

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

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. Michael Tishel, Protopresbyter frmichael@holytransfiguration.info

Fr. Christopher Zaferes, Presbyter, frchris@holytransfiguration.info

Fr. John Brown, Protopresbyter, frjohn@holytransfiguration.info

SUNDAY — THE LORD'S DAY — SEPT. 13, 2026

Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Musical Mode: Plagal of Second Mode **Fourth Eothinon Gospel:** Luke 24: 1-12

Readings of the Day: Galatians 6: 11-18 & John 3: 13-17

Today's Saints: Sunday before Holy Cross; Temple of the Resurrection; Forefeast of the Exaltation;
Hieromartyr Cornelius; Aristides the Philosopher; Hierotheos of Iveron Monastery

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARISH

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

Metemorfóthis en to óri, Hristé o Theós, dexas 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. Plagal of the Second Mode.

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, * the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. * And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. * Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. * Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

For the Forefeast. Second Mode.

O benevolent Lord, as an intercessor we present to You the life-giving Cross of Your goodness, which we the unworthy have as a gift from You. Save our leaders and our nation and keep them in peace, through the Theotokos.

For the Consecration. Fourth Mode.

You have made the earthly beauty of the holy tabernacle of Your glory to be like the majesty of the firmament on high, O Lord. Make it strong forever and ever, and accept our supplications that we unceasingly bring to You there, at the intercession of the Theotokos. For You are the life and resurrection of all.

Apolytikion of the Parish. Grave Mode.

[See inside front cover]

Kontakion. Fourth Mode.

Lord, Your Church appears to us * to be like heaven * full of light, and guides with light * all who believe in You, O Christ. * And we who stand in it cry to You: * Savior, establish forever this holy house.

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 or schedule an appointment with a priest, email the church office at office@holytransfiguration.info.

Parish Council On Duty: Lela Bridgers/Tina Johansen
Greeters On Duty: Pat Koutouzis / Tammy Dionas
Ushers On Duty: Philip George/Chris Davis/Alicia Turner
Prosforo Bakers: Lois Bafas/Evelyn Bilson/Elizabeth Brewer/Sophia Brewer

Sun. Sept. 13 **Sunday before the Holy Cross**
8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Youth Catechism classes
11:30 am Second Sunday YA Class & Discussion
A 50 year Memorial service is given for Tom (Athanasios) Gramates by Dina (daughter),
Tim & Nicholas Rury and Judith Davis (wife). May his memory be eternal!
Artoklasia for St. Euphemia, Patron Saint of Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos.
Also, for Fr. Michael on his birthday.
12:30 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour sponsored by Miller Family
12:30 pm GOYA WYR Boys Basketball Practice
2:00 pm GOYA WYR Girls Basketball Practice
5:00 pm Great Vespers-Elevation of the Holy Cross

Mon. Sept. 14 **Elevation of the Holy Cross | Office Closed for Festal Holiday**
8:45 am Orthros-Sanctuary
10:00 am Divine Liturgy-Sanctuary
10:00 am TOA Enrichment
5:30 pm Greek School Classes-PLC Classrooms
7:00 pm Spiritual Book Club-PLC Library

Tue. Sept. 15 8:20 am TOA Divine Liturgy & Fellowship-Lighthouse
9:35 am TOA Classes-PLC Classrooms
10:45 am Kafenion-PLC Atrium
4:30 pm Rental-Les Marmitons of Atlanta-PLC Banquet Hall
7:00 pm Mixed Choir Practice-Sanctuary

Wed. Sept. 16 10:00 am Chair Exercise Program-PLC Classroom #127
11:00 am Bible Study of Colossians
5:30 pm Greek School classes-PLC classrooms
6:00 pm Great Vespers-St. Sophia & her daughters
7:00 pm Youth Group (GOYA)-Lighthouse

Thur. Sept. 17 **Feast of St. Sophia and her daughters: Faith, Hope, & Love**
9:00 am Orthros-Sanctuary
10:00 am Divine Liturgy-Sanctuary
8:20 am TOA Divine Liturgy & Fellowship-Lighthouse
9:35 am TOA Classes-PLC Classrooms
7:00 pm Men's Choir Practice-Sanctuary

Fri. Sept. 18 4:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal-Eleni Nichols
6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal-Newton/Lewis

See full calendar for the rest of the schedule: www.holytransfiguration.info/calendar

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Golf Cart Drivers Needed: 1-hour shifts on Sunday to transport people from Simpson Middle School. Must be 21+ yrs. old. If interested, send just your name and cell number to Steve Tingas at 770-845-5045 or stingas@holymtransfiguration.info.

TOA Enrichment Program: A nature themed extracurricular program for homeschool children. **The program continues on Mon. Sept. 14.** Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page. Email the TOA office at office@toamarietta.com for more information.

Cartersville Divine Liturgy: All are invited to the Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Cartersville, GA on **Sat. Sept. 19** at 10:00 am at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 850 Douthitt Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120. We will also meet on **Sat. Oct. 10.**

5th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive: Will take place on **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. Registration is closed.

TOA Open House: for Spring 2026 and Fall 2027 families that are interested in learning more about Transfiguration Orthodox Academy will take place on October, 8 2026 at 10:30AM-12:00PM. Email office@toamarietta.com for more info.

Park Street Elementary Uniform Drive: Philoptochos is asking for assistance in supporting the children at Park Street Elementary. Scan QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page for more details on how you can help.

St. Nicholas Market: Sun. Nov. 1 - Save the date!! - Annual Philoptochos fundraiser open to all parish and community vendors. For details email Marty Driscoll at martydriscoll@bellsouth.net.

RECURRING MINISTRY EVENTS

Adult Bible Study: The study of Colossians concludes on **Wed. Sept. 16.** Fr. John will lead

the meeting in the PLC Library from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Chair Exercise Program: Our next meeting will be **Wed. Sept. 16, 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@holymtransfiguration.info to join our email list. **Next meeting Sept. 16.**

Greek School: Greek language and culture classes for youth and adults, funded through tuition. **The 2026-2027 school year began Monday, Aug. 24.** Private & Semi-Private Lessons available. Scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

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

Mixed Choir: Next practice **Tues. Sept. 15** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Church.

Men's Choir: Next practice **Thur. Sept. 17** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Church. Singing the Divine Liturgy on **Sun. Sept. 27.**

Parea: Our next meeting is on **Thur. Oct. 8.** 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. Oct. 6,** at 11:00 am. Book - *Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Spiritual Book Club: We are reading *Everyday Saints* (available in church bookstore). Join us on **Mon. Sept. 14 at 7pm** in the PLC Library Email mgavalas@holytransfiguration.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@holytransfiguration.info) or Ministry Lead

(youngadults@holytransfiguration.info).

Next meeting: Sun. Sept. 13 (Second Sunday after communion).

Youth Catechism: for children ages 3 years old through 12 grade. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED** - SEE YOUTH MINISTRIES REGISTRATION - SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

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@holytransfiguration.info

Cherie: CCookorinis@holytransfiguration.info

Lela: LBridgers@holytransfiguration.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@holytransfiguration.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.

Donate to Focus Atlanta: FOCUS Atlanta serves food to the homeless every weekday at St. John the Wonderworker in Atlanta. Please support their efforts. Visit focusna.org/give to donate. Scan above QR code to access video on Ministry News page.

BEYOND HOLY T.

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

- * Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society 2026 Retreat: Sept. 25-27.
- * Metropolis of Atlanta YAL (Young Adult League) Conference: Oct. 9-12.
- * Catholic-Orthodox Initiative - *Gospel, Cosmos & Theological Imagination* presented by Jeremiah Coogan: Oct. 15
- * 2026 Atlanta Greek Film Expo: Oct. 15-18



SO YOU KNOW

GENERAL FUND (GF) INCOME AND EXPENSES 01/01/26-09/10/26

Stewardship Contributions:	\$641,716
Other GF Income:	\$210,476
Total GF Income	\$852,192
Total GF Expenses:	—\$864,450
Net General Fund Balance:	—\$12,258

2026 STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF 09/10/26

# of Pledged Households:	482
2026 Budget:	\$1,030,102
Total Pledge Amount:	\$972,930
Stewardship Shortfall:	—\$58,872

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.



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. Michael.

Drawing All to Himself

O the marvelous power of the cross, the glory of the passion! No tongue can fully describe it. Here we see the judgment seat of the Lord, here sentence is passed upon the world, and here the sovereignty of the Crucified is revealed.

You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when You stretched out Your hands all the day long to a people that denied and opposed You, until at last the whole world was brought to proclaim Your majesty. You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when all the elements combined to pronounce judgment in denouncement of that crime; when the lights of heaven were darkened and the day was turned into night; when the land was shaken by unwonted earthquakes, and all creation refused to serve those wicked people. Yes, Lord, you drew all things to Yourself. The veil of the temple was torn in two and the Holy of Holies taken away from those unworthy high

priests. Figures gave way to reality, prophecy to manifestation, law to gospel. You drew all things to Yourself in order that the worship of the whole human race could be celebrated everywhere in a sacramental form which would openly fulfill what had been enacted by means of veiled symbols in that single Jewish temple.

Now that the multiplicity of animal sacrifices has ceased, the single offering of your body and blood takes the place of that diversity of victims, since you are the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and in Yourself you fulfill all the rites of the old law, so that as there is now a single sacrifice in place of all those victims, so there is a single kingdom formed of all the peoples of the earth.

St. Leo the Great