

**Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church**
800 Westridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
Rev. Father Sarantis Loulakis
Mobile: 516-526-1475 Office: 336-292-8013
www.dormition.nc.goarch.org

## Upcoming Services

- **Sunday, November 8**
  **7th Sunday of Luke**
  **Orthros (matins): 8:50am**
  **Divine Liturgy:**
- **10:00-11:30+am**

**Wednesday, November 11**
**Bible Study: 6:30pm**

- **Thursday, November 12**
  **SS John the Merciful &John Chrysostom & Philip the Apostle**
  **Orthros/Divine Liturgy:**
  **9:00-10:30+am**
- **Sunday, November 15**
  **8th Sunday of Luke**
  **Orthros (matins): 8:50am**
  **Divine Liturgy:**
  **10:00-11:30+am**

***SPECIAL NOTE***

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US. PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTICIPATION IN HOLY COMMUNION IS LIMITED TO MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING, WHO HAVE PREPARED THROUGH PRAYER, FASTING AND CONFESSION.**

***Our mission…*** *is to become Disciples of Christ, through thought, word, and deed, humbly submitting to the will of the Father, while seeking the Holy Spirit to achieve Salvation.*

***Our Vision…*** *with the Grace of God, is to provide a loving community where all belong to Christ, through worship, sanctification, education, witness, compassion and fellowship.*

**Sunday, November 8, 2026 — 7th Sunday of Luke**
**St. Nektarios (Nov. 9th)**



**But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me."**

**Luke 8:46**




**Bulletin for Sunday, November 8, 2026**

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

**DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

800 Westridge Road · Greensboro, NC 27410-4504

**Rev. Fr. Sarantis P. Loulakis, Protopresbyter**

October 6, 2026

**INVITATION PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**Beloved Faithful and Members of Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church.**

**Christ is in our midst!**

As we all know it is imperative, as **the By-Laws of our church community state,** that we call two annual Parish Assemblies every year for the good of our community.

It is with much joy then **to invite all of you to our annual fall 2026 Parish Assembly** on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy at our fellowship hall. The agenda of this assembly is shown below for your records.

It is also imperative that as Members of the community to attend the Parish Assembly as our Christian DUTY and OBLIGATION calls, for our benefit, to be informed and in addition to offer our knowledge for the betterment of our community. ***Let us attend!***

**Parish Assembly Agenda Sunday, November 15th, 2026**

1. Call to order & Establish quorum
2. Opening prayer
3. Father Sarantis message
4. Approve minutes from Spring 2026
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Presentation of **Proposed 2026 Budget**
8. Ministry reports
    a. Stewardship
    b. Youth
    c. Festival
    d. Beautification
    e. Philoptochos
9. Old business
    a. Capital Campaign/**Building Committee Update**
    b. Facility Maintenance Report
    c. 2025 Audit Report
    d. "Effective Parish Assessment" survey results
10. New business
    a. Contracting with a professional fundraising firm to assist with Capital Campaign
    b. Nominating of Audit Committee
    c. **Parish Council Nominations**
    d. Open Discussion
11. Motion to adjourn
12. Closing prayer

Rev. Fr Sarantis P. Loulakis

Rev. Fr. Sarantis P. Loulakis, Protopresbyter

John McQueary, President, P C.

Phone: 336.292.8013

Web: www.dormition.nc.goarch.org E-mail: office@dormition.nc.goarch.org

# THIS SUNDAY'S EPISTLE & HOLY GOSPEL READINGS

**THE EPISTLE READING - St. Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews 2:2-10**

Brethren, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL READING —The Gospel According to Luke 8:41-56**

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.




**A Warm Welcome to Our Guests:** We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church in **good standing**, **who have prepared through prayer, fasting and confession.**

**For all others:** Though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread with the blessing of the priest. Please also sign our guest book/guest card so we may introduce you to the congregation. We extend to you and your family a warm invitation to our fellowship hour following the Divine Liturgy, where Fr. Sarantis and other members will meet with you.

# THE WEEKLY FEASTS

***If you are visiting today, please see the welcome section in this bulletin.**

**Sunday, November 8th, 2026 – Saturday. November 14th, 2026**

**It is exceedingly important for Orthodox Christians to celebrate their Name (Feast)-Day *annually***, in the same manner as they celebrate their birthday. For those celebrating their Name-Day this week, **we wish them *hronia polla* - Many healthy and joyful years to all!** Please Click on the highlighted dates to read more about the lives of the saints and feasts, so one may imitate them in life to gain eternal life.

- Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers November 8
- Saint Nectarius Kephalas, Metropolitan of Pentapolis November 9 (Celebrated Sunday November 8)
- Apostles of the Seventy: Erastus, Olympas, Herodion, Sosipater, Quartus, and Tertius November 10
- Martyr Menas of Egypt November 11
- Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria November 12
- Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople November 13
- Holy, All-Praised Apostle Philip November 14

***STAY CONNECTED:***

***"Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25)***

***VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE FOR CHURCH SERVICES, EVENTS AND OTHER INFO.***

***www.dormition.nc.goarch.org***

***In every moment of our lives, PLEASE KEEP GOD IN MIND. VISIT HIM IN HIS HOME! 800 Westridge Rd***

***GOD BLESS!!!***

## THE LIGHT ABOVE THE ROYAL DOORS (The double doors) on the Iconostasis

**During liturgical services, i.e., Divine Liturgy, there are times that it is proper for the faithful to stand and/or not be moving.**

**When the light shines on the icon of the Last Supper, it indicates that special moment in the service and we stand, when the light is turned off than we sit.**

**It is there to assist us.**



# A Word about the Feast this Sunday…

## From the Religious Education / Bible Class

### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TODAY'S GOSPEL VERSE?
### What is the meaning of Luke 8:46?
### "Someone touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me."

**In this Sunday's Gospel of Luke**, Jesus is traveling through a crowd when a woman suffering from a **twelve-year hemorrhage** approaches him. **She believes that** touching even the fringe of his garment will heal her. **When she does, she is immediately cured**. Jesus then asks, "Who touched me?" and adds, "Someone touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me."

**What the statement means**

**Interpreters** (People who studied the Bible) generally highlight three themes:

- **Recognition of faith** — The phrase signals that Jesus is aware not just of physical contact but of a ***particular kind of touch***: one made in trust and desperation. The healing is portrayed as a response to her faith rather than an accidental discharge of power.
- **Compassion and restoration** — By calling attention to her action, Jesus publicly restores her dignity. In the cultural context of the time, her condition would have made her socially and ritually isolated. Naming her faith brings her back into community.
- **Divine agency** — The line emphasizes that healing is not mechanical. **It is relational,** rooted in Jesus' authority and the woman's belief as evidence of Jesus' divine nature, his sensitivity to human need, or the personal nature of grace.

**Why the line is often discussed**

Readers and scholars focus on this verse because it raises questions about:

- **The nature of miracles** — Are they initiated by Jesus, by the person's faith, or by both?
- **Jesus' awareness** — The passage portrays him as deeply attuned to human suffering.
- **The role of faith in healing** — The woman's trust becomes the turning point of her story.

***But Jesus declared***

— In the jostling crowd, Jesus suddenly stops and speaks, signaling both His authority and His personal awareness of what has just happened.
— His deliberate declaration shows that He is never overwhelmed by circumstances; He rules over them.
— Rather than letting the miracle pass unnoticed, He brings it into the open so faith can be seen and God glorified.

***Someone touched Me***

— Many hands were brushing against Him, yet He singles out one intentional, faith-filled touch.
— The wording underscores personal relationship: Jesus is not a distant healer but a Savior who knows His sheep individually.
— This touch illustrates how genuine faith reaches beyond mere proximity to Jesus and actually receives from Him.

***for I know that power has gone out from Me***

— The Lord literally sensed healing power flow—an objective reality, not symbolism.
— His power is limitless; its release to one person does not diminish His capacity for others.
— The phrase confirms that miracles proceed from His divine nature, affirming both His humanity (He feels) and His deity (He commands power).
— By acknowledging the transfer of power, Jesus highlights the connection between faith and divine virtue; faith is the conduit, His power the cure.

## WORSHIP LIFE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, November 11**th – Adult Orthodox Religious Education Class & Bible Study – 6:30pm in Church
- **Thursday, November 12**TH – Mid-Week Div. Liturgy/ SS John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria John Chrysostom (Nov. 13) and Philip the Apostle (Nov. 14) / Orthros - Divine Liturgy: 9:00 -10:30am
- **Sunday, November 15**th – 8th Sunday of Luke/ Orthros: 8:50 am – Div. Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, November 18**th – Adult Orthodox Religious Education Class & Bible Study – 6:30pm in Church
- **Saturday, November 21st** – The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple / Orthros -Divine Liturgy: 9:00 -10:30am
- **Sunday, November 22nd** - 9th Sunday of Luke/ Orthros: 8:50 am – Div. Liturgy: 10:00+ am

## COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOST

**A Coffee Hour sign-up calendar is posted in the fellowship hall. As a reminder, when there is not a Sunday Host, coffee and a cool beverage will be available in the Hall.** Please make note that a Checklist for Kitchen Use and Clean Up is posted on the left wall when entering the kitchen and Directions for making coffee are posted on the wall near the coffee maker. If help is needed making coffee on a Sunday or cupping koliva following a memorial service, PLEASE CONTACT IN ADVANCE, the church office, Monday through Thursday, 9am to 12 noon, so a Philoptochos member may be NOTIFIED and AVAILABLE to assist. We are now fortunate to have a cleaning service that will mop floors and wipe down kitchen counters on Sunday evenings. However, THEY DO NOT clean dirty dishes or put away any items left to dry on the kitchen counters or around the sinks. PLEASE help to KEEP our KITCHEN CLEAN and in order, by WASHING, DRYING, PUTTING AWAY any kitchen items used and wiping down the hall tables. Also, members enjoying fellowship are asked, before they leave, to please help by placing their used plates and beverage cups in a nearby trash can.

***Would you like to host a coffee hour? Coffee Hour can be sponsored to celebrate a name day, birthday, special event, to remember a loved one, or just to give thanks to God and share with the community.***

**ITEMS AT HALL**: Coffee (regular & decaf), powdered creamer, sugar, sweeteners, cups & stirrers

**TO BE PROVIDED BY HOST**: Refreshments, plates, napkins, utensils, cold beverage, half & half/creamer

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR KOLIVA**: Cups (9oz plastic suggested), spoons



# ***HYMNS OF THE DAY***

## SMALL ENTRANCE HYMN

The Resurrection Hymn (Mode 6) (2X, Greek, English)
**Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμά σου,** καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἅδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι

**When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb**, * the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. * And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. * Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. * Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You.

## Hymns After the Small Entrance

**Resurrection Apolytikion Hymn (Mode 6)**
**When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb**, * the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. * And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. * Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. * Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You.

**O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies,** * we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, * to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, * and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, * guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: * As the Commanders of the hosts on high, * rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

**St. Nektarios hymn (Nov. 9th)**
**That son of Silybria and guardian of Aegina** * was an ardent lover of virtue * and a saint of the modern age, * that God-inspired servant of Christ, * Nektarios. So let us honor him. * He pours out all kinds of healing to those who pray * with faith and cry out reverently, "Glory to Christ who glorified you; * glory to Him for your miracles; * glory to Him who through you gives cures and healing to all.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE HYMN CHANTED BY THE PRIEST (IF ANY)

**The Church Hymn - Mode 1 (Greek, English)**
**Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας.** Ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει, τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωήν, Μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, ἐκ θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

**In giving birth, you remained a virgin**, and in your dormition, you did not forsake this world, o Theotokos, for as the Mother of Life, you have yourself passed into life. And by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**Kontakion Hymn. Mode 2**
**Ὁκαθαρώτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτῆρος,** ἡ πολυτίμητος παστὰς καὶ Παρθένος, τὸ ἱερὸν θησαύρισμα τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ, σήμερον εἰσάγεται, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ Κυρίου, τὴν χάριν συνεισάγουσα, τὴν ἐν Πνεύματι Θείῳ· ἣν ἀνυμνοῦσιν Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ· Αὕτη ὑπάρχει σκηνὴ ἐπουράνιος.

**The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple,** the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.

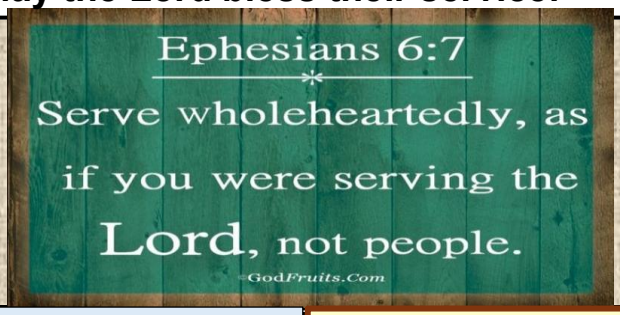
## WELCOME & NARTHEX MINISTRY SCHEDULE

We are grateful to all the Members (Teams) of the Welcome / Narthex Ministry for their dedication and generosity in their TIME and Talents to serve our community during the Sunday services and beyond. Please know that their ministry is sacred and therefore let us follow their directions.

**Special Notes: The W / N Ministry along with the Parish Council Members request that ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN THE SANCUARY! Thank you for your understanding! Also please handle the antidoron (BREAD) with MUCH CARE! Make sure that breadcrumbs stay in your hands. Thank you!**

**Team 1: Maria Colozzi, Maria Mandaleris, Elena Vierling, Brandon Covey**
Team 2: John McQueary, Nora Zirps, Charles DePoortere, Julia Macovei
Team 3: Brier Gay, Elaine Gay, Ellen Scaturchio, Pete Graham
Team 4: Shane Rivers, Susannah Rivers, Shadi Zeidan, Reina Zeidan, Madalina Body
Ian Chavez
Team 5: Mary Ann Contogiannis, Abeer Maayeh, Barbara Sabanis, Ted Angeles

**This Sunday, November 8th, is Team's 1 honor to lead during service.**
**May the Lord bless their service!**




## ACOLYTE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Group 1:**
Joseph, Michael, Ephraim, Leonidas, Jonathan, George, Andrew, Gus

**Group 2:**
Alex, Mironey, David, Samuel, Aiden, Saleem, Yiannis

**This Sunday, November 8th, 2026, is Group's 1 turn.**

As always, **all of the acolytes from group 1 & 2** are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary, to observe and take part in the Great Entrance, even when their group has not been scheduled.

Please arrive before 9:45am. If you arrive during Orthros, please refrain from walking through the Nave to the Sanctuary if Father is reading the Gospel and/or is in the middle of censing.




**THIS SUNDAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR IS SPONSORED BY...**

TODAY WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
FOR PROVIDING FELLOWSHIP HOUR DESSERTS IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY!

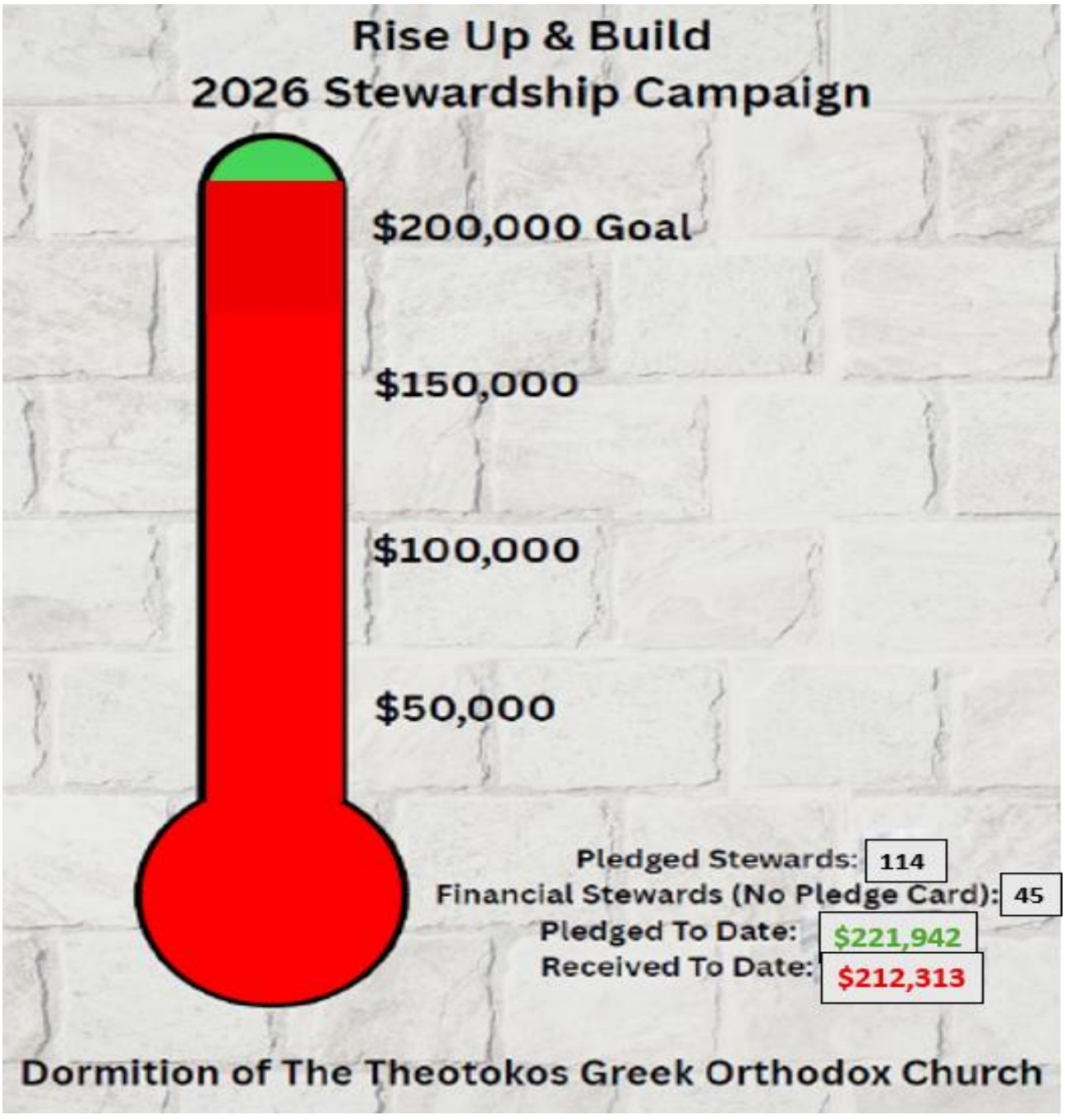
THANK YOU!

## Stewardship & Giving

**Stewardship is making a commitment to Christ of ourselves in support of the ministries of His Church**. Time, talent and treasure are all ways in which Christians express their service to Christ. **The amount you give is between you and God.** The Church only issues statements to ensure that funds are received. Some give less than the amount committed and others give more.

**Becoming a "steward" is a formal way of being recognized as a member in good standing of a Greek Orthodox parish.** A godparent for a baptism or a sponsor at a wedding would need to verify that they are stewards of their local parish.

Please fill out our annual **Stewardship Form here.** And for more information, or with any questions about Stewardship please feel free to contact **Fr. Sarantis** at patersarantis@yahoo.com



# ATTENTION

**Faithful, Catechumens, and Inquirers of our Orthodox Blessed Faith**

## EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS W/ Bible study



## at 6:30pm IN CHURCH

## This Wednesday, November 11th, 2026

Our Schedule of Teaching Format will stay as last year's since it was greatly beneficial

**1st Wednesday of the month: The Book of Romans**
Led by our Diaconate Program Seminarian Matthew Beckett

***2nd Wednesday of the month: Orthodoxy 101 and 102***
***with emphasis on the Church Calendar Feasts through the Holy Bible***
***Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis***

**3rd Wednesday of the Month: Explanation of the Divine Liturgy and Holy Sacraments through the Holy Bible**
**Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis**

**4th Wednesday of the month: Paraclesis service and Open Forum**
**Your questions: About Faith, Sacraments, History, Holy Bible, etc.**
**with emphasis on being involved in the ministries.**
**Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis**

**5th Wednesday – Pray on your OWN!**

**The Daughters of Penelope are holding their annual Phyllo Sale!**
***Phyllo is $6 per pound***
Cash or checks (made to Daughters of Penelope)
**Email, text, or call Maria Predetto** to place your order by: **Saturday, October 31st**
Maria's email is mpradetto36@gmail.com and her cellphone is (336) 207-8208.
Orders will be ready for **pickup on November 8th** at the church following service.

# ***LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS***

**November-December Food Bank donations will benefit the Servant Center, a nonprofit resource providing services to the homeless and veterans** in need in Greensboro and within Guilford County. The services they provide include short term or rapid rehousing, medical respite, disability assistance, Veterans Administration case management, medical support, mental health and substance abuse counseling, transportation services, and more. Additionally, they accept donations of non-perishable food, clothing, household furnishing, personal care and feminine hygiene items, travel size and regular size toiletries and bar soap.

**Currently they have a special need for ground coffee, regular and decaf, (No K-Cups) and tea bags gallon size preferred, but all accepted, and cocoa mix or hot chocolate envelopes. Additional needs are personal care and feminine hygiene items, travel size and regular size toiletries and bar soap.**

**All donations coffee, teas, toiletries, etc. for the Servant Center may be placed on our Giving Tree.**

**Our annual holiday charitable project, Christmas for Children in Need will begin November 15 through December 13th. This year we will be collecting $25 Walmart, Target, or Visa gift cards.** The gift cards will be distributed to help provide a special holiday for children and their families at the Doris Henderson Newcomers School and to the Family Room Foster Care Resource Center, a nonprofit, providing assistance, clothing, and essentials to newly arrived children entering the foster care system. Purchased gift cards with the authorization receipt can be given to Catherine Stuman or Nicki Smith or placed in an envelope in the Philoptochos mailbox attention Catherine Stuman. Please do not mail gift cards to the church!

**If you are unable to shop for Food Bank or Christmas gift cards, you may write a check to Philoptochos and specify Food Bank or Christmas gift cards, and a member will shop on your behalf.**

**Parishioners can help be a part of Santa for Seniors, a special holiday program created by Senior Resources of Guilford.** A box has been placed in the fellowship hall **through December 4th** with a list of needed new, unopened items such as socks, hats, gloves, scarves, snack items, hand and dish soap, etc.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 8 - Last day for Blessing Bag Collection & Veteran's Day Desserts sponsored by LPS
Thursday, November 12 - Baklava Baking for Pastry Sale at 9:30am
Sunday, November 15 - Assembling the Blessing Bags after church - everyone is encouraged to help!
*Parish Assembly Meeting as well*
Sunday, November 15 - Gift Card Ministry for Children in Need Begins ($25 Walmart gift cards suggested)

### DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3 - Pastry packing for Pastry Sale, 10 am - 2 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, December 5 - Holiday Market and Pastry Sale
Sunday, December 6 - Pot Luck Lenten Christmas Gathering, hosted at home of Lula & Hamp Culler
Sunday, December 13 – Sunday School Christmas Program, Santa Visit- Philoptochos members help receive food and help with fellowship hour.



| Organization & Ministries | Contact Information |
|---|---|
| AHEPA—Yianni Varitimidis | • ioapontios@aol.com |
| Altar Servers Ministry— Matthew Beckett | • mattjbeckett@gmail.com |
| Bible Study Ministry—Fr. Sarantis Loulakis | • patersarantis@yahoo.com |
| Cantors/Music Ministry—Fr. Sarantis Loulakis & Michelle Gilliam | • patersarantis@yahoo.com / michellergilliam@gmail.com |
| Church Beautification—Chris Mandaleris | • chris.mandaleris@gmail.com |
| Dance Group (s) — Barbara Vaughan, Mary Ann Contogiannis, Emily Mihelich, Erin Blindenbacher | • bartisvaughanrp@gmail.com macontogiannis@gmail.com epgraham22@gmail.com epgraham8@gmail.com |
| Daughters of Penelope— Su Peterson | • slpeteron60@gmail.com |
| GOYA — Abeer Ma'ayeh | • abeer@mac.com |
| Greek Festival—Shadi Zeidan | • zeidansh@gmail.com |
| Greensboro Urban Ministry—Ian Chavez | • captegghead@gmail.com |
| Myrrh-bearers Ministry—Brittany Beckett | • brittany_beckett@yahoo.com |
| Narthex Ministry—Terry Kokenes & Shane Rivers | • kokenestmb@aol.com / shayneloaded@gmail.com |
| Orthodox Fellowship (50+)—Maria Cropper | • mariacropper@yahoo.com |
| Philoptochos— Nicki Smith, President | • nectariagrafos@gmail.com |
| Stewardship—Pete Graham | • petegraham88@gmail.com |
| Sunday School— Erin Blindenbacher & Emily Mihelich | • epgraham8@gmail.com • epgraham22@gmail.com |
| Website Ministry – Mike Morfessis | • tmorfessis@gmail.com |
| Youth Ministry— Matthew Beckett, Director | • mattjbeckett@gmail.com |






*SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH - SHARE YOUR TALENTS!*

**Please complete your annual 2026 Stewardship pledge to our church today! Our church ministries may/can be affected by your contribution. YOU really CAN make a difference! For Your Stewardship Offering Please Visit [Stewardship | Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church (goarch.org)](#) God bless you!**

## PASTORAL VISITATIONS

**Is anyone among you suffering?**
**Then he must pray.**
**Is anyone cheerful?**
**He is to sing praises.**
**Is anyone among you sick?**

Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with the oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. (James 5:13-15)

**Please call the Church Office or Father Sarantis at (516) 526-1475 to let him know what your pastoral needs are.** You can also ask your family members, a social worker, or a Hospital Chaplain to notify the Church so that they can inform Father Sarantis that you need pastoral care.

## CONFESSION

**The gift of God's forgiveness is received through** private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession.

It is also part of our total spiritual preparation during the fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Easter, Christmas, Epiphany, The Apostles Fast and the Dormition of the Theotokos Fast. Fr. Sarantis is available to hear confessions.



**For an appointment, please contact Fr. Sarantis directly at patersarantis@yahoo.com or text (516) 526-1475**

# SHARING OUR Blessings AT THANKSGIVING

## A PHILOPTOCHOS MINISTRY

Please join us as we collect enough ingredients to feed families of 5!



**OCTOBER 11th** — Instant Mashed Potatoes & Gravy *(no glass)*






**OCTOBER 18th** — Corn & Green Beans






**OCTOBER 25th** — Stuffing Mix & Cornbread Mix






**NOVEMBER 1st** — Cranberry Sauce & Yams






**NOVEMBER 8th** — Fall Dessert of your choice *(shelf stable)*






MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR

***Sunday, November 15th***

(AFTER CHURCH)

Join our Ladies Philoptochos members in assembling the Blessing Bags.




*Thank you for your generosity!*

## Men's Group Sponsored Workday at Panagia Prousiotissa Monastery

**A day helping the nuns followed by vespers.**
**All are welcome.**

Men must wear long sleeve shirts and pants and women must wear long ankle length dresses and cover their hair. Bring basic yard work tools, including shovels, leaf blowers, rakes, chainsaws, and things like that if you have them. If you do not have anything to bring, that is ok as they have some extras at the monastery. We will help them clear brush, rake leaves and do some basic yard work to help prepare the grounds for winter, like we did last year. Everyone should bring work gloves if they own them.
We'll meet at the monastery between 9:45 and 10:00 AM to start. Some groups may carpool from the church, but we ask that you coordinate that yourselves. The nuns are preparing lunch for us, and we will join them for Vespers that evening after the work is concluded.

**Because they are preparing food for us and we must give the Abbess a head count of guests, please RSVP to John McQueary via text 7706057657 or email mcquearyjohn@yahoo.com no later than Monday 11/9.**

## *Church Office Note…*

You may visit or call the office **Monday—Friday from 9am-1pm**.
Fr. Sarantis is in the office: **Monday, works remotely, in office by appointment only, Tuesday—Thursday from 10:30am—3:30pm, & Tuesday from 3pm—5:30pm by appointment only for confessions.**

You may also schedule a pastoral appointment with him at any time at home or at the office at your convenience. Although on Fridays Fr. Sarantis is not in the office, one may freely and at any time during the week communicate DIRECTLY with him via **phone at (516) 526-1475, text or email at: patersarantis@yahoo.com**. All calls & texts before 7pm will be answered as soon as possible on the same day. All calls and texts after 7pm will be screened and they will be likely answered according to their urgency, so there may be time to respond to the day's emails. Emails are checked ONLY 3 times a day (morning, noon and after 7pm) and they will be answered accordingly in the order they have been received within 24 hours. Thank you for understanding!

**IMPORTANT: For emergencies kindly ALWAYS CALL, do not text or email.**

## Are you a registered Youth Worker, Clergy, Parish or Metropolis Council Member?

- **Login to your Existing Account**
- **Click on My Compliance Report**
- **Click on Print My Compliance Certificate Background Check (every 2 years) Training (every year)**

**Not Registered?**
**Register as a First-Time Registrant**

*JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY BY TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S*

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD & POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHURCH






**SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS and HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

**We wish to thank you this Christmas Season and always for supporting the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church. With your participation, you help us to decorate our beautiful church for the upcoming Christmas Season.** ***Proceeds from this will directly benefit our GOYA Youth Ministry to attend Summer Camp at the Alexios Retreat Center.***

**Please specify your choice and enclose your donation.**

**1.** CHRISTMAS CARD **Donation: $25 ____**

**2.** POINSETTIAS **Donation: 1@ $25, ___ 2@ $50 ___ 3@ $75 ___ 4@ $100 ___**

Please write below your name as you wish it to appear on the Christmas Card and mail it/drop it in the office or email it click here to: office@dormition.nc.goarch.org

By SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026.

Sponsor's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

"_____"

(Above write the names as you wish to appear on the card)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

Check Total amount: $_____

THANK YOU!

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will!**

**NOTES:**

# Ladies Philoptochos Society

# Gift Market & Pastry Sale

## Saturday, December 5, 2026

## 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Dormition of the Theotokos**
**Fellowship Hall**

**Delicious Greek Pastries ...**
**Kourambiedes, Baklava,**
**Spanakopita, Koulourakia**
**Almond Crescents &**
**More!**

**Unique Handmade Gifts ...**
**created by 23+ local crafters!**
**These will make perfect gifts**
**for family and friends!**

**COME DO YOUR HOLIDAY**
**SHOPPING WITH US and**
**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

# Nativity Fast

This fast, beginning on November 15th, lasts for 6 weeks - almost as long as the **Great Lent**. However, the **Nativity Lent** has a different and entirely unique character**. Lent** in our minds is usually associated with **penitence, sorrow, weeping over one's sins, cleansing the soul in preparation for the forthcoming great event or sacrament, i.e., receiving Holy Communion**. **In Christmas Lent**, all concepts concerning lent - except for the last one, that is, purification of the soul - are concealed by two dominant characteristics. **These are - humbleness and internal joy.**

**Why does the Church urge us to** use this Lenten period to bring our souls into a state of complete humility?

Because the coming holiday, although so joyous and so great, is completely **enveloped in the spirit of humility**. The Apostle Paul explains to us that in this holiday "**God on high descended upon earth, in order to elevate us into heaven."** But in order to achieve this, the **Lord "diminished Himself, taking on the image of a servant, and was likened to man**." We are all servants of God, that is, **we have all been created**, and in order to become like man, **the Lord had to diminish, lessen, exhaust, in other words - humble His Divinity**. And all of this the Lord did for us, in order to save us from death and the power of the devil, so that man - the crown of God's creation - would not perish. In like manner we, too, should honor and thank our Creator and Saviour. **We should diminish our pride, lessen our self-extolment, exhaust our selfishness, and only then - through total humility** - will we find that ascending road into heaven, into the Heavenly Realm, which the Lord has opened for us in His descent to earth.

In the Holy Land, in the town of Bethlehem, where the Lord was born in a humble manger 2,000 years ago, a majestic church now stands over the site of His birth. This church is distinguished by **its entrance doors, which were made so low, that an average adult has to stoop in order to go in**. This was done deliberately, to constantly remind us of the need for spiritual humility before the greatness of the event that took place here.

**At the same time, Christmas Lent is also a time for joy**. During Great Lent, for example, the Church so gives itself over to penitence, that with the exception of two major feasts - the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin and the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem - which are both directly linked to paschal events, there is hardly any commemoration of the feasts of major saints, since a holiday spirit would interfere with the purpose of this lent. The entire Christmas Lent, on the other hand, is studded with the feasts of major saints like glittering jewels: holy great-martyr Catherine, Saint Apostle Andrew, holy great-martyr Barbara, the great Saint Nicholas, Saint Herman of Alaska, and many others, as though indicating to us that the presence of all these saints and all this rejoicing has become possible only because the Lord has come down to earth and has opened the way to heaven. Thus, throughout this entire period the Church strongly urges us to prepare for the coming joy with the words of the Christmas canon: **"Christ is born - glorify Him! Christ cometh from heaven - meet ye Him! Christ is on earth - be ye exalted!" Amen.**

*Father Rostislav Sheniloff*