



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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Take up the Gauntlet!



It is that blessed time again: The time of the Nativity Fast! It is a time of year when we reflect on our lives, as we prepare to mystically welcome the Christ-child—the All-Powerful Lord and Creator of the Universe, Who enters into His Own Creation as a babe in swaddling clothes. What a grand gesture of humility He condescends to show us! What an awesome display of His love he demonstrates for us! And what a *challenge* he issues to us—we who are created in the image and likeness of God, and called to be transformed by Him!

This challenge is more complicated than it might, at first, seem. It is not simply enough to “be a good person” as far as the world is concerned. It is not enough to be nice, or kind, or polite. It is not even enough to be charitable and loving by worldly standards. All of these things will pass away, and while they might provide passing comfort the those we meet in the world, our hearts and theirs shall find no rest until they rest in God.

The challenge Christ issues to us is to become like unto Him—to be transformed by grace into what He is by nature. This is what the Orthodox Church understands as *theosis*; this is how we truly become “partakers of the Divine nature”! And, in so doing, we not only save ourselves, but we do our part to work in synergy with our Creator as *He* saves the world. Essentially, we participate in His salvific ministry!

But how can we do this? My friends, during the Nativity Fast, we are provided with an opportunity to reflect on this question. Perhaps we decide to begin attending the weekly services or our Orthodoxy 101 program. Perhaps we decide to take part in one of the two retreats we have coming up, either as participants or volunteers. Perhaps, again, we decide to increase the time we devote to God in prayer, or the time, talents, and treasure we devote to our support of the Church which is His Body. No matter what we do, however, let us do something! Let us make the effort, this Holiday Season, to offer Thanksgiving and worship for all that God has given us; and let us resolve to give Him the gift of ourselves in return!

Grand Opening Festivities!

Glory to God in all things! Our Grand Opening celebration and *Thyranixia* Service finally took place, and we were blessed by the presence of our beloved hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan NICHOLAS, as well as by the presence of the clergy who have served this parish in the past. A wonderful time was had by all, and we thank everyone who volunteered, attended, or otherwise participated. Here are some photos that were taken at the event...











Meet Your Parish – Chrisi Karounos

I was born in Nashville, TN but grew up in Brooklyn, NY. I started attending Greek school around the 4th grade at the encouragement of my father, an Anglo-Saxon, who loved my mother's Greek heritage and thought it would be good for us to learn another language (it helped that he had majored in Romance languages in college). Soon after, I started attending the church services and found them to be beautiful and joined the choir. My parents moved back to Nashville and I attended Vanderbilt University and graduated as a Mechanical Engineer. IBM recruited on campus for their typewriter/printer plant. I remember the recruiter saying Lexington, KY wasn't that far from Nashville. I worked on one of the first ink jet printers with a nozzle the size of a human hair. It would get clogged and misaligned but it was the only printer that could handle the Japanese Kanji characters. During this time I stayed with Mrs. Stefanis. Dennis walked into church one Sunday and it was hard not to notice a tall, dark, handsome young man, but Mrs. Stefanis warned me to watch out for him (even though he was a medical student). Well, we dated anyway and were married about 2 years later. After he finished residency, Dennis did his specialty training and I transferred with IBM to Raleigh/Durham, NC and then Houston, TX. We moved back to Lexington in 1990. We have 2 sons, 9 years apart, working on their masters degrees spread across the US (Florida and Michigan). We enjoy bicycling, hiking and occasionally sailing. I enjoy gardening also although weeds are my major crop. I came from a family of singers, but had little musical or voice training (until recently). So, it is by the grace of God and for His glory that I try to do all things He sets before me. My prayer is for our church family to grow spiritually as well as physically.

Editor's Note: Chrisi Karounos was also one of two members of our parish who was selected to be honoured at the 2017 Metropolis of Detroit Clergy Laity Congress.

Philoptochos News

By: Carolyn Janssen

Philoptochos brought in the fall weather with a very successful Chili Cook Off. There were 12 delicious entrees and the judges had a hard time picking the winners. I understand it took them a number of tastings to come to a conclusion! What a nice problem to have! And thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we received \$500 dollars in donations that will go towards Cancer Research.

A special thank you to Hedy and Rita for their hard work organizing the event and all those who cooked arrived early to set up and stayed late to clean.

Brittany's Blankets

On November 11th, at 1:00 PM, we will be meeting at Pam and Walter Cox's house to make 30 blankets that will be donated to children who have been diagnosed with Cancer. This is a wonderful cause. The blankets are beautiful and anyone who can tie a knot can make them. And we always have a wonderful time while we make them. This year I am delighted to say that the Sunday School children are going to help us as well.



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Worship and Church Events Schedule

Wednesday, November 1st

6:00 PM – Vespers
7:00 PM – Orthodoxy 101

Saturday, November 4th

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 5th

9:00 – Matins and Liturgy

Wednesday, November 8th

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy
6:00 PM – Vespers
7:00 PM – Orthodoxy 101

Saturday, November 11th

9:00 AM – Bake Sale: Paximathia Baking
1:00 PM – Philoptochos: Brittany's Blankets
6:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 12th

9:00 – Matins and Liturgy

Monday, November 13th

John Chrysostom

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

Wednesday, November 15th

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

6:00 PM – Vespers
7:00 PM – Orthodoxy 101

Thursday, November 16th

7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, November 18th

9:00 AM – Bake Sale: Baklava Baking
6:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 19th

9:00 – Matins and Liturgy

Monday, November 20th

7:00 PM – Master Calendar Meeting

Tuesday, November 21st

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

Wednesday, November 22nd

6:00 PM – Vespers
7:00 PM – Orthodoxy 101

Thursday, November 23rd

THANKSGIVING – OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 25th

Catherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria

9:00 AM – Bake Sale: Cupping of Baklava
9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy
11:00 AM – Young Adult/OCF Retreat

Wednesday, November 29th

6:00 PM – Vespers
7:00 PM – Orthodoxy 101

Thursday, November 30th

Andrew the First Called Apostle

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

Saturday, December 2nd

11:00 AM – Youth Retreat
2:00 PM – Youth Fellowship Outing