



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, September 6**
14th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros (matins):
8:55am
Divine Liturgy:
10:00-11:30+am
- **Tuesday, September 8**
Nativity of the Theotokos
Orthros (matins):
8:50am
Divine Liturgy:
9:30+am
- **Wednesday, September 9**
Bible Study
In Church: 6:30pm
- **Sunday, September 13**
Sunday before Holy Cross
Orthros (matins):
8:55am
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, September 6, 2026 14th Sunday of Matthew



“... he [The King] saw there a man who had no *wedding garment*; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' Matthew 22:11-12

In Loving Memory

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Your servants where there is no pain, no sorrow, no sighing, but life everlasting!

A 40-day memorial service for our beloved sister in the Lord, **Asriyan Zabella (Zinaida)**, beloved Grandmother of **Edward & Bella Shakhnazarov** will be chanted this Sunday at the end of Divine Liturgy.



Fellowship hour is offered in loving memory by Edward and Bella.

May her memory be eternal!



THIS SUNDAY'S EPISTLE & HOLY GOSPEL READINGS

THE EPISTLE READING - St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

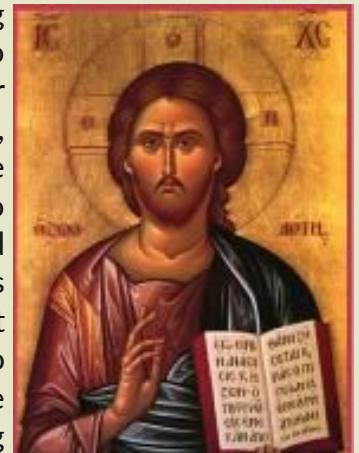
But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.



THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – The Gospel According to Matthew 22:2-14

The Lord said this parable, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



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

A Word about the Feast on this Sunday....

“... he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' Matthew 22:11–12

The Meaning of the Man Without a Wedding Garment



THE WEDDING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In the **Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1–14)**, Jesus uses the image of a king's son's wedding to illustrate the Kingdom of Heaven. The “**wedding garment**” is a central symbol in the story.

Most interpreters agree that the wedding garment represents the righteousness of Christ — the moral and spiritual character that qualifies a person to enter God's Kingdom. It is not merely decorative; it signifies the inward transformation and holiness that come through faith in Jesus. **Without it, a person is not properly attired for the feast of God's presence.**

The Man's Situation

The man in the parable was invited to the banquet, **which symbolizes God's offer of salvation to all who respond to His call.** However, **he was not dressed in the wedding garment**, meaning **he lacked the righteousness that comes from Christ.** When the king asked him how he got in without it, the man was speechless — **he had no excuse**, showing that his lack of proper attire **was not due to ignorance but to a failure to accept the righteousness provided by Christ**

Theological Lesson for all of us!

Inclusion vs. Qualification: The king invited “both bad and good” guests, but only those with the wedding garment are truly “chosen” (Matthew 22:14).

No Excuse: The man's silence underscores that rejecting the righteousness of Christ is a personal choice, not a lack of opportunity.

Judgment: The king's response — binding the man and casting him into outer darkness — illustrates that without Christ's righteousness, one cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven

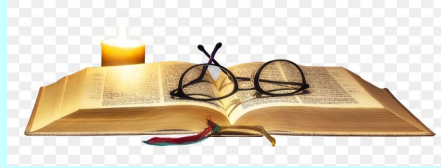
Key Takeaway

The wedding garment is a picture of Christ's righteousness imputed to believers. **It is not something we earn or can wear on our own;** it is received by faith. Those who reject it, even if invited, are excluded from the Kingdom.

ATTENTION

Faithful, Catechumens, and Inquirers of our Orthodox Blessed Faith

OUR WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY



**RETURNS ON WEDNESDAY EVENING
at 6:30pm IN CHURCH**

Wednesday, September 9, 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, Salvation, etc.

with emphasis on being involved in the church ministries.

Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis

HYMNS OF THE DAY

The Resurrection Hymn (Mode 5) (2X- Greek, English)

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἡυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMN

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead, e sing to You, Alleluia

Hymns After the Small Entrance

Resurrection Apolytikion Hymn (Mode 5)

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection

O Chief Commander 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 Commander of the hosts on high, * rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind

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 ζωὴν, 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 6

Ἰωακείμ καὶ Ἄννα ὀνειδισμοῦ ἀτεκνίας, καὶ Ἀδὰμ καὶ Εὐὰ, ἐκ τῆς φθορᾶς τοῦ θανάτου, ἠλευθερώθησαν Ἀχραντε, ἐν τῇ ἀγία γεννήσει σου· αὐτὴν ἐορτάζει καὶ ὁ λαός σου, ἐνοχῆς τῶν πταισμάτων, λυτρωθεὶς ἐν τῷ κράζειν σοι· Ἡ στεῖρα τίκτει τὴν Θεοτόκον, καὶ τροφὸν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.

FEASTS of the WEEK

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

Sunday, September 6th, 2026 – Saturday, September 12th, 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.**

- Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae [September 6](#)
- Apostle Onesiphorus of the Seventy [September 7](#)
- Venerable Cassiani the Hymnographer [September 7](#)
- The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [September 8](#) –
** **DIVINE LITURGY at 9:00am****
- Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna [September 9](#) – THE SYNAXIS
- Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council [September 9](#) – GOOD
READ FOR UNDERSTANDING THE FAITH
- Holy Apostles of the 70 Apelles, Luke (Loukios), and Clement [September 10](#)
- Saint Euphrosynos the Cook of Alexandria [September 11](#)
- Hieromartyr Dositheus of Tbilisi [September 12](#)



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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR NEXT WEEK (9/13)

The Sunday for Group 4 (S - Z) to sponsor the Fellowship Hour is: September 13

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 and B

Group 2: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters C and J

Group 3: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters K through R

Group 4: All parishioners whose last names begin with the letters S 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.

WORSHIP LIFE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- **Tuesday, September 8** **The Nativity of Holy Theotokos** — Orthros: 8:50 am - Divine Liturgy: 9:30+ am
- **Wednesday, September 9** **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**
- **Sunday, September 13** **Sunday Before the Holy Cross** — Orthros: 8:50 am - Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Monday, September 14** **The Elevation of Venerable and Life-Giving Cross** — Orthros: 8:55a
Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, September 16** **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**
- **Sunday, September 20** **Sunday after the Holy Cross** — Orthros: 8:50 am - Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, September 23** **Bible Study—6:30pm in church**

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

Coffee (reg & 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 (9 oz
plastic
suggested),
spoons

Rise Up & Build 2026 Stewardship Campaign



Dormition of The Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

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, September 6th, is Team's 2 honor to lead during service.
May the Lord bless their service!**

Ephesians 6:7
*
Serve wholeheartedly, as
if you were serving the
Lord, not people.
-GodFruits.Com

ACOLYTE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Group 1:

Joseph, Michael,
Ephraim, Leonidas,
Jonathan, George,
Andrew, Gus

Group 2:

Alex, Mironey,
David, Samuel,
Aiden, Saleem,
Yiannis

**This Sunday, September 6th, 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 censuring.



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



TODAY, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

EDWARD & BELLA SHAKHNAZAROV
FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR IN LOVING
MEMORY OF THEIR GRANDMOTHER,
ASRIYAN ZABELLA (ZINAIDA).

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS
SUNDAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR.





LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



Saturday, September 12 at 9:30 am: The next prosphora baking day will be in the fellowship hall kitchen. No baking experience required. If it's your first time, come and learn with us we will teach you about the prosphora. You don't need to bring anything but yourself, but if you want to bring something, 2 gallon Ziplock baggies to store our prosphora are always welcome. They can most easily and consistently be found at Target, and yes, the Target brand is good! If there are any questions please contact Brittany Beckett at 770-862-3180 or brittany_beckett@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 13: A tray will be passed on behalf of the students of Holy Cross Seminary that will contribute to the **Hellenic College Holy Cross Scholarship Fund** for the feast day of the Holy Cross On September 14.

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. All donations received during June, July and August will go to the Out of the Garden weekend Backpacking Program so we may help to restock their shelves for the beginning of the new school year. *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!*



We need to line up helpers with pastry prep! While Philoptochos has traditionally led the pastry booth for the church festival, anyone is welcomed to help with the preparations and with volunteering the weekend of the festival. Even if you can only come for a couple hours, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend or 2 to help!

- **Tuesday, September 15**, 10 am to 2 pm AND 5 pm to 8 pm (morning and evening) – cutting and cupping baklava, flogeres, and kataifi
- **Thursday, September 17**, 10 am to 2 pm (if needed) (morning ONLY) – cutting and cupping baklava, flogeres, and kataifi
- **Tuesday, September 22**, 10 am to 2 pm – boxing non-perishables
- **Thursday, September 24**, 10 am to 2 pm – boxing perishables and finalize pastry booth setup

Please email or text Nora Zirps if you know you can help out in any capacity - nzirps@gmail.com or 336-339-8950.

Festival Weekend Pastry Station Signup - Thank you to everyone who signed up already! We are still in need of volunteers for most of the time slots, especially the Saturday time slots. If you have a connection to any service groups you can recruit and help sign up, it would be greatly appreciated. You can sign up by contacting Nora Zirps (email and phone number provided above) or using the Festival Sign-up Link:

<https://app.unison.io/schedules/QIz9hxBxzvHq83gEOVJ0u>

Organization & Ministries

Contact Information

AHEPA—Yianni Varitimidis

Altar Servers Ministry— Matthew Beckett

Bible Study Ministry—Fr. Sarantis Loulakis

Cantors/Music Ministry—Fr. Sarantis Loulakis & Michelle Gilliam

Church Beautification—Chris Mandaleris

Dance Group (s) — Barbara Vaughan, Mary Ann

Contogiannis, Emily Mihelich, Erin Blindenbacher

Daughters of Penelope— Su Peterson

GOYA— Abeer Ma'ayeh

Greek Festival—Shadi Zeidan

Greensboro Urban Ministry—Ian Chavez

Myrrh-bearers Ministry—Brittany Beckett

Narthex Ministry—Terry Kokenes & Shane Rivers

Orthodox Fellowship (50+)—Maria Cropper

Philoptochos— Nicki Smith, President

Stewardship—Pete Graham

Sunday School— Erin Blindenbacher & Emily Mihelich

Website Ministry – Mike Morfessis

Youth Ministry— Matthew Beckett, Director

- ioapontios@aol.com
- mattjbeckett@gmail.com
- patersarantis@yahoo.com
- patersarantis@yahoo.com / michellergilliam@gmail.com
- chris.mandaleris@gmail.com
- bartisvaughanrp@gmail.com
- macontogiannis@gmail.com
- epgraham22@gmail.com
- epgraham8@gmail.com
- slpeteron60@gmail.com
- abeer@mac.com
- zeidansh@gmail.com
- captegghead@gmail.com
- brittany_beckett@yahoo.com
- kokenestmb@aol.com / shayneloaded@gmail.com
- mariacropper@yahoo.com
- nectariagrafos@gmail.com
- petegraham88@gmail.com
- epgraham8@gmail.com
- epgraham22@gmail.com
- tmorfessis@gmail.com
- mattjbeckett@gmail.com

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



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, and Tuesday from 3pm—5:30pm by appt only for confessions,** extending the office hours. 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.**

Sunday School News



Sunday, September 13th
**First day of Sunday
School**



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 \(goarch.org\)](http://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.

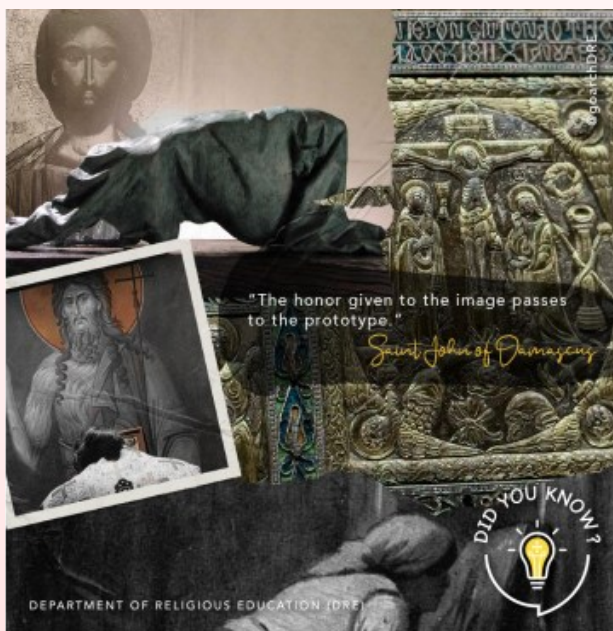
For all others: Though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread with the blessing of the priest. Please also sign our guest book/guest card 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.

VENERATING THE ICONS



DID YOU KNOW?

Department of Religious Education (DRE)



Did you know why we bow and venerate icons of the Saints?

In the Orthodox Church, we venerate icons not as gods but as windows into heavenly reality. We're not worshiping the wood and paint when we bow before or kiss an icon. The practice of bowing or kissing icons represents a way to show respect to the depicted Saints, just as we would display affection through kissing photographs of loved ones.

The Seventh Ecumenical Council (787 A.D.) affirmed the veneration (προσκύνησις—proskynesis in Greek) of icons, distinguishing it clearly from the worship (λατρεία—latreia in Greek) due to God alone. As St. John of Damascus beautifully put it: "The honor given to the image passes to the prototype." So when we bow before the icon of a Saint, we're showing respect to the Saint — and ultimately glorifying God, who worked through that person's life.

We often bow or make the sign of the Cross when passing an icon, lighting a candle before it, or offering a prayer — not because the icon is divine, but because it points us to holiness. Prostrations (full or semi full bows to the ground) may also be used, especially during Lenten services, as a sign of humility and repentance before God, often in the presence of icons.

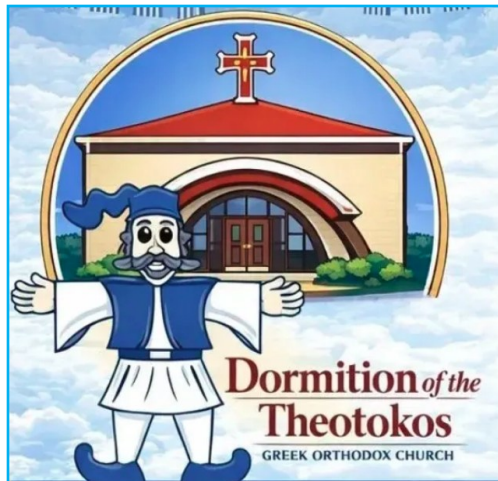
Send us your questions at: religioused@goarch.org or call Fr. Sarantis

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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



We will also begin pre-selling \$100 Festival Gift Cards for \$80 starting **Sunday, September 6 thru Sunday, September 20.** To purchase, please see Shadi Zeidan.



GREENSBORO GREEK FESTIVAL

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
September 25, 4pm–10pm
September 26, 11am–10pm
September 27, 12pm–6pm

Volunteer Sign-Up!

DO NOT WAIT — sign up today: <https://app.unison.io/schedules/Qtz9hxBxzvHq83gEOVJ0u>

Our community is in need of volunteers, and we warmly encourage you to make this part of your stewardship. Please sign up today by visiting greensborogreekfestival.com and selecting Volunteer, or by using the direct link.

Thank You to Our Station Sponsors!

We extend our sincere appreciation to the following families and businesses for sponsoring festival stations:

- **Alpha Omega Financial, LLC (Scott & Pete Graham)** — Beer Station
 - **The Kattan and Hanna Families** — Loukoumades Station
 - **The Ross Family** — Coffee Station
 - **Kiki & Kirk Tarasidis** — Frappé Station
- **Anonymous and Ben & Emily Triplett** — Orthodox Bookstore Station
 - **Schermerhorn & Showalter Families** — Wine Station

Want to Sponsor or Donate?

If you would like to sponsor a festival station or make a donation, please see the needs list below & contact Shadi Zeidan directly.

- **Kids Corner** — \$2,000
- **Outside Food Station** — \$5,000
- **Inside Food Station** — \$5,000
- **Pastry Station** — \$5,000

If you prefer to donate toward specific items, here is what is needed:
 (You can donate towards one, or multiple cases.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount Needed</u>	<u>Price/Case</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Lamb Shank	18 cases	\$165	\$2,970
Pita Bread	50 cases	\$40	\$2,000
Gyro Meat	25 cases	\$125	\$3,125
Crinkle Fries	50 cases	\$40	\$2,000
Chicken ½	17 cases	\$125	\$2,125
Chicken Souvlaki	750 lbs	\$3.5/lb	\$2,625
Pastichio	80 pans	\$45	\$3,600

Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, and donors for your continued love and support.
-Shadi Zeidan, Greensboro Greek Festival, Chairperson