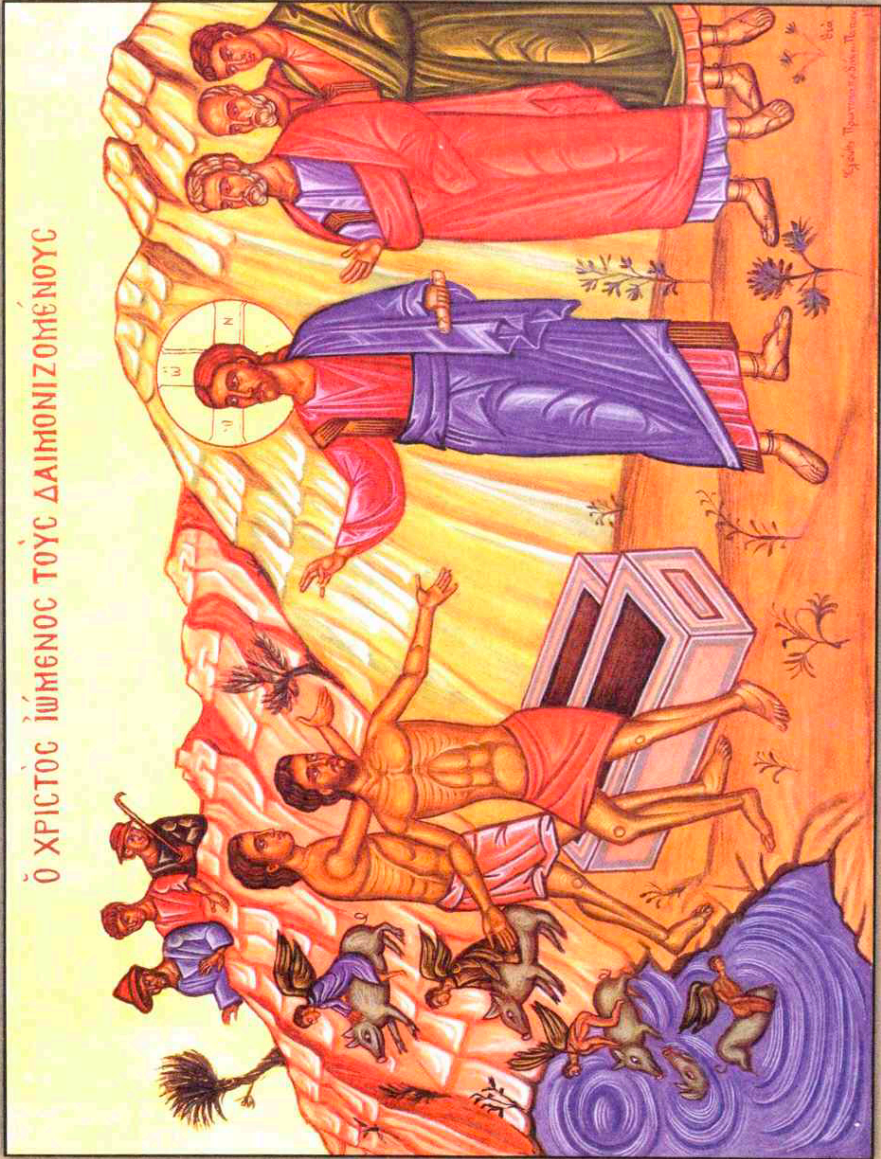


FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3431 Trickum Road NE — Marietta, GA 30066 — Tel. 770-924-8080



Our purpose is to lead people to the Kingdom of God.

*Our mission is to provide a place of worship
where people actively gather to practice their authentic
Orthodox Christian faith to impact the world.*



Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

Fr. John Brown, Protopresbyter

Fr. Michael Tishel, Presbyter

Fr. Christopher Zaferes, Presbyter

SUNDAY—THE LORD’S DAY—JULY 5, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Matthew

Musical Mode: Fourth Mode

Fifth Eothinon Gospel: Luke 24: 12-35

Readings of the Day: Galatians 5: 22-26; 6: 1-2 & Matthew 8: 28-34; 9:1

Today’s Saints: Athanasius of Mount Athos; Righteous Fr. Lampadus the Wonderworker; Kyprianos the New Martyr of Koutloumousiou; Uncovering of the Holy Relics of Saint Sergius of Radonezh

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARISH

Μετεμορφώθης ἐν τῷ ὄρει Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν σου, καθὼς ἠδύναντο. Λάμπσον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς ἀμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ αἰῶδιον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Metemorfóthis en to óri, Hristé o Theós, dixas tis Mathités sou, tin dóxan sou kathós idinanto; lampson ke imin tis amartolis, to fos sou to aidion, presvies tis Theotókou, Fotodóta dóxa si.

You were transfigured upon the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples, Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we may be, shine Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Entrance Hymn. Second Mode.

**Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.**
Please sing along with us after the Small Entrance, as you are able.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Fourth Mode.

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!"

For the Devout Man. Third Mode

Angelic hosts on high were filled with wonderment, seeing your life in the flesh: how with your body you courageously went out to wrestle with invisible foes; and to the demonic hordes you inflicted serious wounds. Therefore, Athanasios, you received from the Master Christ, a wealth of gifts. Holy Father, intercede on our behalf with Christ our God, to save our souls.

Apolytikion of the Parish. Grave Mode.

[See inside front cover]

Kontakion of Feast. Second Mode.

O Protection of Christians that never fails, 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.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ORTHODOXY

Trisagion Films: On YouTube, Facebook and website, www.trisagionfilms.com

Follow our Podcasts: "*An Imperfect Podcast*" - You can now listen to the entire series on iTunes, Spotify, GooglePlay, PlayerFM, and Sticher. You can find the entire series on iTunes here as well: <http://tinyurl.com/y5ved9lk>

For audio of spiritual discussions: **Ancient Faith Radio:** www.ancientfaith.com
Visit our **Church Bookstore** for books, icons and other spiritual items for your home.

Visit our **Library** at <https://holytransfiguration.info/ministries/education/library/>
To learn more about the Orthodox Faith, speak to Father Panayiotis and he will guide you. Email him at frpanayiotis@holytransfiguration.info to schedule an appointment.

Readings of 5th Sunday of Matthew Αναγνώσματα Ε΄ Κυριακῆς Ματθαίου

ΔΑπόστολος Πέμπτης Κυριακῆς Επιστολῶν (Πρὸς Γαλάτας 5:22-26; 6:1-2)

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη, χαρά, εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία, χρηστότης, ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις, πραότης, ἐγκράτεια· κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος. Οἱ δὲ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὴν σάρκα ἑσταύρωσαν σὺν τοῖς παθήμασιν καὶ ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις. Εἰ ζῶμεν πνεύματι, πνεύματι καὶ στοιχῶμεν. Μὴ γινώμεθα κενόδοξοι, ἀλλήλους προκαλούμενοι, ἀλλήλοις φθονοῦντες. Ἀδελφοί, ἐὰν καὶ προληφθῆ ἄνθρωπος ἐν τινι παραπτώματι, ὑμεῖς οἱ πνευματικοὶ καταρτίζετε τὸν τοιοῦτον ἐν πνεύματι πραότητος, σκοπῶν σεαυτὸν μὴ καὶ σὺ πειρασθῆς. Ἀλλήλων τὰ βάρη βαστάζετε, καὶ οὕτως ἀναπληρώσατε τὸν νόμον τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Fifth Sunday of Matthew, Apostolos Reading (Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Εὐαγγέλιον Πέμπτης Κυριακῆς Ματθαίου (Κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἡ' 28 - θ' 1)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντος τοῦ Διησοῦ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξερχόμενοι, χαλεποὶ λίαν, ὥστε μὴ ἰσχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἔκραξαν λέγοντες, Τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, υἱὲ τοῦ θεοῦ ἦλθες ὧδε πρὸ καιροῦ βασανίσαι ἡμᾶς ἣν δὲ μακρὰν ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀγέλη χοίρων πολλῶν βοσκομένη. οἱ δὲ δαίμονες παρεκάλουν αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Εἰ ἐκβάλλεις ἡμᾶς, ἀπόστειλον (ἐπίτρεψον) ἡμᾶς ἀπελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Ὑπάγετε. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἀπῆλθον εἰς τοὺς χοίρους· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὤρμησεν πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημοῦ εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασιν. οἱ δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν δαιμονιζομένων. καὶ ἰδοὺ πᾶσα ἡ πόλις ἐξῆλθεν εἰς ὑπάντησιν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν παρεκάλεσαν ὅπως μεταβῆ ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασεν καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν.

Fifth Sunday of Matthew, Gospel Reading (Matthew 8: 24-34, 9: 1)

In those days, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Catechism and Bible Study:

— **Intro to Orthodoxy** next meets on **Wed. Jul. 8** and continues every Wednesday through Aug. 26 (except Aug. 5). Fr. John will lead the meeting in PLC Banquet Hall (upstairs) from 7:00-8:30 pm.
— **Bible Study** (Colossians) starts on **Wed. Aug. 19** and continues every Wednesday through Sept. 16 (except for Aug. 26). Fr. John will lead the meeting in the PLC Library from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Transfiguration Orthodox Academy

— **Come Teach with Us:** Transfiguration Orthodox Academy is hiring & also accepting new students. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.
— **2026-2027 School Year:** Enrollment is open! Visit www.toamarietta.com for more info.

TOA Offering Middle School Courses:

Transfiguration Orthodox Academy is excited to offer new Middle School Courses in Math, Science, Composition, and History. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Cartersville Divine Liturgy: All are invited to the Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Cartersville, GA on **Sat. Aug. 1** at 10:00 am at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 850 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120.

Parish Feast Day Services: Join us on **Wed. Aug. 5** at 6:00 pm for Vespers for the Feast of the Transfiguration followed by a light meal in the parish hall. Then, **Thur. Aug. 6** Orthros begins at 8:45 am followed by Divine Liturgy. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page

Homecoming Picnic: Join us on **Sun. Aug. 16** for our Annual Homecoming Picnic & Ministry Kickoff with food sponsored by Yeero Village. We will have ministry sign-ups and fun kid's activities. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page in order to access the volunteer sign-up.

Parish Weekend Retreat: with Pres. Constantina Palmer, author of "The Scent of Holiness" & other books. **Fri. Aug. 28 & Sat. Aug. 29.** Scan QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

5th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive: Save the Date for **Sat. Sept. 19** as Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Macon is hosting their annual cross dive. Scan QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

RECURRING MINISTRY EVENTS

Chair Exercise Program: Our next meeting will be **Wed. Jul. 8, at 10:00 am** in PLC Classroom #127. Please text Ann Zakreski at 770.329.7421 if you plan to come.

GOYA: For rising 6th-graders thru High schoolers. Weekly meetings for fun and fellowship on Wednesdays. Email goya@holytransfiguration.info to join our email list. **Next meeting July 8.**

Greek School: Greek language and culture classes for youth and adults, funded through tuition. The 2026-2027 school year will begin in August. Registration will open later this year and run through Aug. 14. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Hellenic Dance: Greek dance troupes for Pre-K through adults. On summer break.
Email Paulina Vastakis at



Join us for an evening of gratitude and celebration as we honor Father Panayiotis and his 20 years of service to our community!

****When:** Saturday August 22nd at Holy Transfiguration, starting with Vespers at 5, Appetizers at 6.

****Digital invitations** will be sent to all 2026 stewards the week of July 6th. Parishioners will be able to purchase tickets to confirm their attendance.

****Tickets** are \$50.

****We do not want anyone to miss this event because of a financial hardship.** If this is your situation, go ahead and purchase your tickets, contact either Ellen Linebaugh or Alex Miltiades, and join in the evening festivities. The church will make arrangements to refund you the price of the tickets.



through Aug. 14. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Hellenic Dance: Greek dance troupes for Pre-K through adults. On summer break. Email Paulina Vastakis at hellenicdance@holymtransfiguration.info with questions.

Life and Faith Transitions Group: Join us as We Discover *Christ in the Psalms*. Upcoming Session via Zoom: **Summer Break for Jul. & Aug.** For info & Zoom invite reach out to BJ at 404-771-9335 or spanosbj@gmail.com.

Mixed Choir: Next practice **Tues. July 7** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Church.

Men's Choir: Next practice **Thur. Aug. 20** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Church. Singing the Divine Liturgy on **Sun. Aug. 23**.

Parea: Our next meeting is on **Thur. Sept. 17**. Join us as all are welcome.

Philoptochos 2026 Membership Drive: renew or join for the first time, <https://holymtransfiguration.info/philoptochos>

Philoptochos Book Club: Calling ALL Book Lovers! Come join the Philoptochos Book Club! We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 am in the PLC Library followed by optional lunch out. ALL book lover readers are welcomed to come. **NEXT MEETING - Tue. Sept. 1**, at 11:00 am. Book - *My Friends* by Frederick Bachman.

Spiritual Book Club: We are reading *Everyday Saints* (available in church bookstore). Join us on **Mon. August 10 at 7pm** in the PLC Library Email mgavalas@holymtransfiguration.info to register. Scan above QR code to access flyer.

Young Adults in their 20's and 30's meet twice a month for continuing education & fellowship. Want to learn more? Join the HTGOC Young Adults GroupMe chat for notifications on events. Contact: Fr. Chris (frchris@holymtransfiguration.info) or Ministry Lead (youngadults@holymtransfiguration.info). **Next meeting: Sun. Aug. 9** (Second Sunday).

LINKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Annual Membership Campaign: see the Stewardship section to learn more.

Clergy or Pastoral Assistant Home Visit: Are you or someone you know unable to attend church due to illness or some other reason? Would you or someone you know like a visit from a member of our clergy team or lay volunteer? Scan QR code (on left page) to access further details on Ministry News page.

Driver Ministry: The Driver Ministry is here to support our parish family by offering transportation to those who need assistance getting to: Medical/personal appts., Grocery stores/errands, Church services/parish events, & other essential local needs. Scan QR code (on left page) to access further details on Ministry News page.

Fellowship/Coffee Hour Sponsorship is a great way to honor someone's birthday, nameday, memory, or a significant event with your church family. For ministries, it is a great opportunity to bring awareness to your group and gain members. Scan QR code (on left page) to access further details on Ministry News page.

Parish Life Committee Seeks Team Members!

Parish Life, the behind-the-scenes group that brings the community together, is looking for volunteers to help with Sunday coffee hour and other events. Please contact:

Eleni: EReese@holymtransfiguration.info

Cherie: CCookorinis@holymtransfiguration.info

Lela: LBridgers@holymtransfiguration.info

Philoptochos Assistance: If you or someone who's part of your community is in need, Philoptochos is here to help. Please contact Jamie Hughes at 770-710-7733 or jahughes421@gmail.com for details.

Phishing Scam Awareness: The church (priests, staff, Parish Council, ministry leads) will NEVER email or text asking you to buy gift cards or send money for any reason. If you receive such a message, IT IS A SCAM. Please disregard the request and report it to the church office (office@holymtransfiguration.info or 770-924-8080). Always verify requests for financial assistance through direct communication with the church office. Protect yourself, your personal information, fellow parishioners, & the church by being cautious of these fraudulent attempts.

BEYOND HOLY T.

Scan the QR code on the previous page to access announcements & flyers on Ministry News page.



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

How to submit your 2026 Membership/Stewardship Card:

- 1. PAPER:** Grab a paper Stewardship form from a Parish Council member in the Narthex on Sunday. You may mail back the completed paper form to the Church or drop the completed form in the offering tray.
- 2. ONLINE:** You may complete the Online Membership/Stewardship Form on the website's Stewardship page (<https://holytransfiguration.info/join/>).

3. SCAN: use this QR code. Simply point your camera at the QR code and click the yellow link that appears in the image frame.



SO YOU KNOW	
GENERAL FUND (GF) INCOME AND EXPENSES 01/01/26-06/30/26	
Stewardship Contributions:	\$486,748
Other GF Income:	\$127,706
Total GF Income	\$614,454
Total GF Expenses:	—\$612,524
Net General Fund Balance:	\$2,130
2026 STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF 07/01/26	
# of Pledged Households:	443
2026 Budget:	\$1,030,102
Total Pledge Amount:	\$947,396
Stewardship Shortfall:	—\$82,706

KEEP UP TO DATE ON MINISTRY NEWS

- 1. To keep up with events digitally, please register** with our email database if you haven't already at <https://tinyurl.com/yudcpubr>. If you're on our list, make sure you've added office@holytransfiguration.info to your safe senders list and contact list.
- 2. Ministry News** is emailed every Wednesday complete with flyers and details about special events, recurring ministries, and events beyond Holy Transfiguration. Scan the QR code on the right to access the most recent email.
- 3. The Church Website** has an up-to-date calendar and ministry pages and can be found at <https://holytransfiguration.info>.
- 4. Weekend Email** with livestream links and a weekend schedule reminder goes out every Friday.
- 5. Check out the Ministry Bulletin Boards** on the upper and lower level of the Parish Life Center for details about upcoming events.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Orthodox Christians who have prepared spiritually are invited to come forward "with the fear of God, with faith, and with love" to receive Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox Christians may receive the blessed bread (*antidoron*) offered at the conclusion of the service, but not Holy Communion. They may come up to receive a blessing during Holy Communion if they wish. Preparation for Holy Communion includes confession of sins (even of sinful thoughts) and repentance, making peace with those around us, forgiving those who hurt us, asking for forgiveness from those we have hurt, and prayer. There is a special set of prayers called "Preparation for Holy Communion" to help prepare. If you have further questions regarding the proper preparation for Holy Communion, please speak with Fr. Panayiotis.

Asking Jesus to Leave

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end

of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were not ready to receive this lesson. It is no surprise, then, why they met Jesus with such ingratitude and asked Him to leave their district.