



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Presents

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

PARATHOSI

A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance

January 31st, 2026

Informational Packet



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

PARATHOSI *A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance*

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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PARATHOSI *A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance*

October 15th, 2025

Dear Reverend Clergy & Parish Youth Leaders of the Direct Archdiocesan District,

On behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, I want to thank you for your interest in PARATHOSI 2026. As you already know, PARATHOSI will be more than just a celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance. It is an opportunity for all the Youth and Young Adults of the Direct Archdiocesan District to come together to celebrate our faith, culture, and heritage in a spirit of Orthodox fellowship.

This packet will serve as your informational resource as we continue to make preparations for the big weekend in January. Here, you will find a tentative schedule of events, guidelines, the cost of participation, and how our divisions are arranged, among other things. We hope that you will share this information and promote this event with your dance groups, their families, and all youth in your parish so that we can give them the opportunity to participate. We also strongly encourage your parishioners to come and spectate the event, free of charge, in order that they support the performers with their presence.

As we have done in years past, we are making every effort to keep participation costs down, while at the same time offering the best possible experience to our participants as well as to all those present. This year, we secured the beautiful LaGuardia Marriott in Queens for all performances in all Divisions, as well as the Awards Glendi.

Our PARATHOSI Board and I are extremely excited about this year's event, and very much looking forward to seeing your community participating. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of our Board members at PARATHOSI@goarch.org.

Respectfully,

Constantine Pantelias

Director

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Direct Archdiocesan District



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Tentative Schedule of Events

As of this year, PARATHOSI will take place on January 31st, at the Long Island Melville Marriott. The PARATHOSI Awards Glendi will be held the evening of the 31st, following the conclusion of the performances.

Sat. January 31st, 2026

7:00 a.m. **Participant Registration**

8:30 a.m. **Welcome & Opening Ceremonies**

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. **1ST Group of Performances**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Break for Lunch** (*Food will be available throughout the day via Marriott's Restaurant*)

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **2nd Group of Performances**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Break/Dinner Preparations**

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Cocktail Hour**

7:00 – 11:30 p.m. **Dinner/Awards Glendi**



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Registration Period:

October 16th – December 1st, 2025

As of this year, the entire application process will be online via PDF fillable documents. Application packets will be available via www.PARATHOSI.com on September 22nd, 2024. **All documents are due no later than December 1st, 2025.** It is imperative that these documents are not late so that proper planning and scheduling of the event can begin. Any registration packets turned in after December 1st cannot guarantee your team the ability to participate in PARATHOSI 2026.

Divisions:

Senior Division – This classification will be scored by our judges – Avg. ages 18+

Division 1 – This classification will be scored by our judges – Avg. ages 15-17

Division 2 – This classification will be scored by our judges – Avg. ages 12-14

Division 3 – This classification will be scored by our judges – Avg. ages 9-11

Division 4 – This classification is exhibition only – Avg. ages 8 & under.

Cost of Participation:

- The cost of registration for PARATHOSI 2026, is \$90 per participant.
- There will be a \$650 per organization fee (regardless of the # of teams submitted)
- Lunch will be available for purchase at LI Marriott's restaurant
- PARATHOSI 2026 Awards Glendi will be held at LI Marriott in Melville following the conclusion of the performances. Cocktail Hour begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner with music begins at 7:00 p.m.
 - Adults - \$170 per ticket
 - Participants/ Non-participant Children- \$90 per ticket



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Group Eligibility:

- Baptized Orthodox Christian
- Every team must have a parish priest sign their roster. (Electronic signatures acceptable via PDF fillable documents). **If you choose to sign documents by hand, we please ask that you first fill-out all documents online.** Please scan the documents and return to us at PARATHOSI@goarch.org. All documents must be compiled for your entire team before they are to be sent. **Packets with missing documents will not be accepted.**
- All teams must have dues paid in full no later than December 1st, 2025 in order to participate in PARATHOSI 2025.

Judging:

OUR VISION: *To present authentic Greek Dance in as "natural" a setting as possible.*

We strive to learn, and present, authentic Greek dances that represent what was, or what is, being danced in the villages and regions we present, by the people who live or lived in those villages and regions. We shy away from overly choreographed dances that are not based on and grounded in the tradition. Our best teachers and styles to emulate are those of the older people in the villages and towns, as they perform these dances for themselves at their own festivals and gatherings.

Competition Format:

- 1 suite per team or 1 collection of dances per team
- Time frame for each division will be as follows:
 - **Division 1 & Seniors:** 10 – 12 minutes
 - **Division 2 & 3:** 8-10 minutes
 - **Division 4:** 5-7 minutes
- Staging – Entrance, exit, coordination, transitioning from one dance to another
- There will be a weighted point system:
 - Correctness of Dance – 10 points
 - Correctness of Style – 10 points
 - Group Synergy – 5 points
 - Preparation – 10 points
- Points will be awarded on the respective scale in each category
- Total number of points that can be awarded is 35
- The judges will also have the ability to award half points when necessary.