



**A publication of  
Annunciation Greek  
Orthodox Cathedral  
Houston, Texas**

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# The Annunciator

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Ecclesiastical New Year Issue 2018

## Happy Anniversary!

Our Lord Jesus Christ asked a very important question which is recorded in the Gospel of Luke. He asks when the Son of Man comes, shall He find the faith on the earth? (Lk. 18:8).” The Orthodox New Testament translates this verse not as “faith” but “the faith.” In other words, shall He find His Church, the Orthodox Church, which He planted as the faith, the truth, as the light of the world?

With the above question in mind, it is a wonderful time to reflect on both our local tradition as stewards of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Houston Texas, as well as the rich liturgical and biblical tradition which we have received from the Church which the Lord established as the ark of our salvation.

Over the past year as we have celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish, we have had the opportunity to reflect on the many wonderful events and memories we have had as stewards of this parish. We know that history is a way in which we reflect on the past, but it also helps to guide our future, both as a local parish as well as the Orthodox Christian Church at large. Over the last 100 years our parish has been blessed with many faithful stewards and clergy who gave of their time, talent, and treasure in order to strengthen their faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as pass on the cultural and liturgical traditions to the next generation of believers.

We give thanks to our Lord for allowing us to be a part of the rich and active life of Annunciation Cathedral. The faith has been handed to us and we continue to build upon that foundation and become beacons of light to the world around us.

Over the last nearly 17 months we have been expanding and renovating our beloved Cathedral sanctuary. In a few short weeks we will move back into our liturgical space and it is my hope and prayer that we will not only thank God for this blessing, but continue to grow our faith and bring those into Orthodoxy that are hungering for true and authentic worship.

It is a blessing from above that we have the ability to proclaim Christ and His Church on such a large scale. We are blessed not only with our Cathedral parish that is in its 101<sup>st</sup> year, but we also are blessed to have the largest Orthodox Christian school in the United States, AOS. This blessing allows us to have the opportunity to bring our traditions and faith to the society around us. As the Proistamenos of the Cathedral during this time in our history, I am humbled and thankful that God has allowed me the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful and vibrant community. I thank all of our faithful stewards who live out their life each day within the life of our Orthodox faith. I also pay tribute to all of the faithful priests who have served this parish over the years, and who were faithful men, dedicated to the Gospel of our Lord.

*(continued on page 10)*

### Inside this Issue

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Happy Anniversary.....                        | 1     |
| Welcome Dn. Jeremy Troy .....                 | 2     |
| “Keeping the Faith for 100 Years” ....        | 3     |
| The Apocalypse to St. John.....               | 4     |
| Youth Ministry and the<br>Body of Christ..... | 5     |
| Letter to Parents.....                        | 6-7   |
| Greek Language &<br>Culture School.....       | 8-9   |
| Choir Notes .....                             | 10    |
| Philoptochos .....                            | 11    |
| Senior Citizens .....                         | 12    |
| Kali Parea.....                               | 13    |
| Welcome Committee .....                       | 14    |
| AOS.....                                      | 15    |
| Breakfast with Santa.....                     | 15    |
| Cathedral Calendar.....                       | 16-18 |
| Registry.....                                 | 19-20 |

## Annunciation Cathedral Parish Welcomes Rev. Deacon Jeremy Troy, Diakonissa Allison and Brendan!

It is a great blessing to be given the opportunity to serve Christ's Church here at Annunciation Cathedral! Along with my wife Allison and our son Brendan (5), I would like to thank the whole community for the warm welcome that we have received. As newcomers to the great state of Texas, we are very grateful to make our new home among such a friendly and caring congregation.

We have moved to Houston from Boston, where we lived for the past four years as I pursued my studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. I graduated as valedictorian of my class on May 19, 2018, and was ordained to the Diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan ISAIAH two days later at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. While studying in Boston, I was given the opportunity to minister as a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital, a Church-school teacher at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Lexington, MA, and as a session leader at the Metropolis of Boston Camp.

Prior to Boston, we lived in Laramie, Wyoming for three years, where I completed a Master's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Wyoming in 2013. While in Wyoming, we were parishioners at Sts. Constantine and Helen in Cheyenne, where I served as secretary on the Parish Council and as a chanter. Fr. George Gartelos was the *proistamenos* during our first year there, and was the first priest to encourage me to consider pursuing a calling to the Priesthood. Our son Brendan was born in Wyoming during the summer of 2013.



Allison and I met in 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan shortly after I finished my Bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University. We were married in 2012 at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, where we had both been received into the Orthodox Christian faith through Chrismation.

I was raised in Port Huron, Michigan—near Detroit—with one foot in the Catholic Church and the other foot in the Episcopalian Church. I perceived in Orthodoxy the root and foundation of much that I valued from those traditions. My decision to embrace the Orthodox Church was a response to the beauty of the Church's liturgy, the wisdom of her spiritual tradition, and the example of the "crowd of witnesses" that the Church has raised up to sainthood throughout her history.

With the prayers of those saints, I look forward to the chance to get to know all of you further and to continue ministering alongside you. Please pray for my family and me as we pray for you "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ."

**+Dn. Jeremy**

# **“Keeping the Faith for 100 Years”**

## **Anniversary Update**

*Joni and John Zavitsanos*

Plans are well underway for our 100-year commemoration of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. We began with a bang at the start of the year, as our Philoptochos held a wonderful Gala/Comedy Night celebration featuring Basile the comic and Greek music by parishioner Alex Kalos. It was a night of fun, dancing and fellowship, and a great way to kick off this monumental milestone of our church.

Soon after, many families attended the Bowling Night, spearheaded by Rocky and Elyse Stevens. Much fun and competition ensued, and it was yet another way for us to celebrate our blessed community's 100 years. We have also been fortunate to have special speakers come and talk about their faith and life in the Church. Hank Hanegraaff, also known as “The Bible Answer Man”, a recent convert to Orthodoxy, gave a moving testimony after Liturgy, and afterwards spoke to our Sunday Middle and High School students about loving and having faith in God. Our Talent Show featured eight fabulous acts and a night of incredible fellowship. Doug Harris was a one-man production crew. He organized the auditions, planned for the food and drink, and oversaw every detail. Approximately 150 people showed up to this fun event.

There's more to come, as we have lined up our very own Dean Triantafilou to come and speak after Liturgy this autumn about the charitable work of Orthodoxy throughout the world. Also, we are gathering all families after Liturgy one Sunday to have a panoramic community picture in front of our newly renovated Cathedral. Details to follow.

The culmination of the year will be our Centennial Weekend, to be held on November 9, 10, & 11 with visiting clergy including Metropolitan Isaiah and the Archbishop. There will be a Family Night/Greek Glendi on Friday, a Youth Talk with the Archbishop on Saturday at noon, a formal Banquet on Saturday evening, and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday in our new Cathedral, followed by a Philoptochos sponsored luncheon.

To top this off, Irene Cassis and Connie Michalos are working tirelessly to finish up the incredible history of our church. When done, each of us will be able to have a one hundred year written, historically documented and verified volume of work that took over 30 years of research and love to complete, all about our beloved Annunciation Cathedral from its start to the present day. We are blessed indeed.

Whew! As we look forward to so many wonderful events and milestones, we must thank God for all His “good and perfect gifts” which “come from above”. With Him, ALL things are possible. We thank this beautiful community for your continued love and support of our ministries and our Cathedral. Here's to another 100 years!

# The Apocalypse to St. John

*I am the Alpha and the Omega...Blessed are those who do his commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life (Rev. 22: 13, 14)*

We are about to enter the new Ecclesiastical year, and vacations are coming to a close. I pray that everybody has had a blessed and fruitful summer. The days of summer vacation have passed rather quickly, but I hope that you made some time and took a few minutes to pray and read from the prescribed lectionary passages.

I am very pleased to announce to you the beginning of a new cycle of Bible Study. We will resume on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, and will meet weekly, most Wednesdays, at both 1:00pm and 6:30pm. The Sugar Land Bible Study will meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:15 pm. Frances Hadjigeorge has graciously volunteered again to be the Sugar Land coordinator. Please contact her (fgh2402@gmail.com) to be placed on the Bible Study list.

I am excited to inform you that this year we will be studying the Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse, written by St. John the Evangelist. Although the study of this book is quite challenging and its interpretation difficult because of the imagery presented, I feel that all the classes are sufficiently prepared and have an adequate foundation in Scripture to be able to take it on, enjoy it, and benefit from it.

The Apocalypse, as its title implies means uncovering, unveiling, or revealing something hidden. It belongs to the genre, or type of writing, known as Apocalyptic Literature, which first appeared 200 to 300 years B.C. when the fervor and excitement of the expectation of the Messiah, the Christ, was at a fever pitch. Some of the apocalyptic writing continued for another 100-150 years after the Resurrection, including some passages found in the Gospels (for example, Mark 13 and its parallels in Matthew 24 and Luke 12). Of course, the prototype and main Christian Apocalyptic writing of the New Testament is no other than the Book of Revelation, *The Apocalypse to St. John*.

It was written c. 95AD while St John was in exile in Patmos, at a time of turmoil and extreme Christian persecution by Emperor Domitian, who considered himself god and demanded he be worshiped. After St. John received a vision from Our Lord, he wrote Revelation to the Seven Churches in order to give hope and encouragement to the Christians. The recurrent theme was that if the Christians persevere, endure and overcome they will have eternal life and enter the kingdom of God. This is exemplified by the following verses:

*I am the Alpha and the Omega... I will give of the fountain of the  
Water of life freely to him who thirsts.  
He who overcomes shall inherit all things,  
and I will be his God and he shall be my Son (Rev 21:6-7)*

Because just before the coming of Christ there was an excitement and great expectation of the coming of the Messiah, and the fact that later in the year we ourselves will enter the period of the Advent, with *our* expectation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His Nativity, I will start the study of the Apocalyptic Literature and the Book of Revelation by introducing this exciting period of time that led to the coming of the expected Messiah, our Lord Christ Jesus.

Before actually starting on the Book of Revelation per se, however, we will begin our Bible classes with the study of apocalyptic literature in the Old Testament. We will study selected chapters from Isaiah (*The Isaiah Apocalypse*: chapters 24-27), Zechariah (chapters 9-14), Ezekiel (chapters 38-39), and the entire Book of Daniel. Taking some time to study Daniel is important because it is not only apocalyptic in nature, particularly chapters 7-12, but also

(continued on page 7)



# Youth Ministry and the Body of Christ

Youth Ministry programs like FAITH, HOPE and JOY, and GOYA provide opportunities for children of all ages to grow in their faith. They begin by allowing them to become comfortable in the Church, to see the icons and to get familiar being in the Church setting. Then we bring them together to do fun activities and begin forming new friendships. While this is happening, they are learning about their faith and strengthening their relationship with God. The Church provides an ample amount of opportunities, through our youth ministries, for every youth from infants to teens. These ministries are an extension of the Body of Christ (I.e. The Church) and can only function when life is breathed into them. Historically, youth ministries across the country are in a decline. There are many external factors that drive away our youth. These external factors include but are not limited to sports, academics, leisure time, stress and many other factors. Our youth are falling away from the Church and in the long run, losing their faith to these external stressors.

As God expects us to put all of our hope and trust in Him, the Church puts all its hope and trust in you. We hope that you will become an active member of the Church. A member that participates not only in the sacramental life of the Church but also in its ministries, more specifically youth ministries. Every member of the Church has a responsibility. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 we are reminded that as one body we have many members. Each member is responsible for his own actions and cannot act independently of the other. 1 Cor. 12:25-26 “that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

The Church’s youth ministry programs are created to help our children grow in their faith and friendships. We don’t want our children to fall away from the Church. The Church can only hope and pray that each parent will take their children’s growth in Christ seriously enough to consider reducing some of these external factors that pry our children away from the body of Christ. Perhaps you will consider attending Church more often or participating in the ministries for your children. Much time and consideration is put into these ministries and we ask that you take the opportunity to bring your children together as Christ said in Luke 18:16 “But Jesus called them to Him and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Without YOU, the Church is incomplete. If our children do not participate, our Youth Ministries cannot grow as they should and they cannot strengthen and support our children physically and mentally. In a recent study, researchers found that “people who are highly religious are more engaged with their extended families, more likely to volunteer, more involved in their communities and generally happier with the way things are going in their lives.”(<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/04/12/religion-in-everyday-life/>). The Church helps develop a strong Christian life and it is important that our children be a part of it.

I would like to conclude with Ephesians 4:14-16 “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

**+Fr. Gabriel Gadah**

September 1, 2018

*"Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy."* ~Saint Theophan the Recluse

## Dear Parent,

Welcome to another Sunday School year and thank you for entrusting your child to our care in Sunday Church School at Annunciation Cathedral! We're looking forward to a terrific new year of fun and learning.

Please remember to register your children online before the start of Sunday Church School on September 9<sup>th</sup>, [www.agoc.org/SCS](http://www.agoc.org/SCS).

Each Sunday we begin with worship services at 9:00 am followed by Sunday Church School ending at 12:15 p.m. Please come to worship as a family. Children from Grades 1-12 are encouraged to sing the Divine Liturgy with the Youth Choir.

In addition to Sunday Church School for children (PK-12), three adult classes are offered following the Divine Liturgy: 1) Orthodoxy 101 (Inquirer's Class), 2) The Bible, and 3) The Divine Liturgy.

Your Sunday Church School teachers would welcome your stopping by and letting them introduce themselves to you. Please inform us if there should be any special arrangements for your child when class is over. Normally the children are dismissed from the classroom at the end of the session, but they are welcome to stay until a parent arrives if you prefer.

Sunday School affirms the home as the center of Christian guidance. Parents are the most important people in a child's life, and learning about God starts in the home. Teaching children about God is a seven-day-a-week effort, not something that can be done just an hour on Sunday morning. We pledge to do our best to support you in your child's spiritual education, and stand ready to help you at any time.

We continue to use the curriculum, sequenced and age-appropriate, from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Religious Education Department. We encourage you to talk about Sunday School with your child.

Some of the things you can do to support the best Sunday School experience for your child are:

### ***Encourage Regular Attendance at the Divine Liturgy and Sunday Church School***

Sunday school starts each week following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Children from grades 1-12 are encouraged to join the Youth Choir and sing the Liturgy. Please help your child to be on time and attend as often as possible. Consistency and continuity are extremely important for your child during these years. To provide the best learning experience, teachers prepare carefully each week to begin meaningful teaching from the very beginning of the class, and your child's arrival on time helps the whole class to get the most out of the session.

### ***Pray***

We promise to join you in praying for you and your child. Prayer is an effective and powerful force to help protect your child and help him develop to his highest spiritual potential. We would appreciate your prayers for us and the class as well.

In addition, we encourage your child to develop the habit of a daily quiet time with God, which will help provide a firm foundation for his future life.

### ***Bring an Offering***

Please encourage your child to bring an offering each week. The child's offering helps them develop good habits

of stewardship to provide services and ministry at our church and support missions around the world.

### ***Support Missions Projects***

We intend to engage in several missions and ministry activities during the year. During the period of Great Lent, donations of new shoes support *Shoes for Orphan Souls*. We also fill kits for babies or school supplies for children for International Orthodox Christian Charities to distribute to those in need throughout the world.

### ***Computer Access***

We will make significant use of computer technology and audio-visual equipment in the classroom to reinforce Orthodox Christian and biblical teachings.

Please be sure that we stand ready to help your family at any time. Let us know of any special ministry needs, or other special needs your child may have. We consider it an honor and privilege to be allowed to work with your child over the next year. We much appreciate your support, and we pledge to work with you in the best interests of your child.

We look forward to having our families back from summer vacation. We're especially anxiously awaiting to see the children on September 9<sup>th</sup>, at "Meet & Greet."

Love to all,

*Irene Cassis*

Religious Education Director

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## **The Apocalypse to St. John**

its imagery is almost identical to that found in the Apocalypse, and hence helpful to its understanding.

The primary, and required, reference for all my Bible Studies is the Orthodox Study Bible because of its Orthodox commentary in the footnotes. To guide us in our study, I have selected Revelation, a 2015 Catholic commentary by Peter S. Williamson. Please contact Irene Cassis ([irenecassis@agoc.org](mailto:irenecassis@agoc.org)) as soon as possible so that she may order it for you. It is also available digitally from Amazon Kindle. I would have preferred to use the Orthodox commentary that I used previously which is entitled The Apocalypse in the Teachings of Ancient Christianity by Archbishop Averky Taushev, translated by Father Seraphim Rose, but it is out of print. However, when the time comes, I hope to be able to scan pertinent chapters from this book and email them for you to read as part of your assignments.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you and engaging in interesting and fruitful discussions. Please spread the word and join us as we pursue the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (cf. Gal 5:22-25)

**+Fr. Demetri**

# Annunciation

## Greek Language and Culture School News

*Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Director*

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to your support, the Greek School continues to grow and serve more children and adults every year. Last year we had the opportunity to serve 102 children and about 40 adults.

The new school year for the **children** starts on **Friday, September 14 at 5:00pm** with the blessing from our priests. Our children's program offers two kindergarten classes, six elementary classes, and advanced classes. Children age 5 and above are encouraged to enroll. The registration will continue until September 1st. Please submit your registration as soon as possible.

Our **adults' program** offers Modern Greek Language classes for every level: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced. The classes take place every **Tuesday at 6:30pm**. The first class is on Tuesday, September 25 at 6:30pm. We encourage everyone to attend our classes and see how exciting it is to learn the Greek language.

This year we are blessed to have a group of very qualified, and talented, teachers, and a very dedicated PTO board that supports all our cultural events. Our wonderful teachers, our PTO and the director work tirelessly to provide our students with the best education in Greek language and help their immersion into the Greek culture.

In addition, our school is an **official center for the Certificate of Attainment of the Greek Language**. The certification exams are held every May and the registration starts in February. Our school also offers intensive preparation classes for every level.

Our first cultural event is the **OXI Day** celebration on Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>. Our students will present poems and songs. You are all invited to attend this important event and honor the Greek history.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our graduates. Last May, nine students received their diploma during our Graduation Ceremony: Dimitrios Bernitsas, Chloe Diehl, Marina Georgiadis, Vera Fotopoulos, Zoi Halastaras, Dimitris Kalafatis, Theocharis Stefanides, Socrates Strafkos, and Sophia Tolias. Congratulations to the students and their proud parents. « Και εις Ανώτερα! »

Please, contact me for more information about the children and adult programs, registration information, our upcoming cultural events, and different ways to help and support our Greek School.

I look forward to seeing you at the Greek School and have another Happy School Year!

Σας περιμένω όλους στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο και εύχομαι να έχουμε μια υπέροχη χρονιά!

Katerina Kontogeorgaki,

School Director



## Greek School 2017-2018



## Congratulations to our graduates!



L-R: Mrs. Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Director; Zoi Halastaras, Vera Fotopoulos, Sophia Talias, Socrates Strafkos, Theocharis Stefanides, Chloe Diehl, Dimitrios Bernitsas, Dimitris Kalafatis, Marina Georgiadis and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Kali Magionos.



## Choir Notes

Since the original organization of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver Church Music Federation in 1975, it has been a major goal of our federation to assist choirs and other church music ministers in preserving and enhancing our Greek Orthodox musical tradition. Under the very able leadership of Dr. George Demos, of blessed memory, and Mr. Poti Doukas our current Publishing Coordinator, the Federation has published music in both choral and chant traditions including complete settings of the Divine Liturgy, a Holiday Choral Series which presents all the propers, special hymns, for major feast days in the liturgical calendar, and individual sacred hymns.

Our Cathedral Choir Members have participated every year in the annual choir conferences and one of the past presidents of the Federation was Pamela Cramer and the current President is George Stefanidakis.

In recent years the Federation has been holding its music conferences in conjunction with the ***Biennial Metropolis of Denver Clergy/Laity assembly*** on the off-year of the ***Biennial Archdiocese of America Clergy/Laity Congress***. In 2017 the ***Church Music Conference*** was at ***St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church*** in Greenwood Village, CO. Dr. Tikey Zes was the guest conductor along with the choir director from St. Catherine, Maja Buck. For the first time in the federation's history an all ***English Setting of the Divine Liturgy*** was sung composed by Dr. Zes. A choir of about 45 singers was assembled on this occasion, and by God's will and Dr. Zes' brilliant leadership, the choir appointed themselves magnificently. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah, Rev. Dn. Paul Zaharas, Metropolis Chancellor and Rev. Louis Christopoulos, Proistamenos of the host parish.

Our Cathedral Choirs are looking forward to the opening of our new renovated Cathedral and invite anyone to join us to sing in the new choir loft. Anyone interested, please contact the Cathedral Choir Director, Pamela Cramer at [cramerjp82@gmail.com](mailto:cramerjp82@gmail.com).

“I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving.”

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## Happy Anniversary

My hope and prayer is that we will always put the liturgical life and faith in Christ before everything, this way we will pass on the authentic faith to our children and grandchildren. Let us all give thanks as we celebrate this milestone in the life of Annunciation Cathedral. By continuing to proclaim the Gospel and build upon our solid and unshakable foundation, which is Christ Himself, we can help to give a positive and affirmative answer to the question that Jesus asks in the Gospel of Luke. Yes! He will find The Faith which He planted for our salvation

Happy Anniversary!

+Fr. Michael



## Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos

### Philanthropos ❖ Philoxenos ❖ Philadelphos ❖ Philotheos

The ladies of Annunciation Philoptochos are preparing for the 2018-2019 ecclesiastical year. We are looking forward to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our beloved Cathedral and to continuing the work of the past year.

In July, five of our members attended the National Philoptochos Convention in Boston, where they participated in many informative workshops, joined other members in preparing over 10,000 meals for the homeless in the Boston area, and listened to engaging speakers on health, leadership and spiritual growth. Our chapter was recognized for its 100% commitment to all National projects.

The result of the National Million Meal Challenge was announced by National President Maria Logus. Chapters across the country prepared 1,344,735 meals for hungry and homeless people in their communities. The challenge for the next two years is to prepare and serve 1.5 million meals. Our chapter will be researching opportunities in the Houston area to add to this national challenge.

Reports of this Convention will be shared with our members in the next few months.

Following the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will begin preparations for our annual Christmas Bake Sale and our Festival of Tables Luncheon and Choir Concert. We invite everyone to assist in these fund raisers for our chapter. Many hands are needed to achieve our goals. In January we will again sponsor the annual Vasilopita celebration in honor of St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, New York. Our 2018 Vasilopita proceeds were forwarded to New York and Annunciation again led the nation in donations with over \$47,000 raised.

Our next meeting will be held on October 16 in the Martel Hall. At that meeting we will pass the 2019 budget and make plans for our participation in the Cathedral's anniversary celebration. We invite you to join us that evening at 6:00 when the board will prepare dinner for our members prior to the meeting. Elections for the 2019-2021 will be held in May.

Please see the weekly bulletin for more information, or use the contact information to be added to the Philoptochos mailing list.

Remembering the words in Matthew 20:28 *"For even the Son of Man came to serve and not to be served..."*

Please join us in this ministry of service to our Lord and His people. For more information, contact agocphiloptochoshouston@gmail.com or Martha Stefanidakis at 281.469.0986.



# Senior Citizens

*Kiki Pantazis & Paula Phocas*

Hi everyone,

I hope you all are doing well and having a good and fun summer. It is still very hot but it is time to think about the upcoming year and exciting events ahead of us.

We finished the year on June 5 with a trip to Galveston. Nikkie and Kosta Kyriazoglou had invited all of us to their beach home and those who were able to go had a great time. Nikkie and Kosta went all out to host us. THANK YOU Nikkie and Kosta for your hospitality and love for our Seniors. Also I would like to thank all our sponsors for last year. We always are very grateful to all of you. THANK YOU!

The Festival cooking is already under way and I hope those of you who can help will do so. Enjoy the fun and fellowship. The excitement of our Cathedral's 100-year anniversary is one big highlight of this summer and the anticipation keeps building up.

The Senior's schedule for the coming year is not complete yet; we still have a few openings. Here is the schedule for the rest of 2018:

**Here is the schedule for December 2017 through March 2018 and the luncheon hosts:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>OCTOBER 16</b>  | George & Christie Vlahakos   |
| <b>NOVEMBER 6</b>  | Pete and Alexandra Santikos in memory of their loved ones          |
| <b>NOVEMBER 18</b> | Sr. Citizens Memorial  |
| <b>NOVEMBER 20</b> | Cynthia Kostas & Georgia Kostas Nichols in memory of their parents |
| <b>DECEMBER 4</b>  | Helen Solomos in memory of her parents                             |

## GUIDELINES:

Everyone who is 55 years and older and is a member of the Annunciation Cathedral is welcome to join us in the Senior's program and enjoy the fun and the fellowship our program provides.

TO ATTEND OUR OUTINGS, you have to be a regular member of the Sr. Citizens, with the exception of out of town visitors who are VERY welcome at any time.

For more information, call:

KIKI PANTAZIS 713-340-1113 OR PAULA PHOCAS 713-661-5017

*What is the sign that a man has attained to purity of heart and when does a man know that his heart has entered into purity? When he sees all men as good and none appears to him to be unclean and defiled, then in very truth his heart is pure.*

*Elder Ephraim of Arizona*

## Kali Parea

*"I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door,  
I will come in to him and dine with him, and him with Me." Rev. 3:20*

*Kali Parea*, the AGOC widows' outreach ministry, meets once a month for fellowship and support. *Kali Parea* is a circle of strength, love and friendship which makes our faith stronger through Christ who heals us. Below is our 2018 Fall Luncheon Schedule. RSVPs are needed by Friday noon, prior to luncheon, in order to reserve space at the restaurant.

### *KALI PAREA*

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Demetrios Tagaropoulos, 713-526-5377, ext 264

### **2018 KALI PAREA FALL LUNCHEONS**

**SEPT 15** 12:00 N Mezza Grill, 6100 Westheimer  
**OCT 20** 12:00 N Pappasito's, 6445 Richmond@Hillcroft (not Kirby)  
(Christmas Fast begins on Nov. 15)  
**NOV 17** 12:00 N Maggiano's, 2019 Post Oak Blvd.  
**DEC 1** 1:00 PM Christmas Luncheon (*Location to be announced*)

Dutch Treat (Individual Checks)  
RSVP for Luncheon to Advisors:  
Harriett Semander, 713-771-4790,  
Mary Minas, 713-681-4041 or  
Delores Pappas, 713-861-5262



*Kali Parea* Luncheon at YIa YIa Mary's, June 2018



# Welcome Committee

*Marti & Andy Iatridis*

Matthew 28:19-20 ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

Have you ever thought you might like to be a missionary, carrying out “The Great Commission?” Not everyone can manage to travel to distant lands, sharing the faith and trying to win the hearts of others. There is another way, a bit closer to home.

Join Annunciation’s Welcome Committee where you can put your faith into action. Many new Orthodox Christians took their first steps toward Christianity with a warm and simple greeting from the Welcome Committee volunteer.

It’s such a great feeling to greet others with a cheerful word of welcome! Even with some logistical challenges in the last few months, trying to wedge the Welcome Table into different locations, in or near the Trophy Room during our crowded coffee hour, we still have had great success in welcoming visitors.

Recently, we have added a lovely book rack that has plenty of booklets and pamphlets sharing the Orthodox Christian perspective on a variety of issues. Whether you are a recent newcomer or you’ve been at Annunciation Cathedral your whole life, you are welcome to choose whatever interests you.

We are looking for additional volunteers to join the Welcome Committee this year! It’s a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Helping visitors to our beautiful Cathedral is an easy job, but very important.

Sign up to greet newcomers to the Cathedral. Volunteers are needed to help at the Welcome Table during the coffee hour for about 20 minutes, one or two Sundays a month, directly after Divine Liturgy.

To volunteer, call or text Marti or Andy Iatridis at 469-878-4544.  
Email: [iatridismarti@comcast.net](mailto:iatridismarti@comcast.net)

*Let us keep our attention fixed within ourselves until our conscience achieves its freedom. Then there will be a union between it and us, and thereafter it will be our guardian, showing us each thing that we must uproot.*

*St. Isaiah the Solitary*



*Rob Wise, Director of Admissions*

In the service for the Start of the School Year taken from Book Two of Sacraments and Services the Priest reads: “It is You, Lord, Who said ‘Let light shine out of the darkness.’ Let Your everlasting light and the knowledge of Your truth shine in the hearts of those who teach here as well as those who are taught.” This year we welcome to the School, Dr. Samuel Fragomeni as the new Head of School. We look forward to our moving into the future with new leadership as we let our light shine.

AOS will be hosting coffee following Divine Liturgy on Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to seeing you in the Dining Hall at AOS to share in faith and fellowship.

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## **Santa Is Coming to Town!**

### **“Breakfast with Santa”**

**Saturday, December 1, 2018 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm)**

### **Martel Hall**

Please join us for breakfast, crafts, pictures with Santa, and fun!

All proceeds are donated to Charities that benefit Children.

GOYA, we always appreciate and need your help!

(Certificates of Community Service are gratefully offered)

*Sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope*

For questions please contact:

Kathryn Kinalidis – 832-758-1794 [kkinalidis@hotmail.com](mailto:kkinalidis@hotmail.com)

Linda Makris – 713-478-4748 [linda@makrislaw.com](mailto:linda@makrislaw.com)

Gloria Moustakis – 713-857-7623 [gmous@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmous@sbcglobal.net)



## Cathedral Calendar

### September 4 – December 1, 2018

#### SEPTEMBER

##### Tuesday, September 4

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Young Adult Greek Festival Dancers Practice 6:30 pm

##### Wednesday, September 5

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am

##### Thursday, September 6

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Choir Practice 7:00 pm, Choir Room 121

**Saturday, September 8 – Nativity of the Theotokos**  
**Orthros 8:30 am/Divine Liturgy 9:30 am (Martel Hall)**  
SCS Teachers Seminar 10:30 am, Dance Room (224)

#### Divine Liturgy & Sunday Church School Schedule Beginning September 9, 2018

##### *Sundays*

Orthros 7:45 am / Divine Liturgy 9:00 am  
Sunday School following 9:00 am Liturgy until 12:15 pm

##### *Weekdays*

Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  
*During the Cathedral construction period, Divine Liturgy  
will be held in the Martel Hall through September 23*

**Sunday, September 9 – Sunday before Holy Cross**  
**Orthros 7:45 am / Divine Liturgy 9:00 am / SCS**  
**First Day of Sunday Church School (SCS)**  
Youth Festival Dancers Practice, after SCS  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 1:00 pm

##### Monday, September 10

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am

##### Tuesday, September 11

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 6:30 pm

##### Wednesday, September 12

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am

##### Thursday, September 13

Choir Practice 7:00 pm, Choir Room 121

##### Friday, September 14 – Elevation of the Holy Cross

**Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am – *strict fast***  
**Placing of Cross on Cathedral Dome,**  
**following Divine Liturgy**

First Day of Children's Greek School 5:00 pm  
Greek School Blessing 5:30 pm, Martel Hall

##### Saturday, September 15

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Kali Parea Lunch 12:00 noon, offsite  
GOYA Open Gym 6:00 pm, Gym and Trophy Room

##### Sunday, September 16 – Sunday after Holy Cross Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS

Greek Festival Preparation, after Divine Liturgy  
Youth Festival Dancers Practice, after SCS  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 1:00 pm

##### Monday, September 17

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am

##### Tuesday, September 18

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 6:30 pm

##### Wednesday, September 19

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Bible Studies 1:00 and 6:30 pm, Room 219

##### Thursday, September 20

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
Choir Practice 7:00 pm, Choir Room 121

##### Friday, September 21

Greek School 5:00 pm

##### Sunday, September 23 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS

Youth Festival Dancers Practice, after SCS  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 1:00 pm

##### Tuesday, September 25

Young Adult Dancers Practice 6:30 pm

##### Wednesday, September 26

Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

##### Thursday, September 27

Greek Festival Meat, Onion Marinade 9:00 am

**Friday, September 28**

SOUVLAKI Preparation 4:00 pm  
Greek School 5:00 pm

**Cathedral Reopening Weekend – Sept 29 & 30****Saturday, September 29**

SOUVLAKI Preparation 9:00 am  
Youth (Grades 7-10) Festival Dancers Practice 10:00 am  
**Agiasmo & Great Vespers 5:00 pm, Cathedral**

**Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke****Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS****Ordination of Dn. Jeremy Troy to the Priesthood**

Souvlaki Preparation, after Divine Liturgy  
Youth Festival Dancers Practice, after SCS  
Young Adult Dancers Practice 1:00 pm

**OCTOBER****Monday, October 1**

Greek Festival Pastry Packing 9:00 am  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, October 2**

Greek Festival Pastry Packing 9:00 am  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice 6:30 am

**Wednesday, October 3**

Greek Festival Preparation 9:00 am  
**Festival Prayer Service 6:00 pm, Cathedral**  
Young Adult Festival Dancers Practice, after Prayer Service

**52<sup>nd</sup> Original Greek Festival – Oct 4-5-6-7****Thursday, October 4**

52<sup>nd</sup> Original Greek Festival 5:00 pm

**Friday, October 5**

52<sup>nd</sup> Original Greek Festival 11:00 am

**Saturday, October 6**

52<sup>nd</sup> Original Greek Festival 11:00 am  
**Great Vespers 5:00 pm, Cathedral**  
**Sunday, October 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke**  
**Orthros / Divine Liturgy**  
52<sup>nd</sup> Original Greek Festival 12:00 noon

**Wednesday, October 10**

Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Friday, October 12**

Greek School 5:00 pm

**Sunday, October 14 –**

**Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council**  
**Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS**

**Tuesday, October 16**

Sr. Citizens Meeting & Lunch 10:15 am, Martel Hall

**Wednesday, October 17**

Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Friday, October 19**

Greek School 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 20**

Kali Parea Lunch 12:00 noon, offsite

**Sunday, October 21 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke****Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS****Monday, October 22**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Tuesday, October 23**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Wednesday, October 24**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Thursday, October 25**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Friday, October 27 – Demetrios the Myrrhbearer****Orthros / Divine Liturgy**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation, after Liturgy  
Greek School 5:00 pm  
Greek School OXI Day Program 6:30 pm

**Sunday, October 28 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke****Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS****Monday, October 29**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Tuesday, October 30**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Wednesday, October 31**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm

**NOVEMBER****Thursday, November 1**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Friday, November 2**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Greek School 5:00 pm

**Sunday, November 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS****Tuesday, November 6**

Sr. Citizens Meeting & Lunch 10:15 am, Martel Hall

**Wednesday, November 7**

Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Thursday, November 8 –**

**Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel  
Orthros / Divine Liturgy**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend – November 9-11****Friday, November 9**

Parish Family Glendi 6:30 pm, Martel Hall

**Saturday, November 10**

MS & HS Youth Talk with Archbishop Demetrios  
Light Lunch & Ice Cream Social 11 am, Martel Hall  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Celebration, 7:00 pm,  
The Citadel

**Sunday, November 11 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**Orthros / Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

Luncheon after Liturgy, Martel Hall, sponsored by  
Philoptochos

**Monday, November 12 – Veterans Day**

Cathedral Office Closed

**Tuesday, November 13 – St. John Chrysostom**

**Orthros / Divine Liturgy**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation, after Liturgy

**Wednesday, November 14**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Thursday, November 15**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Friday, November 16**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Greek School 5:00 pm

**Saturday, November 17**

Kali Parea Lunch 12:00 noon, offsite

**Sunday, November 18 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Orthros / Divine Liturgy / SCS****Monday, November 19**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Tuesday, November 20**

Sr. Citizens Meeting & Lunch 10:15 am, Martel Hall

**Wednesday, November 21 –**

**Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple  
Orthros / Divine Liturgy**

**Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Day**

Cathedral Office Closed

**Friday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Holiday**

Cathedral Office Closed

**Sunday, November 25 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**Orthros / Divine Liturgy/ SCS**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation, after Liturgy

**Monday, November 26**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Tuesday, November 27**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am

**Wednesday, November 28**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation 9:00 am  
Bible Studies 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Room 219

**Friday, November 30 – Andrew the Apostle**

**Orthros / Divine Liturgy**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Pick-Up 9:00am-5:00pm  
Greek School 5:00 pm

**Saturday, December 1**

Philoptochos Bake Sale Pick-up 9:00am-3:00pm  
Santa's Breakfast 9:00 am, Martel Hall  
Kali Parea Lunch 12:00 noon, offsite



# REGISTRY

*December 11, 2017 - August 18, 2018*

Page 19

## WEDDINGS

Paula Victoria Calero and  
Travis Ford Holder  
Sponsor: Martha Iatridis

Melissa Ann Gaines and  
Vaughn Michael Pickney  
Sponsor: Alexandra Cullins

Kerry Jayne Krieschen and  
Michael Philip Sideris  
Sponsor: Joyce Lee Jacobs

Victoria Christopher Pappas and  
Aaron Clay Bludorn  
Sponsor: Michael Pappas

Mary (Montez) Patsatzis and  
Charalabos Georgios Patsatzis  
Sponsor: Demetri Fetokakis

Christina Marie Mason and  
Peter William Kaldis Venzke  
Sponsor: Alexandra Venzke Brummett

## BAPTISMS

Samuel Tancred  
Parents: Georganne and Sean Boardman  
Godparent: Christina Flores

Faith (Fotini)  
Parents: Josephine Sims and David Brown  
Godparent: Anastasia Economides

Katherine June  
Parents: Maria and John Castleberry  
Godparent: Ada Stehl

Sophia Valentina  
Parents: Elena and Theodore Doucakis  
Godparent: Ioannis Doucakis

Nikolaos Oray  
Parents: Stephanie and Omer Esiner  
Godparents: Georgia Heppard

Cooper Andrew  
Parents: Alexia and Brian Engelman  
Godparent: Alissa Ann Iatridis

Simon Gabriel  
Parents: Presvytera Dorian and  
Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gadah  
Godparents: Tamara and Christopher Gadah

Xenofon  
Parents: Ling and Stavros Gekas  
Godparent: Peter Karfaridis

Leonidas Adam  
Parents: Evangelia and Lewis Grell  
Godparents: Grigorios Anagnostopoulos and  
Alexandria Haralambopoulos

Luke Miguel  
Parents: Evangelia and Lewis Gell  
Godparents: Grigorios Anagnostopoulos and  
Alexandria Haralambopoulos

Jiuliana Maria  
Parents: Maria Thiakos and Brandon Johnson  
Godparent: Joni Zavitsanos

Daphne Sofia  
Parents: Leydiana and Jason Kamboureli  
Godparent: Christina Philbrook

Constantine Thomas  
Parents: Claudia and Spero Klonis  
Godparent: Constantine Paraskis

Artemis Belle  
Parents: Valerie and James Koinis  
Godparent: Nicholas Koinis

Guadalupe Deborah Nikole (Katerina)  
Parents: Nicola Katerinakis and  
James Sanchez, Jr.  
Godparent: Chris Katerinakis

Nancy Annalynne (Anna)  
Parents: Debra Capps and Paul Savas  
Godparent: Michael Savas

Ava Grace  
Parents: Anastasia and Tucker Singleton  
Godparent: Christina Pappas

Matthew Blake  
Parents: Whitney and Andrew Stetler  
Godparent: Alexandra Stetler

# REGISTRY

*December 11, 2017 - August 18, 2018*

Paula Victoria (Zanaida) Calero  
Godparent: Martha Iatridis

Ashley Celena (Samantha) Elliott  
Godparent: Meredith Wise

Whitney Zora (Helen) Stetler  
Godparent: Alexandra Stetler

## CHRISMATIONS

Kimberly Anne Anaipakos  
Sponsor: Adonia Cokinos

Joe Eric (Joseph) Ibanez  
Sponsor: Constantine Petrou

Leydiana Kambouelis  
Sponsor: Mary Dimataris

Alesia Ann (Alik) Stewart  
Sponsor: Kiki Kantalis

## FUNERALS

Louisa Files Anthony  
Angela Bogdanos  
Marina Kapolis Barges  
Brig. Gen. Mike P. Cokinos  
Nick Frank Demeris  
Sophie Diane Hadjes  
Calliope Hademenos Kamaras  
Alexander George Katsafanas  
Arthur Loukas  
Spiro Efthimios Mayionos  
Mitzie Robertson Papafote  
Michael Papapavlou  
Enzo Sgarbi  
George N. Somarakis  
Nicholas G. Tratras  
Irene Caridas Wallace



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