

# *The Annunciator*

Volume 32, Issue 2

Nativity 2025, Q4



## *Annunciation* Greek Orthodox Cathedral

✧ HOUSTON, TEXAS ✧

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Rev. Economos Demetrios Tagaropoulos, Associate Priest

Dn. Iakovos Varcados \* Dn. John Wise

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### Cathedral Personnel

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Myka Evans, Chief Administrator

Tom Witaneck, Accountant

Christina Papazis, Religious Education Director

Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Greek Language and Culture School Director

Cathedral Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

*This publication is made possible by your stewardship*

Dearly beloved in our Lord, Jesus Christ:

**E**very year, when we celebrate Christmas, the hope and love of God is renewed in our hearts. Let us rejoice and celebrate! Each time a person opens his heart and believes in Him and accepts the Grace of God, Christ is born again and mankind rejoices and celebrates. The Son of God is sent to each of us. All that is required of us is the willingness to receive Him.

If we are afraid, let us not be. God is always concerned about us. He knows our problems, our pain and our tribulations. In His love He watches over us and protects. He will not abandon us to be lost forever. It is for this very reason that He sent His Son into the world: To shower us with the precious gifts of hope, courage, joy, love, and peace.



Let us reject the idea that Christmas is only for children. Christ came into the world for each person and for every age group. He came to bestow on us the wealth of His spiritual gifts. He came to bring beauty into our lives. He is the Good Shepherd and we are His flock. For this reason, He said:

*"...My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.  
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand..."*

This is why the Nativity of our Lord is such a joyous celebration. It tells us that God loves us enough to reach out over the unbridgeable chasm that separates us, through the life of Jesus Christ. No one of us, no, not one, is beyond the reach of that divine love. Christmas also teaches us that no human heart is so humble that it cannot offer hospitality to Christ. He was born in a stable so that each of us could accept, in confidence, His desire to be a part of our lives.

"The angels with the shepherds glorify, and we cry out with them: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth."

As we begin the season of preparation for our Lord's nativity in the flesh, let us be reminded of God's gift to us and how we are called to receive this gift and share it with others.

One gift that our children offer every year is our Sunday School Christmas program. Join us on Sunday, December 21st *immediately following the Divine Liturgy* for this year's program, "Tidings of Peace".

Please also save the date for our Parish Council Elections, which will be held on Sunday, December 14th in Fellowship Hour following the Divine Liturgy until 3:00pm.

In January, we will also celebrate our Cathedral Parish Vasilopita on Sunday, January 25th. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, in the Cathedral, we will have the Service of the Vasilopita, in which we will recognize each ministry and organization. From the Cathedral, we will go into our Martel Hall for our annual Vasilopita auction, hosted by our Philoptochos Society, where everyone is able to receive their blessed piece of Vasilopita, as well as participate in the generous and entertaining auction.

In anticipation of our Lord's Nativity in the flesh...

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
Χριστός Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε!***

With love in Christ,

*Rev. Fr. Efstratios J. Magoulas*  
Fr. Efstratios J. Magoulas  
Dean of the Cathedral

## *Theosis, Growing/Maturing in the Likeness of God*

*“As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...  
[that] You may be partakers of the divine nature” (2Pet. 1:3, 4)*

**A**s we enter and journey through this Advent Season, let us pause to reflect on the Nativity of our Lord, The Feast of the Incarnation, and on our purpose and ultimate goal in life: our union with God, our salvation. This purpose really started at creation when God Said, “Let *us* make man according to *Our* image (*ikon*, reflection), according to *Our likeness*” (*omiosis*) (Genesis 1:26) Only man was so created. All other living creatures were created “according to their kind,” not God’s. (Genesis 1:21) Many Church Fathers distinguish between image and likeness. As Clark Carlton explains in his book, *The Life*, man (*Anthropos*) is a reflection of God, but he is called to grow, to mature in the *likeness* of God through his free will. He quotes St. Diadochos of Photiki who wrote: “All men are made in God’s image, but to be in His likeness is granted only to those who through their great love have brought their own freedom into subjection to God” He also quotes St. Maximus the Confessor from his “Centuries on Love”: “Every rational nature indeed is made to the image of God; but only those who are good and wise are made to His *likeness*.” In other words, we are to grow in His likeness through love and our imitation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is our model. He has shown us the way, for He Himself said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) Only by imitating Him and the great love that He has for us, will we be able to fulfil his commandment of “love one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) We do this through helping those in need, in almsgiving as an extension and expression of our love: good works arising out of faith and love. We were made for this purpose, to be conformed to the likeness of God. St. Paul reminds of this in Romans 8:29 when he writes:

*For Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to  
the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Furthermore, in Ephesians 2:10, St. Paul reiterates that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

This process of uniting with Christ and renewing our tarnished image and likeness began with the Incarnation, when Christ took on flesh and assumed our humanity from the Theotokos. Furthermore, those joined to Christ through faith in Baptism began the renewal, a new life in Christ. As we journey through life, our purpose is to ascend the ladder to Christ and His Kingdom by imitation of Him. Because of the Incarnation, our Lord’s divine nature interpenetrated humanity; and subsequently, through Baptism, we become by grace what God is by nature. As we partake of the Eucharist, the body and blood of our Savior, we are nourished and our “humanity is interpenetrated with the energies of God—we partake of the grace of God.” Thus, we share in God’s nature through His energies, not His nature or essence (*ousia*), becoming “partakers of the divine nature.” (2Peter 2:4)

Let us humbly and continuously give thanks and glorify Christ our God, as we do every Divine Liturgy, for His Incarnation, His Sacrificial love for us, for His Resurrection, His Ascension, and His enthronement to the right of the Father. For through all of this, at the Second Coming, we will be returned to the Father renewed, transformed from corruption to incorruption, and from mortal to immortal as God intended before the Fall (1Corinthians 15:52-55); and in eternal loving relationship and communion with God. As St. Paul put it, “But God, who is rich in His mercy, because of His great love for us with which He loved us...made us alive *together* with Christ and raised us up *together* with Him, and seated us *with Him* in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:4- 6)

During this upcoming Nativity period, let us engage ourselves in self-reflection and repentance through the triad of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. May Christ grant all of us His great love, mercy and compassion, as we prepare to receive Him in our hearts at His Holy Nativity. Amen.

Fr. Demetri Tagaropulos







## ***Ladies Philoptochos Society Of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral***

The Ladies Philoptochos Society continues to fulfill its mission of compassion, faith, and service, always welcoming ideas and participation from our parish community. A portion of the Vasilopita proceeds was designated to support youth programs and ministries both locally and throughout the Metropolis. To date, based on requests made by application, the following distributions have been made:

- Provided hygiene kits for IOCC
- Offered stipend payments for ten GOYA Lenten Retreat participants
- Purchased new girls' youth basketball uniforms
- Supplied Pascha Passports for Sunday School students
- Covered expenses for the Oratorical Festival winner's participation at the Metropolis level
- Purchased a smart board with PC and accessories for Sunday School classroom use
- Supported the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapters at Texas A&M, UT, and locally
- Awarded Greek School scholarships
- Contributed to Greek Festival children's costumes
- Sponsored the bus for the fall GOYA retreat
- Allocated funds to purchase altar robe sashes

In addition, Philoptochos members have been actively engaged in service and fellowship throughout the year. Highlights include baking for the Original Greek Festival, hosting Palm Sunday Lunch, and coordinating both our annual Spring and Holiday Bake Sales, and the expansion of our Philoxenia ministry which supports patients from Greece seeking treatment in Houston and patients locally.

Philoptochos also hosted the fall Metropolis Philoptochos Assembly in September, welcoming delegates from across the Metropolis for a day of fellowship, collaboration, and shared ministry.

In partnership with SEARCH Homeless Services, Philoptochos sponsored a Back-to-School Supply Drive and will sponsor Christmas Wish Lists for the children of SEARCH clients during the holiday season, helping provide joy, dignity, and hope to families in need. Philoptochos will also support the annual OCPM (Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry) Christmas Party and provide gifts for the children of the incarcerated.

The Festival of Tables Luncheon will take place on Saturday, December 6, following the Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas, a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and celebration of our ministry.

By the time this issue is published, baking for the Christmas Bake Sale will be well underway. Koulourakia and tsourekia are delivered to our homebound parishioners, clergy, and staff twice a year at Pascha and at Christmas as expressions of love and gratitude.

Looking ahead, Philoptochos is planning several upcoming volunteer opportunities, including:

- Assisting with a local clothes closet organizing donations
- Assembling hygiene kits
- Hosting general meetings with invited speakers

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is deeply grateful for the continued encouragement and generosity of our parish family. Together, we strive to serve those in need and strengthen our community through faith, fellowship, and love. For questions, ideas, or suggestions, please contact Pauline Koinis at [pdckoinis@gmail.com](mailto:pdckoinis@gmail.com), or speak with any Philoptochos board member.

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR + ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

## DECEMBER 2025 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

ST. NICHOLAS ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA, THE WONDERWORKER

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

ST. ANNA'S CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

ST. DIONYSIOS OF ZAKYNTHOS

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

"TIDINGS OF PEACE" SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

GREAT HOURS AND VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Great Hours 8:30 am ✞ Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

PRAYED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Orthros 6:30 pm ✞ Divine Liturgy 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

Σάββατο 6 Δεκεμβρίου

Ἅγ. Νικολάου Ἐπισκόπου Μύρων Ἀγκίας τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ

Ὁρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

Κυριακή 7 Δεκεμβρίου

Κυριακή Ι΄ Λουκά

Ὁρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

Τρίτη 9 Δεκεμβρίου

Ἡ σύλληψις τῆς Ἁγίας Ἀννης

Ὁρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

Παρασκευή 12 Δεκεμβρίου

Ἅγ. Σπυρίδωνος τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ

Ὁρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

Κυριακή 14 Δεκεμβρίου

Κυριακή ΙΑ΄ Λουκά

Ὁρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 17 Δεκεμβρίου

Ἅγ. Διονυσίου τῆς Ζακύνθου

Ὁρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

Κυριακή 21 Δεκεμβρίου

Κυριακή πρὸ τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως

Χριστογεννηϊατικὸ Παιδικὸ Πρόγραμμα

Ὁρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 24 Δεκεμβρίου

Παραμονὴ Χριστογέννων τοῦ Ἅγ. Βασιλείου

καὶ Ἅγ. Ἐγενείας Ὁσιομάρτυρος

Αἱ Μεγάλαι Ὠραὶ 8:30 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

**Ἡ Κατὰ Σάρκα Γέννησις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ**

Τὴν Τετάρτη 24 Δεκεμβρίου

Ὁρθρος 6:30 μ.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 7:30 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 28 Δεκεμβρίου

Κυριακή μετὰ τῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως

Ὁρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✞ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR + ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

## JANUARY 2026 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

**JANUARY 1**

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR,  
JESUS CHRIST, AND ST. BASIL THE GREAT  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> AT ST. BASIL THE GREAT  
Orthros 5:00 pm ✧ Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**

SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY THEOPHANY  
Orthros 7:45 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5**

THE FOREFEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY  
AND THE LESSER BLESSING OF THE WATERS  
Great Hours 8:30 am ✧ Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY  
AND THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS  
Orthros 8:30 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST  
Orthros 8:30 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

SUNDAY AFTER HOLY THEOPHANY  
Orthros 7:45 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE  
Orthros 7:45 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE  
Orthros 7:45 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

THREE HIERARCHS  
Orthros 8:30 am ✧ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 1 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ, ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΑΓ. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ  
ΤΗΝ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ, 31 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ ΣΤΟ Ι. Ν. ΑΓ. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ  
Όρθρος 5:00 π.μ. ✧ Αρχιερατικά Θεία Λειτουργία 6:00 π.μ.

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 4 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ  
Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 5 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ  
Αι Μεγάλαι Ωραι 8:30 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

**ΤΡΙΤΗ 6 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

Η ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ  
Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

**ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 7 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΝ  
Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 11 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ  
Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 18 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΎΨΩΣΙΝ  
Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 25 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Α' ΛΟΥΚΑ  
Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

**ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 30 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ**

ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΤΡΕΙΣ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΕΣ  
Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ✧ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR + ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

## FEBRUARY 2026 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

TRIODION BEGINS

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD TO THE TEMPLE

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

JUDGEMENT SUNDAY (MEATFARE SUNDAY)

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MEMORY OF THE HOLY ASCETIC FATHERS

"2ND SATURDAY OF THE SOULS"

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY (CHEESEFARE SUNDAY)

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

Forgiveness Vespers 6:30 pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

CLEAN MONDAY ∴ GREAT LENT BEGINS

Great Compline 6:30 pm

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 1 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ

ΑΝΟΙΓΕΙ ΤΟ ΤΡΙΩΔΙΟ

Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 2 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΝ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 8 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΣΚΟΥ

Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 14 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ

Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 15 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ

Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 21 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΟΦΑΓΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ

Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 22 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΟΦΑΓΟΥ

Όρθρος 7:45 π.μ. ∴ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός 6:30 μ.μ.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 23 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

Καθαρά Δευτέρα ∴ Αρχετέ η Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή

Μέγα Απόδειπνον 6:30 μ.μ.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE  
FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

*Forefeast of the Nativity* - Wednesday morning, December 24th  
8:30 am Great Hours  
9:30 am Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

The Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ  
Wednesday evening, December 24th  
6:30 pm Orthros  
7:30 pm Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
for the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE  
FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY  
OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

*Forefeast of Theophany* - Monday, January 5th  
8:30 am Great Hours  
9:30 am Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the  
Forefeast of Holy Theophany and the Blessing of the Waters

The Great Feast of Theophany of Christ  
Tuesday, January 6th  
8:30 am Orthros  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Great  
Feast of Holy Theophany and the Blessing of the Waters

## *A Message on Stewardship and Giving*

Dear Parish Family,

As members of our beloved Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, we are called to embrace stewardship not only as a duty, but as a joyful response to God's abundant blessings. Our faith teaches us that giving is an act of love, gratitude, and commitment to the life and mission of our community.

While many churches across the country struggle to keep their programs and ministries adequately funded, our parish continues to set new benchmarks for participation levels. We are blessed to have an incredible amount of talent in what is arguably the best community in the country. Our well organized and well funded ministries serve as a beacon of light in a world that sees an increasing level of complexity and challenges each day. Of course, we can only continue to stay on this path if we have enough resources to do so.

Our community overwhelmingly voted to expand our Cathedral. That expansion came with a substantial increase in overhead. For example, our average monthly utility bill is over \$15,000. Those types of expenses must be paid first before we can fund our programs. Our total budget for this year is almost \$2.7 million. Our stewardship goal is \$1.9 million (and it actually should be higher). In order to achieve this goal, everyone in the community must step up. We invite each of you to consider sponsoring at least one day of the Church's expenses, which amounts to \$7,000. Your generous contribution helps us maintain our sacred spaces, support our ministries, and serve those in need within and beyond our parish.

The good news is many of you did indeed step up this year! We are currently at a total amount of pledges of \$1,893,354.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors who have already committed to this vital ministry by pledging at least \$7,000. Your dedication is a shining example of faithful stewardship, and we are proud to recognize your commitment. Your names are included in the attached list as a testament to your leadership and support. We invite the rest of the parish to become sponsors as well. Raising additional money means we can not only make our ministries better but that also allows us to help those in the greatest need through ministries like Mary's House.

We pray that God blesses each of you for your generosity. Together, as a faithful community, we can continue to grow in faith and service, ensuring that our church remains a vibrant spiritual home for generations to come.

With gratitude in Christ,

Joni & John Zavitsanos

*2025 Stewardship Chairs*

# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

## SPONSOR STEWARDS

*as of October 31, 2025*

### **Day 7 Sponsors:**

Harry & Jane Pefanis

### **Day 6 Sponsors:**

Gary Moss

Chris & Maria Pappas

### **Day 5 Sponsors:**

Gregory & Page Cokinos

Dino & Angie Liollo

Richard & Kris McGee

George & Nicole Postolos

### **Day 4 Sponsors:**

Mike & Marlene Grivon

Mike & Rena Koinis

George Mickelis

John & Joni Zavitsanos

### **Day 3 Sponsors:**

John & Seva Anaipakos

Kevin & Adonia Cokinos

Niko & Jenny Lorentzatos

Dean & Kathy Pappas

George & Chrysi Polydoros

George & Christie Vlahakos

### **Day 2 Sponsors:**

Reed & Katherine Bastie

Christopher & Jill Cokinos

Dimitri & Laura Fetokakis

Gregory & Marie Halvatzis

Chris & Angie Kaitson

Ted & Pauline Koinis

Vasili & Katina Mathews

Zachary & Dorina Mucher

Nick & Thomasine Pantazis

Chris & Denise Poulos

Michael & Georgia Rokas

Andrew & Stephanie Sullo

Larry & Stacey Wooden

### **1 Day Sponsors**

Nicholas & Marcie Alexos

Rafa & Stephanie Alvarez

Gregory & Christy Andrews

Mildred Boozalis

John & Maria Castleberry

Spyros & Marian Catechis

Amy Chiconas

Mr & Mrs Michael Cokinos

Paige & Ellen Cokinos

Kate Constantatos

James Crowe & Polina Kyriakides

Demetri & Elise Dale

John & Zoetsa Dale

Maria Demeris

Theoharis & Sophia Dimarhos

Jim & Pam Gaspar

Pete & Cheryl Gavrel

Greg & Mary Gregory

Mark & Jenny George

James Halbouty

Charles & Denise Hazen

Doug & Stephanie Hodges

Rev. Dn. Iakovos & Diak. Maria Varcados

Tom & Tamsin Jacky

Mary Katsafanas

Tasos Katsaounis & Roula Christie

John & Christina Kearns III

Jason Koulouras

Victor & Linda Makris

Collie & Harvey Michaels

Matthew & Stacie Milanese

Angela Minas

Eletherios Nicholas & Sharon Papadopoulos

John & Erika Papadopoulos

John & Elizabeth Padilla

Dean & Bo Pamphilis

Evy Pappas

George P & Anastasia Pappas

Bill & Celeste Patsouras

Marcus Payavla

Tom & Amy Pearson

Thomas & Stella Pearson Sr

Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos

Richard & Maria Pollard

George & Dena Popps

Lucas Postolos

Jimmy & Kitty Prappas

William & Sophia Psillas

Randol Rodgers & Ellie Malavis Rodgers

Joseph & Anna Rodriguez

Rex & Diane Rogers

Mark & Elizabeth Santikos

Bill Serletis

Nick & Martha Mae Sissa

Harry & Catherine Skefos

Stephen Smith & Stella Papaliodis Smith

Stephanie & Ted Snedden

Rocky Stevens

Barbara Sultis

Nick & Sana Summer

Daisy Tepper

Carl & Demetra Vartian

Peter & Angie Vossos

Smaro Voulgaris

Mark & Ocie Whitaker

Wayne Williams & Sofi Simotas

George Yaluris

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

Sunday, December 21, 2025



The Story of Christ's Birth  
through Scripture and Music

Presented by the Sunday School Students of our  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Prior to the dismissal of Divine Liturgy



Join us for our annual

# *Clean Monday Retreat*

Begin the Lenten season with  
a moment of reflection and  
spiritual renewal

— . — . — . —  
FEBRUARY 23 + AT 10 AM  
GREAT COMPLINE AT 6:30 PM

Presentation by  
Rev. Fr. George Parsenios, PhD  
Professor of New Testament at  
Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek  
Orthodox School of Theology



## ***AGOC Endowment Fund***

### ***Securing Our Future***

*“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children...”*  
Proverbs 13:22

*“Let us make our mercifulness abundant, let us give proof of much love to man, both by the use of our money and by our actions...”*

St. John Chrysostom

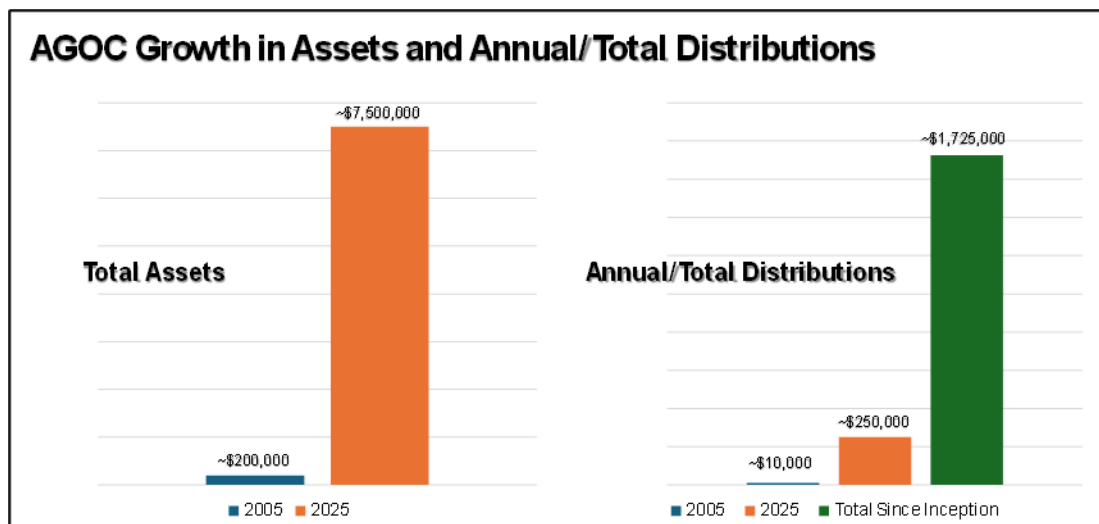
The AGOC Endowment Fund (Fund) is a separately incorporated, tax exempt 501(c)-3 fund that exists to support the ministries, programs and initiatives of our church. The Fund serves as a “savings account for our Cathedral that improves long-term financial health, supports the growth of our ministries and reduces year-to-year dependency on the Festival. Key aspects of the Fund are:

- Donations are tax deductible and may consist of cash, securities, life insurance, real estate or other property
- Gifts may be made currently, through a bequest in a will (planned giving) or by naming the Fund as a beneficiary of insurance policies or retirement plans/accounts
- All fund balances are professionally managed and permanently invested for benefit of AGOC
- To maximize growth of the Fund over time, distributions are limited to a max of 6% of the average Fund balance over a rolling 12 quarter period
- Fund maintains independently audited financial statements

Total assets of the Fund have grown from a modest beginning of ~\$200,000 in 2005 to ~\$7,500,000 as of September 2025, consisting of 4 separate subsidiary funds (values as of 9/30/25):

- Annunciation Legacy Fund (~\$2.65 million) – distributions used exclusively to support AGOC ministries
- Theo Polemanakos Fund (~\$2.78 million) – distributions support various AGOC initiatives
- Angelos J. Vasos Fund (~1.6 million) – distribution used exclusively for AGOC Capital improvements
- Dr. Gus Papadapolous Fund (~\$505,000) – distributions used to provide need-based scholarships for Greek Orthodox families with children desiring to attend Annunciation Orthodox School

...and annual distributions from the Fund have grown from several thousand dollars in the early years to over ~\$250,000 in 2025, with total distributions since inception of ~\$1,725,000.



For more information about ways to support the AGOC Endowment, including how to make a planned gift through your will, please contact George Postolos at [gpostolos@eventellect.com](mailto:gpostolos@eventellect.com), Richard McGee at [richardkmcgee@gmail.com](mailto:richardkmcgee@gmail.com), James Pappas at [jcp@jcpinv.com](mailto:jcp@jcpinv.com), or the Cathedral office 713-526-5377.



# THE LIFE OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

**S**aint Basil the Great was born in the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emmelia. His mother Emmelia (commemorated July 19 and May 30) and his grandmother Macrina (January 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (January 10), Peter of Sebastia (January 9), and Naucratius. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina, he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at nought, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restored if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counselors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labors, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January in 379, at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and with these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexameron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

Saint Basil is also celebrated on January 30 with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom. These great Fathers and Theologians of the Church are commemorated on this day as the "Three Hierarchs."

## CELEBRATE WITH OUR NEIGHBORING GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCHES

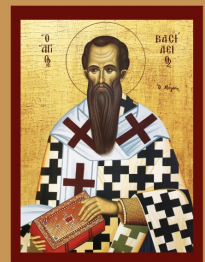
### FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Divine Services for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and St. Basil the Great will be celebrated at St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church

**Wednesday, December 31st**

Orthros at 5:00 pm

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm



## Youth & Young Adult Ministries



Young Professionals  
Friendsgiving potluck  
& fellowship evening  
Sunday, November 16th



METROPOLIS  
OF DENVER

**SAVE THE DATE**

2026  
**GOYA  
BASKETBALL**

**FEBRUARY 13-16, 2026**

**TULSA,  
OKLAHOMA**

[YOUTH.DENVER.GOARCH.ORG/GOYA-BASKETBALL](http://YOUTH.DENVER.GOARCH.ORG/GOYA-BASKETBALL)

@metyouthdenver

Questions email us:  
[Ministries@denver.goarch.org](mailto:Ministries@denver.goarch.org)



AGOC YAL

# Christmas Walk

Walk with us  
through River  
Oaks to see the  
Christmas lights  
and for an  
evening of  
fellowship

Postolos Home  
Dec. 21 @5:30 pm



for our college-age  
young adults





## Parish Level Oratorical Festival

Elementary Division - February 1st

Junior & Senior Divisions - March 1st

Scan the QR Code for this year's topics  
& more information

## *Annunciation Greek Language and Culture School News*

by Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Director  
katerinakonto@agoc.org | 281-250-8178

Dear Families,

Another school year has begun full of exciting educational and cultural activities!

We started on Friday September 12 with the Blessing (Αγιασμός) with Father Efstratios. Our children's program continues Fridays from 5.00 to 7.30 pm with a preschool class, kindergarten, and grades first to sixth. We also have three *Ellinomatheia* Preparation classes for middle and high school students. Our adult classes meet every Tuesday evening 6.30-8.30pm. We have four in-person classes, Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate, and Advanced, as well as an online class on Thursday morning for Advanced Levels.



Αγιασμός, 12 Σεπτεμβρίου – Blessing



From left to right: Kali Magionos – 6<sup>th</sup> grade | Dimitra Georgiou – 5<sup>th</sup> grade | Elissavet Vrettos – Pre-K | Deena Metaxas – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade | Katerina Kontogeorgaki – Director and Ellinomatheia Class | Poppy Padley – Kindergarten | Effie Magionos – 1<sup>st</sup> grade | Daniela Spanos – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade | Vasso Papavassiliou – 4<sup>th</sup> grade | Also not in the picture: Valia Vamvaka – Ellinomatheia B

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.



Preschool - Η τάξη της κυρίας Ελισάβετ



Kindergarten – Η τάξη της κυρίας Πόπης



1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Έφης





2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας



3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Ντανιέλας



4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Βάσω



5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Δήμητρας



6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Η τάξη της κυρίας Καλής



Ellinomatheia – Η τάξη της κυρίας Κατερίνας

On Friday October 24, we celebrated **OXI Day**. Our students recited poems and songs, and the Ellinomathia class presented a theatrical dialogue. 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. A nice reception with pizza and cake followed offered by our PTO. Father Dimitrios and representatives of the Greek Consulate in Houston, also attended our celebration.



Our students sing the national anthems



The flag bearers with the school director  
Ms. Katerina Kontogeorgaki



2<sup>nd</sup> grade students recite their poem

We are also very 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, February 3, 2026.**



Adults Program – Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate, Advanced  
Our adult students with their teachers:

*Deena Metaxas, Valia Vamvaka Geis, Vaso Papavasiliou and Katerina Kontogeorgaki*

Please **mark your calendar** for our upcoming cultural events and celebrations.

**Christmas Celebration & Potluck Dinner** is on Friday, December 19, Martel Hall, 6.00 pm

**Karnavali, Dinner & Dance** fundraising is on Saturday February 21, Martel Hall, 6.30 pm

**Greek Independence Day Celebration** is on Sunday March 29, after the Divine Liturgy.

**Tsourekia Baking** is on Wednesday and Thursday April 1 and 2, Boozalis Festival Center.

Thank you to our **PTO board** and all the parents for helping with our fundraising and cultural events.  
Thank you all for supporting our school!

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



**Annunciation Greek Language & Culture School**

**Save the Date**

**Karnavali**  
**Dinner & Dance**

**21 February**

**6:30 PM, Martel Hall**

All proceeds benefit the Greek School  
RSVP: [katerinakonto@agoc.org](mailto:katerinakonto@agoc.org)  
[greeksschoolagoc@gmail.com](mailto:greeksschoolagoc@gmail.com)



## *Daughters of Penelope*

Achaia Chapter #54

*Anastasia Kirages, 2025-2026 President*

Greetings from my little corner of the world! I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather we have going on right now. I'm really looking forward to what the Daughters of Penelope Achaia Chapter #54 has in store this winter. Before I move on to talk about that however, I would like to give a big thank you to Diakonissa Maria Varcados and her committee for putting together a wonderful luncheon and program honoring Past Grand President Mary Verges at this year's Style Show, held at the BraeBurn Country Club on Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Over 170 sisters and guests attended the event, which included a style show with fashions by French Cuff Boutique modeled by Sisters of the Achaia Chapter, and a lovely silent auction. Dignitaries traveling from afar were Past Grand Presidents Barbara Stavis Wolf, Demi Thomas, and Cathy Ferguson, Maids of Athena PGP Pam Stamm, District #16 Governor Dori Smallwood, and Past District Governor Katina Tassopoulos. PGP Mary Verges was presented with a Proclamation from the City of Houston by Chief of Staff Perdita Chavis for Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum, thanking her for her lifelong efforts in improving the quality of life for the citizens of Houston, especially for her commitment to providing affordable housing to our senior citizens. Congratulations on your 50+ years of service, Mary!

Prior to the Style Show, we had our first meeting of the year in September where we discussed upcoming events such as the aforementioned Style Show and Breakfast with Santa.

We celebrated our very own Sister Mary Katsafanas who recently received the honor of 2025 Penelope of the Year as well as our DOP Founders on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the Houston Racquet Club.

In 2026 we will have our annual bake sale fundraiser in February and will be volunteering with the local organization Kids' Meals, which works to end childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals to the doorsteps of Greater Houston's hungriest preschool-aged children and through collaboration providing their families with resources to help end the cycle of poverty.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Anastasia Kirages at [dopachaia54@gmail.com](mailto:dopachaia54@gmail.com) or any Daughters of Penelope Board Member. Thank you!







## ***Maids of Athena***

*Sisterhood ~ Service ~ Citizenship ~ Hellenism ~ Family ~ Virtue*

The Maids of Athena is a philanthropic and fraternal organization that has empowered young women across the globe since 1930. We are the Junior Auxiliary of the Daughters of Penelope and part of the AHEPA Family. The Houston chapter of the Maids of Athena (Rodanthi #41) was chartered on December 15, 1939. Since our reactivation in 2018, we have welcomed over 40 young women from ages 14 through 27 across the Houston area into our organization.



In the 2025-26 year so far, we have hosted a coffee social at Anonymous Café, a beloved Greek coffee shop in Houston. The event was a wonderful opportunity for members to reconnect over Greek coffee, which reminded us of the strong bonds and shared heritage that bring our chapter together.

Looking ahead to December, we are preparing for one of our most cherished traditions, our annual Santa's Breakfast & Bake Sale in collaboration with the Daughters of Penelope. This festive event unites our community during the holiday season and supports our commitment to philanthropy and service. The funds raised this year will benefit the Maids of Athena National Project (Symplefsi), the President's Project (Frodizo), and our chapter. Symplefsi supports remote Greek island communities by providing access to medical care and essential resources, while Frodizo assists individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. These initiatives reflect our values of compassion, unity, and meaningful service.

As we continue into the 2025-26 year, our chapter remains dedicated to fostering leadership, service, and life-long friendships among our members. We are grateful to our AGOC community for their continued encouragement and participation in our events, which make our efforts possible.

To join or learn more about the Houston Maids of Athena, please contact us at [houstonrodanthi41@gmail.com](mailto:houstonrodanthi41@gmail.com) and follow us @moahouston.

# Merry Christmas!



Wishing you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope,  
and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.



**ANNUNCIATION  
ORTHODOX SCHOOL**  
*The School for Hearts and Minds*



## *Welcome Ministry*

*“...Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”  
Hebrews 13:2*

Our festival serves as an introduction to Orthodox Christianity to people who may never set foot in an Orthodox Church in any other circumstance. At our recent festival, someone asked a tour usher why we light candles upon entering the narthex. We all do it since it is the custom, but do we think about why or what it symbolizes? It reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World and we are to let His light shine in us. In Hebrews, St. Paul reminds us to “entertain strangers.” What better way to show the light and love of Christ than to share the fullness of our Orthodox Christian faith with visitors?

As our Ministry’s name implies, we endeavor to make visitors feel welcome at the Cathedral, as well as to be a conduit for information, and to connect them with other parishioners. This is where **YOU** can help. Are you willing to be a mentor or friendly face for an inquirer or someone new to the parish? You do not need any special knowledge or significant time commitment just a caring heart. If this is something you can help with, please let Fr. Efstratios know or stop by the Welcome Table in the Martel Hall. We are always open to ideas and suggestions for enhancing the work of this ministry and can be reached at [mhalvatzis@gmail.com](mailto:mhalvatzis@gmail.com) or stop by the table on Sunday.



### *Anthony Kouzounis AHEPA Chapter #29 ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**Thank you to the Anthony Kouzounis AHEPA Chapter #29 for organizing this year’s  
Community Christmas Card.**

**In addition, the AHEPA 29 Educational Foundation is hosting its 24th Annual Christmas Gala at The  
Junior League of Houston on Saturday, December 6.**

*For further information and details, please see the weekly Church Bulletin.*

# Orthodoxy 101

Introduction to the Orthodox Church

**Class via Zoom at 7 pm**

**\*except 1/18 & 2/24**

January 18th: Intro \*in person after Divine Liturgy

January 20th: Triune God

January 27th: Divine Economy & the Church

February 3rd: Theotokos & Saints

February 10th: Church History & Schisms

February 17th: Catholics & Protestants

February 24th: Worship: Iconography & the Senses \*in person

March 3rd: Worship: Liturgy

March 10th: Worship: Sacraments

March 17th: Life in Christ



## Register Here



For questions or to register  
by email, contact:  
[ChristinaP@agoc.org](mailto:ChristinaP@agoc.org)

# PARISH VASILOPITA

## Sunday, January 25th

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy,  
we will pray the Blessing of the Vasilopita  
and cut a piece for all our ministries and  
organizations

# VASILOPITA AUCTION

From the Cathedral, we will go into our  
Martel Hall for the annual Vasilopita  
Auction, hosted by our Philoptochos  
Society, where everyone is able to receive  
their blessed piece of Vasilopita, and  
participate in the generous and  
entertaining auction.





# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL REGISTRY: AUGUST 9 - NOVEMBER 30, 2025

## **WEDDINGS**

Ashley Marie Lytle and  
Nicholas Harry Pefanis  
Sponsor: Thomas Rores

Marcia Nicole Kaldanis and  
Daniel Alexander Borrero  
Sponsor: Tia Castillo

Emily Ann Cookston and  
Frank Zachary Patsouras  
Sponsor: Theodora Patsouras

## **Infant/Children BAPTISMS**

Lukas Branch Sissa  
Parents: Martha and Nicholas Sissa  
Godparent: Ourania Crispen

Phoebe Grace Papadopoulos  
Parents: Erika and John Papadopoulos  
Godparents: Alexandra and Jon Kantalis

James Panayiotis O'Rourke  
Parents: Alexandra and William O'Rourke  
Godparent: Alexa Beauchamp

Alexios Michael Schmidt  
Parents: Stephanie and Calvin Schmidt  
Godparent: Constantine Tzouanas

Eleni Katerina Dorantes  
Parents: Hrisa and Alexander Dorantes  
Godparent: Patra Katsigiannis

Nicholas Dorsey Stillman, Jr.  
Parents: Jennifer and Nicholas Stillman  
Godparents: Christina and Alexander Triantaphyllis

Sofia Grace Salzetti  
Parents: Richelle and Jonathan Salzetti  
Godparents: Mary Michael and Alex Grivon

Mia Margaret (Marina) Angelo  
Parents: Penny and Dimitrios Angelo  
Godparent: Alexis Angelo

Clayton Peter (Panagiotis) Clark  
Parents: Helen and David Clark  
Godparent: Alexis Angelo

## **Adult BAPTISMS**

Emily (Emilia) Ann Cookston  
Godparent: Rena Koinis

Mayra Isabelle (Olga) Rodriguez-Declet  
Godparents: Sharon Papadopoulos and  
Chrysi Polydoros

## **CHRISMATIONS**

Catherine Myers Skefos  
Godparent: Christina Papazis

## **FUNERALS** *Eternal Be Their Memory!*

Elaine Koumonduros  
Peter Andrew Zotos  
Sophie Psillas  
Heather (Hariklia) Marie Xydis

# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

## STEWARDS 2025

*Your Gifts, of what is Yours, we offer to You, in behalf of all, and for all!*

- Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Fr. Efstratios, Presv. Danae Magoulas

Fr. Demetrio & Presv. Joana Tagaropoulos

Presv. Anna Mathews

Dn. Iakovos & Diak. Maria Varcados

Dn. Robert (John) & Diak. Meredith Wise

Dr. Abraham & Sonata Abbott  
 Agapios & Ana Agapiou  
 Dimitris Alexiou  
 Nicholas & Marcie Alexos  
 Willam & Afentra Allen  
 Lauren Altaffer  
 Jackie Alvarez  
 Rafa & Stephanie Alvarez  
 Errikos & Jordan Anagnostopoulos  
 Demetrios Anaipakos  
 John & Seva Anaipakos  
 Kim Anaipakos  
 Thomas & Emily Anastos  
 Timothy & Eirini Anderson  
 George & Helen Andreaskos  
 Katherine Andreno  
 Steve & Candace Andreno  
 Gregory & Christy Andrews  
 John & Kelley Andrews  
 Gus & Tina Angelo  
 Mary Argeroplos  
 Vasiliki Argeroplos  
 Christine Athanasion  
 Richard & Elaine Badoian  
 William & Pamela Basedow  
 AGOC Basketball  
 Reed & Katherine Bastie  
 Tina Batmanis  
 Tyler & Jenna Battenfield  
 John & Alexa Beauchamp  
 Bradley & Zoe Beinart  
 Jesus & Olga Benavides  
 Rose Berberian  
 Alec & Kara Bergerson  
 Stephen & Julie Bifano  
 Gary & Julie Bleisch  
 Aaron Bludorn & Victoria Pappas  
 Cora Ann Blytas  
 Georganne Boardman  
 Peter & Angela Bogdanos  
 Martina Bonnen  
 Mildred Boozalis  
 McCray Boozer  
 Steve Bouboudakis  
 Theodore Boundas  
 Thomas Boundas

George & Elaine Bournias  
 Chris & Maria Boutris  
 Nickolas & Ali Boutris  
 Robert & Deborah Brailas  
 Jim & Lonnie Bratsakis  
 Dimitri Brown  
 Brooks Broyles & Jeannine Georgiou Broyles  
 Jerome & Anna Veneri Burbridge  
 Spencer Burton & Michelle Ostis  
 George & Violet Cairnes  
 Steve & Angela Caloudas Jr  
 Steve Caloudas  
 Ralph & Victoria Calve  
 Sergio Campa  
 George & Nikolettta Carayannopoulos  
 Catherine Caridas  
 Alexandra Caritis & Liam O'Rourke  
 Georgia Carson  
 Petros & Sepi Carvounis  
 Irene Cassis  
 Tia & Chris Castillo  
 John & Maria Castleberry  
 Chris & Barbara Catechis  
 Spyros & Marian Catechis  
 Anna Catinis  
 Greg Catsinas  
 Michael & Stephanie Cearley  
 Olga Chapman  
 Georgia Charkalis  
 Amy Chiconas  
 Helen Chifotides & George Souliotis  
 Adrianna Chrestopoulos  
 Chrisostomos Chrisopoulos & Linda Green  
 A.J. Christie  
 Maria Christie  
 Edgar Christou  
 Eleni Christou  
 Mary Christou  
 Helen Clark  
 Kalyopi Cobanoglu-Padley & Paul Padley  
 Mr Nicolas Cocavessis  
 Larry Coffey  
 Christopher & Jill Cokinos  
 Gregory & Page Cokinos  
 Katherine Cokinos  
 Kevin & Adonia Cokinos

Michael & Rhonda Cokinos  
 Paige & Ellen Cokinos  
 Elyse Cokinos Stevens  
 Gus & Barbara Colessides  
 Robert & D. Colette Collins  
 Kate Constantatos  
 Dan & Danielle Cook  
 Niko & Irma Corovessis  
 Felix & Joanne Cortez  
 Liviu & Aurelia Costin  
 James Crowe & Polina Kyriakides  
 Christopher Daifotis  
 Demetri & Elise Dale  
 John & Zoetsa Dale  
 Jeff & Kallie Daniels  
 Chris Daskalos  
 Don & Angela Davidson  
 Rita DeClariss Gaines  
 Effy Delmedico  
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 Eleni Demeris  
 Fote & Cindy Demeris  
 George & Joannie Demeris  
 Maria Demeris  
 Yanni & Brandy Demeris  
 Yonny & Jenny Demeris  
 Louis & Theodora DeNino  
 Tommy Denos  
 Gerry Desjardins & Anik Sayad  
 Corey DeVries  
 Michael & Madison Dewey  
 Mike & Patty Dewey  
 Vasilis & Sotiria Diamantopoulos  
 Michael Diehl & Stacey Kalovidouris  
 Theoharis & Sophia Dimarhos  
 Vasileios Dimitriadis  
 Daniel & Kelli Dinneen  
 Dean & Deanna Doxakis  
 Donna Doxakis  
 Nikola Dragojlovic  
 Andrea Dugat  
 Christina Dukes  
 Bill & Elaine Dupre'  
 Dan & Tricia Dutherae  
 David Dyess  
 Brandy & Troy Eckles

*Continued from page 29: AGOC Stewards 2025*

Alexandra Economides	Brian Kohl & Dana Gheorghe	Toula Kaldanis
Costa & Lainey Economides	Georgia Giakoumakos	George & Margo Kalfoglou
Nicolette Economides	Andrew Giannakakis	Dimitrios & Sarah Kalliontzis
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Michael Elgohary	Stephanie Gregory Brumley	Michael & Caroline Kanarellis
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Pete Ellen	Mike & Marlene Grivon	Pakis & Maria Kantalis
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Thomas Etzel	Nicholas Hadjigeorge	Demitri Karageorgos
Myka Evans	Evangelos Halastatas & Zoi Halastaras	Apostolos & Alexandra Karantzoulis
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Gregory Farah	Gregory & Marie Halvatzis	Pantelis Karastamatis
Georgette Faris	Christina Halvatzis Papazis	Peter Karfaridis
Tareq & Amber Fasheh	Glenn & Connie Hammack	Paul Karydas
John Fedigan & Constance Haginas	Koula Hanges	Mary Katsafanas
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Jimmy & Julie Fikaris	Marguerite Haseman	Alexia Kazilas
Sheila Fikaris	Angela Hasouris	Mr & Mrs Fivos Kazilas
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Ruben & Christina Flores	Matthew Henneman	George & Vassiliki Keith
Christine Fordtran	George & Lea Hilburn	George & Dina Kelley
Troy Fordtran	Doug & Stephanie Hodges	Michael Kelly
Julie Fotiades	Gretchen Holtsinger	Dean Kepraios
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Gus & Donna Fress	George & Maria Hritcko	Sami Khan
Joe Fress	John & Evelyn Hritcko	Anna Kiappes
Leon Fress	John David & Stephanie Hritcko	John Kiappes
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Jim & Pam Gaspar	Jim & Maree Ikonomou	Connie Koinis
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Dee Gavrel	Petru & Maria Ionescu	JP & Rachel Koinis
John Gavrel	John & Tara Ivascu	Kevin Koinis
Pete & Cheryl Gavrel	Milena Yordanova-Jackson	Mike & Rena Koinis
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Terry & Stacey Gazaw	Nick & Vasso Jacomides	Ted & Pauline Koinis
Thalia Gazis	Alex & Katiana Jennings	Theodore & Smaro Kokkinis
Rusty & Helen Gebhard	Anna Maria Johnson	Alexis Kokolis
Stavros & Ling Gekas	Judy Johnson	George & Rosalind Kokolis
Xenofon & Maria Gekas	Thomas & Helena Johnson	Constantine & Suzanne Kondylopoulos
Ted & Karen Geoca	Mary & Tim Jones	Emmanuel & Athanasia Koukatsikas
Argo Georgandis & Howard Pyle	Walker & Anne Kahle	Maria Koukatsikas
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Pahno Georgetown	Lynda Kalantzakis	Maria Koutros
Yianni & Ellie Georgetown	Charlie & Lindsey Kalas	Stergos & Anthi Koutros
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John & Angeliki Georgiou	Fotios & Angeliki Papachroni Kalatzis	Kalliopi Kouzi
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	Steven Kaldanis	Demo & Christina Kouzounis



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Evan & Kiki Koymarianos	Thomas Mastroianni	Karen Nicolaou
Leo Kozadinos	Mike & Anna Mateja	Matthew Nungesser
Ryan & Athena Krasnosky	Anna Mathews	Chryse Padilla
Carrol Kriticos	Constantine Mathews	Diego Padilla
Michael & Marina Kriticos	Presvy. Anna Mathews	John & Elizabeth Padilla
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Dimitrios Lagias	James Mays	Nick & Thomasine Pantazis
Andrew Lambakis	Elizabeth & Wiley McCoy	Petros & Danielle Pantelis
Nicholas Lambakis	Charlie McGee	Lili Pantos
Joan Lambron	Christina Mcgee	Anne Papadakes
Nicholas Lambron	Eleni Mcgee	Christine Papadakes
Peter & Christala Lardas	Richard & Kris McGee	Peter & Jo Linda Papadakis
Dionysios Laskaras	Ava Medarhri	Eletherios Nicholas & Sharon Papadopoulos
David & Jasmine Lawther	Steve Megas	John & Erika Papadopoulos
Joshua Leasure & Chrystan Skefos	Emmanuel & Adrian Melissinos	Pat Papadopoulos
Yuri & Marina Lebzak	Stephanie Merlidis Kostef	William & Pamela Papadopoulos
Athanasios & Lindsay Lefas	Michael & Liberty Michael	Joy Papageorge
Mayra Leonard	Collie & Harvey Michaels	George & Maria Papageorgiou
Nick & Tonya Leonard	Denny Michalopulos	Frances Papajohn
Donald & Marian Leong	Margaret Michalopulos	Konstantinos & Anne Papakonstantinou
Peter Leong	Angela Mickelis	Steve & Fran Papaliodis
William Leven	Anthony Mickelis	Christina Papandreou
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Michael & Anne Licopantis	George Mickelis	Elpis Papisideris
Helen Liliensern	Matthew Mickelis	John Papisideris
Dino & Angie Liollio	Nickolas Mickelis	Kosta & Anastasia Papisideris
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Niko & Jenny Lorentzatos	Maria Milios	Vasilis Papavassiliou
Gilbert Love & Toni Karavantos Love	Sarados & Despina Milios	Petros Papazis
Jesse Taylor Lozano	George & Mina Millas	Eunice Pappadas
David Lynn	Steve & Niki Millward	John Pappadas
Maria Lynn	Angela Minas	Chris & Maria Pappas
Mel & Elaine Mabray	Mary Minas	Christina Pappas & William Boffa
Bob & Leah Magee	Alex & Kelsey Miron	Dean & Kathy Pappas
Summer & Mark Magee	Maria Mitchell	Delores Pappas
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Despina Mallios	John Moss	H.D. & Allie Pappas
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Noelle Mallios	Stacey Moss	Harris & Vicky Pappas
Phillip & Susan Mallios	Pete Mougouris	John & Susan Pappas
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Vasiliki Perezous	Vicki Sander	Coco Stotts
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Sofia Petrou	Andy & Carol Savas	Nick & Sana Summer
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Paula Phocas	Edward & Daphnae Schnur	Rev Dr & Presbytera Demetrio Tagaropulos
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Mary Polydoros	Bill Serletis	Greg & Hanan Threadgill
Peggy Polydoros	Konstantin Sermyagin & Ekaterina Sermyagina	George & Kim Tratras
Theophane Polydoros	Nicky & Ann-Marie Servos	Nicholas Tratras
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Mary Poulos	Nicholas & Catherine Skefos	Christopher Varcados
Pete Poulos	Stephen Smith	Rev. Dn. Iakovos & Diak. Maria Varcados
Alexandra Powell-Lorentzatos	Stephen Smith, Sr. & Stella Papaliodis Smith	Thomas & Tara Varcados
Evy Poyatzis & Eric Fiumano	Stephanie & Ted Snedden	James & Isabelle Varlan
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Mary Prappas	Michael & Kalliope Sokolow	Dimitrios Varvarezos & Katerina Kontogeorgaki
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 Chris Verven  
 Helen Verven  
 Anastasios & Eleni Vionis  
 Ekaterini Vionis  
 Katrina Vlachakis  
 Billy & Marena Vlahakos  
 Christina Vlahakos  
 Frank Vlahakos  
 George & Christie Vlahakos  
 Georgiana Vlahakos  
 Daniel Voinis  
 Margaret Voinis  
 S Paul & Judy Voinis  
 Valerie Voinis  
 Anthony Vossos  
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 Smaro Voulgaris

Michael & Nicol Voutsinas  
 Strahinja Vukadin  
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 James Waynick  
 Krista Webster  
 George & Karen Weimmer  
 Zig & Becky Werlla  
 Mark & Ocie Whitaker  
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 Wayne Williams & Sofi Simotas  
 Rob & Meredith Wise  
 Curt & Kia Wissmiller  
 Larry & Stacey Wooden  
 Christos & Anastasia Xintaris  
 Othonas & Debbie Xixis  
 Panagiotis Xixis  
 Stavros & Patricia Xydis  
 George Yaluris  
 Anastasia Young

Jack & Maria Younger Sr  
 Harry & Pam Zachariades  
 Nikos Zacharias & Ioanna Athanassaki  
 Vasilis Zafiris & Anna Lykoudis Zafiris  
 Evangelos & Anastasia Zagorianos  
 David & Libby Zamora  
 Anastasia Zavitsanos  
 Diamantis Zavitsanos  
 Eleni Zavitsanos  
 Irene Zavitsanos  
 John & Joni Zavitsanos  
 Socratis Zavitsanos  
 Tasoula Zavitsanos  
 Helen Zavouris  
 Alex Zea  
 Brian & Nephele Zimmerman  
 James Zoes  
 Alexandra Zografos  
 George & Olga Zombanakis

**Total Pledging Families: 750**







# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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## MAJOR FEAST DAYS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH 2025-2026

The Nativity of Jesus Christ - Christmas	December 25, 2025
Theophany	January 6, 2026
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	February 2, 2026
Annunciation of the Theotokos	March 25, 2026
GREAT & HOLY PASCHA	April 12, 2026
Ascension	May 21, 2026
Pentecost	May 31, 2026
Transfiguration of Christ	August 6, 2026
The Dormition of the Theotokos	August 15, 2026
Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8, 2026
Elevation of the Holy Cross	September 14, 2026
Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple	November 21, 2026



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