



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, July 12**
6th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros (matins):
8:55am
Divine Liturgy:
10:00-11:30+am
- **Wednesday, July 15**
Bible Study:
6:30pm in Church
- **Sunday, July 19**
Sunday of the Holy
Fathers of the 4th
Ecumenical Council
Orthros (matins):
8:55am
Divine Liturgy:
10:00-11:30+am

*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, July 12, 2026
6th Sunday of Matthew



PANAGIA
Picnic
Fundraiser

2ND ANNUAL

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
GREENSBORO, NC

AUGUST 15, 2026
1 PM – 5 PM

SEE FLYER INSIDE THIS BULLETIN FOR DETAILS

Bulletin for Sunday, July 12, 2026

THIS SUNDAY'S EPISTLE & HOLY GOSPEL READINGS

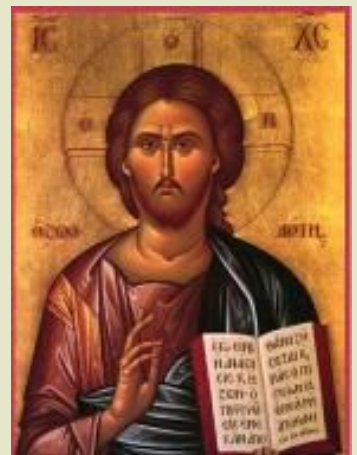
THE EPISTLE READING - St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.



THE HOLY GOSPEL READING —The Gospel According to Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



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.

[Confession — Be the Bee — Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America \(goarch.org\)](http://goarch.org)



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

The meaning of “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9:2)

In Matthew 9:2, Jesus addresses a paralytic lying on a bed, saying, “**Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven**”. This statement is part of a larger healing miracle where Jesus not only forgave the man’s sins but also physically healed him, commanding him to rise and walk.

Context

The paralytic was **brought to Jesus by others** who had faith in Him. Jesus saw their faith and responded with both spiritual and physical healing. The scribes and Pharisees, however, questioned His authority, thinking it **blasphemous** for a man to forgive sins. Jesus then used a rhetorical question to show that forgiving sins and healing the body are equally possible under His authority.

Theological Significance

- **Forgiveness of sins:** In Christian teaching, **this means the removal of guilt and restoration to a right relationship with God**. Jesus’ words affirm that He has the divine authority to forgive sins, a power only God possesses.
- **Healing of the body:** The paralytic’s physical healing **demonstrates that spiritual and physical restoration are connected**. Sin affects the whole person, and God’s grace can heal both soul and body.
- **Encouragement (“Take heart”):** The phrase reassures the man of hope and confidence, showing that God’s mercy and power are available to those who trust Him.

Broader Meaning

This verse illustrates:

- **God’s compassion:** Jesus responds to human need with both mercy and power.
- **Faith as a bridge:** The paralytic’s healing was made possible through the faith of those who brought him.
- **Authority of Christ:** Jesus’ words reveal His divine authority to forgive sins and heal.

In summary, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven” is both a spiritual declaration of God’s grace and a call to trust in Jesus’ authority, leading to both forgiveness and physical restoration. GLORY BE TO GOD!



LUNCH

Monday, July 13 at 1:00 pm

Wall Street Deli

7327 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC

Join us and meet some of our fellow parishioners for good conversation, camaraderie, excellent food, and fun!

Wall Street Deli is owned by our fellow parishioners Mikhail & Ginah Soufia

Please RSVP: Maria Cropper
336-324-5358

FEASTS of the WEEK

Sunday, July 12th, 2026 – Saturday, July 18th, 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.



- Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra [July 12](#)
- Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel [July 13](#)
- Apostle Aquila of the Seventy [July 14](#)
- Holy Great Prince Vladimir (Basil in Baptism), Equal of the Apostles, and Enlightener of Rus' [July 15](#)
- Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples [July 16](#)
- Great Martyr Marina (Margaret) of Antioch [July 17](#)
- Martyr Emilian of Silistria in Bulgaria [July 18](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

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

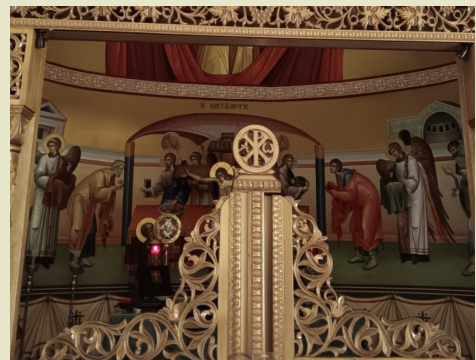
**VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE FOR
CHURCH SERVICES, EVENTS AND
OTHER INFO CLICK BELOW**

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 is on**, 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.

2ND
ANNUAL

MP ΘΥ
PANAGIA
Picnic
Fundraiser

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
GREENSBORO, NC

CELEBRATING THE DORMITION TOGETHER

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE DORMITION OF
the Most Holy Theotokos

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • FAMILY

We are honored to welcome
✦ HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SEVASTIANOS ✦
who will be with us for this special day!

SCAN HERE
TO PURCHASE
TICKETS



AUGUST 15, 2026
1 PM – 5 PM



TICKETS:
\$40 IN ADVANCE | **\$50** DAY OF
KIDS 12 AND UNDER ARE **FREE!**



GREEK FOOD
Delicious favorites
the whole family
will love!



LIVE GREEK MUSIC
Enjoy the sounds
of Greece!



DANCING
Let's dance together
and keep our traditions
alive!



ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS OUR
CAPITAL BUILDING CAMPAIGN



WHERE **FAITH** BRINGS US TOGETHER AND **FELLOWSHIP** KEEPS US TOGETHER.

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 Mandalieris, Elena Vierling, Brandon Covey

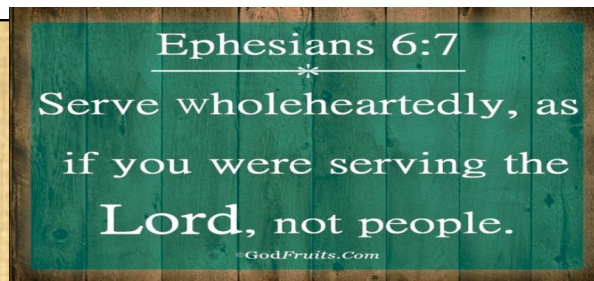
Team 2: John McQueary, Nora Zirps, Charles DePoortere, Julia Macovei

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, July 12th, is Team's 4 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, July 12th, 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:

**THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
CONGREGATION FOR HOSTING
COFFEE HOUR IN HONOR OF FATHER
SARANTIS & PRESVYTERA NORMA'S
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

HYMNS OF THE DAY

The Resurrection Hymn (Mode 5) (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 τεθνεώτας, 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

MEMORIAL SERVICE HYMN CHANTED BY THE PRIEST (IF ANY)

The Church Hymn - Mode 1

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 4

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἰκεσίαν, ἢ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, 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."





Church Office Note...

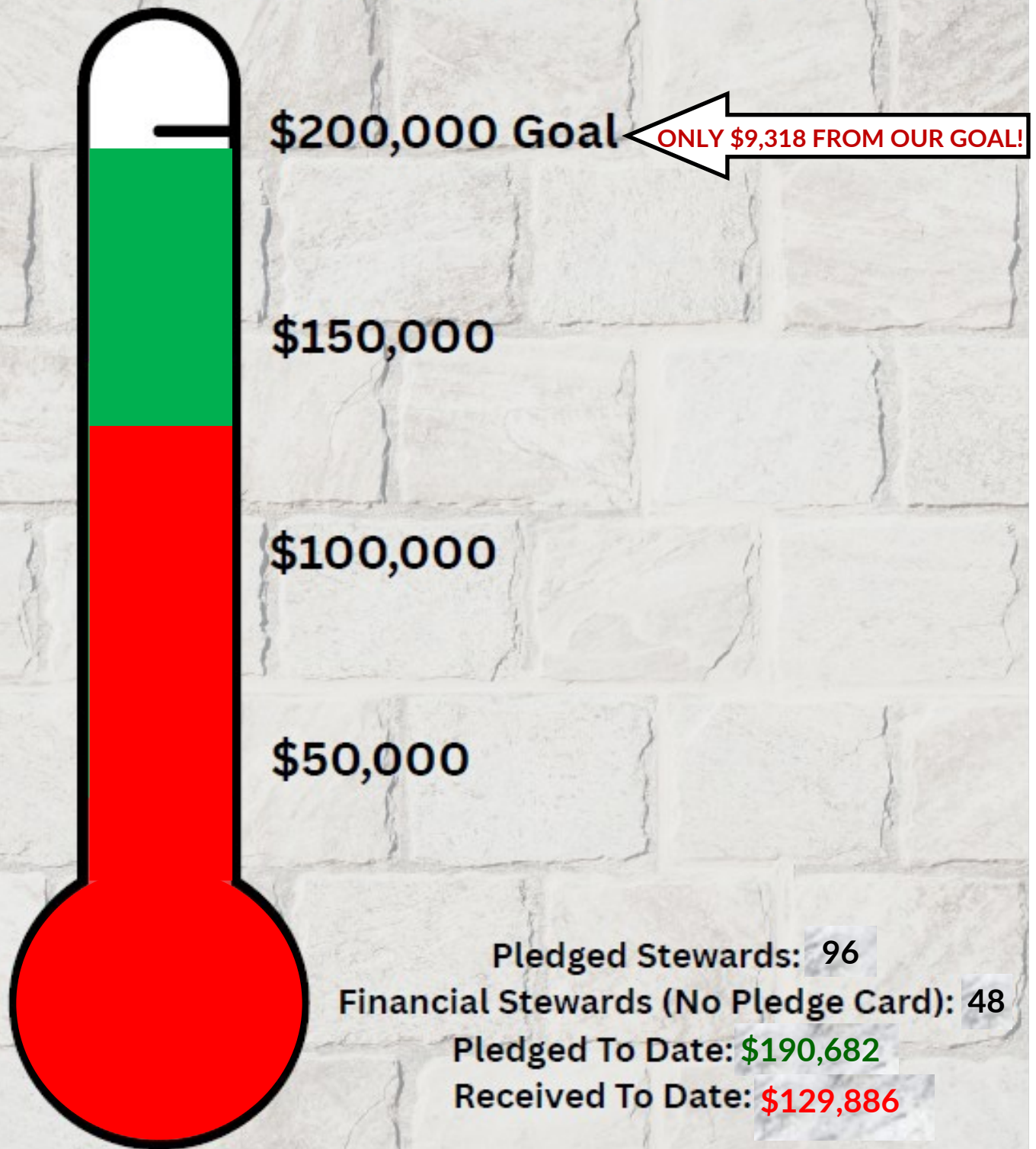
You may visit or call the office **Monday—Friday from 9am-1pm**. Fr. Sarantis is in the office: **Monday, works remotely, in office by appointment only, Tuesday—Thursday from 10am—3pm, Tuesday 3pm—6pm by appt only for confessions**, extending the office hours. You may also schedule a pastoral appointment 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 SUMMER BREAK
From classes, YES!



But, NOT from church services!

Rise Up & Build 2026 Stewardship Campaign



Dormition of The Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

WORSHIP LIFE JULY/AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- Wednesday, July 15 **Bible Study — 6:30pm in Church**
- Sunday, July 19 **Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council**
Orthros: 8:55 am – Divine Liturgy: 10:00+am
(Elias the Prophet celebrated today)
- Sunday, July 26 **8th Sunday of Matthew —** Orthros: 8:55 am – Divine Liturgy: 10:00+a
(Panteleimon the Martyr celebrated today)
- Sunday, August 2 **9th Sunday of Matthew —** Orthros: 8:50 am - Divine Liturgy: 10:00+ a
- Wednesday, August 5 **Paraclesis Service 6pm – 7pm**
- Thursday, August 6 **Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
Orthros: 8:55 am - Divine Liturgy: 9:30 – 10:30am+
- Friday, August 7 **Paraclesis Service 6pm – 7pm**

The above schedule and times supersede any other schedule.



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. There are multiple dates available. Instructions are below.

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.

ITEMS PROVIDED AT HALL

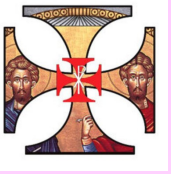
coffee, regular & decaf
powdered creamer
sugar, sweeteners
coffee cups, stirrers

ITEMS PROVIDED BY HOST

refreshments, plates,
napkins, utensils, cold
beverage, half and half/
creamer

ITEMS NEEDED FOR KOLIVA

Cups (9 oz plastic suggested)
spoons



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



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!*

In addition to our Food Drive, we also do a School Supplies Drive where we collect school Supplies for Children in need beginning July 1st through Sunday August 16. Items to be collected are wide and college rule paper, pens, pencils, erasers, composition books, glue sticks, 17-inch backpacks, markers, binders, notebooks and pencil cases and more.



**A COMMUNITY-WIDE
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BRUNCH
HONORING
FATHER SARANTIS & PRESVYTERA NORMA
SUNDAY, JULY 12TH, 2026
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY**

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— Madalina Body

Website Ministry – Martin Ross

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
- bodymadalina@yahoo.com
- mmross1992@protonmail.ch
- mattjbeckett@gmail.com

BIBLE STUDY

YOUR ATTENTION CATECHUMENS & BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANTS:

Thank you for your devotion and commitment! We will resume our studies again with our

SUMMER SESSION

Bi-Monthly on Wednesdays:

June 10th & June 24th

July 8th & July 15th

August 5th & August 12th

We will study The 11 Resurrection Holy Gospel readings being read during the Sunday Matins service. God bless you!

We will begin our WEEKLY CLASSES on Wednesday, September 9th.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The 2026 Greensboro Greek Festival is September 25-27!

We are just a few months away from our annual parish-wide fundraiser, the beloved Greensboro Greek Festival. This event is a cornerstone of our community, and every helping hand truly makes a difference. Let your involvement be part of your stewardship to the Dormition of the Theotokos. We encourage everyone to be present, volunteer, sponsor, and share the festival with your friends, coworkers, and family.

Stay Connected

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/greensborogreekfestival?igsh=dmU4aHhjb2dndGw3>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19tX9FANYc/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Volunteer Sign-Up

DO NOT WAIT — sign up today: <https://app.unison.io/schedules/QLz9hxBxzvHq83gEOVJ0u>

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** — Partial Sponsorship of the Orthodox Bookstore Station

Available Festival Station Sponsorships

If you would like to sponsor a festival station, please review the available sponsorship opportunities below and contact Shadi Zeidan directly.

- **Orthodox Bookstore Station/Partial** — \$500
 - Wine Station** — \$1,500
- **Outside Food Station (can be sponsored by multiple families)** — \$15,000
- **Inside Food Station (can be sponsored by multiple families)** — \$15,000
 - **Pastry Station (can be sponsored by multiple families)** — \$15,000
 - **Kids Corner** — \$2,000

Donate Toward Specific Festival Food Items

If you prefer to donate toward specific items, here is what is needed:

<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
Tzatziki Sauce	30 cases	\$40	\$1,200
Chicken ½	17 cases	\$125	\$2,125
Chicken Souvlaki	750 lbs	\$3.5/lb	\$2,625
Pastichio	80 pans	\$45	\$3,600



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.

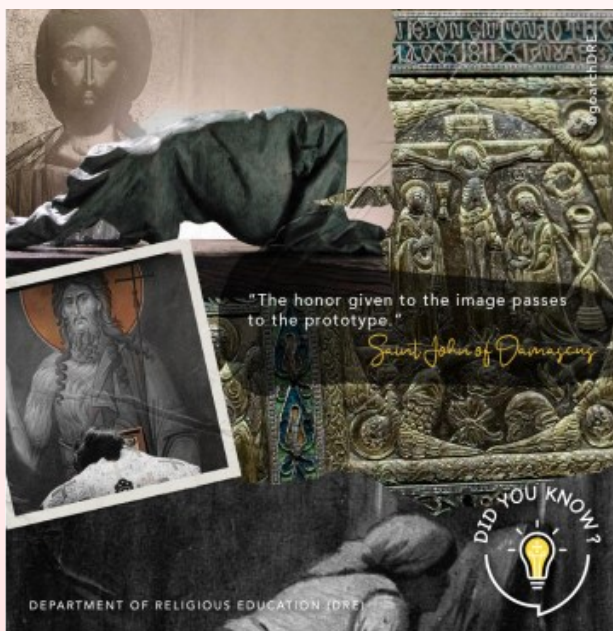
For all others: Though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread with the blessing of the priest. Please also sign our guest book/guest card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

Subscribe at: religioused.goarch.org



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION