

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 22**
  9th Sunday of Luke
  Orthros (matins): 8:50am
  Divine Liturgy:
  10:00-11:30+am

- **Sunday, November 29**
  13th Sunday of Luke
  Orthros (matins): 8:50am
  Divine Liturgy:
  10:00-11:30+am

SPECIAL NOTE

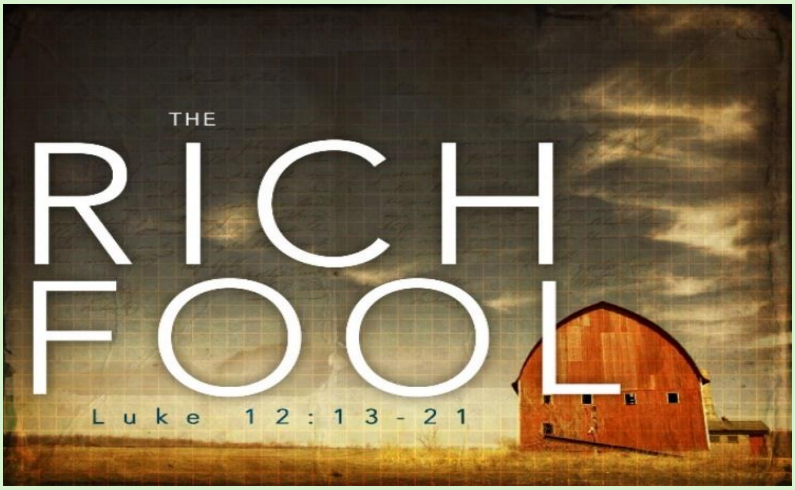
A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US. PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTICIPATION IN HOLY COMMUNION IS LIMITED TO MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING, WHO HAVE PREPARED THROUGH PRAYER, FASTING AND CONFESSION.

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 22, 2026 — 9th Sunday of Luke

The Parable of the Rich Fool



But **God said to him**, **'Fool!** *This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?*' **So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God**."

Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate®
Protecting the Future of Faith®

(See Page 3)



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!



His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholemew of Constantnople

What is an Archon?

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a devoted group of passionate leaders, relentlessly **focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone** and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – **the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians.**
An Archon is an honoree by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further**, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition**. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated – and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.

This honor extended by the Ecumenical Patriarchate **carries with it grave responsibilities, deep commitments, and sincere dedication**. **Consequently, it is of utmost importance that this honor of obligation be bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, who conform faithfully to the teachings of Christ and the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, and encyclicals of the Church**.

Those selected to serve as **Archons have demonstrated a commitment greater than average toward the stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the betterment** of the Church, Parish, Diocese/Metropolis, Archdiocese and the community as a whole. An Archon must truly be deserving of the proclamation: AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS!

THIS SUNDAY'S EPISTLE & HOLY GOSPEL READINGS

THE EPISTLE READING - St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING —The Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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 **trisagion service** for our beloved brother in the Lord, **Minas Dascalakis**, beloved spouse and father, will be chanted this Sunday at the end of Divine Liturgy.



Fellowship hour is offered in loving memory by Soteria Dascalakis and the Dascalakis Family.

May his memory be eternal!



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.

A Word about the Feast this Sunday…

From the Religious Education / Bible Class

The Rich Fool had selfish plans.
This rich man's life in today's Holy Gospel reading was busy with pursuing the comforts of this life and not pursuing God. He wanted to build bigger barns, but God brought in a new perspective. The rich fool won't live to see them. In fact, he won't even live to build bigger barns. **He made plans only for this life** but not what comes after. God was not in his life. He did not consider God at all. Hence the Evangelist calls him the Rich Fool.

Jesus wants us to see things from the right perspective. In the gospel of Luke chapter 12 verse 15, He told the young man who came to Him: "Then He said to them, ***"Watch out and guard yourselves against every form of greed***; for not even when one has an overflowing abundance does his life consist of nor is it derived from his possessions." (AMP)

In Luke 12:24-30 Jesus advised us not to worry about earthly possessions. You can lose your soul if you plan for yourself alone. You were created to pursue a relationship with God; riches or sin can never satisfy your soul, (Matthew 6:33).

In the parable of the rich fool, God called the protagonist a fool. He had amassed great wealth but was poor toward God. Oswald Sanders said, **"Nothing is wrong with seeking great things. But it is wrong to seek great things for yourself."**

Nothing is wrong with seeking great things. But it is wrong to seek great things for yourself. **What if we heard those words**: **"Today, you will die."** Are you ready for that? Will you be able to give an account for the way you've raised or are raising your family? **Can you give an account of what you're doing with your talents and abilities?** What about giving an account for the way you're spending your **time and energy**? How about giving an account of what you've done with the **money and wealth that God has blessed you with**? Are you ready to give an account of the way you're using your body and managing your appetites?

Someday, there's going to be a knock at our life's door. Death will be waiting outside. The music will suddenly stop. The frantic whirling of the dancers will cease. And you and I must answer the door. Soon thereafter, what we did with the gift of life will be required of us, (Hebrews 9:27).

When God entered, the rich fool realized that there was one thing he did not prepare. He made an excellent plan to store his crop, made a good plan to save up for the future, he made a plan to enjoy himself. In fact, he has done many things well, **but he did not prepare for his own soul.** Death was not in his planning book. A person does not know when his or her time is coming. So let us be ready for that dreadful time by sharing our blessings with all, being good stewards and loving God with our hearts!

THE WEEKLY FEASTS

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

Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 – Saturday. November 28th, 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.

- **Afterfeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple November 22**
- **Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of Saint Paul November 22**
- **Saint Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum November 23**
- **Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria November 24**
- **Saint Clement of Ochrid, Equal of the Apostles, Bishop of Greater Macedonia, and his companions Nahum, Savva, Gorazd and Angelar November 25**
- **Venerable Stylianus of Paphlagonia November 26**
- **Venerable Nikon "Metanoeite," the Preacher of Repentance November 26**
- **Greatmartyr James the Persian November 27**
- **Hieromartyr Metropolitan Seraphim (Chichagov) November 28**

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.



ATTENTION

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Faithful, Catechumens, and Inquirers of our Orthodox Blessed Faith

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



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



WORSHIP LIFE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- **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
- **Wednesday, December 9th** – The Conception of St Anna of the Most Theotokos EVENING MID-WEEK DIVINE LITURGY with Great Vespers / 5pm -6:30pm
- **Sunday, December 13th** - 11th Sunday of Luke & the Feast of St. Spyridon / 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 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 4) (3X, English, Greek, English)

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Θεοῦ τὸ προοίμιον, καὶ τῆς τῶν ἀνθρώπων σωτηρίας ἡ προκήρυξις. Ἐν ναῷ τοῦ Θεοῦ τρανῶς ἡ Παρθένος δείκνυται, καὶ τὸν Χριστὸν τοῖς πᾶσι προκαταγγέλλεται. Αὐτῇ καὶ ἡμεῖς μεγαλοφώνως βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε τῆς οἰκονομίας τοῦ Κτίστου ἡ ἐκπλήρωσις

Hymns After the Small Entrance

Resurrection Apolytikion Hymn (Mode 8)
You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Hymn for the Saints(s)
Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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.

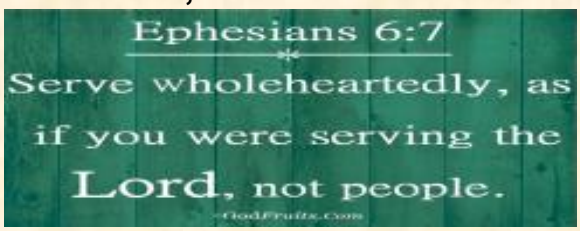
WELCOME & NARTHEX MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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, Brier Gay, Elaine Gay
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 22nd, 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, November 22nd, 2026, is Group's 1 turn.

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

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



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

TODAY WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

SOTERIA DASCALAKIS AND THE DASCALAKIS FAMILY 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



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:

Saturday, November 28: Prosphora baking at 9:00am. If anyone wants to bring something, they can bring unbleached all-purpose flour, fine Celtic sea salt, and 2-gallon Ziplock baggies.

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3 - Pastry packing for Pastry Sale, 10 am - 2 pm (EVENING HOURS CANCELLED)

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

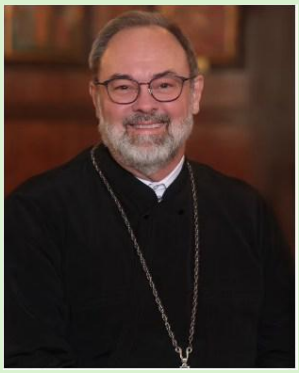
The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession.

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





Pre-Lenten Retreat
with Father Barnabas Powell

(From Sts. Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Greek Orthodox Church in Cummings, GA)

Saturday, February 13th

9:00a—3:00p

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

Click below to Register:

Registration - Pre-Lenten Retreat with Father Barnabas Powell

"Be watchful—Be Sober:
St. Paul's Wisdom for
Spiritual Maturity."

The Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank you all for your generous support and efforts to make our "Sharing our Blessings at Thanksgiving" project a great success! **We assembled 80 Blessing Bags which were donated to the Greensboro Police Department.** They will distribute them to local families in need so they can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Thank you for your donations and help in assembling the bags. We look forward to growing this ministry next year!





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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 ____**

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

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