



DECEMBER 2025



Monthly Bulletin - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



The Nine Orders of the Heavenly Host [wikipedia.com](https://www.wikipedia.com)

FROM FR. KOSTA

Beloved in Christ,

In the Nativity of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word and Son of the Father, we see a great mystery revealed to us. The Word who was in the beginning with God, the very One through whom all things were made, has come down and clothed Himself in our flesh. **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (John 1:14). Through this self-emptying act of love, the Creator has entered His creation, the Infinite has humbled Himself to dwell in a cave, and the King of Glory has lain in a manger.

Why has He done this? For us, and for our salvation through the healing of our souls and our reconciliation with Him. As St. Athanasius proclaims: “God became man so that man might become god.” He did not descend to earth to leave us as we were or to have us live the same as before, but to raise us up to our

original purpose and beauty, to make the earthly heavenly and bring those who were separated from our Creator back to their Father.

Therefore, what is required of us? In short, repentance. This is why the Saint John and Baptist and Forerunner cried out: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). Christ is born not to bless our sins or “accept us as we are,” but to free us from the things that separate us from Him. So will we celebrate His Nativity while clinging to anger, envy, immorality, and pride? Instead of celebrating the things that separate us from our Lord, let’s cleanse the cave of our hearts, that the Child Jesus may find a worthy dwelling place, not in a palace, but in a humble place ready to receive Him.

(Continued on the next page)

SOME OF THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS FEASTS

- Barbara the Great Martyr (Dec. 4)
- Nicholas of Myra (Dec. 6)
- Conception of the Theotokos (Dec. 9)
- Ingatius the Godbearer (Dec. 20)
- Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25)
- Stephen the First Martyr (Dec. 27)



St. Stephen the First Martyr [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com)

Hymn of St. Stephen Deacon and First-Martyr (Tone 4):

Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head for the contests you courageously endured for Christ our God, as first among Martyr saints. You refuted the ravings of the Jews who accused you, and you saw your Saviour at the right hand of the Father. We pray that you will ever entreat Him to save our souls.

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FROM FR. KOSTA (CONTINUED)

Let's pay attention to St. Isaac the Syrian: "This life has been given to you for repentance; do not waste it in vain pursuits." Now is the time! Not tomorrow, not later, but today, while the King Himself knocks at the door of our souls.

And what does this Incarnate Lord bring to us? Peace. The angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14). But we don't mean the false peace of this world, which is but a fragile truce, easily broken. The world's peace is a mask covering hatred, a comfort that quickly fades. But Christ says: "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27). His peace springs from the forgiveness of sins, from reconciliation with the Father, from hearts made whole by repentance. This peace cannot be stolen by poverty, persecution, or death, because it rests not on circumstances or ideologies, but on Christ Himself.

The Church, always guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit, tells us: If you want this peace, repent! If you want to spread this peace, forgive! If you want to dwell in this peace, love your brother and your sister, even as Christ has loved you. St. Seraphim of Sarov cries out: "Acquire the Spirit of peace, and thousands around you will be saved."

Let us not think only of ourselves, but also of our parish. Christ did not come to save one

person only, but to gather a people, to form His Body, the Church. Here, in the Eucharist, the Incarnate One unites us not in figure, but in truth, as St. John Chrysostom teaches.

If we repent together, if we love one another, if we bear one another's burdens, then the world will look upon us and see the Word made flesh still dwelling among His people. Then truly shall our parish be a living manger, from which the light of Christ shines forth to the world.

So let us fall down and worship. Let us repent and be reconciled. Let us lay aside false peace and teachings and embrace the true peace of the King who comes in humility. Then, with the angels and shepherds, we too shall cry with joy: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!"

A blessed Nativity to all.
Merry Christmas to you and your families.

+Fr. Kosta

WHICH SEAL IS PROPER FOR PROSPHORO?

The symbols in the Prosporo (Offering Bread) Seal convey theological and doctrinal truths, and it is, therefore, essential for them to be correct. The correct seal bears the lettering ICXC NIKA or ΙΣΧ ΝΙΚΑ.



ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ,

Στη Γέννηση του Ιησού Χριστού, του αιώνιου Λόγου και Υιού του Πατέρα, μας αποκαλύπτεται ένα μεγάλο μυστήριο. Ο Λόγος, που ήταν από την αρχή μαζί με τον Θεό, Αυτός από τον οποίο έγιναν τα πάντα, κατέβηκε και φόρεσε τη δική μας σάρκα. «Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν» (Ιω. 1,14). Με αυτήν την πράξη αγάπης, ο Δημιουργός μπήκε μέσα στη δημιουργία Του, ο Απειρος ταπεινώθηκε για να κατοικήσει σε ένα σπήλαιο, και ο Βασιλιάς της Δόξας ξάπλωσε σε μια φάτνη.

Γιατί το έκανε αυτό; Για εμάς, και για τη σωτηρία μας, με τη θεραπεία της ψυχής μας και τη συμφιλίωση μας μαζί Του. Όπως λέει ο Άγιος Αθανάσιος: «Ο Θεός έγινε άνθρωπος για να γίνει ο άνθρωπος θεός.» Δεν κατέβηκε στη γη για να μας αφήσει όπως ήμασταν ή για να συνεχίσουμε να ζούμε όπως πριν, αλλά για να μας ανεβάσει ξανά στον αρχικό μας σκοπό και κάλλος, να κάνει τα γήινα ουράνια, και να φέρει πίσω κοντά στον Πατέρα όσους είχαν απομακρυνθεί.

Τι ζητάει λοιπόν από εμάς; Μετάνοια. Γι' αυτό και ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Βαπτιστής και Πρόδρομος φώναξε: «Μετανοείτε· ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν» (Ματθ. 3,2). Ο Χριστός γεννήθηκε όχι για να ευλογήσει τις αμαρτίες μας ή να μας «δεχτεί όπως είμαστε», αλλά για να μας ελευθερώσει από όσα μας χωρίζουν από Αυτόν. Θα γιορτάσουμε τη Γέννηση Του κρατώντας την οργή, τη ζήλια, την αμαρτία και την υπερηφάνεια; Αντί να γιορτάζουμε όσα μας χωρίζουν από τον Κύριο, ας καθαρίσουμε το σπήλαιο της καρδιάς μας, ώστε το Θείο Βρέφος να βρει έναν τόπο άξιο να κατοικήσει. Όχι σε παλάτι, αλλά σε μια ταπεινή καρδιά που είναι έτοιμη να Τον δεχθεί.

Ας προσέξουμε τα λόγια του Αγίου Ισαάκ του Σύρου: «Αυτή η ζωή σου δόθηκε για μετάνοια· μην την ξοδεύεις σε μάταια πράγματα.» Τώρα είναι ο καιρός! Όχι αύριο, όχι αργότερα, αλλά σήμερα, ενώ ο ίδιος ο Βασιλιάς χτυπάει την πόρτα της ψυχής μας.

Και τι μας φέρνει ο Ενανθρωπημένος Κύριος; Ειρήνη. Οι άγγελοι έψαλλαν: «Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία» (Λουκ. 2,14). Αλλά δεν εννοούμε την ψεύτικη ειρήνη του κόσμου, που είναι μια

εύθραυστη ανακωχή, που εύκολα σπάει. Η ειρήνη του κόσμου είναι μια μάσκα που καλύπτει το μίσος, μια παρηγοριά που γρήγορα χάνεται. Αλλά ο Χριστός λέει: «Τὴν εἰρήνην τὴν ἐμὴν δίδωμι ὑμῖν· οὐ καθὼς ὁ κόσμος δίδωσιν ἐγὼ δίδωμι ὑμῖν» (Ιω. 14,27). Η ειρήνη Του πηγάζει από τη συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών, από τη συμφιλίωση με τον Πατέρα, από καρδιές που έγιναν ολόκληρες μέσα από τη μετάνοια. Αυτήν την ειρήνη δεν μπορεί να την κλέψει ούτε η φτώχεια, ούτε ο διωγμός, ούτε ο θάνατος, γιατί δεν στηρίζεται σε καταστάσεις ή ιδεολογίες, αλλά στον ίδιο τον Χριστό.

Η Εκκλησία, καθοδηγούμενη πάντα από το Άγιο Πνεύμα, μας λέει: Αν θέλεις αυτήν την ειρήνη, μετανόησε! Αν θέλεις να τη διαδώσεις, συγχώρησε! Αν θέλεις να κατοικήσεις μέσα της, αγάπησε τον πλησίον σου, όπως σε αγάπησε ο Χριστός. Ο Άγιος Σεραφεΐμ του Σάρωφ μας λέει: «Απόκτησε το Πνεύμα της ειρήνης, και χιλιάδες γύρω σου θα σωθούν.»

Ας μη σκεφτόμαστε μόνο τον εαυτό μας, αλλά και την κοινότητα μας. Ο Χριστός δεν ήρθε να σώσει μόνο ένα άτομο, αλλά να συγκεντρώσει έναν λαό, να σχηματίσει το Σώμα Του, την Εκκλησία. Στην ζωή της κοινότητας μας και στη Θεία Ευχαριστία, ο Ενσαρκωμένος Θεός μας ενώνει όχι συμβολικά, αλλά αληθινά, όπως διδάσκει ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος.

Αν μετανοούμε όλοι μαζί, αν αγαπάμε ο ένας τον άλλον, αν σηκώνουμε ο ένας τα βάρη του άλλου, τότε ο κόσμος θα δει τον Λόγο που έγινε σάρκα να κατοικεί ακόμη ανάμεσα στον λαό Του. Και τότε, πράγματι, η κοινότητα μας θα γίνει μια ζωντανή φάτνη, από την οποία το φως του Χριστού θα λάμπει στον κόσμο.

Ας πέσουμε λοιπόν να Τον προσκυνήσουμε. Ας μετανοήσουμε και ας συμφιλιωθούμε. Ας αφήσουμε στην άκρη την ψεύτικη ειρήνη και ψεύτικες διδασκαλίες, και ας αγκαλιάσουμε την αληθινή ειρήνη του Βασιλιά που έρχεται με ταπείνωση. Και τότε, μαζί με τους αγγέλους και τους ποιμένες, κι εμείς θα φωνάξουμε με χαρά: «Χριστὸς γεννᾶται· δοξάσατε!»

Χρόνια πολλά, κι ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα σε εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας.

+π. Κωνσταντίνος

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



Sunday, December 28, 2025

Pancakes and Coffee/Juice
For the Whole Family

Right After the Divine Liturgy

IN MEMORIAM THIS MONTH

This month, we remember and pray for the souls of our departed Orthodox brothers and sisters who lived in Thunder Bay. The list below is based on our church's Registry Book of Deaths and Funerals entries.

Please inform our priest if there are any errors or omissions.

May the Lord our God rest the souls of His servants:

Vasilios Gerasimos (1960)
Maria Andreou (1960)
Efsthathos Pappas (1964)
Georgia Pagonis (1971)
Panagiotis Saites (1972)
Agni Chronopoulos (1988)
Alexander Drombolis (1998)
Constantinos Glymitsas (2000)
Olympia Bulgaria (2002)
Athena Vlotaros (2010)
Ljubomir Velickovic (2010)
Anastasios Mellas (2015)
Chris Metsopoulos (2016)

*With the Saints, give rest, O Christ, to Your
servants' souls where there is no pain, sorrow,
or lament, but life everlasting.*

—
*Μετά των Αγίων ανάπαυσον Χριστέ τας
ψυχάς των δούλων Σου, ένθα ούκ εστί πόνος,
ου λύπη, ου στεναγμός, αλλά ζωή
ατελεύτητος.*

ΜΗΝΙΑΙΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ - ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2025

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	ΤΡΙΤΗ	ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ	ΠΕΜΠΤΗ	ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ
	1	2	3	4	5	6 ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΥΡΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:15 π.μ.
7 10η ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΛΟΥΚΑ Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:30 π.μ. Παζάρι με γλυκά Στάθισμα του δέντρου & της εκκλησίας.	8	9 ΣΥΛΛΗΨΗ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΓ. ANNA Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:15 π.μ.	10	11	12	13
14 11η ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΛΟΥΚΑ, Νεκταρίου Ανάγνης του Θαυματουργού Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:30 π.μ.	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:30 π.μ. Ευχέλαιο στο τέλος της Λειτουργίας	22	23	24 ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ Εσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία Αγ. Βασιλείου 7:00 μ.μ. - 9:00 μ.μ.	25 Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:15 π.μ.	26	27
28 ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ Όρθρος 9:00 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία 10:30 π.μ. Rapsake Πρωίνο μετά την Εκκλησία	29	30	31			

Στις καθημερινές, συχνά ο Όρθρος είναι πιο σύντομος και η Θεία Λειτουργία μπορεί να αρχίσει 15 με 20 λεπτά νωρίτερα



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hall
651 Beverly Street, Thunder Bay

Greek Baking
Christmas Tsoureki Bread
Spanakopita

Organized by the Holy Trinity Philoptochos Association

ΜΗΝΙΑΙΕΣ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΕΣ ΣΥΖΗΤΗΣΕΙΣ

Στα Ελληνικά, με τον π. Κωνσταντίνο, μια φορά το μήνα στην αίθουσα της εκκλησίας
11:00 π.μ. έως 12:00 μ.μ.

ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΕΣ & ΘΕΜΑΤΑ

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 1 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2025

Η Θεία Λειτουργία - Ο Ουρανός
επί της Γης

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 12 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ 2026

Σχέσεις, Γάμος και Οικογένεια

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 9 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ 2026

Νηστεία και Πνευματικός Αγώνας

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 16 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 2026

Η Προσευχή και η Ευχή του Ιησού

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 20 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ 2026

Η Ορθοδοξία και η Ψυχική Υγεία

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 11 ΜΑΪΟΥ 2026

Οι Εικόνες και η Θεολογία του
Κάλλους

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 15 ΙΟΥΝΙΟΥ 2026

Η Εξομολόγηση και η Μετάνοια

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 17 ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΥ 2026

Οι Άγιοι και η Κοινωνία της
Εκκλησίας

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 21 ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2026

Οι Έσχατοι Καιροί και η Τελική
Κρίση

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 19 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 2026

Πολιτική και Παγκόσμια Θέματα

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 16 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2026

Οι Χριστιανοί και ο Σύγχρονος
Κόσμος



Παρακαλούμε δηλώστε τη συμμετοχή σας στη λίστα εγγραφών που βρίσκεται στον πίνακα ανακοινώσεων δίπλα στη πόρτα της αίθουσας της εκκλησίας.



Merry Christmas!

WARM WISHES FROM
OUR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND
FR. KONSTANTINOS

Christ is Born,
Glorify!
Χριστός Γεννάται,
Δοξάσατε!

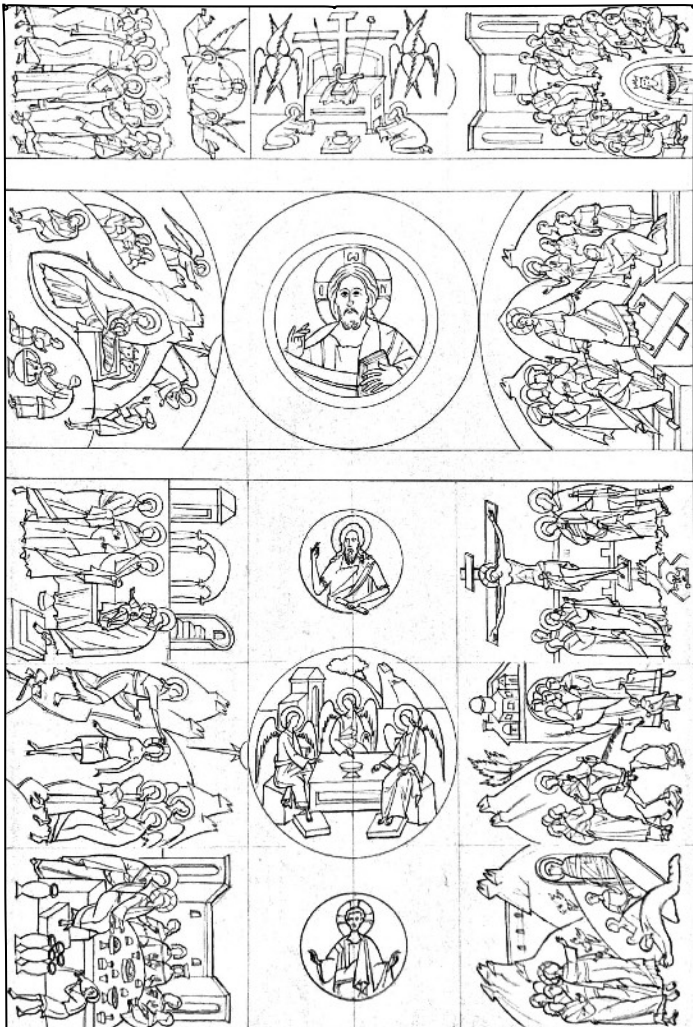
Christmas 2025

ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

With gratitude to God and to our beloved spiritual family that is our Community, we are blessed to begin soon the first phase of our church's iconography project — the beautification of the ceiling in the Holy of Holies. In time, and with God's grace, the remaining icons will adorn the ceiling above the nave, completing this vision of heavenly beauty within our temple. The dome, Pantocrator, and the walls of the Holy of Holies already stand as a testament to the faith, generosity, and love of our Community. This new phase continues that legacy, inviting us all to take part in the spiritual and artistic growth of our parish. May this sacred work inspire unity, devotion, and joy in every heart. Those who wish to support the project are encouraged to speak with our Priest for more information.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΓΙΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ

Με ευγνωμοσύνη προς τον Θεό και προς την αγαπημένη μας πνευματική οικογένεια που είναι η Κοινότητά μας, είμαστε ευλογημένοι να ξεκινήσουμε σύντομα την πρώτη φάση του προγράμματος αγιογράφησης του ναού μας — τον καλλωπισμό της οροφής μέσα στο Άγιο Βήμα. Με τον καιρό, και με τη χάρη του Θεού, οι υπόλοιπες εικόνες θα κοσμήσουν την οροφή πάνω από τον κυρίως ναό, ολοκληρώνοντας αυτό το όραμα της ουράνιας ομορφιάς μέσα στον ναό μας. Ο τρούλος, ο Παντοκράτορας και οι τοίχοι του Ιερού Βήματος ήδη αποτελούν μαρτυρία της πίστης, της γενναιοδωρίας και της αγάπης των μελών της κοινότητας μας. Αυτή η νέα φάση συνεχίζει αυτή την ιερή παρακαταθήκη, καλώντας όλους μας να συμμετάσχουμε στην πνευματική και καλλιτεχνική ανάπτυξη της εκκλησίας μας. Είθε αυτό το ιερό έργο να εμπνεύσει ενότητα, αφοσίωση και χαρά σε κάθε καρδιά. Όσοι επιθυμούν να συνεισφέρουν στο έργο, παρακαλούνται να επικοινωνήσουν με τον Ιερέα μας για περισσότερες πληροφορίες.



The Ascension of Christ \$6,000	Etoimasia/Proskomide (Preparation of the Gifts) \$4,000	Holy Pentecost \$6,000
ALTAR AREA		
The Nativity of Christ \$8,000	John \$2,000	Matthew \$2,000
Jesus Christ Pantocrator (Existing iconography in the dome)		
Luke \$2,000		
Mark \$2,000		
The Resurrection of Christ \$8,000		
Ypapanti (The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple) \$6,000	St. John the Baptist \$1,500	The Crucifixion of Christ \$6,000
The Baptism of Christ/Theophany \$6,000	The Holy Trinity/ Visitation of Abraham \$6,000	Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) \$6,000
The Wedding at Cana \$6,000	Jesus "Emmanuel" \$1,500	The Resurrection of Lazarus \$6,000

ORTHODOX MONTHLY TALKS ONLINE

MONDAYS, ONCE A MONTH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

The Divine Liturgy - Heaven on Earth

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

Dating, Marriage, and Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Fasting & Spiritual Warfare

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

Prayer and the Jesus Prayer

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

Orthodoxy & Mental Health

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

Icons & the Theology of Beauty

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

Confession & Repentance

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

The Saints & the Communion of the Church

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

The End Times & the Last Judgement

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

Politics & World Issues

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026

Christians & the Modern World

TO REGISTER:

Please email Father Kosta at fatherkosta@me.com or scan the QR code on this poster to register and receive your Microsoft Teams meeting ID and passcode to join the sessions at: teams.live.com

SCAN HERE TO EMAIL
FR. KOSTA



YOUNG SAINTS' WORKSHOP

Joy to the World! Merry Christmas!

On December 25, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! The celebration lasts for twelve days, all the way to January 5, where the Christmas celebration ends in the evening, and the celebration of Christ's Baptism and Theophany begins.

■ ■ Comic Strip: The Journey to Bethlehem.

Draw a 3-panel comic showing Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem, finding a place to stay, and Jesus being born in the manger. Add your own speech bubbles or thoughts! Have your family draw their own comic strips as well!

- Panel 1: On the road to Bethlehem
- Panel 2: Looking for a place to stay
- Panel 3: Baby Jesus is born!

■ ■ Holy Habits for November

- Light a candle during prayer this month.
- Say "Christ is Born" to someone at church on or after December 25, until January 5 (Theophany).
- Donate food or toys to someone in need.

What kinds of gifts are there?

We love getting presents at Christmas, from toys to clothes to treats.

What other kinds of gifts can you give at Christmas and other days of the year?

Is being kind or offering help a gift we can give?

Hymn of the Month

"Christ is Born! Glorify Him!"

This is a joyful greeting we use during the Christmas season. Try saying it after your prayers on Christmas and until Theophany!

RAISING SAINTS: PRACTICAL ORTHODOXY AT HOME

CHRIST IS BORN AT HOME AND IN THE CHURCH

Scripture: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11

For the world around us, Christmas often becomes a season of shopping, lights, and parties. But for the Orthodox Christian, Christmas is a feast of the Incarnation — God becoming man so that humanity might be united with Him. It is not simply a holiday; it is part of our salvation story. Our children absorb what we emphasize at home. If they see us treating Christmas mainly as gifts, food, and decorations, that will shape their memory of it. But if they see us preparing through prayer, fasting, and worship, then Christmas becomes not just a day, but a meeting with Christ Himself.

Preparing for Christmas celebrations at Home:

- Tell the Story: Read the Nativity account in Luke 2 and Matthew 2. Children love hearing about the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men. Scripture will draw them in, and their imagination will focus on the holy events of the Nativity of Christ.
- Icon of the Feast: Place an icon of the Nativity (or an icon of Christ) in your prayer corner or even near the Christmas tree and at the Christmas meal table. It will help you make the birth of our Saviour the focus of your home celebration.

Preparing in the parish:

The Nativity Fast, which lasts for forty days before Christmas, helps us quiet our hearts and simplify our lives so we can receive Christ. Encourage your family to attend at least one weekday service during the Fast or the Christmas break. Coming together for the Christmas Divine Liturgy reminds children that Christ's birth is not just a story from long ago, but a living reality we celebrate as a community that belongs to Him.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Yes, it sounds cliché, but teach your children that before gifts are opened, prayers are said. Before feasts are eaten, the Lord is thanked. These simple habits help children remember that the greatest gift we celebrate is not under a tree, but in a manger (and in our hearts) - Christ Himself.

Faith at Home Challenge:

On Christmas morning, before opening gifts, gather around the icon corner. Read Luke 2:1-20 together, light a candle, and say, "Christ is born, glorify Him" as a family.

THE PROTOMARTYR & ARCH-DEACON STEPHEN

Saint Stephen the Archdeacon holds a place of honour in the Church as the first to give his life for Christ. Chosen by the Holy Apostles as one of the original seven deacons, he was “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5), dedicated to serving the needs of the faithful and ensuring they were not neglected. In this ministry of love and charity, Saint Stephen reflected the spirit of Christ Himself, who came “not to be served, but to serve.”

Stephen’s bold proclamation of the Gospel soon drew the attention and anger of those who rejected Christ. When brought before the Sanhedrin, he spoke with wisdom and power, bearing witness that Jesus is the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. His defence is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. As he gazed toward heaven, Saint Stephen beheld the glory of God and the risen Christ standing at the right hand of the Father. That image strengthened his heart even as his accusers grew enraged.

Condemned and taken outside the city, Saint Stephen was stoned to death, becoming the first martyr (Protomartyr) of the Christian Church. Yet even in his suffering, he revealed the boundless mercy of God. As the stones fell upon him, he prayed for his persecutors, saying, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60). Among those present was a young man named Saul, who would later become the great Apostle Paul.

We honour Saint Stephen as the first martyr and a model of faithful service, courage, and forgiveness. His example reminds us that true discipleship is expressed in love that serves, speaks truth, and forgives even in the face of hatred.

Ο ΠΡΩΤΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ & ΑΡΧΙΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ

Ο Άγιος Στέφανος κατέχει μια ξεχωριστή θέση στην Εκκλησία, ως ο πρώτος που έδωσε τη ζωή του για τον Χριστό. Επιλέχθηκε από τους Αγίους Αποστόλους ως ένας από τους επτά πρώτους διακόνους, και ήταν «άνθρωπος γεμάτος πίστη και το Άγιο Πνεύμα» (Πράξεις 6:5). Αφιέρωσε τη ζωή του στη διακονία των πιστών και φρόντιζε να μην παραμελείται κανείς. Με αυτήν την υπηρεσία αγάπης και ελεημοσύνης, ο Άγιος Στέφανος φανέρωνε το πνεύμα του ίδιου του Χριστού, που ήρθε «όχι για να υπηρετηθεί, αλλά για να υπηρετήσει».

Το θαρραλέο κήρυγμα του Στεφάνου για το Ευαγγέλιο σύντομα προκάλεσε την οργή εκείνων που απέρριψαν τον Χριστό. Όταν οδηγήθηκε μπροστά στο Συνέδριο των Φαρισαίων, μίλησε με σοφία και δύναμη, μαρτυρώντας ότι ο Ιησούς είναι ο υποσχόμενος Μεσσίας και η εκπλήρωση του Νόμου και των Προφητών. Η απολογία του είναι καταγραμμένη στις Πράξεις των Αποστόλων. Καθώς κοίταζε προς τον ουρανό, ο Άγιος Στέφανος είδε τη δόξα του Θεού και τον Αναστημένο Χριστό να στέκεται στα δεξιά του Πατρός. Αυτή η εικόνα του έδωσε δύναμη, ακόμη κι ενώ οι κατηγοροί του εξαγριώνονταν.

Καταδικασμένος και οδηγημένος έξω από την πόλη, ο Άγιος Στέφανος λιθοβολήθηκε μέχρι θανάτου, και έτσι έγινε ο πρώτος μάρτυρας (Πρωτομάρτυρας) της Χριστιανικής Εκκλησίας. Ακόμη και μέσα στα βάσανα του, φανέρωσε το άπειρο έλεος του Θεού. Καθώς οι πέτρες έπεφταν πάνω του, προσευχήθηκε για τους διώκτες του, λέγοντας: «Κύριε, μη κρατήσεις αυτήν την αμαρτία εναντίων τους» (Πράξεις 7:60). Ανάμεσά τους βρισκόταν κι ένας νέος, ονόματι Σαούλ, που αργότερα έγινε ο μεγάλος Απόστολος Παύλος.

Τιμούμε τον Άγιο Στέφανο ως τον πρώτο μάρτυρα και πρότυπο πιστής διακονίας, θάρρους και συγχώρεσης. Το παράδειγμα του μας θυμίζει ότι η αληθινή μαθητεία εκφράζεται μέσα από μια αγάπη που υπηρετεί, λέει την αλήθεια και συγχωρεί ακόμη και μπροστά στο μίσος.

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in Today's World**

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Enrichment Course*

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026**

**Led by
Father Kosta Tsiolas**

***Open to all married, engaged, and dating
couples, as well as singles who are
considering marriage.***

TO REGISTER:

Please email Father Kosta at fatherkosta@me.com to
register and receive your Microsoft Teams meeting ID and
passcode to join the sessions at **teams.live.com**

GOD BLESS OUR STEWARDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me." (John 10:14)

2024

1. Angie Amorgianos
2. Steve Amorgianos
3. Phyllis Amorgianos
4. Sheila Amos
5. Joyce Avgeropoulos
6. Peter Avgeropoulos
7. Nick Balina
8. Katerina Biniaris
9. George Biniaris
10. Athena Blieske
11. Edric Blieske
12. Alex Bradatanu
13. Iulieana Bradatanu
14. Ourania Biniaris (Scollie)
15. Anastasios Catanzaro
16. Gus Chimbakis
17. Helen Chimbakis
18. Bill Comminos
19. Angela Damianakos
20. Athena Damianakos
21. Bill Damianakos
22. Vicki Dowhos
23. Paul Dowhos
24. Lori Florindo
25. Maria Forget
26. Joanne Frisky
27. Tara Giardetti
28. Peter Giardetti
29. Harry Glymitsas
30. Dimitra Glymitsas
31. Jennie Hartviksen
32. Sotirios Hatzis
33. Theodora Hatzis
34. Bill Hatzis
35. Stella Hatzis
36. Penny Kahramanos
37. Lisa Kahramanos
38. Andreas Karanasos
39. Despena Kargatzis
40. Faye Karoutas
41. Nick Koukos
42. Joyce Koukos
43. Peter Koukos
44. Ray Leino
45. Virginia Leino
46. Jack Lotsios
47. Effie Lotsios
48. George Lotsios
49. Dolores Maki
50. Katherine Mayer
51. Chrysoula Mayer
52. Smaragde Mellas
53. Georgina Mellas
54. Maria Mellas
55. Bess Melville
56. Despina Metsopoulos
57. Achileas Metsopoulos
58. Angela Metsopoulos
59. Penny Milionis
60. Maria Morakis
61. Florina Nisioiu
62. Peter Pantoulis
63. Helen Pantoulis
64. Nikki Pantoulis
65. Maria Pavlou
66. Jim Pazianos
67. Tom Pazianos
68. Leila Pazianos
69. Olivia Pietrangelo
70. Sahar Qeer
71. Imad Qeer
72. Effie Saïtes
73. Maria Sancartier
74. Katerina Scocchia
75. Steven Scollie
76. Marinos Spourdalakis
77. Constantin Todolia
78. Manuella Todolia
79. Elaine Tsekouras
80. Harry Tsekouras
81. Lily Tsekouras
82. Constantine Tsekouras
83. Jane Tsekouras
84. Ahileas Tsekouras
85. Paul Tsekouras
86. Sylvia Tsekouras
87. John Tsekouras
88. Daniel Vasiliu
89. Christine Vlotaros
90. Peter Vlotaros
91. Theodora Voulgaris
92. Georgina Voulgaris
93. Pat Welbourne
94. Chris Welbourne
95. Austin Williams
15. Anastasios Catanzaro
16. Zach Cordingley
17. Sasha Cordingley
18. Gus Chimbakis
19. Helen Chimbakis
20. Bill Comminos
21. Angela Damianakos
22. Joanne Frisky
23. Peter Giardetti
24. Tara Giardetti
25. Harry Glymitsas
26. Dimitra Glymitsas
27. Jennie Hartviksen
28. Bill Hatzis
29. Stella Hatzis
30. Sotirios Hatzis
31. Theodora Hatzis
32. Penny Kahramanos
33. Lisa Kahramanos
34. Faye Karoutas
35. Andy Karanasos
36. Lori Florindo-Karanasos
37. Despina Kargatzis
38. Joyce Koukos
39. Nick Koukos
40. Peter Koukos
41. Ray Leino
42. Virginia Leino
43. Jack Lotsios
44. Effie Lotsios
45. George Lotsios
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53. Achileas Metsopoulos
54. Despina Metsopoulos
55. Penny Milionis
56. Angela Mitsopoulos
57. Maria Morakis
58. Nikki Pantoulis
59. Peter Pantoulis
60. Helen Pantoulis
61. Tom Pazianos
62. Leila Pazianos
63. Olivia Pietrangelo
64. Effie Saïtes
65. Maria Sancartier
66. Katerina Scocchia
67. Kosma (Steven) Sitko
68. Vicky Soulias
69. Steven Scollie
70. Christina Skripnikova
71. Marinos Spourdalakis
72. Elaine Tsekouras
73. John Tsekouras
74. Jane Tsekouras
75. Constantine Tsekouras
76. Lily Tsekouras
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82. Christine Vlotaros
83. Peter Vlotaros
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85. Theodora Voulgaris
86. Chris Welbourne
87. Patricia Welbourne
88. Austin Williams

2025

1. Vasilina Amos
2. Peter Avgeropoulos
3. Joyce Avgeropoulos
4. Nicholas Balina
5. Ourania Biniaris (Scollie)
6. Charlie Biniaris
7. Dimitra Biniaris
8. Katerina Biniaris
9. George Biniaris
10. Toni Biniaris
11. Athena Blieske
12. Edric Blieske
13. Iulieana Bradatanu
14. Alexandru Bradatanu

Please get in touch with Fr. Kosta if there are any errors in this list.

Help our church grow!



Scan This With Your
Phone Camera and click
the link that pops up

Leave A 5 Star Google Review

This helps new people find us

1

Directions:

1. Open your camera app on your phone and scan the QR code.
2. Tap the link that pops up.
3. Log in to your Gmail account if you aren't already logged in.
4. Select **5 Stars** and write a review about why you love your Greek Orthodox church, the people there, or a favourite memory you have.
5. Tap **Submit**.

Οδηγίες:

1. Ανοίξτε την κάμερα του κινητού σας και σκανάρετε το QR code.
2. Πατήστε στον σύνδεσμο που θα εμφανιστεί.
3. Συνδεθείτε στο Gmail σας, αν δεν είστε ήδη συνδεδεμένοι.
4. Επιλέξτε **5 αστέρια** και γράψτε μια κριτική για το γιατί αγαπάτε την Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη εκκλησία σας, τους ανθρώπους εκεί ή μια αγαπημένη σας ανάμνηση.
5. Πατήστε **Υποβολή**.

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

Our website provides basic information on the Sacraments. Still, please speak with Fr. Kosta directly regarding dates, sponsors (Koumbaroi), preparations, and any other questions about booking a Sacrament.

Please ensure the church and the Priest are available for weddings and baptisms before booking reception venues.

Dates for a Wedding cannot be performed:

- Any evening that comes before one of the Twelve Major Feasts
- Nativity Fast (Nov. 15 – Dec. 24)
- Great Lent (dates change each year)
- Apostles' Fast (the Monday after All Saints to the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29)
- Dormition Fast (Aug. 1 – Aug. 14)
- Aug. 28/29 (the Beheading of St. John the Baptist)
- Sept. 13/14 (the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Dates when a Baptism cannot be performed:

- Christmas Day through the Feast of Theophany (December 25-January 6)
- Holy Week (dates vary each year)
- Great Feast-Days of the Lord

Please note:

- Parents, godparents, couples, and sponsors must be financially current by paying their stewardship for the past two years. Please consult our treasurer. A breakdown of fees and stewardship amounts is available in this bulletin.
- Brides, grooms, godparents, and wedding sponsors (koumbaroi) must be in good standing in the Orthodox Church by being baptized Orthodox, having their marriages blessed in the Orthodox Church, and not having participated in Sacraments outside the faith. Out-of-town sponsors and godparents require a letter from their priest confirming their eligibility to participate in an Orthodox Sacrament.
- Couples must make an appointment to speak with the priest before booking venues or making other arrangements.
- Couples with one non-Orthodox partner must speak with the Priest before deciding to get engaged or at least a year before booking a wedding.

FUNERALS

An Orthodox funeral is offered to all who are baptized Orthodox Christians and are not canonically impeded from receiving an Orthodox Funeral Service.

Orthodox Christian funeral customs reflect core beliefs about life, death, resurrection, and the eternal Kingdom of God. These traditions honour the deceased and comfort grieving families, reinforcing community bonds. The rituals during an Orthodox funeral express mourning and demonstrate faith, viewing death as a passage rather than an end. Understanding the canonical rules of an Orthodox funeral is essential beforehand.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Memorial Services are offered for Orthodox Christians, typically on the ninth and fortieth days after death, six months after death, and the anniversary of death. They are usually held on Sundays at the end of the Divine Liturgy or may also be held as separate services on weekdays at the church or the grave. Please speak with our Priest if you have any questions regarding Koliva or to arrange for a Memorial Service.

Items needed for a memorial at the church:

- Koliva (boiled wheat tray) - Recipes can be found online or through our Priest.
- Prosporo and red wine (Mavrodaphne or a red dessert wine)
- The name of the person commemorated.

Memorials cannot be held on the following days:

- Feast Days of the Lord (Christmas, Theophany, Easter, Presentation, Transfiguration, etc.)
- All Feast Days of the Mother of God (Nativity of the Theotokos, Entrance into the Temple, Dormition, Annunciation, etc.)
- From the Saturday of Lazarus up to and including the Sunday of Thomas, which is the Sunday following Easter.
- Sunday of Pentecost

If you're planning a Sacrament, making funeral arrangements, or have questions about Sacraments or Funerals, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Kosta to arrange a private and confidential meeting. Waiting until you need to book the church or until someone passes away can lead to unnecessary stress and complications that can be avoided.

STEWARDSHIP & FEES

We truly appreciate all the financial and volunteer support our church receives. We kindly invite you to renew your stewardship and continue to support our church with an annual commitment, ensuring we can thrive together!

The treasurer must receive fees at least two (2) weeks before a Sacrament or event by cash, cheque, or e-transfer at holytrinity@tbaytel.net.

Annual Stewardship ("Membership")

- Family (couple): \$600
- Single Regular Members (Age 18+) & Seniors: \$300/person
- University/College Students: \$100
- Associate Members (non-Orthodox spouses): \$150

Funerals

- Up-to-Date Members: No Fee
- Not Up-to-Date Members: \$300 for each year of no membership paid, up to 2 years

Hall Rentals

- Members: \$150
- Non-Members: \$400

Sacrament/Services Fees

Wedding: \$250
Baptism: \$150

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

There are various items our church needs to restock throughout the year, such as:

- Phosphoro (Bread used for the Eucharist)
- Charcoal disks
- Incense
- Candles
- Oil & Oil Lamp Wicks
- Red Wine for Holy Communion (Mavrodaphne or other red dessert wines)

Ways to assist our church in preparing for major Feast Days and throughout the year:

- Washing the Holy Communion cloths
- Ironing the coverings for the Altar table and the icon stands.
- Decorating an icon for a major Feast Day.
- Helping organize retreats and events.

Please speak with our priest regarding your involvement in the church's life.

MEMBERS AND STEWARDS

Who is a Member?

An Orthodox Church member is anyone baptized and chrismated by its rites, but not all members are Stewards.

Who is a Steward?

A Steward is a baptized Orthodox Christian aged 18 or older, self-supporting, committed to their local church, and invests their time, talent, and treasure to advance the Church's mission. These commitments embody Stewardship and reflect active faith, but not every Steward is active.

Who is an Active Steward?

The Active Steward lives their faith by contributing treasure and time. They attend Divine Liturgy, participate in Holy Communion and Confession, and offer their talents while adhering to Orthodox teachings and refraining from participating in Sacraments outside the Orthodox Church. This steward is a "member in good standing with the Orthodox Church."

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship involves contributing time, talent, or treasure to our Church without perfection but with active participation. It is based on biblical teachings that outline the Four Fundamental Principles of Stewardship:

1. **Ownership:** God created and owns everything. Everything we are and have is a gift from God. [Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:28]
2. **Responsibility:** We have been entrusted with managing and administering God's gifts, making us Stewards. Therefore, Stewardship is committing ourselves and our blessings to advance the Ministry of Christ and remain faithful to Him. [Mt. 25:14-30]
3. **Accountability:** Having been entrusted with this sacred responsibility, the Parable of the Talents reveals that each of us will be called to give an account of how we managed God's gifts given to us personally and as a community. [Mt. 25:14-30]
4. **Reward:** St. Paul reminds us, "Whatever [we] do, work it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for man since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." [Colossians 3:23-24; Prov. 18:16; Lk. 6:38]

Example of a breakdown for weekly Stewardship:

Weekly Income	Monthly Contribution			
	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40

COMMON QUESTIONS BY VISITORS OR INQUIRERS

Q: What does "Greek Orthodox" mean?

The term "Greek Orthodox" may refer to either the Orthodox Church as a whole, to the churches of the Eastern Roman Empire or "Byzantine" areas, or to Orthodox Christians of Greek descent. However, "Eastern Orthodox" is a more correct term for the whole Church. Greek Orthodox also refers to the style of liturgical rite used in the Church.

Q: What language are your services in?

Our Divine Liturgy is conducted in Greek and English, with English being the predominant language. Prayers are said in English. The hymns chanted by the cantors are usually balanced between Greek and English. Vespers and Matins (Orthros) are chanted in both Greek and English. The sermon is given in English.

Q: Do I have to be Greek or Orthodox to attend services?

You do not have to be Orthodox or Greek to attend services. Everyone is welcome to visit and inquire about our theology and liturgical practices. We often have visitors in our Church.

* Please note that you must be baptized as an Orthodox Christian and in good standing with the Church to receive the Sacraments. Our Priest is available if you have any questions about attending our Church. Don't hesitate to contact him via text or email a few days before your visit, and he'll answer you.

Q: What Orthodox worship service can I attend if I've never been to one before?

It would help if you spoke to the Priest beforehand about attending a service, so you will be prepared for what to

expect. You're always welcome to participate in Sunday Divine Liturgy and speak with our priest during coffee after the service.

Q: How will I fit in your congregation if I'm not Greek?

You will fit in just fine. Our congregation comprises people from diverse nationalities. Orthodoxy is universal. You do not need to be Greek to attend our church. You're encouraged to come to the church hall for coffee hour after the Sunday Divine Liturgy and have a coffee with Fr. Kosta and the rest of the congregation.

Q: I'm an Orthodox Christian but visiting for the first time. What should I do?

Please inform the Priest that you are visiting, especially if you wish to receive Holy Communion.

Q: Can I speak with the Priest privately regarding learning more about the Orthodox Church?

Of course! Our Priest is available to speak with you most days and at all times. Please feel free to contact him. His contact information is in this bulletin.

Q: What's the most significant difference between the Orthodox Church and other denominations?

Apart from the liturgical, theological, and visual differences, the mentality and way we approach God, the Saints, spirituality, and sin differ from some, if not most, "Western" theological approaches. Our approach to the Bible and Holy Tradition may vary from one's experience. Depending on one's background, the above can result in considerable differences and significant adjustments for those exposed to the Orthodox

approach to saints, life, death, and God.

Q: Can I receive the Eucharist at Holy Trinity if I belong to the Oriental (Non-Chalcedonian) Orthodox Churches?

Since Thunder Bay is relatively isolated, if your church is not located in the Thunder Bay area, you may receive Holy Communion upon permission from your priest or bishop. Our Archdiocese has granted this special exemption, as the Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian churches are still not in full communion. However, to make our church your permanent spiritual home or to continue receiving the Sacraments for an extended period, you must discuss this with our priest.

Q: Do you rent your church to other denominations or faith groups?

We do not rent our church. The policy is that only our parish priest can celebrate worship services unless another canonical Orthodox Priest is visiting, has written permission from his bishop and our Archdiocese, and has discussed it with our priest to lead services.

The church hall is available for rent, provided the event does not contradict the spirit of the Orthodox Christian faith.

Orthodox services can be overwhelming or confusing for those experiencing them for the first time. Feel free to speak with our Priest after the Service regarding your experience. We'd love for you to join us in the church hall after Sunday's Divine Liturgy for fellowship and coffee.

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Olivia Pietrangelo JD, is a member in good standing with the Greek Orthodox Holy Trinity Church in Thunder Bay. She also works as a lawyer at Larson Lawyers.

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