

The Annunciator

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Nativity 2023



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God's Will in Our Life

Fr. Michael Lambakis

As we are in the Nativity season, and as we approach the New Year of 2024, some of us will look back over the past twelve months and wonder, where did the time go? Many times as we reflect on the past year, perhaps we may be disappointed in the way our personal expectations turned out. Maybe we had, or continue to have unreasonable expectations of what our life should be. If this is the case on a consistent basis, then it may be that our will and God's Will are different or not in sync. When our will and His Will are not running parallel, then we most likely will never truly hear the Lord's calling for our life. We will live an unsatisfying life, always turning to our own intellect or our will to try and meet the expectations we have set for our own life. What can we do in this New Year to try and live a more God-pleasing life? How can we do this, and who do we look to for inspiration? Well, the Church gives us all that we need by way of daily example, and of course the saints who should be our role models. Since we are in the Nativity season, let us look to the Virgin Mary for hope and as a model for God's Will.

It is quite likely that the Virgin Mary's expectations for her own life did not turn out as she might have expected. Remember, she was dedicated from the young age as a virgin in the Temple. Surely, when she was told that the older Joseph was to become her betrothed, it had to create in her much bewilderment. She leaves the Temple, goes with Joseph, and before they come together, the Archangel Gabriel appears.

Archangel Gabriel manifests himself to Mary in a way she did not expect. Luke the Evangelist records the conversation and Mary's initial reaction...she becomes greatly troubled. Mary was first told that God was looking favorably upon her. "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28). She must have thought, why then did He not leave her in the Temple as a dedicated virgin? The angel tells her that she will conceive a Son by the Holy Spirit and His name had already been chosen - Jesus. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Matthew, in his gospel, records Joseph's reaction as he resolves to quietly divorce his betrothed (Matt. 1:19). Next, the angel informs her that her child is to be the King of an

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God's Will in Our Life

everlasting Kingdom. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32). Then, she is told that this King was to be born of the Holy Spirit. And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Finally, Mary, after some pause due to the most unusual circumstances, gives her response. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38) In a matter of perhaps a minute or two, her entire life changed according to the Lord's plan for her life, and her willingness to do so.



Our expectations in this life may or may not align with the Lord's expectations, depending on our relationship with Him. One thing that is for certain, the Panagia lived a life of acceptance and obedience. Accepting God's Will in the face of unusual situations or even contradictions, is always a testimony to faithfulness. The soul that is pure and free from pride, is ready to become whatever God wills for it. It was Archangel Gabriel who said, "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37). God is never limited by our faithlessness; He simply finds those who are willing followers and works through them.

As our homes become transformed with lights, decorations and the sounds of Christmas music, I hope all of these family traditions help to remind us of the inner transformation that Christ can bring to us, if we sync our will with His. As we close the chapter on this year, let us all open our hearts and minds to the Will of God. This is the only way that He can and will work through us as vessels of the Holy Spirit. This is how His work is done on earth, as it is in Heaven. If we offer our life completely to God, even when our personal expectations are not met, it is then that we will feel the peace and joy of living a life that is, was and shall be according to His Will.

In Christ,

+Father Michael

“God’s Silence on His Three Secrets Aching to be Told”

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is Given”

(LXX Isaiah 9:5)

Fr. Demetri Tagaropoulos

Reflecting on the great mystery and miracle of the Incarnation and anticipating the Feast of the Incarnation, one is reminded of St. Ignatius of Antioch’s words in his letter to the Ephesians: “Now, *Mary’s Virginity and her giving birth* escaped the notice of the prince of this world, as did *the Lord’s death*, those three secrets crying to be told, but wrought in God’s silence.” (19:1-3) He goes on to describe how these were finally re-vealed: “by a star...brighter than all stars”; [that] “as a result...God was revealing Himself as a man, to bring newness of eternal life.” [emphasis, mine]

How amazing and great is our God whose timing is always perfect to intervene in the world--He comes down, and makes Himself known to us at the appropriate time. It took Satan (“the prince of this world”) completely by surprise, totally unprepared, unawares—could not in any way anticipate, prepare, or interfere with God’s providential purpose for our salvation.

If one stops to think about it, God was indeed silent through His prophets since at least the Babylonian Exile (c. 560 B.C.). The Book of Daniel, which was written between 167-164 is about Daniel during the captivity, and in it where he writes about the “Son of Man” and the coming Kingdom, it is vague as to Who He is and how and when He is to come. Although one might argue that the coming of the Messiah is implicit, we can only do so in retrospect—after the fact. The purpose of the book of Daniel was “to give faith and hope among the Jews persecuted so severely by Antiochus Epiphanes” in order to give them “hope for the future and kingdom.” Similarly, even if go back to the first book of Isaiah written c. 736 B.C., the prophecies were more precise, but again no mention was made or implied, or even close to time or place of the occurrence (LXX Isaiah 7:14) In his prophetic vision he relates:

“the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Emmanuel.”” St. Mathew quoted Isaiah verbatim but adds, “which is translated, ‘God is with us.’” (Mat 2:23)

Then, again in the same book (Isaiah 9:5-6) after yet another vision, he again writes about the coming of a child’s birth:

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us A Son is given...His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel...His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom...the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform This.”

In this advent period, let us prepare ourselves wholeheartedly to receive Him in His Nativity, by praying, fasting, and giving Him praise and thanks for all His blessings, and especially for our salvation. Let us receive Him in our hearts, and beseech Him to always dwell in and among us, bringing us “newness of eternal life.” Amen

+Fr. Demetri

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Fr. Efstratios Magoulas

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

As we celebrate the joy of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, we have so much joy in all of the ministries we have to offer our thriving Cathedral community.

In just the past year, we have given “birth” to new ministries for our faithful, such as our Young Couples ministry. We also have revived our FAITH (Newly Baptized-Kindergarten) Ministry which meets every month, and our HOPE (1st-2nd Grade), and JOY (3-5th Grade) Ministries in the form of our Monthly Gatherings.

Over the past year, we’ve had so many wonderful ministries and programs to grow closer together and closer to Christ.

Let’s take a look back at 2023...

- Every month, our HOPE, JOY, Jr. GOYA, and Sr. GOYA meet on the first Tuesday at the Cathedral for a brief prayer service and an activity. Every month, our Sr. GOYA also meets for a “Small Group” dinner and discussion.
- Our Young Professionals Ministry meets twice a month; for a “Small Group” dinner and discussion; and for a “fellowship hour”.
- Our FAITH ministry meets once a month for fellowship and fun
- Metropolis of Denver GOYA Basketball Tournament 2023 - Tulsa, Oklahoma: AGOC Sr. Girls won the Championship!!
- Metropolis of Denver YAL Snow Conference 2023 in Utah - many of our young professionals helped organize the weekend and attended the conference
- Members of our Hope, JOY, Jr. GOYA, and Sr. GOYA made and offered Prosfora for the Divine Liturgy!
- Many Small Group discussions with our Sr. GOYA and Young Professionals Ministries
- Top Golf, Pickleball, and more with the Young Professionals



And we have so much planned for 2024!



To keep up with all our ministries and activities, please email Fr. Efstratios (frmagoulis@agoc.org) to join the mailing list (about 2 emails a month), pick up a Sunday bulletin (every Sunday), and follow us on Instagram at [@agoc_y2am](https://www.instagram.com/agoc_y2am).

For your convenience and consideration, below is a list of all our Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

FAITH Ministry: Newly Baptized-Kindergarten and their parents

HOPE Ministry: 1st-2nd Grades

JOY Ministry: 3rd-5th Grades

Jr. GOYA: 6th-8th Grades

Sr. GOYA: 9th-12th Grades

Young Adults: Post high school, ~18-22 years old

Young Professionals: ~22-35ish years old

Young Couples: Newly engaged-recently married

Sunday Church School

Acolytes/Altar Boys

Dance Program

GOYA Basketball



Religious Education - How Relevant is our Faith Today?

Irene Cassis, Director of Religious Education

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Jesus said to him (the lawyer), *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.* (Matthew 22:37-38))

In the early Christian Church where they continued the Jewish family traditions, religious education was paramount for adults, who in turn taught their children. Sunday Church School is a fairly new phenomenon in the Orthodox Church. We copied the idea from the Protestants.

Parents are still responsible for their children's religious education. Today, the Church and the Sunday Church School help parents do this. Parents are the greatest role models to their children. Teens place great importance on the relationship they have with their parents. Parents are the most important thing in Christian adolescent's lives, after God.

Religious education will be much more effective when there is active participation and reinforcement within the family. A good home and a good community together support the spiritual growth of its children.

Because we continue to live in a very materialistic and anti-Christian culture, St. Paul's admonition continues to be relevant today: *Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect* (Romans 12:2)

Adults can't tell kids about the Christ they themselves have not experienced. They must first recognize the importance of God in their own lives before they can share Him with others. To have a heart for God we have to focus when we pray, read the Bible, read the lives of the saints, go to Church on Sunday and during the weekday feasts and fasts. Our lives on this earth are meant to be hard work and training for our salvation (living with

God forever). We grow in faith by participating in the worship and sacramental life of the Church.

We must train our children to be receptive to Orthodoxy. Relive the feast days of the Church by taking children to church services and telling them the story of each event as if it happened today—this is how the Church teaches it to us.

If you are keeping the fast days and fasting periods, Wednesdays and Fridays, your children will do as you do. Teach them how to light a candle, make the sign of the cross, and venerate the icons in the same way Yiayia (grandmother) taught you. Pray with your children, receive Holy Communion together as a family.

It's not Ok to sleep in on Sunday mornings because you're tired. Get your family up; what if Fr. Michael decided to sleep in? Get up! Get ready! Take your kids to SCS on time and pick them up when Sunday Church School ends. Two adult classes are offered to help you grow in your Faith.

The Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament tells us: *"Train up the child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Prov 22:6).

Grow in faith together as a family, by participating in the worship and sacramental life of the Church. In his book, *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home*, Fr. Anthony Coniaris of blessed memory wrote, *Think of the sermons parents preach to their children by their daily example.*

Fr. Ted Stylianopoulos, a retired professor at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, once said, *As Orthodox Christians our lives should be lived in such a way that an explanation is demanded.*

The Greek Festival is over; no more dance practices, the Basketball Tournament practices are going on in the Caloudas Gymnasium, and the Divine Liturgy and Sunday Church School for children and adults continues with Christ, the clergy, and Sunday Church School teachers all looking forward to spending time with you.

Annunciation Greek Language and Culture School News

Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Director

Dear families,

Our school year has been full of academic excellence and wonderful cultural events!

We started on Friday September 15 with the Blessing (Αγιασμός) from Father Demetrios and Father Efstratios. Our children's program continues Fridays from 5 to 7.30 pm with a preschool class, kindergarten, and grades first to sixth. We also have the *Ellinomatheia* Preparation class for middle and high school students. Our adult classes meet every Tuesday evening 6.30-8.30pm. We have four classes in person, Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate, and Advanced, as well as an online class on Thursday morning for Advanced Levels.



Αγιασμός, 15 Σεπτεμβρίου – Blessing

We are blessed to have ten talented and enthusiastic teachers who work tirelessly to provide the best education in the Greek Language and Culture to our students.



From left to right: *Dimitra Georgiou* – 2nd grade | *Georgia Varvarezos* – 3rd grade | *Peggy Livanios* – 5th grade | *Vaso Papavasiliou* – 4th grade | *Katerina Kontogeorgaki* – Director and *Ellinomatheia* Class | *Elissavet Vrettos* – Pre-K | *Poppy Padley* – Kindergarten | *Effie Magionos* – 1st grade | *Kali Magionos* – 6th grade | Also not in the picture: *Deena Metaxas* – 3rd grade | *Katerina Thoma* – *Ellinomatheia* online



Preschool - Η τάξη της κυρίας Ελισσάβετ

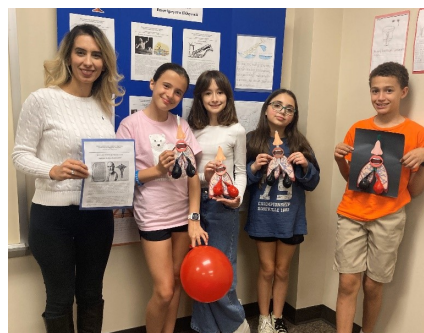
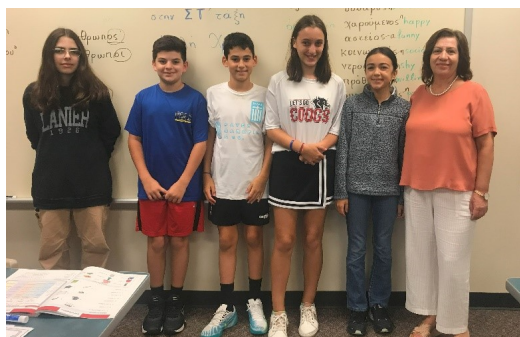


Kindergarten – Η τάξη της κυρίας Πόπης



1st Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Έφης

(Continued from page 7)

2nd Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Δήμητρας3rd grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Ντίννας (here with Kyria Georgia)4th Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Βάσως5th Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Πέγκυς6th Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Καλής

Ellinomatheia – Η τάξη της κυρίας Κατερίνας

Our creative and innovative program, **STEM** or “**Επιστήμη στα Ελληνικά**” continues this year too. Mrs. Peggy Livanios, prepares science lessons and experiments in Greek and our students learn about famous Greek scientists, philosophers, and mathematicians and their work. This semester our students have learned about Archimedes and the phrase “Eureka”, Thalís of Miletus and the discovery of static electricity, Pythagoras and the Pythagorean cup and the principle of communicative vessels, and Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine. More exciting lessons and experiments are planned for the spring. We are happy that our students have this opportunity to immerse in the scientific methodology, vocabulary, and experiments, all in Greek!

Αρχιμήδης και η φράση «Εύρηκα»
Archimedes and the phrase “Eureka”Θαλής ο Μιλήσιος και στατικός ηλεκτρισμός
Thalís of Miletus and static electricity



Πυθαγόρας και η δίκαιη κούπα
Pythagoras and the Pythagorean Cup



Ιπποκράτης και πείραμα με πνευμόνια
Hippocrates and experiment with lungs

On Friday October 27, we celebrated **OXI Day**. Our students recited poems and songs. The event was well attended, and we all had the opportunity to honor the Greek History and feel proud for our children and our heritage. The Greek Consul in Houston, *Mr. Lambros Kakkisis*, also attended and addressed our event.



Our students sing the national anthems



The flag bearers with the director Ms Kontogeorgaki

We are also proud of our adult program. We offer Modern Greek Language classes for all levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. The classes take place in person every Tuesday at 6:30pm. We encourage everyone to attend our classes and see how exciting it is to learn the Greek language. **The spring semester starts on Tuesday, January 30, 2024.**



Adults Program – Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate, Advanced

Our students with their teachers:

Deena Metaxas, Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Vanessa Farsadaki, and Vaso Papavasiliou

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming cultural events and celebrations. In December, our school is having the **Christmas** celebration on Friday, December 15. In the new year we have our major fundraising event **Karnavali**, on Saturday February 24. On Sunday March 24 is the **Greek Independence Day Celebration** and **Tsourekia Baking** is on April 24 and 25. Thank you for attending our events and supporting our school!

Thank you to our **PTO board** and all the parents for helping with our fundraising and cultural events. Thank you all for your support! Please, contact me for more information about the children and adult programs, our upcoming cultural events, and how to join the Greek School.

Best regards, Καλά Χριστούγεννα, καλές γιορτές και ευτυχισμένος ο καινούργιος χρόνος!

Katerina Kontogeorgaki

School Director, katerinakonto@agoc.org |Tel: 281-250-8178



Greetings from Philoptochos!

Our local chapter has had a very busy summer and fall participating in many different events benefiting our local, metropolis, and national communities.

In June we began preparing food for the Original Greek Festival and continued throughout the summer until Festival weekend in October. From mid-October through November, we prepared all of our delicious treats for the ever-popular Christmas Bake Sale which sold out again this year.

The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos and our local Houston chapters hosted the National Philoptochos' Biennial Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, held at the Hilton Americas on November 11th. The National Philoptochos Board was welcomed to Houston the evening before the luncheon at a Boots n' Bling dinner at Annunciation Cathedral. The luncheon was chaired by Metropolis Philoptochos President Stella Piches and Tri-Chairs Marian Catechis, Martha Stefanidakis and Barbara Vittas. Joni and John Zavitsanos emceed the luncheon which featured the AOS Middle School Choir and keynote speaker Lara Shekerdemian, Pediatrician-in-Chief of Texas Children's Hospital. Grants totaling \$350,000 were awarded at the luncheon to organizations within our Metropolis, and another \$200,000 will be distributed next year throughout the country.

Five members of our local chapter, Marian Catechis, Marie Halvatzsis, Helena Johnson, Maria Kantalis, and Martha Stefanidakis serve on the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Board, with Marian Catechis and Martha Stefanidakis also serving on the National Board. Additionally, Pauline Koinis and Martha Stefanidakis represent us on the board of Houston's Emergency Aid Coalition which provides lunches and maintains food pantries for those in need.

This year marked the return of the Festival of Tables, the unofficial start to the Christmas season featuring tables uniquely decorated by members of our community. This year's event, chaired by Mary Gregory and Pauline Koinis raised over \$12,000, the proceeds of which are designated to support the new Metropolis of Denver Youth Camp.

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Our chapter partnered again with SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures to provide almost 90 Christmas presents to 30 children whose parents receive assistance from SEARCH.

We also support Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry's Children's Ministry by assisting with the annual Christmas party for their families, and by providing gifts for the children of the incarcerated.

In January, we will prepare *vasilopites* and hold the annual Vasilopita auction in support of St. Basil Academy in New York (our chapter is among the largest, if not the largest of their supporters), purchased by Philoptochos in 1944 and is a home for Orthodox children and young adults who are without parents, and in some cases, single homeless mothers and their children.

In March we will prepare items for the Easter Bake Sale and throughout the year we host various receptions and gatherings at the Cathedral for many occasions. We provide food, labor and/or financial support for celebrations of ordinations and visiting clergy, all the coffee hours in February, *makaries*, the Clean Monday retreat, the celebration of the Cathedral's name day, and notably the Palm Sunday fish dinner where we prepare and serve over 400 meals in-person and to-go.

Our Touch Base team supports those members of our community who are unable to come to the Cathedral with visits and phone calls and treats for Christmas and Easter, and our Sunshine committee sends cards and letters to members of our community who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

We are developing a ministry focused on patients from Greece seeking medical treatment in Houston.

As you can see, we are a very active ministry of the Cathedral, and would be grateful for any time, treasure or talents that you might be able to share. There really is something for everyone.

Please contact Helena Johnson at papal1h@hotmail.com or any Philoptochos Board member if you would like to get involved.

National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon (CMFL)

November 11, 2023



Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianos; Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Bishop Constantine of Sassima
Marian Catechis, Amy Kalogeropoulos, Martha Stefanidakis, Arlene Siavelis-Kehl, Theoni Dickos,
Stella Piches, Barbara Vittas



Joni Zavitsanos, Co-Emcee of CMFL, and
Amy Kalogeropoulos, National Philopto-
chos Executive Director



Bishop Athenagoras, Archbishop Elpidophoros,
Bishop Constantine, Rev. Fr. George Gartelos,
Rev. Fr. Michael J. Lambakis with National Board
members and Grant Designees

Boots n' Bling Dinner welcomes National Philoptochos Board

November 10, 2023



Presvytera Katina Gartelos
Marian Cathechis
Presvytera Renee Lambakis

National Board members from
New York and Chicago



Metropolis Board members from Dallas
with Denver Metropolis president,
Stella Piches (center)

Philoptochos Festival of Tables

December 9, 2023



Senior Citizens

Kiki Pantazis & Paula Phocas

The Senior Citizens of Annunciation Cathedral gather for fellowship and luncheons from October (after the Original Greek Festival) to early June, generally on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

We thank all of those who hosted the luncheons during the months of October through December of 2023:

- Nicole Postolos
- Alexandra and Pete Santikos
- Cynthia Kostas and Georgia Kostas Nichols
- The Fress Family
- Christie and George Vlahakos

The schedule and hosts for the Senior Citizens luncheons for January-June 2024 is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| - January 16 | Demeris B.B.Q. |
| - February 6 | Angela and Jim Boockholdt |
| - February 20 | The Pappas Family |
| - March 5 | Angela and Don Davidson |
| - March 19 | Marena and Billy Vlahakos |
| - April 2 | Constance and Nicolas Cocavessis |
| - April 16 | Katina and Vasili Mathews |
| - May 9 (Thursday) | AHEPA / Daughters of Penelope |
| - May 21 | Helen Solomos |
| - June 4 | G.M.L. |

If you would like to sponsor a luncheon whether the occasion is to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one, please contact Kiki Pantazis (713.340.1113) or Paula Phocas (713.661.5017).

GUIDELINES:

Everyone who is 55 years and older and is a member of the Annunciation Cathedral, please join us in the Seniors program and enjoy the fun and fellowship our program provides.

TO ATTEND OUR OUTINGS, you have to be a member of the Senior Citizens, with the exception of out of town visitors who are always welcome.

For more information, call: KIKI PANTAZIS 713.340.1113 or PAULA PHOCAS 713.661.5017

Cathedral Calendar

December 22, 2023 – February 28, 2024

DECEMBER 2023

Friday, December 22

Orthros and Great Hours 8:30 am

Sunday, December 24 – Sunday before Nativity

8:15 am – Orthros

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

6:00 pm – Great Vespers

Monday, December 25 – Holy Nativity

8:15 am – Orthros

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, December 31 – Sunday before Theophany

7:45 am – Orthros / 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

JANUARY 2024

Monday, January 1 –

St. Basil / Circumcision of Our Lord

8:30 am – Orthros / 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany of Christ

**8:30 am – Vespers Divine Liturgy & Service of
the Lesser Blessing of the Waters**

Saturday, January 6 – Theophany of Christ

8:30 am – Orthros

**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy and Service of the
Great Blessing of the Waters**

Sunday, January 7 – Synaxis of John the Baptist

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday Church School (SCS)

Philoptochos Vasilopita Blessing, Sale & Auction, following Divine Liturgy, Martel Hall

Tuesday, January 9

**6:30 pm – Youth Ministry Monthly Gathering,
Cathedral/Martel Hall**

Friday, January 12

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

7:00 pm – Greek School Vasilopita, Trophy Room

Sunday, January 14 – Leavetaking of Theophany

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS

Tuesday, January 16

**10:15 am – Senior Citizens Meeting & Lunch,
Martel Hall**

Wednesday, January 17

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219

**7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
sign-in 6:50 pm**

Friday, January 19

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Sunday, January 21 – 12th Sunday of Luke

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS

Wednesday, January 24

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219

**7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
Sign-in 6:50 pm**

Friday, January 26

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Sunday, January 28 – 15th Sunday of Luke

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS

Tuesday, January 30 –

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

8:30 am Orthros / 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, January 31

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219

**7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
sign-in 6:50pm**

Friday, February 2 – Presentation of Our Lord

8:30 am Orthros / 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Sunday, February 4 – 15th Sunday of Matthew

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS

Tuesday, February 6

10:15 am – Senior Citizens Meeting & Lunch,
Martel Hall

6:30 pm – Youth Ministry Monthly Gathering,
Cathedral/Martel Hall

Wednesday, February 7

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219,

7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
sign-in 6:50 pm

Friday, February 9

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Sunday, February 11 – 16th Sunday of Matthew
7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS
Elementary Oratorical Festival 12:00 pm, Cathedral

Tuesday, February 13

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219

7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
sign-in 6:50 pm

Friday, February 16

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Metropolis of Denver Basketball Tournament, Tulsa

Sunday, February 18 – Sunday of the Canaanite

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS
Metropolis of Denver Basketball Tournament, Tulsa

Monday, February 19

Metropolis of Denver Basketball Tournament, Tulsa

Tuesday, February 20

10:15 am – Senior Citizens Meeting & Lunch,
Martel Hall

Friday, February 23

5:00 pm – Greek School, Children

Saturday, February 24

6:30 pm – Greek School “Karnavali”, Martel Hall

Sunday, February 25 –**Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee**

7:45 am Orthros / 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / SCS
Parish Oratorical Festival 12:00 pm, Cathedral

Wednesday, February 28

1:00 pm – Bible Study In-Person, Room 219

7:00 pm – Bible Study ZOOM ONLY,
sign-in 6:50 pm



CROSSROAD

Are you a high school junior or senior?

Fill your **summer** with what **counts**

Join one of our four sessions:

SESSION 1
Boston June 8–18

SESSION 2
Northern California June 18–28

SESSION 3
Boston June 22–July 2

SESSION 4
Chicago July 6–16

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Priority: January 16, 2024
Regular: February 20, 2024

Explore what's next

CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for **YOU** as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures.

By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

REGISTRY*January 1 – November 30, 2023***WEDDINGS**

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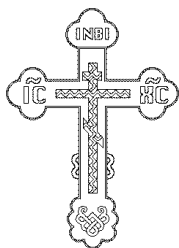
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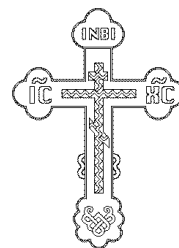
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<https://www.agoc.org/>



THE MAJOR FEAST DAYS

Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8
Exaltation of the Holy Cross	September 14
Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple	November 21
Christmas (Nativity of Jesus Christ)	December 25
Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)	January 6
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	February 2
Annunciation (Evangelismos)	March 25
EASTER (Pascha)	(Varies from year to year)
Ascension	(40 days after Easter)
Pentecost	(50 days after Easter)
Transfiguration of Christ	August 6
Dormition of the Theotokos (Kimissis)	August 15

Volumes have been written on the inexhaustible treasures of our Greek Orthodox heritage. It is important to understand that everything we do is based upon the premise that the Orthodox Faith is founded upon the teachings of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, now and always.

<https://www.agoc.org/ourparish/faith>

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral also offers regularly scheduled classes on Orthodoxy through our Department of Religious Education.

<https://www.agoc.org/ministries/religiouseducation>



- **Pledge online**
www.agoc.org/stewardship
- **By mail:**
Complete and mail your pledge card and payment to the Cathedral office.
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Call AGOC Administrator Myka Evans at 832-242-9256.
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Simply send a text to 713-766-6357 with the amount you wish to contribute and you will receive a registration link.

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