annual Community Christmas Card

Dear members & friends of St. Theodore Church:

The time has come for the Church to prepare its annual Christmas card. It is an opportunity for you to spread the cheer and joy of our Lord's Birth and support the Church. If you wish that your name be included on the card, please complete, detach and mail the bottom portion of this mailing with your minimum donation of \$25.00 made out to **St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church by Sunday, December 7th, 2025.**

2025 Annual Christmas Card—**Donation \$25**

Saint Theodore Greek Orthodox Church

7101 Cipriano Road

Lanham, MD 20706

(Print clearly as you wish your name to appear in card)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~

## Poinsettia Sale

Join the St. Theodore Community as we decorate and beautify the church in celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Minimum Donation is \$20.00 per plant

How many \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_ phone number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ For the health of \_\_\_\_\_

All Names will be commemorated during the Divine Liturgy for Christmas on Christmas Eve Night.

You may take your poinsettia home after New Year's service.