

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 15**
  8th Sunday of Luke
  Orthros (matins): 8:50am
  Divine Liturgy:
  10:00-11:30+am
- **Wednesday, November 18**
  Bible Study: 6:30pm
- **Saturday, November 21**
  Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
  Orthros/Div. Liturgy:
  9:00am-10:30am
- **Sunday, November 22**
  9th 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 15, 2026 — 8th Sunday of Luke

The Parable of the Good Samaritan and Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (Nov. 16)



And Jesus said to him, "Go and do Likewise."

FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Join us to Discuss:

- Ministry News
- Financial Update
- Future Projects

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

DIRECTLY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

FELLOWSHIP HALL

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 Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING —The Gospel According to Luke 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



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 15th, 2026 – Saturday. November 21st, 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.

- **Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Habibus, of Edessa November 15**
- **Apostle and Evangelist Matthew November 16**
- **Saint Gregory, Wonderworker of Neocaesarea November 17**
- **Martyr Platon of Ancyra November 18**
- **Prophet Obadiah (Abdia) November 19**
- **Venerable Gregory the Decapolite November 20**
- **The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple November 21**

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?
Who is my neighbor?

One of the lessons that we learn from this Sunday's Gospel story, **the Good Samaritan**, is that wounded people are all around us, all the time. However, they are not or may not be suffering physically. Most people who suffer do so on a **mental**, **emotional and spiritual level**. One could argue that by expanding the definition and types of suffering, almost all of us are hurting for one reason or another. Young college graduates worry about finding a job. Middle-age middle managers worry about losing their job to young college graduates. Young couples try to gather and save money to buy a home of their own, while others agonize about making the mortgage payment each month or putting food on the table. More seriously, some are grieving the loss of a loved one, while many have anxiety about getting sick and dying. Others endure abuse in relationships, and many feel the effects of abuse long after it has ended. **Today, nearly half of all husbands and wives end up divorced**, and even more were betrayed by adulterous affairs. **Think of the children who try to grasp the fact that their parents don't love each other anymore.** Think of those who suffer from built up **resentment and bitterness**, having difficulty forgiving and letting go.

A good lesson in the story of the Good Samaritan is the definition of neighbor. The lawyer asked, **"And who is my neighbor?"** (v.29). To the Jews of Jesus' time, a Samaritan was not a neighbor. To the ancient Greeks, every foreigner was a 'barbarian.' To the ancient Jews every stranger was a 'Gentile.' To many Muslims, every non-believer is an 'infidel.' **However, to Jesus every person is our neighbor,** regardless of whether a stranger or family, friend or foe. Fr. Coniaris of blessed memory said that Christians, instead of asking, "Who is my neighbor?", ask **"To whom can I be a neighbor?"** In other words, Christians should be looking for neighbors all the time. We should be looking for those who are suffering and need God's love and mercy.

Let's step back for a moment and remember that God did not create an evil or imperfect world. He created a world that was originally good. He created mankind, male and female, very good. If was us humans, through our rejection of God's love, ***the misuse of our free will***, that spoiled God's world through sin. Knowing this fact, it's easier to understand why the Son and Word of God became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ**. It is because he saw our helpless, mutilated body on the side of the road**. We were robbed, stripped and beaten by the devil. We were doomed to death and sin. Jesus is our Good Samaritan, who saw us and had compassion. He stooped down to us in His birth from the Virgin Mary. Jesus carried us on the Cross, to His crucifixion and death. He healed us through His Resurrection from the dead giving us the oil of Chrismation and Unction. Jesus continues to heal us through the eternal offering of Himself in the wine of the Eucharist. **He brings us to the inn of the Church, the hospital for all those who suffer**.

As we conclude today, let us ask ourselves, are we looking for someone who needs a neighbor? Or are we too busy to be bothered? Do we have more important things to do? If we see someone in need, who is experiencing physical, emotional, mental or spiritual suffering, will we pass by on the other side, hoping that they don't notice us avoiding them?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us look for and see, let us have compassion and go to them. Let us love them as Jesus as loved us. Let us bring them to the inn of the Church, which is the source of the best medicines in the world, the sacramental Mysteries of the Eucharist, Unction and Reconciliation. Lord have mercy on all of us!

WORSHIP LIFE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, November 18**th – Adult Orthodox Religious Education Class & Bible Study – 6:30pm
- **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
- **Wednesday, November 25**th – Adult Orthodox Religious Education Class & Bible Study – 6:30pm
- **Sunday, November 29th -** 13th Sunday of Luke/ Orthros: 8:50 am – Div. Liturgy: 10:00+ am
- **Wednesday, December 2nd** – Adult Orthodox Religious Education Class & Bible Study – 6:30pm
- **Friday, December 4th** – St Barbara (Celebrated on Sunday, December 6th)
- **Saturday, December 5th –** St Savas, The Sanctified (Celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 6th)
- **Sunday, December 6th** - 10th Sunday of Luke / St Nicholas / Orthros: 8:50 am – Div. 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 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 7) (2X, Greek, English)

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον· ἠνέῳξας τῷ λῃστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον· τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρῆνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος

You destroyed death by Your Cross; You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy

Hymns After the Small Entrance

Resurrection Apolytikion Hymn (Mode 7)
You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy

Hymn for the Saints(s)
You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an impregnable fortress, O Christ our God. At their entreaties, frustrate the plots of foreign enemies, and strengthen our nation, for You alone are good and benevolent**.**

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, 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 4

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.

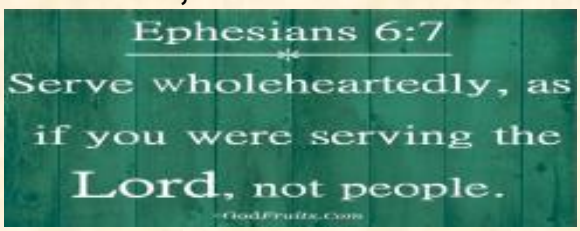
WELCOME & NARTHEX MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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, Hodgist Mosley
Team 3: 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 15th, is Team's 2 honor to lead during service.



May the Lord bless their service!

ACOLYTE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Group 1:	**Group 2:**
Joseph, Michael, Ephraim, Leonidas, Jonathan, George, Andrew, Gus	Alex, Mironey, David, Samuel, Aiden, Saleem, Yiannis

This Sunday, November 15th, 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 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 PARISH COUNCIL FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR.

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS SUNDAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR

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 18th, 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, etc.
with emphasis on being involved in the ministries.
Led by Fr. Sarantis Loulakis

5th Wednesday – Pray on your OWN!

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

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:

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.

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.

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

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!

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