

# **Holy Mother of God Ministries**

## **Parish Council**

In the Orthodox tradition, the priest is the leader of the parish assisted by a committee of lay leaders in fulfilling the mission and goals of the community. These leaders are elected by parishioners to work collaboratively to promote the work of each ministry of the parish, to maintain our facilities, and to coordinate the efforts of the entire parish to insure our financial needs and obligations are met.

## **Church School**

The Church School is for students from PreK-3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and utilizes the comprehensive curriculum of the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, along with many other recommended supplemental resources so each child may developmentally gain a deeper understanding of our faith (rhythm of the liturgical year, worship, scripture, sacraments, prayer, fasting, feast days, hymns, saints, etc.)

## **Choir**

Our Choir is an assembly of parishioners committed to leading the congregation in hymns and responses during our Sunday Divine Liturgies, as well as other services throughout the ecclesiastical year. The choir sings in both Greek and English and no previous choral experience is necessary.

## **Philoptochos**

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission is to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts and promotes philanthropic purposes.

## **GOYA**

Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) provides teenagers (6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) time for fellowship, growth in faith and opportunities for outreach.

## **JOY**

Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY) is a ministry for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5th grade students. It is an opportunity for fellowship, activities, outings and growth in their faith.

## **AGAPE**

A ministry for young families from 0-PreK and parent(s). The purpose of this group is to build friendships through playtime, storytime, crafts etc. This is also an opportunity for parents of young children to connect to one another.

## **Altar Servers**

All boys from the 3rd through 12th grade may help serve in the Holy Altar under the guidance of the Priest for each Sunday and participate at the special services throughout the year.

## **Young Adult – Orthodoxy on Tap**

Young adults have the opportunity for fellowship and discussion.

### **Greek Dancing**

The Hellenic Dance program is a component of the Church's ministry. The goal of the dance program is to bring youth together in Orthodox Christian fellowship and to promote and preserve our Greek heritage and culture.

### **OCF**

OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. The mission of OCF is to support fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer and service to others and study of the faith.

### **Bookstore**

The Holy Mother of God bookstore has a varied inventory of Orthodox Christian books, icons, and other traditional items.

### **Orthodox Life and Catechetical/Inquirers to Orthodoxy Classes**

Classes are offered for interested individuals for ongoing education in learning about our Orthodox Church through Bible study, topics related to Orthodox Christian life, and various spiritual writings. Also, a class is offered to individuals looking to learn about the Orthodox Christian faith and for those interested in converting to Orthodoxy.

### **Pre-Marital/Marriage Seminar**

The seminar is offered during the year to provide couples with the opportunity to attend an interactive and informative seminar, entitled *The Journey of Marriage*, as part of either their preparation for marriage or enhancing their existing marriage.

### **Outreach**

The parish has supported ECHO, a local emergency relief organization, through ongoing donations of canned and non-perishable goods. Our community volunteers at the Kearney Center once a month to assist serving lunch to the homeless.

### **AHEPA**

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community.

### **Greek Festival**

The Greek Festival is one of Tallahassee's largest events. It includes prepared Greek food, pastries, Greek dancing, live Greek music and Church tours. It is a time to celebrate and share the Greek culture and tradition with the surrounding community.

### **Stewardship**

The Stewardship program is an opportunity to respond to Christ's love by continuing His ministry through the Church. Stewardship places the responsibility to support the Church on us. As stewards of God's gifts, we return to Him a portion of our time, talents and treasures for Christ's work on earth through His Church. We are called upon to prayerfully commit ourselves to provide financial support for the ministries and mission of our faith at Holy Mother of God, our Metropolis and Archdiocese.