Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

800 Westridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
Rev. Father Sarantis Loulakis
Mobile: 516-526-1475
Office Phone: 336-292-8013
www.dormition.nc.goarch.org

Upcoming Services & Events

- **Sunday, October 18**
  Luke the Evangelist
  Orthros (matins): 8:50am
  Divine Liturgy: 10:00-11:30+am
- **Wednesday, October 21**
  Bible Study: 6:30pm
- **Thursday, October 22**
  Divine Liturgy of St. James
  Orthros– Divine Liturgy: 9:00am—10:30am
- **Sunday, October 25**
  6th Sunday of Luke
  Orthros (matins): 8:50am
  Divine Liturgy: 10:00-11:30+am

SPECIAL NOTE

A WARM WELCOME TO OUT 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, October 18, 2026 — Luke the Evangelist

THE SYMBOL OF OX FOR THE EVANGELIST LUKE

In traditional depictions, such as paintings, evangelists portraits, and church mosaics, **Saint Luke is often accompanied by an ox or bull, usually having wings.** The ox is mentioned in both Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:7. Sometimes only the symbol is shown, especially when in a combination of those of all Four Evangelists. **"St Luke is suggested by the ox, a sacrificial animal, because his Gospel stresses the sacrificial nature of Christ's ministry** and opens with Zechariah performing his priestly duties."

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.

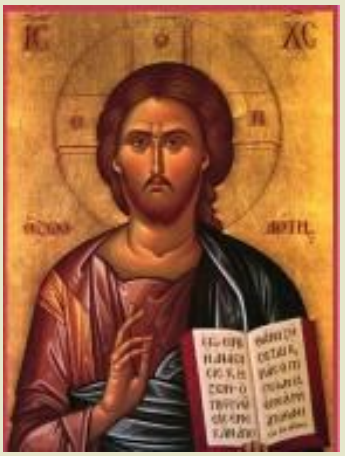
Thank you for your generosity!

THIS SUNDAY'S EPISTLE & HOLY GOSPEL READINGS

THE EPISTLE READING - St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING —The Gospel According to Luke 10:16-21



The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

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

FEASTS of the WEEK

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

Sunday, October 18th, 2026 – Saturday, October 24th, 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.**

- **Apostle and Evangelist Luke October 18**
- **Prophet Joel October 19**
- **Great martyr Artemius at Antioch October 20**
- **Venerable Hilarion the Great October 21**
- **7 Holy Youths "Seven Sleepers" of Ephesus October 22**
- **Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord October 23**
- **"Joy of All Who Sorrow" Icon of the Mother of God October 24**

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

VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE FOR CHURCH SERVICES, EVENTS AND OTHER INFO CLICK BELOW
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 (double doors) on the Iconostasis

During a liturgical service 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** then **we sit**. It is there to assist us.

A Word about the Feast on this Sunday….

Saint Luke as an Icon Painter

The Apostle Luke is mostly known as **one of the four Evangelists**. In fact, he told us more than the other three about our Lord's childhood, as well as about His mother Mary. It is a known fact that **Saint Luke was also an artist**. It is said that he **was the only person who painted a few images of the Theotokos while she was alive**. This makes St Luke the first iconographer. However, some people believe that there is no proof that the icons in question have actually been painted by the Apostle. The Bible doesn't mention St Luke's paintings. The only piece of information about Luke's profession that the New Testament gives us is that **the evangelist was a doctor.** This is due to the fact that **the Bible contains the information needed for our salvation and spiritual guidance**. St Luke's talent for icon painting doesn't really fall under that category, though it would be great to know for sure whether he painted some of the famous icons of the Virgin Mary. **The Tradition of the Orthodox Church says that he did.**

First of all, multiple historical documents prove this fact. Historian Theodorus Lector mentions St Luke drawing the Virgin; Saint Andrew of Crete wrote about St Luke depicting both Mary and Christ; Saint Simeon the Metaphrast, historian and the author of many biographies of saints, mentioned one icon of the Virgin Mary holding Christ. He said that it was painted by St Luke and is "honored even to this day."
Saint Demetrius of Rostov wrote the Life of the Apostle Luke, and this brilliant gem of Russian hagiographic literature is the source that gives some more information about Saint Luke as the first iconographer. St Demetrius used various ancient texts about Saint Luke and compiled them together into a comprehensive biography of the Apostle. He wrote that everything started with St Luke painting Mary. **The icon showed the Virgin holding baby Jesus in her arms**. He got inspired and later painted three more similar images of the Theotokos. Those are the four icons of Mary, the Mother of God, that are attributed to Saint Luke.

Mother of God Orthodox icons painted by Saint Luke:

1. **Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Hodeguitria of St. Luke)**
   This icon is probably one of the most famous depictions of the Theotokos (it is venerated by both Orthodox and Catholic Christians) and the most well-known Apostle Luke painting. All other icons of the Theotokos holding Jesus Christ are in a way copies of the original Hodeguitria (this word literally means "One Who Shows the Way").

2. **Our Lady of Czestochowa**
   The icon shows Mary gesturing toward Christ with her right hand, directing attention away from herself. This way she recognizes Him as the source of salvation for mankind. Jesus Christ is blessing the viewer with his right hand and holding the Gospel in the other hand.

3. **Salus Populi Romani**
   The name of this icon translates from Latin as "the Protectress of the Roman People". It is believed that this icon was also found by Saint Helena and brought to Constantinople back in the 6th century. Right now the icon can be found in Rome, inside the church of Saint Mary Major.

4. **Our Lady of Vladimir**
   The Vladimir Mother of God is one of the most significant pieces of Russian iconography. This icon is very different from the other three. It shows Christ and the Virgin Mary embracing cheek to cheek. Baby Jesus looks lovingly at the Theotokos and the Virgin is once again looking directly into the viewer's eyes.

WORSHIP LIFE OCTOBER / NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, October 21** — **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**
- **Thursday, October 22** — **DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JAMES Orthros—Divine Liturgy: 9:00-10:30am** St. Averkios, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Wonderworker, Bishop of Hierapolis and James the Apostle, brother of Our Lord
- **Sunday, October 25** — **6th Sunday of Luke** — Orthros: 8:50 am - Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, October 28** — **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**
- **Sunday, November 1** — **5th Sunday of Luke/ St Anargyroi Cosmas and Damian —** Orthros: 8:50 am – Div. Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, November 4** — **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**
- **Sunday, November 8** — **5th Sunday of Luke /** Orthros: 8:50 am—Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ am

The above schedule and times supersede any other schedule.

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 12noon, 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, and 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, a birthday, a special event, to remember a loved one, or just to give thanks to God and share with the community.

ITEMS AT HALL	TO BE PROVIDED BY HOST	ITEMS NEEDED FOR KOLIVA
Coffee (reg & decaf), powdered creamer, sugar, sweeteners, cups & stirrers	Refreshments, plates, napkins, utensils, cold beverage, half & half/creamer	Cups (9 oz plastic suggested), spoons

HYMNS OF THE DAY

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMN

The Resurrection Hymn (Mode 3) (2X, Greek, English)

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ᾅδου ἐῤῥύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

Hymns After the Small Entrance

Resurrection Apolytikion Hymn (Mode 3)
Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy!

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses

MEMORIAL SERVICE HYMN CHANTED BY THE PRIEST (IF ANY)

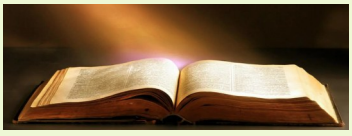
The Church Hymn - Mode 1 (Greek, English)

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
Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδῃς, ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεί, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.



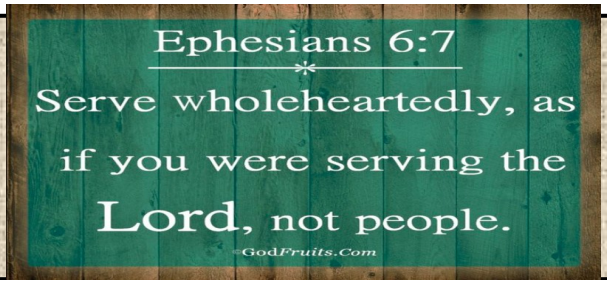
WELCOME & NARTHEX MINISTRY SCHEDULE

We are grateful to all the Members (Teams) of the Welcome / Narthex Ministry for their dedication and generosity of 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 into 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
Team 5: Mary Ann Contogiannis, Abeer Maayeh, Madalina Body, Barbara Sabanis, Ted Angeles

This Sunday, October 18th, is Team's 3 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, October 18th, 2026,

is Group's 2 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 aim to 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:

SHADI & MAUREEN ZEIDAN FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR.

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS SUNDAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR.

Rise Up & Build
2026 Stewardship Campaign

$200,000 Goal

$150,000

$100,000

$50,000

Pledged Stewards: 109
Financial Stewards (No Pledge Card): 46
Pledged To Date: $217,082
Received To Date: $193,215

Dormition of The Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

important

Dear Parish Family,

The beautification of our Sanctuary continues with the replacement of the carpet in the choir loft, the stairway and the cry room. The pews in the choir loft have been removed and will be refurbished. They will be re-installed once the work is complete and the new carpet is installed (final work is planned for October 28, 2026).

Please do not go into the choir loft until after the carpet and pews have been installed.

-The Beautification Committee

Lend a Hand and Share a Meal at Urban Ministry!

Join us on **Monday, October 19th** for an evening of service and fellowship as we prepare and serve a meal for our neighbors in need at Urban Ministry. *** 4:30 PM: Meet at the church to prepare the meal together. * 6:00 PM: Meet at Urban Ministry to serve the food and connect with those we're helping.** It's a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community and to build lasting connections with one another.

We need YOU!

To ensure we have enough food and helping hands, please see Ian Chavez, or email DOTurbanministry@gmail.com to sign up.

Can't volunteer but want to support? Sponsor the meal! A suggested donation of $400 helps us provide a nourishing and delicious meal.

Let's come together and make a difference!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS

ATTENTION!

Faithful, Catechumens, and Inquirers of our Orthodox Blessed Faith

EVERY WEDNESDAY-EVENING

at 6:30pm IN CHURCH

This Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

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, Salvation, etc.

with emphasis on being involved in the church ministries.

Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis

5th Wednesday: Pray on your OWN

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. We thank you for understanding!

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

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Our upcoming events are listed below. Please note that October's food bank donations will go to Backpack Beginnings. Please continue to give your support to this important and much needed ministry.

October Events:

- **Sunday, October 11** – Thanksgiving Blessing Bags Collection **Begins** - meal kits go to the Greensboro PD
- **Sunday, October 25** – Wear Pink! Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Coffee Hour Basket donations to Cone Health Mammography Fund, Membership MEETING, 12:30 pm after church

We will be collecting and donating our September through October Food Bank donations to Backpack Beginnings, a community resource which also provides food for local middle and high school food pantries and elementary school children in need of weekend food. Below is a list of basic needs.

- Canned Chicken and Canned Tuna
- Microwavable, boxed, or canned Items: rice, mac & cheese, soup, chili, beans, vegetables, etc.
- Breakfast Items: boxed cereal, microwavable oatmeal, etc.
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned or cupped Fruit

Did you know we accept food donations all year long? The food donations are distributed to different organizations in the community who have verified distribution points in the city. *Suggested items are canned fruit, vegetables, beans, soups, canned chicken, tuna, canned pasta sauces, pasta, rice, dried beans, macaroni and cheese, individual cereal, oatmeal, grits, peanut butter, crackers, jelly, fruit or other healthy bars, and powdered or shelf stable milk.* **Please NO GLASS JARS and always check expiration dates!**

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SAFETY

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

Check your compliance.
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

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.

All proceeds from our events will support: **Teacher's Supply Warehouse, Backpack Beginnings, Family Services, CWS Greensboro, & Dormition of the Theotokos**.

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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (10/25)

The Sunday for Group 2 (E - K) to sponsor the Fellowship Hour is: October 25

May the Lord, our God bless your offerings and multiply to all of us and the entire world!

The Alphabetical Groups for now are:

Group 1: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters A through D

Group 2: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters E through K

Group 3: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters L through P

Group 4: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters R through Z

An important note about Fellowship Hour Sponsoring ...

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and *the fellowship of the Holy Spirit* be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

It is with much joy that **the Parish Council wishes to express its gratitude to all** of you for expanding your **cordial hospitality to all**, especially to our new embracing Orthodox faith Members during the **Sunday Fellowship Hour**. **It is important to make every effort to continue it wholeheartedly as the 'First Christinas" did**. Acts 6.

Please know that the Parish Council **strongly encourages** all of us to continue the **"40 Day Memorial sponsorships along with your individual Family's Fellowship Hour offerings without any change or even your group of families as before. You just post your** sponsoring on the board as always.

HOWEVER, when the **Fellowship Hour is NOT sponsored at any given Sunday** the Parish Council is requesting that an **Alphabetical group of Parishioners will be sponsoring that Fellowship Hour**. An email / Iris call will be sent out to all in **at least a week's advance notice** notifying the group's turn.

It is our hope that ALL MEMBERS OF THAT GROUP (new comers and long timers) follow through and prepare or buy something to **bring enough food to feed 10-15 people**. A representative or 2 of the group will be chosen in time to lead in all questions that may arise to better serve everyone. The groups may be adjusted as we go. Each group will consists of 25 + families.

The Sponsoring Group will be listed in the Bulletin as before. The sponsoring group's leadership communication with the Philoptochos and the Parish Council with the church office is essentially required.

NOTES:

Confession in the Orthodox Church:

How often should one go to Confession?

For Christians, **the Eucharist is the summit of our Faith, Creed, Theology, Worship, Teachings, and Spiritual life**; and **receiving Holy Communion regularly** at the **Divine Liturgy**, or as St. Paul intimates, living "from glory to glory" (2nd Cor. 3:18), **reinforces and concludes the very purpose of that event, being "in communion" with God**.

However, to approach the chalice and receive the sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood on **a regular basis also entails constant preparation** through **praye**r, f**asting**, and a degree of **spiritual effort** or struggle against sinful behavior. And although this often proves impossible (because of our fallen nature and weakness), nonetheless we are still called upon to strive towards that goal and **seek God's help in this arena**.

Yet, since we do transgress God's Commandments, **fall into temptation**, and/or give into our passions, the Church provides **the Sacrament of Confession** through which we may find cleansing, healing, and forgiveness from those sins.

Although the frequency in which we participate in this sacrament is left up to the individual and their conscience, **the Church teaches that it is important to try and go quarterly,** or during the four prescribed Lenten seasons**: Great Lent, Advent, St. Peter and Paul Fast, and Dormition Fast.** This is certainly a good policy and guideline to aim towards, **however,** our parish by-laws explicitly state that **to be a "member in good standing," one needs to participate in** the Sacraments Confession and Holy Communion at least once a year, preferably during the Great Fast in preparation of Pascha.

Therefore, if you have not yet fulfilled this obligation, as the pastor of this parish, shepherd of this flock, and **Spiritual Father entrusted and concerned with your care**, I am encouraging you to come and fulfill this pious Christian duty; not simply to comply with our parish's by-laws, but more importantly for the salvific benefits of the sacraments themselves.

Confessions are heard regularly during church office hours, or by appointment during the week on Tuesdays from 3 - 5:30 and Wednesdays 3 - 6.

If you have any questions regarding the sacrament of Confession or Holy Communion, the policies or preparations surrounding them, or any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact, call, or approach me in person so that we might discuss any issues and explain procedural aspects.

May the Lord remember all of us in His Heavenly Kingdom!

+ Fr. Sarantis Loulakis