



Our Monthly News

St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church
Lanham, Maryland
Volume 15, Issue 5 May 2023
Celebrating 50 years



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis Of New Jersey
His Eminence
Archbishop Elpidophoros

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Church Office:

Monday through Friday
10:00 am—2:00 pm
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[https://www.facebook.com/
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Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

For forty days we continue to celebrate the most fundamental and joyful proclamation of our faith: Christ is risen from the dead! He is our Pascha, our Passover, from death to life, for the grave could not contain Christ, Who shares with us His victory over death. In a world enslaved to the fear of the grave, Christ has illumined us with the brilliant light of His Resurrection. As Christ said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," and because death did not have the last word on our Lord, it will not, by His grace, have the last word on us or on any who call upon His Name.

When the Savior rose from the dead, He did so as a whole Person with a glorified body still bearing the physical wounds of His crucifixion. The encounter with the disciples demonstrates how essential Christ's bodily resurrection is for our faith. Simply put, there would be no Christianity without it. The Savior died through a public form of capital punishment on the Cross. It is hardly surprising that the disciples had fled in fear at the Lord's arrest with Peter denying Him three times, for they had no expectation of His resurrection. They had wanted a military Messiah to crush the Romans and establish an earthly kingdom, not a Savior Whose great victory would come through public torture and execution by a Gentile army. Of course, it would be absurd to think that those who had denied and abandoned their Crucified Lord would have later made up a story about His resurrection and then died as martyrs for Him. The women disciples, who showed greater love and courage by going to the tomb in order to anoint Christ's dead body when all seemed lost, obviously had not anticipated His resurrection either.

St. Paul taught, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith." The high priest asked Christ at His arrest, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Christ responded, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." If One Who had claimed to be God was wrong in predicting His resurrection and had simply decayed in the tomb like anyone else, there would be no Church and no reason for anyone to remember Jesus Christ today as anything but a failed Messiah with grandiose delusions.

Orthodox Christian faith is not grounded in sentimental memories or warm feelings about an inspiring personality who lived a long time ago, but in the joyful proclamation that "Christ is Risen!" in victory over death. His bodily resurrection is our hope for "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come," as we confess in the Creed. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." If Christ did not rise from the dead as an embodied Person, then St. Paul and all the martyrs were fools who wasted their lives for nothing. Remember that he became a Christian only after the Risen Lord miraculously appeared to Him in blinding light on the road to Damascus. Apart from the reality of the Savior's resurrection, the conversion of St. Paul from a persecuting Pharisee to the apostle to the Gentiles makes no sense at all.

The Lord's resurrection reveals the great dignity of the human body, which is destined for heavenly glory. Salvation is not an escape from the physical dimensions of our lives, but requires our purification and fulfillment as whole persons united to Christ. True faith in the Savior demands that we offer every aspect of our existence to Him for healing and transformation, holding nothing back. Even as He healed the sick and fed the hungry, the most obvious practices of faithfulness involve caring for people in their bodily weaknesses and infirmities. By showing tangible signs of care for our neighbors, the Lord is present to us in everyone in need. In light of His resurrection, the bodily sufferings and struggles of others appear not as irrelevant distractions, but as invitations to manifest a foretaste of "the life of the world to come." To serve others in ways that ease their bodily struggles is to provide a sign of the fulfillment of God's gracious purposes for all who bear His image and likeness. If we refuse to do so, then we live as though He were still in the tomb. Because "Christ is Risen!," we must show our neighbors the care due those who are called to heavenly glory.

(Continued on pg. 2)

CHURCH MINISTRIES MONTHLY NEWS

In order to follow our Risen Lord into the joy of the resurrection, we must also open our deepest personal struggles and wounds to Him for healing. All our relationships, actions, and desires must be healed and reoriented to the Kingdom in order for us to enter into the joy of our Lord's resurrection as whole persons. That is why we must offer our time, attention, and resources to Him for restoration in fulfillment of our calling to become like Him. That is not a disembodied or abstract vocation, but a tangible calling that hits us very much where we live every day of our lives. We fall into hatred, greed, sloth, gluttony, drunkenness, vanity, and other sins not because we are flesh and blood, but because we have not opened our personal wounds to the healing of Christ. In one way or another, we have all refused to enter fully into the joy of the resurrection.

This Post-Resurrectional season calls us all to embrace our Risen Lord as the restoration and fulfillment of every dimension of our personhood. We cannot become truly human apart from Him, for only He has conquered the fear of death that is at the root of our corruption. We must unite ourselves to Christ in joyful obedience so that His life becomes ours, even as we remain flesh and blood in this world. Then we may say with St. Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. Yes, great struggle is required in order to unite ourselves to Christ so profoundly. But it is a struggle ultimately of joy, a struggle ultimately of entering more fully into the gloriously good news of this radiant season after Pascha. It is a struggle that we must all embrace if we are to respond and embrace Christ Whom death could not destroy, for "Christ is Truly Risen!"

ARTOCLASIA SERVICE

On April 2, 2023, there was an Artoclasia or Blessing of the Loaves of Bread in celebration of the feast of the Annunciation for the health of the Papanicolaou Family.

TRISAGION SERVICE

On April 30, 2023, there was a Two-Year Trisagion prayed for Athanasia Zissis, the dearly departed mother of Evangelia Cheakalos. May her memory be eternal.

BAPTISM

On April 29, 2023, Kristina & TJ Bonner baptised their son, Theodore. The Godparents are Christina and Matt Pandullo. Congratulations to all and may God bless you all!

FLOWERS BEFORE CHRIST & PANAGIA

There are opportunities for you to donate flowers before the icons of Christ and Panagia especially during this year of the 50th Anniversary. You are welcome to make a donation in memory of a loved one or for the health of your family. Call the Church office Monday – Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. so that we can order and pick up the flowers on Friday. As of May 1, the two price categories Roses with carnations are \$80 for both vases and large carnations with mini peruvian lilies are \$50 for both vases.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes are held downstairs in the social hall after Holy Communion. Maria Adamos & Georgia Plangetis are teaching the classes. If any new students would like to attend you can email mnbanis@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY TAKES A BREAK

The St. Theodore Bible Study will be stopping for now and will resume again in the Fall. We will notify you of the date sometime in September or October. :

50TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING PROJECT

There is an easy fund-raising effort that everyone can participate in to help with the many expenses for the Anniversary celebration. Just as a wedding is a very costly but worthy endeavor and memorable event, a Church anniversary also incurs expenses that are not part of the normal budget. We are grateful to be alive for the 50th Anniversary of our Church and help in whatever way we can. There will be 100 envelopes between \$1.00 and \$100.00 dollars for you to make your donation to the Church. If all the envelopes are submitted, \$5000 will be raised. We will do this now and again in the Fall, September – November. There will be expenses to have the Archbishop of America come. There will be several complimentary invitations to the Grand Banquet as well as the tickets of all the past priests who have served the church and the area priests. This along with other special expenses add up. We pray that you have an unforgettable experience this year for our 50th Anniversary. The chart will be updated so that we can achieve 100% participation.

UPCOMING SERVICES

ASCENSION

We will be having services for Ascension on Thursday, May 25. Orthros at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am.

LAST SATURDAY OF SOULS (PSYCHOSAVVATO)

According to the tradition of the Church, we remember those who have passed on and are no longer with us physically on the Saturday before Pentecost. Therefore, we will have Church services on Saturday, June 3. Orthros at 9 am and the Divine Liturgy at 10am followed by a General Memorial Service. It is customary to make Kollyva as well and you are welcome to bring it to the Liturgy. May God give rest the souls of all our beloved family members and friends.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost is Sunday, June 4. On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.



ORATORICAL SPEECHES On April 2, Alexandra Lazarou and Chrysostomos Tsigliffis gave their Oratorical speeches to the congregation. Congratulations to you both. You did a wonderful job!

On Sunday April 9, 2023, we are happy to announce the Chrismation of both Alexandra Rivera , Godmother is Juliana Moniodis, and Alexander Dittmann, Godfather is Antonios Gemetzopoulos. Congratulations and may God bless you both!



Pantelis Zairis polishing the church's chandelier and replacing the light bulbs to LED.



Sunday of Orthodoxy with Fr. Stefanos Alexopoulos



A thank you from Ms. Jody's class to the St. Theodore Ladies Philoptochos Society!

Ms. Jody, who teaches at a Baltimore City Title 1 school, helps celebrate Easter by delivering delicious, nutritious meals to her students and their families by giving a basket for each child—and their siblings. This past Easter, the St. Theodore Ladies Philoptochos Society once again assisted this selfless teacher in bringing smiles to her young students' faces and their families. Panta Axia Ms. Jody!

YAL AND GOYA GATHERINGS AND LUNCHEON—MARCH 12, 2023

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY—APRIL 14TH



May/Μάιος 2023

Sunday Κυριακή	Monday Δευτέρα	Tuesday Τρίτη	Wednesday Τετάρτη	Thursday Πέμπτη	Friday Παρασκευή	Saturday Σάββατο
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Moussaka Prep Please call Panteli Zairis—301-787- 4320
7 Sunday of the Paralytic/ΤΟΥ ΠΑΡΑΛΥ- ΤΟΥ Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am Sunday School/Κατηχητικό σχολείο	8 Dolmades Prep 10am-3pm	9 Parish Council Mtg. 7pm	10 Mid-Pentecost	11	12	13
14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman/ΤΗΣ ΣΑΜΑΡΕΙΤΙΔΟΣ Mother's Day Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 8:45/10:15am Sunday School/Κατηχητικό σχολείο	15 Clergy Laity Conference in New Jersey	16	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday of the Blind Man/ Κυριακή του Τυφλού Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am	22	23	24	25 Holy Ascension/ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΛΗΨΕΩΣ Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:00 am	26	27
28 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council/ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ 1ης ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙ- ΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am No Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο	29 Memorial Day Office closed	30	31			

Dear Parishioners,

The Stewardship Year begins on January 1st and concludes on December 31st. We ask that you do not delay and join the “St. Theodore’s Stewardship Program for 2023” so that we can grow and become a stronger Church and minister to you, the people of God. The Church needs the support of its members year round. Please consider giving a pledge as a way of showing your support and love to the Church. It cost thousands of dollars a month to operate the Church with the monthly utility and maintenance bills and salaries. Please consider giving as much as your heart tells you to give. You do not need to make your payment all at once. You can give quarterly, monthly or weekly, which makes it very easy and affordable. Paying on Square@sttheodores.org has also been set up for those who would like to use it. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP HONOR ROLL Pledges for 2023 ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ 2023

Theodore & Maria Adamos
 Charles & Victoria Alevrofas
 William & Angie Alexion
 AJ & Areti Nikolaou Anderson
 Sirmatenia Bakalides
 Nektarios & Eleni Banis
 George Banis
 Dimitra Bekos
 Helen Bekos
 Michalis Bekos
 George & Katherine Billos
 Kristina & TJ Bonner
 Fr. Manuel J. & Molly Burdusi
 Lee & Mary Caprinolo
 Nicholas & Karen Cox
 Jessie Defalco
 Bess Demas
 Spero & Theano Demetrides
 John & Fofa Dimopoulos
 Demetri Dimopoulos
 Katerina, Peter & Chris Exis
 Angeliki Fanourgakis
 George & Angeliki Frangos-Papaspyrou
 Dimitrios & Myrofora Frantzis
 Spyridon & Stavroula Galiatsatos
 Antonios Gemetzopoulos
 Anastasia Georhristodoulos
 Andreas & Sofia Georhristodoulos
 Angie Geralis
 Paul Gionis
 Demetrius P. Govotsos
 Randy E. & Anna Grow
 Matthew & Payal Halkos
 Timothy & Cheryl Halkos
 Dennis & Mary Pittas Herschbach
 Agisilaos Iliadis
 Athanasios & Foteini Iliopoulos
 John-Peter & Elizabeth Jalbert
 Angela Jones
 Kassiani Kakitsis
 Panagos & Maria Kapsalis
 Olga Karahalas
 Diane Karras
 Panagiota Karras
 Bill & Tina Katcheves
 Kyriakos & Argiro Kiotsekoglou
 Keith & Nicolette Kirby

Athanasios & Marilu Kolazas
 Spyros & Olga Koliavasilis
 George Kollaros
 Anastasios Kouridis
 Adam & Eftihia Koutelis
 Chrisovalantis & Johanna Koutelis
 Gregory & Vasiliki Kozakos
 Vasiliki & Marianna Kretsiss
 Paula Magoulas
 Joshua & Christina Malliakos Knepper
 Ourania Manessis
 Angelos Manessis
 Vasilike Mantzouranis
 John S. Maroulis
 Panagiotis Marousis
 Aphrodite T. Matsakis, PhD.
 Reed & Gina Melis
 Nicholas & Elaine Michaelides
 Kyriacos Miltiadou
 Paul & Juliana Moniodis
 John & Catherine M. Nazarene
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 Vasilios & Tracy Papadopoulos
 Christopher Papanicolas
 Nikolaos & Maria Paschalidis
 Georgios & Constantina Pelekanos
 Ioannis Perelas
 Sotirios & Evangelia Petropoulos
 Phillip & Georgia Plangetis
 William & Cynthia Popomaronis
 William & Nora Presti
 George Rallis
 Gregory Rallis
 Georgia Romas
 Ioanna Elisabet Christoforou
 Michael & Anna Sergotick
 Iliana Siarmalis
 Zachary & Victoria Villano Singer
 Gregory & Anastasia Skarvelis
 James Speropulos
 Panagiotis & Maria Stefanias
 Daniel & Shea Svihra
 James Tancabel
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 Margie & Amelia Tompros
 Chris & Joyce Trikeriotis
 Vasilios & Alexandra Tsiglifis

Georje & Majida & Maria Tsioumas
 Stella C. Tsourounis
 Deborah Vandamm
 Robert & Christina Villano
 Michael & Christina Walker
 William David Wrigley, PhD
 Peter E. Yakas & Eleni Harlepas
 Pantelis & Anthie Zairis
 Patricia Zissios
 Tom & Nikki Zizos



As of **April 30, 2023**
 we have a total of
 104 stewards
 who have signed up for
 their 2023 Stewardship of
 the Church. Please join the
 membership
 list of supporters.

CREDIT CARD STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS

If you would like to pay
 your stewardship monthly
 by credit card, please email
 to the following email
 address:
 square@sttheodores.org
 with your pledge and
 frequency.

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Theodore Greek Festival

June 16-17-18

2023 marks our 50 year anniversary.
Come celebrate with us as we bring you all
your old favorites & some new ones as well!

Foods—Desserts—Music—Dancing—Tavli—
Classes—Vendors—and much more!

For additional info visit
sttheodores.org/festival & mdgreekfest.com



Saint Theodore 50th Anniversary Greek Festival (June 16 – June 18) - It's time again to have a festival! Being that it's the 50-year celebration for Saint Theodore, it needs to be exceptional. To achieve this requires the help of everyone so please help in any way you can. For more information, contact the church secretary (Juliana), at (301)552-3540 or you can email office@sttheodores.org if you are interested in helping.

Ελληνικό Φεστιβάλ 50ης Επετείου Αγίου Θεοδώρου (16 Ιουνίου – 18 Ιουνίου) - Ήρθε η ώρα ξανά για ένα φεστιβάλ! Δεδομένου ότι είναι ο εορτασμός των 50 χρόνων του Αγίου Θεοδώρου, πρέπει να είναι κάτι το εξαιρετικό. Για να είναι επιτευχθείς, απαιτείται η βοήθεια όλων, γι' αυτό παρακαλώ βοηθήστε με όποιον τρόπο μπορείτε. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, επικοινωνήστε με τη γραμματέα της εκκλησίας (Τζουλιάννα), στο (301)552-3540.



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Νόρα Πρέστη

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MAKING OF LAZARAKIA FOR LAZARUS SATURDAY BY THE YOUTH



The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade Baltimore—March 26, 2023





STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM 2023

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 _____

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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 for 2023.

\$ _____ 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 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 Prospora
<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 _____



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