



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

JANUARY ~

AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:45 a.m. Orthros 9:15a.m. Divine Liturgy

WEEKLY PARAKLESIS

4:00 p.m. on Thursdays

WEEKLY VESPERS SERVICES

6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays

OTHER WEEKDAY SERVICES

- **Thu. Jan. 1, 8:30 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy - Circumcision of our Lord & St. Basil the Great
- **Mon. Jan. 5, 8:30 a.m.** Great Hours - Eve of Theophany
 - 5:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy
- **Tue. Jan. 6, 8:00 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy - Theophany
- **Wed. Jan. 7, 8:30 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy - Synaxis for St. John the Baptist
- **Thu. Jan. 8, 6:30 a.m.** First Hour & Divine Liturgy - St. George of Hozeva
- **Sat. Jan. 10, 8:30 a.m.** Third Hour & Divine Liturgy - St. Gregory of Nissa
- **Wed. Jan. 14, 7:00 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy - Holy Fathers of Mt. Sina & Raitho
- **Fri. Jan. 16, 8:30 p.m.** Vigil-Vespers-Orthros & Divine Liturgy-St. Anthony
- **Tue. Jan. 20, Sixth Hour & Divine Liturgy** – St. Euthymius the Great
- **Wed. Jan. 21, 7:00 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy - St. Maximos the Confessor
- **Wed. Jan. 28, 6:30 a.m.** First Hour & Divine Liturgy-Sts. Ephraim & Isaac
- **Fri. Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy-The Three Holy Hierarchs

IN THIS MAILING

- 2026 January and February Calendars
- Adult Religious Education
- Child of God
- CPR Class
- Building for Generations Bless our Inheritance
- Epiphany and House Blessings
- Marriage Seminar
- Men's Group
- PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
- Philoptochos Annual Membership Tea
- Sound System Improvements
- St. Sophia School
- The Liturgical of Arts Academy
- Theophany
- Young at Heart News
- Youth Evening Night
- Youth & Families-Say hello to New Year!

SERVICES LIVE STREAM

To view services, please go to:

- ◆ St. Nektarios website, www.stnektarios.org
- ◆ YouTube page, St. Nektarios Church-Charlotte, NC
- ◆ Facebook page, St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

- ◆ **Wednesday, December 24th at Noon-Eve of the Nativity**
- ◆ **Thursday and Friday, December 25th and 26th** in observance of the Nativity of Our Lord.
- ◆ **Thursday and Friday, January 1st and 2nd** in observance of the Circumcision of Our Lord, and St. Basil the Great.

VISITATION

Please contact the church office if someone is in need of a clergy visit or to notify of health issues.

SUNDAY LITURGICAL GIFTS

You may make a financial gift to help defray the cost of the sacramental wine or the Prospora that are used for Holy Communion. Please note on the memo line of your check "Holy Communion" or "Prospora." You may also donate a bottle or can of pure olive oil which is then blessed at the Shrine of St. Nektarios and is offered in the anointing kits. For additional information contact the church office **704-708-4669**.

NAMES OF THE LIVING FOR PARAKLESIS

Paraklesis service is offered on **Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.** You may submit names of the living (first names only) to the church office. Names will be commemorated for five weeks at a time.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

Please be reminded that Fellowship Coffee Hour begins at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Our Hospitality Team will begin serving any refreshments once the congregation is fully dismissed from the Service.

CHURCH MOUSE THRIFT STORE

- ◆ Monday & Thursday - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - ◆ Saturday - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 9010-D Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270
704-443-7083. If you would like to volunteer in helping in the store, please contact **Dee Drobonick - 704-641-5960** or deedrob519@gmail.com.

COUNCIL OF MINISTRY RETREAT

Save the date — Sunday February 15 from 2 to 5 PM
For Clergy, Parish Council, all leaders in Ministry, staff and parishioners interested in the ministries of the parish.

PARISH COUNCIL

Congratulations to our 3 newly elected members of Parish Council who will serve a 3-year term beginning January 2026: Elie Azar, Manal Chouieri, and Dan Wixon
The Parish Council Oath is tentatively schedule to take place on Sunday, January 11 th followed by election of officers.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY

Save the Date for the next event
January 24, 2026

A time for fellowship, food,
and spiritual reflection!

NARROW PATH BOOK STORE

Visit the store for books, icons, liturgical items and gifts.
Open on Sundays for 30 minutes after the Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall.

FAMILY SPACES IN THE TEMPLE

Support spaces off the Narthex are reserved for use by our little ones and their families as an extension of our worship.

- ◆ The family room next to the elevator is reserved for our youngest to get out the wiggles and noises.
- ◆ The north stairwell may be used by our elementary aged youth with a lending library and church borrow bags.
- ◆ New addition! Now introducing our upstairs baby support room! Located across from the elevator.

These spaces are a place where children can regroup and return to the service in the nave.

FINISH STRONG FUEL THE FUTURE

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Throughout this year, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure have made an incredible impact to continue our Lord's ministry through St. Nektarios.

As we approach the year's end, let's finish strong together!

Your final offering for 2025 can be the boost that propels our church into a powerful new year.

Give today and help us close the year with unstoppable momentum!

What shall I give back to the Lord
for all that he has given to me?

Psalm 115:3

Online Giving Options

- ◆ Use this QR Code
- ◆ Submit a check In person or by mail
- ◆ Use your banking bill pay option
- ◆ Go to www.stnektarios.org; select online giving



YEAR END OFFERINGS & TAXABLE DEDUCTIONS

We must receive your offerings or be postmarked by **December 31** to qualify as a 2025 tax deduction.

We can also receive offerings as asset transfers from **Donor Advised Funds, family trusts** and in the form of **stocks or other securities**. Please call the church office for more information.

Required Minimum Distribution

For those who have begun taking their RMD, you may make a charitable gift from your IRA accounts directly to our church, free from federal income tax. These gifts count toward the RMD for the year of the gift. Talk to your tax advisor for more information.

ST. NEKTARIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5108 KUYKENDALL RD // CHARLOTTE, NC 28270
704-708-4669 // OFFICE@STNEKTARIOS.ORG WWW.STNEKTARIOS.ORG



2026 THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

- ◆ Our clergy look forward to blessing your home this Theophany season! You may contact the church office to join the list for house blessings. More detailed instructions will be issued after the new year. Bottles of Holy Water will be available at church after January 6th to take home.
- ◆ Theophany, one of the oldest and most important Feast days of the Orthodox Church, makes present the manifestation of the Holy Trinity which took place at the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Recognizing rich meaning in this event, Orthodoxy teaches that when Christ was baptized, it not only marked the beginning of its public ministry and revealed the Trinity, but also signified that the entire creation is destined to share in the glory of redemption in Christ. While Christ entered into the Jordan to be baptized, two things were happening: He was identifying Himself with the people He had come to save; and, He was identifying Himself with the whole of Creation which was represented by water. Through His baptism, the Lord renewed the value of the created world and redirected it toward its Creator. Creation is good and belongs to God.
- ◆ The Great Blessing of Water is held on the eve of the Feast of the Theophany and on the day itself. The Blessing not only remembers the event of Our Lord's baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity but also expresses Orthodoxy's belief that creation is sanctified through Christ. The Blessing affirms that humanity and the created world, of which we are a part, were created to be filled with the sanctifying presence of God. After the solemn blessing, the Holy Water is distributed to the faithful and is used to bless homes during the Theophany season. When the faithful drink the "Holy Water," we are reminded of our own baptism. When the Church blesses an individual, or object, or event with the water, we are affirming that those baptized, their surroundings, and their responsibilities are sanctified through Christ and brought into the Kingdom of the Father through the Spirit.

NEW YEAR AND THEOPHANY JANUARY 2026

THURSDAY 1/1

Circumcision of Christ · St. Basil the Great
Secular New Year · Vasilopita

8:30 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY 1/4

Sunday before Theophany
Community Vasilopita & Brunch

7:45 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy

MONDAY 1/5

Eve of Theophany

8:30 AM Great Hours

6:00 PM Vespers & Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Water

TUESDAY 1/6

Holy Theophany

8:00 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY 1/7

Synaxis for St. John the Forerunner

8:30 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Godparent Sunday

Sunday, January 11

A special day of worship for Godparents and their Godchildren in honor of the Theophany Celebration. A brief Godparent Affirmation Service will be offered.



GOYANS GONE GRAY!

(or going gray!)

Join us for an evening of
FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING



When: Jan. 17, 2026 at 7pm



Where: Father "C" Hall at Holy Trinity

Wear: Your favorite sports team colors or jersey

Bring your own beer or wine, an appetizer or dessert to share, and enjoy music and dancing, all with no admission charge!

***Free Will Donations to benefit SAMA
(Saint Anastasia Medical Assistance Fund)***

For questions, please contact Elise McGinnis at 704.618.7212



The St. Sophia School

CHARLOTTE, NC

NOW ENROLLING

GRADES TK-6

WHY THE ST. SOPHIA SCHOOL?

- Montessori, Classical blend
- 8:1 Child to Teacher Ratio
- Active learning
- Orthodox religious education



Email us or Visit our Website
INFO@THESTSOPHIASCHOOL.ORG
www.thestsophiaschool.org

Elevating our

SOUNDSCAPE

Help overhaul
our temple's sound system!



To participate, scan the QR code or submit your offering to the office by October 26

SAINT NEKTARIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



New Year's Ministry Brunch

In Honor of the Feast Day of
St. Basil the Great
Sunday, January 4, 2026

Vasilopita Blessing
Following Divine Liturgy
(New Year's Day Bread)

A free-will offering will be accepted as part of Philoptochos' special collection to benefit St. Basil Academy, Youth & Young Adult Programs throughout the Archdiocese

All offerings will benefit the charity thanks to the generosity of our anonymous sponsor of the brunch



SAINT NEKTARIOS
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
5108 Kuykendall Rd., Charlotte



CPR-AED and First Aid Certification

Saturday, January 24, 2026

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

held in the SLC

Full training from a certified instructor

Receive a 2 year accredited certification card

\$45 suggested donation

Sign up by using QR code shown below
or call the church to register

704-708-4669



PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

THE 2025/2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN!

Calling exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent - consider becoming a PanHellenic Scholar!

Do you or an exceptional undergraduate student
you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar?

The 2025/2026 application is open and
accepting applications!

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO APPLY.



ἸϞ ΧϞ
ΝΙ ΚΑ

Youth & families, SAY HELLO TO THE NEW YEAR at **Kate's** Skating Rinks est. 1961

for an evening of roller skating and fun!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026
6:45PM - 8:45PM

visit stnektarios.org/youth
to register and learn more!

START 2026 WITH...

evening light

Youth in Grades 5-12
Stay for a while or for the whole evening!
WEDNESDAYS THIS WINTER

FIND YOUR VOICE • 5:00 PM • PORCH
*Learn hymns from Vespers: chanting lessons
with the Protopsaltis.*

VESPERS • 6:00 PM • CHURCH
*Join the rhythm of daily worship, in our
Wednesday Vespers, the sung evening service.*

QUIET TIME • 7:00-8:30 PM • PORCH
FREE TIME for study, reflection, quiet — YOU choose!
Hosted by Youth Director · Refreshments provided

SAINT NEKTARIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sign in on the Porch
(or Narthex during Vespers)

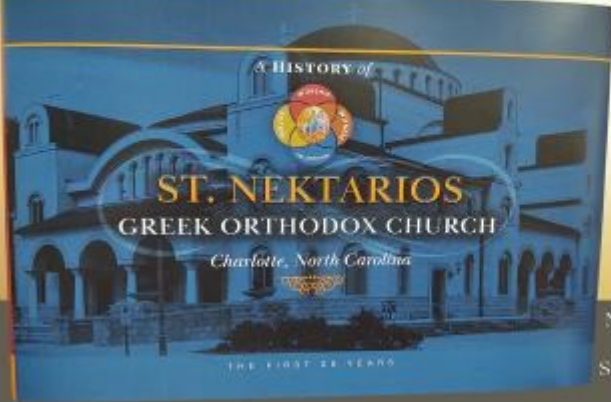
ST. NEKTARIOS COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

Available for Purchase
at the Church Office and on Sundays
during Fellowship Coffee Hour

St. Nektarios Gold-tone Ornament
Suggested Donation \$25


Parish History Book — \$75 Donation
Reflection on our first 25 years.

25th Anniversary
Commemorative Book
A History of the First 25 Years



In 1998, a small group of very dedicated people set out to change their corner of the world by carrying out the Great Commission given by our Lord in the book Matthew 28:19-20. To that end, and by the Grace of God, the community of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church was born. This is the story of that birth with the joy, the growing pains, the excitement, and the fulfillment of the work done in its first twenty five years.

NOW AVAILABLE
AT CHURCH
Suggested Donation
\$75.00



25th Anniversary
Commemorative Ornament



Suggested Donation
\$25.00
for our 25th Anniversary

NOW AVAILABLE

ST. NEKTARIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Saint Nektarios
25TH ANNIVERSARY
1998-2023
CHARLOTTE, NC

Christmas Giving Helping Others

DECEMBER APPEAL
SPECIAL COLLECTION ON
DECEMBER 24TH AND 25TH



MISSIONS-CHILD OF GOD-KENYA

To support Child of God Academy in Kenya feeding and education about 280 each day now.

These students are served by fifteen minimally paid teachers.

To make your donation:

Online Giving — go to [www.stnektarios.org/Online Giving Tab](http://www.stnektarios.org/OnlineGivingTab); Select **CHILD OF GOD**;
OR USE THE QR CODE

- ♦ Make your check payable to St. Nektarios Church with **“Child of God”** in the memo line.
- ♦ Mail to the church, ATTN: **Child of God**
- ♦ Bring to church on **Dec. 24th or 25th** to place in Offering Basket as you exit.



“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”. (James 2:26)

SAINT
NEKTARIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



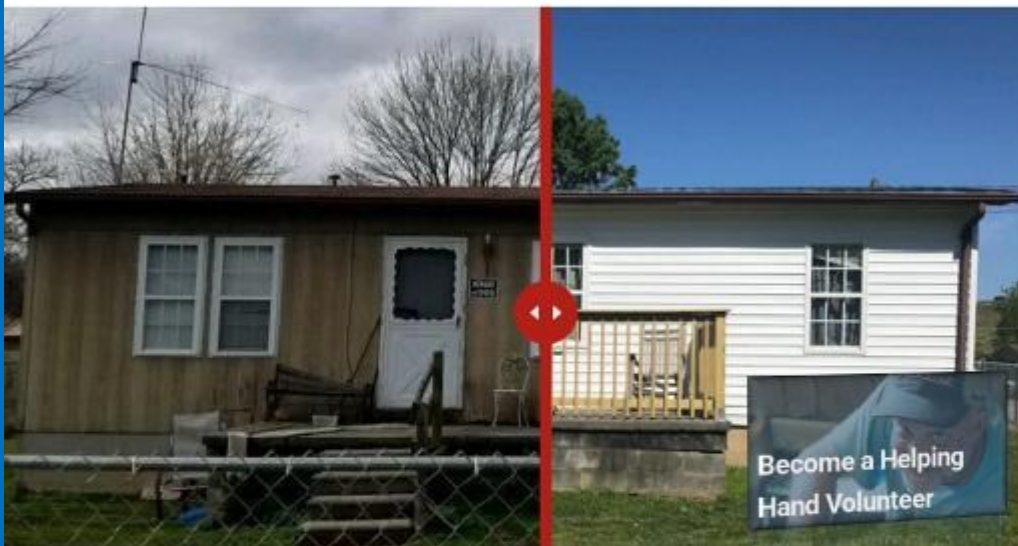
ASP

Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT

Our mission teams serve alongside local churches and ministries in both urban and rural settings across Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky. Your team will have opportunities to serve in a variety of ways, from service projects to children's ministry to mercy ministry - the opportunities are endless!



Help After Disaster



Critical Home Repair and Replacement. Transformational Relationships.

- Making homes warmer, safer, and drier for Appalachian families.**
- Providing critical repairs to raise homes out of substandard condition.**
- Building new homes in select locations when homes are beyond repair or affected by a disaster.**
- Establishing meaningful, long-lasting relationships with homeowners, fellow volunteers, and staff.**
- Improving youth and adult volunteers to take on high-impact home repairs.**
- Emphasizing service through mission trips for youth and adults of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels.**

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH AND ADULT TO BECOME A HELPING HAND VOLUNTEER!

2026 MISSIONS AND PHILANTHROPY MINISTRY



MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY: YOUTH 11+ & ADULTS

When: Week 5 July 5-11, 2026 (other summer dates available as individuals)

With: St. Nicholas GOC, Wilmington, NC (as team(s))

Project Sponsor: Appalachian Service Project (ASP) (asphome.org)

Background: ASP is a Christian based service-oriented program to address humanitarian assistance to those in poverty in five state regions (TN, KY, NC, VA, WVA) of what is named Appalachia (16% poverty vs. 11.8% US). The ASP Motto is "Warmer. Safer. Drier". Various Orthodox parishes from around the country have participated in the past with their own parish team, or with individuals joining on to an already organized team. The ASP has several types of programs, but the one we are talking about here is the Summer Youth Program (much like Project Mexico). A team consists of 5-7 individuals aged 11 or older who have completed 6th grade. One adult (19 or older) must be included for every 5 younger volunteers that are participating on the team. Adult participants must have a background check done.

Projects vary but are mostly home repair oriented. ASP provides leaders on-site to instruct and oversee correct performance of needed work. A How To Instruction Manual is available for guidance on the projects. The specific project for each participating team is assigned a week or so before arriving on-site. The work week is Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30. Sat & Sun are travel days to and from work location. Each team works with an approved family for the whole week. After the workday and dinner, there is an ASP organized event before retiring for the evening.

Logistical details are:

Cost: \$300-\$375 per person (week 5 @\$300), which includes.

- Lodging (usually in a church hall or community center, bring an air mattress with partition separation for boys v. girls. Sometimes there are dorm like settings where beds are available and volunteers bring bedding and towels,
- Hot breakfast and dinner,
- Supplies to pack lunches for worksite,
- Building materials,
- Staff oversight and guidance,
- Religious education,
- Faith-based programming,
- Life transforming experiences.

Transportation: Each team provides its own transportation, rental vehicle usually a van. Enterprise has been a favorable partner for this program. Plan for an additional thousand dollars for such team rental need. That vehicle is used to transport each team to their work site.

Visit the Missions and Philanthropy table during coffee hour
or, contact Tim Klund at tklund.tk@gmail.com



Building for Generations
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

BLESS OUR INHERITANCE

*Lifting up our past.
Laying down the foundation of our future.*

Sunday, Jan 11th, 2026
Immediately following Divine Liturgy

stnektarios.org @stnektarioscharlotte

You're Invited!

On Sunday, January 11th, we'll begin the deconstruction of the house that served as the first home of our church community.



In honor of our past, founding members of our community will deliver three bricks from the house to newer members of our community.

With hope towards the future, we will process the bricks out from the temple and bury them at the site of our New Ministry Center, laying them down as the cornerstone for our continued ministry.



Other event highlights:

- Walk down Memory Lane
- Light refreshments provided
- Take-Home Keepsake

The Family Life Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Presents:

*Preparing for the Journey of Marriage In the Orthodox Church
Every Second Saturday of the Month*

2026 - Virtual // 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- ◆ Discover God's purpose for marriage
- ◆ Learn how to work toward oneness
- ◆ Avoid the pitfalls that lead couples toward divorce
- ◆ Establish good patterns for relating to one another
- ◆ Get to know more about each other toward divorce

*'And so Marriage is a road: It starts out from the earth and ends in the heaven'
Amilianos of Simonopetra*

Please contact: fmpremarital@gmail.com
with any further questions or needs.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

INVITES MEN 18+ TO GATHER FOR
DISCUSSION & FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY, 1/17/25 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

St. Nektarios SLC - Lower Level Room H.
Refreshments will be provided.

Attendees are encouraged to stay for Vespers at 6 p.m.

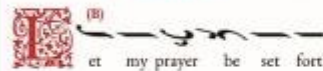


The Liturgical Arts Academy

Winter Academy - for Beginners
Summer Academy - for Upper Levels
at The Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC

WINTER ACADEMY: FEB 8 - 14, 2026 * Registration opens 09/23/25
SUMMER ACADEMY: AUG 23 - 29, 2026 * Registration opens 03/23/25

Byzantine Chant



A week of intensive in-person training in Byzantine notation, modal theory, ornamentation and rubrics. Students are accepted into Beginner thru Master Class levels based on their application. Instructors: J.M. Boyer, S. Herron, G. Cremeens, P.D. Robinson

Byzantine Iconography



A week of intensive instruction in line drawing, color theory, gilding, painting, and varnishing. Beginners learn the basics of the Byzantine technique; Summer Academy is for more advanced icon painting. Instructor: Fr. Anthony Salzman



Foods in Faith

Learn to make and offer Prosfhora, Artoklasia, and Koliva for the worship life of the Church. Winter Academy only. Instructor: Presvytera Meredyth Houpos

Visit TheLiturgicalArts.org

info@theliturgicalarts.org



Donate Now



Special Collection

Jan. 4, 2026
supporting
the work
of

To make your donation:

- Scan the QR Code here
- Use the PayPal link on the Philoptochos webpage, www.stnektarios.org/philoptochos
- Make your check payable to Philoptochos with "Youth Programs" in the memo line.
- Mail to the church, attn. Philoptochos - Special Collection
- Bring to church on Jan. 4th to place in the Special Collection box.



AND

Youth and Young Adult
Programs throughout
the Archdiocese and all
Metropolises



Thank you for your support!

St. Nektarios Department of Adult Religious Education

Spring 2026 - Program Overview



Bible Study – The Gospel of Luke

Virtual & In Person

This 14-week program began in September and resumes the week of January 12 and runs until February 18

Men's

Mondays, 7am,
Moderated by Andrew McCullough
& Dimitri Triantafyllides

Women's

Wednesdays, 10am,
Moderated by Maryann Zitsos

Mixed Group

Wednesdays, 7pm,
Moderated by Zachary Hair
& Missy Davis

All are welcome to join

To ensure you receive the study guide prior to the beginning of sessions, and to be added to the distribution list of a specific session please email one of the following: Men's group: Dimitri.triantafyllides@sixtyguilders.com

Women's group: gilead444@gmail.com or militsa@bellsouth.net // Mixed group: zackery.hair30@gmail.com



Special Presentations

Virtual & In Person

- + Journey through Holy Week - Date and time to be announced
- + Luncheon Presentation - Saturday, February 14 following Saturday of Souls Liturgy and Memorial A Ministry Co-hosted event presenting

Sarah Byrne-Martelli,

speaking on the Orthodox Christian Perspective on Illness, suffering and grief



Lent, Lunch, and Learn

Thursdays during Lent, starting February 26, 2026

with a combined ministry event on March 12, 2026; hosted by our Young at Heart Ministry

Speakers to be Announced

**ZOOM ID FOR VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION:
880-334-8094**



FOR YOUR SAFETY AT CHURCH

- **Emergency exits** in the Temple are the double doors located in each side chapel area, main doors in the Narthex, and the bottom of both stairwells.
- **In case of a fire alarm in the Temple**
All are instructed to use the closest exit to evacuate the building and go directly to the hall for further instructions. Do not go to your children if they are in catechism classes. Do not go to your vehicles. The Fire Department is on its way and they ask that the parking lot be clear of any traffic.
- **Please use special care in the Temple** in the upper level, especially with small children. No standing is allowed at the center section rail.
- **Sudden Illness in the Temple**
Notify the nearest usher if you or someone in your family is having an emergency or not feeling well. We will identify a first aider who can provide necessary assistance.
- **Nave Aisles**
Please keep the aisles clear of children playing and any tripping hazards.
- **Strollers** may be stored in the stairwell by the family room.
- **Adult Supervision** — We ask our families that the youth be under adult supervision at all times, including using the restrooms.
- **For the safety of our youth**, children should not run on the plaza, play near the fountain, play on the stage in the hall, or play unsupervised in the