



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA  
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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## Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant...



Brothers and sisters: Christ is in our midst!

As our ministerial year draws to a close, and the graduation of our Sunday Church School class of 2018 approaches, I would like to thank all of you for working together to make all of our ministries a success. Over the course of the past year we have accomplished a great deal. We have seen the foundation of the Young Adult League of Lexington [Y'ALL]. We have reestablished our GOYA [grades 6–12] chapter after 30 years. We have begun the preliminary organization of our HOPE/JOY [grades K–5], to better foster the faith in our youth and fellowship among our young families. We have discussed the Over 50s group, which will begin meeting over the summer, and which will help us to stay in touch and engage in loving fellowship with those members of our parish who might need a bit of help to be part of the community. In addition to all of this, we dutifully hosted several events, from the *Thyranixia* service in October to the Central District Oratorical Festival this past month.

None of this would be possible without the dedication to service and the diligent spirit of volunteerism of the laity. The Lord gave us a full list of tasks to accomplish together, and each time one was presented to us, a host of our parishioners stepped forward ready to lay their hands to the challenge before them. And so, I believe that the Lord speaks to us down through the ages when he addresses each of us: Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. [Matt 25: 21]

There are still challenges set before us. This summer, we cannot rest. As the new ministries have only just been established, it is important to ensure a sense of continuity. Therefore, though in future years, we will take a respite from our youth ministry programs after Sunday Church School graduation, this year we cannot. In addition to this, we have work to do, together, as a parish to foster a sense of generous stewardship that will ensure the continuation and growth of everything we have worked together to accomplish. To this end, I have written a letter dealing with the meaning and significance of stewardship in the Orthodox Church. I pray that you take the time to read it.

My friends, I have no doubt that we are able and willing to rise together to the tasks and challenges set before us. As my wife and I prepare for the churching of our daughter, we continue to thank God that she will grow in strength and wisdom in a community where the common good is held and valued above all else, and service to the Lord is rendered with gladness and singleness of heart. With every pastoral blessing, I remain,

Fr. William

# **Weekly Opportunities: Growing Together in Christ!**

We have added some opportunities for worship, fellowship, prayer, and adult education during the week. I have included here a description of the meaning and method of each of these opportunities. Please note, also, that the weekly liturgies we will celebrate each month are included in the calendar at the end of this bulletin. The weekly schedule is as follows:

## **SUNDAY**

### ***9 AM - Matins and Liturgy***

This is the meeting of the Eucharistic community, the Body of Christ, on the Lord's Day. It is the time we set aside to come together to receive God, that we might be united together with Him and in Him. The Liturgy, should be *the* most important thing in our weekly schedules. For the Christian, this day, and this service, is the center and source of life, given by Him Who is Life! Nothing can take precedence over receiving that which God offers to us!

### ***12 PM – Agape Fellowship***

This is the time when the Body of Christ, having received our Lord together, comes together to rekindle the bonds of fellowship that have just been set aflame by the reception of our Lord. It is also a time when the Parish Council members and the Priest connect with the community and converse, in an environment of Christian love, with the people.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### ***6 PM – Vespers***

This service is an opportunity to come together in the middle of the week to worship our Lord, and to recall the works of His saints. It gives us a chance to take stock of our lives and rededicate them to Him, as well as to reflect on how He has comforted, uplifted, and transformed us during the week. There is an opportunity to plug back in to the source of our power, to help us to get through the trials and tribulations of the weekly grind!

### ***7 PM – Adult Study and Potluck***

On Wednesday nights, we gather together in a fellowship meal provided from the fruits of our labour, and we learn together about our faith. Twice a year, our curriculum is Orthodoxy 101, which is basic Christian catechism, and which represents an opportunity for inquirers into the faith to be introduced to Orthodoxy, as well as for current Orthodox Christians to expand upon their knowledge. The rest of the year we do topical studies as requested by the members of the class in consultation with the Presiding Priest. Adult Study will continue on Wednesday nights throughout the year, though the format will change from session to session.

## **SATURDAY**

### ***6 PM – Great Vespers***

This is the service at which we prepare for and welcome the Lord's Day, on the night before we gather together to receive Christ. At the midpoint of the service, when we sing "O Gladsome Light", the Church, which was dimly lit, becomes awash with light. This is the transition from the Sabbath to the Day of the Lord, on which we shall receive His Body and Blood, thereby sacramentally becoming the Body of Christ. We gather the night before to prepare ourselves.

### ***7 PM – The Sacrament of Confession***

Though Confession is always available during the week by appointment, starting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and henceforth, the time following the conclusion of Great Vespers will be set aside for those among the faithful who feel burdened and wounded by sin to come to Confession as we prepare to receive our Lord together the following day. If you wish to confess, please plan to be at the Church by the conclusion of Great Vespers (approximately 6:45 PM).

# Pastoral Notes

## IMPORTANT – HOSPITAL VISITS – IMPORTANT

It is the honour and privilege of the priest to visit the members of the parish community when they are in need of spiritual succour in the hour of medical treatment. That said, there are some very important things that family members may do to facilitate this. Please note that, since the passage of HIPAA legislation in 1996, medical staff are no longer permitted to provide pastors with discharge or transfer information. Furthermore, while they are technically permitted to provide me with information on general medical condition, and while most doctors and many nurses are aware of this fact, some administrative staff have not read the law, and, consequently, are overcautious about providing this. Consequently, patients and their families should assume that they are the *only* source of information available to the pastor. As this is the case, please be aware of the following to facilitate a pastoral visit to yourself or your loved one if they are under medical care: (1) Anytime a patient is transferred, the priest should be informed *immediately*. If I can schedule a visit ahead of time, I can generally spend more time with the patient than when I receive a call and am forced to fit it into the schedule at the last minute. (2) If the patient's medical condition changes, the priest should be informed *immediately*. (3) If a patient or their family requests unlisted status at a medical facility, the hospital staff, due to the immensity of the organizational tasks set before them, will generally interpret this as applying to the priest, whether the family has verbally made the exception to a nurse in passing or not. Consequently, you will need to provide the priest with the location and room number, and may need to be present if the patient is in a restricted area. (4) I have heard several times in my ministry, especially when dealing with hospitalizations and deaths which happened after hours, "I would have called, but I didn't want to bother you, father." Please remember that it is an honour and a privilege to bring the Church to people who are under medical care. Never avoid calling the priest, at any time, day or night, if you or your loved one are experiencing an emergency and in need of spiritual support.

## HOPE/JOY

This summer we will be founding our local chapter of HOPE/JOY. This is a combined ministry which focuses on youth, grades K-5, and seeks to provide an atmosphere of fun and fellowship while complementing the SCS and VCS programs and curricula. If you are interested yourself, or know someone who may be, please contact Fr. William. Leslie Bliziotis has graciously agreed to act as the founding Chair.

## OVER 50S GROUP

This summer, we will be founding an Over 50s Club. This is a fellowship oriented group that helps us to stay in touch with one another, and to provide opportunities for fun, study, and common service to Christ. If you are interested yourself, or know someone who may be, please contact Fr. William. Jim Hangis has graciously agreed to act as founding Chair.



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# President's Notes

Christ is Risen!

As we move in to our ninth month of our ecclesiastical church year, let us reflect upon our achievements and what remain as our goals. This reflection will help guide us as we meet as a church family at our Spring General Assembly gathering on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

We have been very fortunate to reap the benefits of the completion of our church to allow us to worship no longer in our social hall. While we still have finishing touches, we have God's house as our home. Let us as a parish continue to work together to accomplish our vision for Panagia Pantovasilissa.

Kudos to our Philoptochos for a successful Pascha Bake Sale which allowed for our Lexington community to see the beauty of our church. The bake sale was a good example of the number of parishioners it took to fill the orders and to assist our walk-in customers.

Another kudos to our parish for hosting the Metropolitan of Detroit Central District for the Oratorical festival in April. Again, we were able to showcase and share our church home with our southern hospitality with our fellow Orthodox patrons from Indiana and Ohio.

These are just two examples that demonstrate how everyone can be active in our church in some small way. Whether it be time, talent or treasures, we all have something to contribute. I look forward to a large gathering at our Spring General Assembly so that we can update you on our current status and where we hope to be in the future.

In Christ,  
Delores Minor  
Parish Council President

## Philoptochos Corner

**By: Carolyn Janssen**

On Mother's Day we are excited to be participating in the Baby Bottle Blessings drive! We participate in this worthy cause every year. We pick up our bottles on Mother's Day, save our change and return the bottles on Father's day. Assurance is the organization we are collecting for.

Assurance provides compassionate support to women, men, and families affected by unplanned pregnancy. Assurance is a non-profit, state-licensed special health clinic providing free medical services and accurate information on all options regarding unplanned pregnancy.

The staff of registered nurses, who are trained in limited obstetric ultrasounds and overseen by OB/GYN physicians, along-side specially trained staff and volunteer client advocates are deeply committed to providing excellent and confidential care.

# HOLY WEEK...

During the first week of April, we celebrated Holy Week. This year, through the efforts of Fr. Cosmin, Ken Kyriacopoulos, and several of our faithful parishioners, the iconostasis was complete and the gates were in. It was a very moving experience celebrating my first of what I pray will be many Holy Weeks as your Priest. I was overwhelmed by how many people came out to help with all aspects of the week, and grateful for those who helped to familiarize me with certain aspects of the local tradition of the parish. Many thanks to the altar servers, to the chanters, to the choir, to our generous volunteers and benefactors, and to all of the people of our beloved parish for showing up! Glory be to God in all things! And, one final time as we approach the Feast of the Ascension: Christ is Risen!



## Meet Your Parish: Teresa Hall



Thanks be to God, I was raised in a family where seeking God and His will was the family focus. My family demonstrated the discipline of daily prayers, bible reading, repentance, and conversations about bible scripture, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the meanings of holy fasting. My early years, growing in an Episcopal family, were very similar to growing in a dedicated and disciplined Orthodox family.

As the Episcopal Church began its perversion by embracing wordly delusions and blasphemies, I continued to seek God's wisdom and understanding for my spiritual journey. Lexington became my new hometown after graduating ECU with degrees in Geology and Engineering. My encounter with *Panagia Pantovasilissa* began 30 years ago, as a frequent visitor. The only "road block" was that I did not speak Greek. Growing up in an international family, I enjoy experiencing different cultures, and am eternally grateful to God for permitting me to live in the United States, where diversity of cultures are embraced with the English language as the thread connecting us all.

I began attending Panagia full-time shortly after Fr. Cosmin and his family were sent to serve the parish. With Father and Presvytera's guidance, I experienced the spiritual healing, nurturing, and fulfillment that I had been seeking. English was the primary language in service, which was pivotal in my conversion to Orthodoxy. Holy Father God blessed me with Kate and Ken Kiriapoulos as godparents for my Chrismation on August 28, 2016. I was double blessed by my son Shahram Aboonasry attending my Chrismation and our shared desire to seek God's will and serve Him. For those who choose to live an Orthodox lifestyle, we are victorious in Christ!

## Central District Oratorical Festival

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for our District in the Metropolis. Sofia Watts placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior division; Sophia Xenos and Ava Xenos were alternates in the Senior and Junior Divisions, respectively.



# Worship and Church Events Schedule

## Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers  
7:00 PM – Q&A with Fr. William

## Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Vespers  
7:00 PM – Confession

## Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy  
12:30 PM – Philoptochos Board Meeting

## Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting

## Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers

## Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

4:00 PM – GOYA Meeting  
6:00 PM – Great Vespers  
7:00 PM – Confession

## Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers

## Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Vespers  
7:00 PM – Confession

## Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy  
12:30 PM – SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers

## Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM – Legends Game Outing

## Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Vespers  
7:00 PM – Confession

## Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers

## Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

3:30 PM – GOYA Outing to the Louisville  
Greek Festival

## Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – Master Calendar Meeting

## Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Vespers  
7:00 PM – Adult Study – *The Body of Christ:  
Basics of Parish Membership*, Session 1

## Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Vespers  
7:00 PM – Confession

