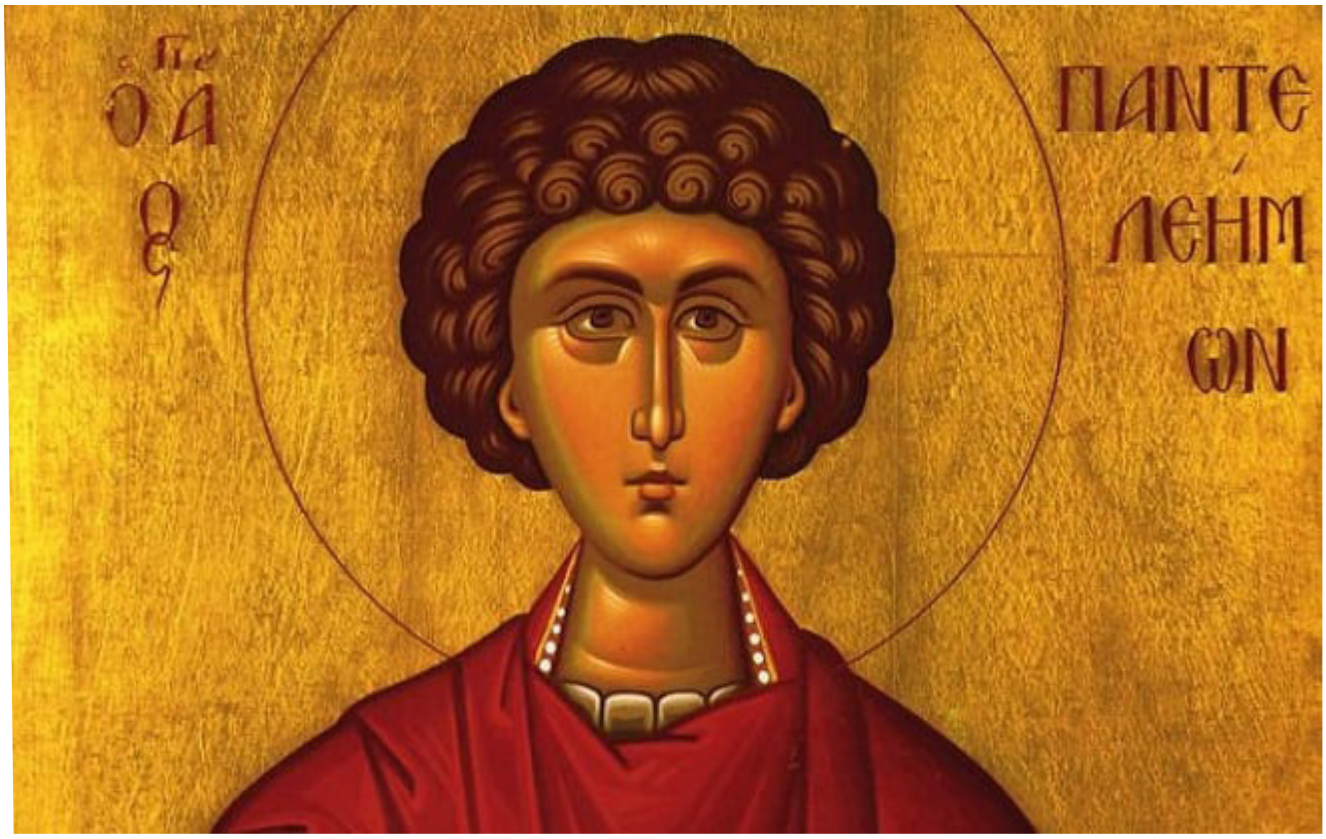
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Reverend Protopresbyter Constantine Simeonidis, Proistamenos ~ frc@htgocorlando.org

Volume 2026 Number 7

JULY 2026



Panteleimon, saintly champion and healer, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls remission of sins.

(Apolytikion. Third Tone)

Apolytikion for Saint Panteleimon, July 27th.

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Mission Ministry: Aarin Fotopoulos
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OCF: Kyriaki Lagoutaris, Mark Masterjohn, Sotirios Vasilakis
Philoptochos: Anastasia Vallas
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Prayer Armada: Melissa Georgiadis, Linda Martin
Recreational Adult Dance: Tina Burnett
Senior Outreach: Christine Rothenberger
Society of Wisdom: Mary Mantzaris; Luz Xikis, Lula Vastardis
St. John Oratorical Festival: Niki Tringas
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Daughters of Penelope: Linda Winchester

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Great Martyr and Healer Saint Panteleimon

Commemorated on July 27th

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful."



On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian.

Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.

Ministry News & Updates

Please Remember Fr. Constantine will never ask for gift cards or assistance via email or text messaging. If you receive a text or email from someone claiming to be Fr. Constantine asking for assistance, please call the office and do not respond.

Adult Recreational Greek Dance: Interested in learning how to Greek dance or just want to brush up on your dance skills? For more information, please contact Tina Burnett (Photenie@gmail.com).

EZAir Solutions Scholarship: To encourage and empower graduating seniors with a passion for the trades, EZAir Solutions is excited to announce a $1,000 scholarship opportunity to support the next generation of trades professionals. To apply, submit a 500-1000 word essay and a short video sharing your enthusiasm for pursuing a trade career, detailing your journey, experiences, and aspirations. Additionally, showcase a project that sparked your interest in the trades, whether it's a hands-on project, repair, or initiative. Please make sure the applicants' contact info is attached. Email your essay and a link to your video to eliseo@ezairsolutions.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 8/21 and the selection will be made on 8/28.

Hellenic Dance: For more information about the Greek dance program, please contact Staci Lagoutaris (StaciLag@gmail.com).

Philoptochos: Philoptochos, being a friend of the poor and always ready to assist those in need, has established a scholarship to help a graduating high school student who is entering a college, a community college or a trade school. The annual scholarship will be $1,000.00. For more information about application, please reach out to Sanda at pa@htgocorlando.org. The application deadline is July 31, 2026.

Prosphora: We are in need of more Prosphora bakers for our services. If you would like to contribute and help, please contact Sanda at pa@htgocorlando.org.

HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH

2X FOR 2



2X FOR 2

This special campaign has one clear goal:
TO FREE OUR BELOVED PARISH FROM ITS MORTGAGE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

The plan is simple yet powerful—
EACH STEWARD IS INVITED TO TAKE THEIR CURRENT ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE AND DOUBLE IT ("2X") FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS,
with one portion continuing to support our regular stewardship needs and the other dedicated entirely to eliminating the mortgage.

The purpose of this campaign is to
ELIMINATE THE EXISTING MORTGAGE OF THE CHURCH.

Our goal is to
RAISE $1.2 MILLION IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

All members of the Holy Trinity community are urged to help the church achieve this goal.

September 28, 2025

Beloved Parishioners of Holy Trinity,

It is with great joy that I announce the launch of our new initiative, **"2X2."** This special campaign has one clear goal: to free our beloved parish from its mortgage within the next two years. The plan is simple yet powerful—each steward is invited to take their current annual stewardship pledge and double it ("2X") for the next two years, with one portion continuing to support our regular stewardship needs and the other dedicated entirely to eliminating the mortgage.

In the weeks ahead, we will share more details about this program, along with the practical steps and spiritual vision that guide it. For now, I wish to offer a few theological and spiritual reflections on why being free from a mortgage is not only financially wise but also deeply beneficial for the mission and life of our Church.

Theological and Spiritual Reasons

Usury and Interest: The Orthodox Church has a long-standing tradition of condemning usury, which is the lending of money at interest. This view is rooted in both the Old and New Testaments. While modern economies are built on lending with interest, and the application of this teaching in the contemporary world is complex, the fundamental principle remains. A mortgage is a form of debt with interest, and therefore, an Orthodox church taking on such a loan could be seen as being in conflict with this teaching.

Trust in God's Providence: A church building is seen as God's house. By taking on a mortgage, a parish might be seen as relying more on a financial institution and its own ability to repay the debt rather than on God's provision. A church that is built or acquired through donations and without a mortgage demonstrates a greater degree of faith in God's ability to provide for His people and their spiritual needs.

Freedom from "Slavery": The Bible, particularly Proverbs 22:7, states that "the borrower is servant to the lender." A church with a mortgage is financially beholden to the bank or lending institution. This can limit the church's freedom to use its resources for ministry, charity, and other spiritual purposes, as a significant portion of its income would be dedicated to debt repayment. Being debt-free allows the church to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of its community and the wider world.

Avoiding Worldly Concerns: Focusing on fundraising for a mortgage can shift the church's focus away from its primary mission of worship, evangelism, and spiritual life. Being free from the burden of debt allows the community to concentrate on its spiritual growth and service, rather than on financial obligations.

Practical and Communal Benefits

Financial Stability: A church without a mortgage is in a much stronger and more stable financial position. It is not vulnerable to economic downturns, interest rate fluctuations, or the risk of foreclosure. This stability allows the church to better weather financial crises and ensures the continuity of its ministry.

Direct Use of Funds: Without a mortgage payment, the money collected from parishioners can be directly used for ministry, charitable works, parish operations, and supporting clergy. This allows the church to have a greater impact on its community and to fulfill its mission more effectively.

Stewardship: A debt-free church models good stewardship for its members. It encourages the congregation to give generously and to trust in God's provision, reinforcing the idea that the church's resources are a gift from God to be used for His glory, not for worldly obligations.

Community Building: The process of building or acquiring a church without a mortgage often requires a concerted effort from the entire community through donations and volunteer work. This collaborative effort can strengthen the bonds of the parish and foster a deeper sense of ownership and commitment among the members.

I know in my heart that our faithful and growing community hould have no problem in eliminating our mortgage much faster than 2 years. Please Pray and Commit to this blessed endeavor!

All Glory Be to God!

In Christ,

+Fr Simeonidis

Fr Constantine Simeonidis

Scan the QR Code
to begin your 2x2 Donations

HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREATER ORLANDO

PROSPHORA BAKERS NEEDED

If you would like to contribute and help with making Prosphora for our upcoming services, your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Sanda at: pa@htgocorlando.org for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BRAIN FITNESS ACADEMY

Brain Fitness Academy

Brain Fitness Academy maximizes the health and well-being of individuals living with mild memory loss and cognitive impairment.



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - *Proverbs 22:6*

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&
1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month

snacks, playtime, adventures

location:
Holy Trinity Catechism classrooms
Thursday meetups- to be announced

contact:
Alexandra Stratis
amammy08@gmail.com
http://Facebook.com/LittleLambsHT

Become a Steward

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God.

A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith.

As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

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Brain Fitness Academy

What is BRAIN FITNESS ACADEMY?

It is an established and success-based program of cognitive rehabilitation throughout Central Florida. In 2013, the curriculum won the International Council on Active Aging's Innovators Achievement Award

Maximizes the health and well being of individuals living with mild memory loss and cognitive impairment

Provides a therapeutic and safe environment for engaging in brain healthy activities and learning lifestyle adaptations

Focuses on strengths, capabilities, quality of life, socialization and enrichment

What to Expect?

- Brain Fitness Academy offers a structured curriculum based program that meets 2x a week from 9:30 to 1:30 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Orlando. Each class is limited to 16 members.
- Members of Brain Fitness Academy have opportunities for mental stimulation via proven brain exercises that stimulate memory and retention, as well as lifestyle adaptations.
- Socialization and fun activities.
- Self-expression in small group setting.
- Light physical exercise and Music
- Improved self-esteem and well-being.

"Brain Fitness academy has enriched my mother's life by providing an environment that successfully engages all people with varying capabilities by boosting their self esteem and maximizing their health, well-being"
"Brain Fitness provides a much needed service in the community as it is an environment for respite and resources for caregivers"





Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Orlando
1217 Trinity Woods Lane
Maitland, FL 32751

For interview and applications, contact:
Christine Rothenberger M.Ed. Director

407-765-1770
Brainfitness@htgocorlando.org



2026 WEBINARS

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
PARISH DIRECTION: DISCERNMENT AND VISIONING

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
BUILDING & IMPLEMENTING THE PARISH (STRATEGIC) PLAN

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026
PARISH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP: FROM BUSINESS TO FRUITFULNESS – SETTING GOALS THAT ALIGN WITH MISSION

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026
ELEMENTS OF A THRIVING PARISH & EMPOWERING PARISH MINISTRIES

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026
BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED, HIGH-TRUST TEAM

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026
BEYOND STEWARDSHIP: FUNDRAISING FOR SPECIAL PARISH INITIATIVES AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
CONFLICT: USING THE RIGHT APPROACH AND STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026
SEEK, PREPARE & RECEIVE – TO SUPPORT SEEKERS: WELCOMING & ENGAGING SEEKERS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026
TO PREPARE: HEALTHY CATECHISM FOR NEWCOMERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2026
TO RECEIVE: BUILDING THE ORTHODOX MINDSET & ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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QUESTIONS?

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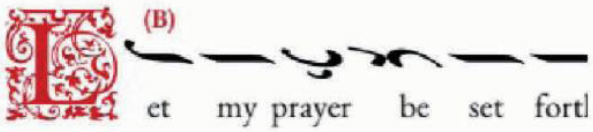
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July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Brain Fitness Academy 10 a.m.	3	4 Wedding 4 p.m.
5 **5th Sunday of Matthew** Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Baptism 12:30 p.m.	6 Paraklisis 5:15 p.m.	7	8	9 Brain Fitness Academy 10 a.m.	10	11 Community Outreach 8 a.m. Wedding 11 a.m.
12 **6th Sunday of Matthew** Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	13	14	15 OPA: Orthodox Trivia Night 6:30 p.m.	16 Society of Wisdom Luncheon 11:30 a.m.	17	**18**
19 **Sunday of the Holy Fathers** Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24	25 Community Outreach 8 a.m.
26 **8th Sunday of Matthew** Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	27 **Panteleimon the Great Martyr** Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	28	29	30	31	

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