

The Annunciator



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Faith over Fear

Fr. Michael Lambakis

There is no doubt that since March of 2020 the world has changed drastically. It seems as though the entire world has succumbed to fear. This has obviously happened in a number of ways, but mainly from our lack of faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gives us hope and not fear. I have observed a great distinction over the past several months in the way people perceive the events going on in the world. Sadly, because of a lack of faith and the ability to spiritually discern things, fear has taken over some people's lives, including our own Orthodox Christian faithful. What is it that we are fearful of? Too often some focus solely on the health of the body, yet we have no thought for the health of our soul. Fear of death causes us to be enslaved to sin. Fear of death or illness causes us to sin greatly against God and our fellow man. How do we sin against God? We can take the example of our own lives over the past several months. Many people have avoided coming to Church services because of fear of catching a virus. For some, this may seem logical for a period of time, but how can we justify the avoiding of partaking in the sacramental life of the Church for such an extended period of time? The reality is, there is not a good reason for an able bodied person avoiding the sacramental life of the Church, which is in and of itself life-giving. To avoid coming to the Divine Liturgy because we fear getting sick is in truth giving into fear and it is also spiritually irrational.

We must also ask ourselves a question, why have we developed this fear and who are we receiving our information from when it comes to the events going on in the world around us? It saddens me that many people receive their information from social media or television, yet these media corporations are mainly concerned with making money and do not always have the best interest of the greater society in mind. The truth is, the devil uses many ways to instill fear, and using modern technology such as social media and the internet is one way that the evil one has tried to instill fear in society. It is regrettable that some of our faithful easily believe what they are told by media corporations, yet these are the same corporations that for the past 50 years have degraded our society and have ridiculed the Church and Christianity. They have undermined the family, marriage, and the moral underpinnings of our society for many years and yet sadly many people accept this information without question or spiritual discernment. We must ask ourselves where does our faith and trust lie? In the modern media

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Faith over Fear

and the sinful society around us, or is our faith and trust deeply rooted in our Orthodox Christian faith and Jesus Christ Himself?

Fortunately, in my experience over the past many months, I have seen far more of our faithful who have increased in their faith and put fear aside and have not given into fear. Even some who stayed away for an extensive period of time returned to Divine Liturgy and they realized there was nothing to fear and that the evil one had overcome them with worry and anxiety for no good reason. They were actually full of joy and happiness once they put fear aside, and resumed a sacramental life in Christ.

We should always remember that when it comes to our Orthodox Christian faith, we must discern things spiritually. For some who read this article, it may sound foolish but we need look no further than Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Saint Paul speaks directly about foolishness and spiritual discernment as it relates to the things of God, and in particular the Cross. He makes a distinction of man's wisdom and spiritual wisdom. The best example of this is in the eighteenth verse of chapter one.

For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Jews demand signs and Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength”.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we continue our pilgrimage of faith in this world, let us put aside all the cares of this life, as we joyfully sing in the Divine Liturgy each week. Let us trust in the mercy and the wisdom of God and not in the wisdom of this world. Let us not be saddened or fearful for the things that are happening in the world around us. Our Lord Himself told us that these things must take place. Let us put our trust in the Holy Cross of Christ and keep our focus on Him at all times. Let us open the eyes of our minds so that the illumination of the Gospel may illumine us and lead us to peace and ultimately salvation.

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”. Isaiah 41:10

+Fr. Michael

Elevation of Reverend Father Nicholas Triantafilou to Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne

On September 14, 2021 Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology celebrated the school's feast day, the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross. As it does each year, the school held Orthros and Divine Liturgy, which included special prayers and a procession around the chapel with the Cross. At the direction of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, and with the blessing of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, an additional brief service was held at the end of the Divine Liturgy. The purpose of this service was to elevate Reverend Father Nicholas Triantafilou to Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne.



As he was known in his fifteen-year tenure as President of Hellenic College Holy Cross and over twenty years as Proistamenos of our Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Houston, Father Nick expressed his unworthiness of the honor before, during, and after the event. However, those present who were fortunate enough to witness and be part of his ministry, took this opportunity to thank him, and to praise God for the gifts He gave them through Father Nick.

The current President of the school, George Cantonis, announced that an anonymous donation had been given for a plaque that would be placed in front of the Archbishop Iakovos Library. "I can say with authority," Cantonis said, "This many years as President of Hellenic College Holy Cross is an amazing accomplishment." The plaque will read: "In grateful recognition of Reverend Father Nicholas C. Triantafilou. Inspiring preacher, dedicated leader, beloved pastor. Embodiment of selfless diakonia. Well done, good and faithful servant."

However, the most memorable words of the day were spoken by His Eminence Methodios, Metropolitan of Boston, who bestowed the honor upon Father Nick: "Today we celebrate the Elevation of our Holy Cross. Many years ago, you took that Cross and you carried it every day of your priesthood. You've been an exemplary man of God... In whatever parish you served, beginning with Peabody and in Houston, and in Charlotte, but most especially as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, you traveled probably to every parish in this country, and you brought with you the love of God. You brought with you a sense of dignity, loyalty, and love for God and your fellow priests. You are loved and admired by everyone in this Archdiocese... When one thinks of priesthood here in America, he thinks of Nick Triantafilou."



AXIOS!

Annunciation Parish Bids Farewell to Father Gabriel and Presvytera Dorian Gadah & Family

On August 8, 2021 the Annunciation Cathedral Parish bid farewell to Fr. Gabriel and Presvytera Dorian Gadah and their children, Basil, Tabitha and Simon. We thank Fr. Gaby for his nearly 10 years of service at Annunciation Cathedral as Pastoral Assistant and subsequently as Associate Priest. Fr. Gaby began his ministry as Proistamenos at Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Belleview, Florida on August 15, 2021. Fr. Gaby will serve as the first full time priest for the St. Mark's community. As Fr. Michael was under the weather on Fr. Gaby's final Sunday, he had Fr. Efstratios read the following message.



Dear Fr. Gaby and Presvytera Dorian and family,

Well this is certainly not the way I envisioned your final Sunday at Annunciation Cathedral to take place. I apologize for not being able to celebrate today because I am under the weather. I know that we will have other opportunities to serve again in the future and every time we serve the Divine Liturgy, we are together, no matter what our geographical location is.

There are not enough good words I can say about you. You have served the Cathedral for almost 10 years and have been steadfast and consistent in your service to the people of Annunciation Cathedral. It goes without saying that I don't think that any parish in the country has ever had two clergy serve, whose paths have crisscrossed and have been connected since 1989 like ours have. It has been a blessing to have you serve this parish along with Presvytera Dorian as well. As you know, the life of the priest can be difficult. As you go on to your own parish and a new chapter in your life, just remember to try and execute the divine services to the best of your ability and to do your best and serve the people of your flock. God has called you to this ministry which is not always easy, but with His help and your spiritual discernment you will continue to do His work in Florida.

Without going overboard with a lengthy letter, I just want to say thank you on a personal level for always having my back at the parish. Thank you for always making sure everything was ready to go for all the services, and thank you for being not only a brother in Christ, but my brother. I wish you all the best and I know that we will be able to serve once again very soon.

May God grant you Fair winds and following seas.

Fr. Michael

We wish Fr. Gabriel and Presvytera Dorian and their family many years in their ministry to Christ and His Church. AXIOS!



Annunciation icon gift presentation by Metropolitan Tarasios

Saint Luke and His Gospel

Fr. Demetri Tagaropoulos

In as much as many have undertaken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed to me also, having had a perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

(Preface to the Gospel—Luke 1:1-4)

So begins this masterful, intensely spiritual, Gospel of St. Luke. Just as for Theophilus, it is written for us so that “you [we] may know the certainty of those things in which you [we] were instructed” (Luke 1:4)--so that we may be certain that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ *is* the Christ, the Son of the Living God; that is, “*the Christ of God*” (Luke 9:20), the anointed one; as Christ Himself read from Isaiah at the start of his ministry, after His Baptism, Chrismation, and Temptation:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me.” (Luke 4:18)

The “eyewitnesses” were other apostles (as per Eusebius), and as a companion of St. Paul, especially in Paul’s second missionary journey, undoubtedly he was influenced and received information from him. However, make no mistake; St. Luke’s Gospel is uniquely his, even Paul when he refers to “my Gospel,” he is really referring to the Gospel of St. Luke (Eusebius and others).

St. Luke was an Antiochian by birth and a physician by profession. St. Paul refers to him as “*the beloved physician*” in Colossians 4:14. Highly educated and extremely well versed in Greek, he wrote his Gospel in beautiful Greek, and described as “the loveliest book in the world.” (as pointed out by Fr. Farley in his commentary). However, it is believed that he must have known Hebrew as well because of certain Hebrew inflections and phrases. In addition, he demonstrates great familiarity of the Old Testament Scriptures making many references to them; and, leading some scholars to believe that, though a gentile, he must have been a Judaizer--a follower of Judaism because of its monotheism and high ethical and moral standards.

He wrote his Gospel as an *apologia*, defense of the faith but also as an accurate instruction to it. His theme is “*The Universality of the Message*” emphasizing three aspects of Christian life: “*prayer, the activity of the Holy Spirit, a deep concern and love for sinners.*” (*Orthodox Study Bible*). Moreover, through Jesus’ most moving Parables demonstrating his mercy and unconditional love to humankind, St. Luke brings these to the forefront. Several of them such as *The Prodigal Son* inspired Rembrandt to his famous painting. St. Luke is the only evangelist who includes so much on the Theotokos.

There is so much more that can be said about this Gospel. However, in the last analysis, it deserves to be studied in detail in order to be able for it to enrich us spiritually. It is for this reason, and more, that I selected this beautiful Gospel as the subject of our Bible Studies this Ecclesiastical year.

Please join us, then, on most Wednesdays, in-person, at 1:00pm and 6:45pm in the Council Room (219). Or, if you are unable to come in person sign in at 6:45pm and join us via ZOOM simulcast 7:00PM.

Be with us, as we all pursue the “fruit of the Holy Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22ff)

+Fr. Demetri

Annunciation Cathedral Parish Welcomes Father Efstratios and Presvytera Danae Magoulias

The Reverend Father Efstratios Magoulias was born and raised in Modesto, California to the Reverend Father Jon and Presvytera Georgia Magoulias. Growing up, Fr. Efstratios participated in the many ministries of the Church, including serving as an acolyte and chanter, participating in Sunday Church School and Greek school, holding leadership offices in youth ministries, and dancing in the Greek Folk Dance ministry.

Fr. Efstratios received a Bachelor of Arts in Classics with an emphasis in ancient Greek material culture and a minor in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2014. During his studies at UCSB, he worked as a Gaucho Tour Ambassador, receiving the honor of being inducted into the school's hall of fame for giving a record number of tours to future and potential students.

In the fall of 2014, Fr. Efstratios entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. His service at the seminary included being: an acolyte; altar captain; and Domestikos, being an active member in the St. Romanos Byzantine Choir; as well as the Student Government Association and ultimately, serving as the liaison between the faculty and students. Fr. Efstratios graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2018. From July of 2018, until March of 2021, Fr. Efstratios served as the Pastoral Assistant and Youth Director at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Sacramento, California.

In 2013 and 2014, Fr. Efstratios volunteered as a staff member at the Archdiocesan camping ministry, Ionian Village, in Bartholomeio, Greece. He would return in 2016 as a member of the administration team, serving as the on-site Logistics coordinator. From 2013 to 2020, Fr. Efstratios served as a member of the Metropolitan of San Francisco Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF) Management Team. It was at the first FDF meeting in preparation for FDF 2018, Fr. Efstratios met Danae Pappas. On December 29, 2019, they were joined in the Sacrament of Marriage at the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles, California.

Presvytera Danae grew up in the life and ministries of the Church at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, California. She received her Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Sciences at Loyola Marymount University in 2017. In 2019, she moved to Sacramento to attend the University of California,



Davis to pursue her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and Master of Arts in Education.

On March 7, and May 9, 2021 Fr. Efstratios was ordained to the first and second ranks of the Holy Priesthood, by His Eminence Metropolitan Tarasios of Rhodopolis, and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. Both Sacraments of Ordination took place in his home parish. Fr. Efstratios became the 4th generation of Magoulias clergy educated and ordained in America.

On May 15, 2021 Fr. Efstratios was assigned by Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver to our Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and on May 16, he celebrated his first Divine Liturgy in Houston with Fr. Michael and the Cathedral clergy. Presvytera Danae currently teaches 7th Grade Life Science at the Annunciation Orthodox School.

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Fr. Efstratios and Presvytera Danae are extremely blessed and thankful to serve the Annunciation Cathedral, to learn and grow from the guidance of Fr. Michael, and to serve, work with, and support the many ministries of our beloved Cathedral.

With Love in Christ,

Reverend Father Efstratios J. & Presvytera Danae Magoulias

We welcome Father Efstratios and Presvytera Danae to our Annunciation Cathedral Parish and wish them many years in their ministry to Christ and His Church. AXIOS!

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Update

Fr. Efstratios Magoulas

Greetings in the Name of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

“Whoever wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me”. These words from the Gospel of Mark, read on the Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), are extremely important words to hear and be reminded of at the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year. Denying ourselves and following Christ, with the example of the Apostles and all the Saints, is what we are called to do. Thus, all our ministry is focused on following Christ, in which the Church has given us the Divine Liturgy, both the hearing of the Good News and partaking of the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ our God.

I am extremely excited to be here, at the Annunciation Cathedral, and to be involved in her many ministries. It has been a blessing and privilege to work with Katherine and Reed Bastie, stepping into the model they have established, Sr. GOYA (9th-12th Grade) discussions every-other week. In this setting, our approach is an open discussion, not a lecture, in which we discuss about how we live our lives as Orthodox Christians in an ever changing and secular world, and the Orthodox response to society today. We also plan to host the return of our Fall Festival, Poinsettia fundraiser, and more! Don't forget to stop by the stage and the ice cream/Baklava Sunday booth at our festival to see our GOYAns doing their part.

With Fr. Michael's blessing, we have established a “Young Professionals” ministry for our parishioners ranging from post-college, to grad school and the working world, roughly those from the ages of 22-30ish. Like the GOYA, we aim for two events a month, an open-discussion in the home of one of the Young Professionals, and a Fellowship Hour, out and about in Houston. We already have reached over 50 of our Young Professionals who are living and working in the Houston area, including Orthodox Christians who have grown up in our Cathedral community as well as welcoming those who are new to Houston.

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Efstratios via e-mail (FrMagoulas@agoc.org) or in the Cathedral Office (713.526.5377/832.242.9258)



Religious Education

How Relevant is GOD Today?

Irene Cassis, Director of Religious Education

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 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 your 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, at least 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 your mother and yiayia 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 Frs. Michael, Demetri and Efstratios decided to sleep in? Get up! Get ready! Take your kids to SCS on time and pick them up when Sunday Church School ends.

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"
(Proverbs 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.*

Annunciation Greek Language and Culture School News

Katerina Kontogeorgaki, Director

Dear Families,

We are all very excited to be back in person after so many months of virtual classes. The school year started on September 17 with the Blessing at the Cathedral from our priests, Father Michael and Father Efstratios. Our children's program includes the Pre-K class, Kindergarten, and grades 1st through 6th. We also offer classes for middle and high school students. This new program, called Ellinomatheia, is offered online and the classes are preparing the students to advance their language skills and pass the exams for the Certification of attainment of the Greek language. In addition, we have a wonderful program for Adults with all levels, from Beginners to Advanced. The Fall semester started on September 28, with classes both in person and online. The Spring Semester starts on February 1, 2022.

We are blessed to have eleven very qualified, talented, and dedicated teachers: Mrs. Elissavet Vrettos, Mrs. Poppy Padley, Mrs. Effie Magionos, Mrs. Deena Metaxas, Mrs. Georgia Varvarezos, Mrs. Peggy Livanios, Mrs. Vasso Papavassiliou, Mrs. Argyro Milios, Mrs. Kali Magionos, Mrs. Katerina Thoma, and Mrs. Katerina Kontogeorgaki. Our wonderful teachers work tirelessly to provide our students with the best education in the Greek language and culture.

We plan to have the following cultural events in person, if conditions allow for it:

OXI Day Celebration, October 29

Christmas Celebration, December 17

Vasilopita Day, January 14, 2022

Apokria / Karnavali, Fundraising Dance, February 26

Greek Independence Day, March 27

Graduation, May 20

We would like to thank our church, our PTO, and all the parents, teachers and community members who help and support the school during these challenging times.

We all look forward to a happy, healthy, and creative school year!

Σας ευχόμαστε μια χρονιά με υγεία, πρόοδο και δημιουργικότητα!

Please, feel free to contact me for any information regarding our program and for registration at Katerinakonto@agoc.org.



Our School Blessing (Αγιασμός) on September 17



Our 4th grade students busy drawing the Greek Key (Μαϊάνδρος)



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Helena Papadopoulos Johnson, President

You probably already know that Philoptochos means “friend of the poor”, and that the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, established in 1931 by Patriarch Athenagoras, is the duly accredited women’s philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

But did you also know that Philoptochos is the largest Christian women’s philanthropic organization in the United States?

Our own Annunciation Philoptochos chapter was founded in 1944, and since that time has helped countless people through both fundraising and direct services.

Our Holiday and Spring bake sales raise much needed funds to support many worthy causes, including our Cathedral Expansion, the 2021 GOYA basketball tournament hosted by our Cathedral, AOS, Sunday Church School, and the Greek Language and Cultural School. We also support the Holy Archangels and St. Paraskevi monasteries in Texas.

During the holidays, we host the highly anticipated “Christmas Festival of Tables”. Each table is uniquely decorated by a member of the AGOC Community. This popular event has helped us to donate more than \$10,000 to the St. Nicholas National Shrine. Every January we auction off Vasilopita made by our members and other parishioners to benefit St. Basil’s Academy in New York state. Our AGOC Philoptochos raises approximately \$50,000 a year (even during the Pandemic) in support of this worthy cause.

We also support local community organizations like Covenant House, a faith-based organization just two blocks from the cathedral that focuses on homeless, abused, and abandoned youth. This year, we collected and donated enough men’s and women’s underwear to assist more than 250 people. Other organizations we work with include the Emergency Aid Coalition and the Houston Food Bank, where we recently sent over 200 lbs. of non-perishable food.

Philoptochos also addresses the needs of our own parishioners; we regularly assist many of them in a variety of ways.

We also minister to over 30 community members who are unable to attend services by sending them Easter and Christmas treats each year. We are expanding this ministry to include weekly phone calls and monthly visits.

We have also started a new ministry called “The AGOC Prayer Group”. This committee prays daily for those who are ill or otherwise suffering. If you are in need of prayers or would like to join the committee, please send an email to AGOCpray@gmail.com.

Our AGOC Philoptochos hosts numerous receptions throughout the year including our patronal feast of the Annunciation on March 25, the Dormition on August 15, the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian (the Patron Saints of Philoptochos), Palm Sunday fish dinner, church coffee hours during the month of February, special days when dignitaries visit our parish, and many more!

Many of our Philoptochos members represent our chapter by serving on other boards. Currently Marion Catechis serves on the SEARCH board, Pauline Koinis and Martha Stefanidakis serve on the Emergency Aid Coalition board. Martha Stefanidakis and Marian Catechis serve on the National Philoptochos Board, and Marie Halvatzis, Maria Kantalis, Marian Catechis, and Martha Stefanidakis serve on the Denver Metropolis board.

Beginning in January we will offer a monthly book club and cooking classes.

Calendar of upcoming events:

October 26th at 7pm: We will host our general meeting in the Martel Hall, which is open to all AGOC community members. A presentation will follow with Cynthia Kostas presenting a lecture entitled “Date with Destiny: Esther and Your Moment in God’s plan”.

October 31: We will honor our patron Saints Cosmas and Damian with an artoklasia and reception after the Divine Liturgy.

During the month of November we will prepare for the Holiday Bake sale. Please see the weekly church bulletin for specific dates and times.

December 11: Christmas Festival of Tables and AGOC Choir Concert

December 17: SEARCH project

January 9: Vasilopita Auction

Please see the weekly church bulletins for details on all of these events, or reach out to any Philoptochos board member.

For more information, or to learn how you can help, please contact us at philoptochos@agoc.org.

If you would like to join Philoptochos, please visit www.agocphilohouston.com.



Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. OCF transforms the lives of college students by guiding them along the path to Jesus Christ through His Church, cultivating a campus community of worship, witness, service, fellowship, and education.

College students from our parish and other Orthodox churches across the United States and Canada participate in OCF at local, regional, and national levels. Students can join the OCF chapter at their university or even start a chapter if their school does not already have one. Chapters host regular meetings to bring together Orthodox college students while they are away at school. Students also attend district and regional retreats in their respective areas; these retreats are great opportunities to recenter on Christ during the school year. OCF also offers two College Conferences over winter break, events that gather hundreds of Orthodox college students for an unforgettable four days of faith, fellowship, and fun with new friends from across North America. In addition, students can participate in Real Break trips, Spring Break programs that provide opportunities for students to travel to all parts of the world, deepen their faith, serve those in need, and cultivate relationships with like-minded peers.



OCF also offers many leadership opportunities for college students. The organization hosts a Summer Leadership Institute, and students can become chapter officers, District Student Leaders, or members of the Student Leadership Board (SLB). The SLB is a group of students selected to spearhead OCF programs, advise and inspire chapters, and develop new resources and programs. This year, Peggy Polydoros is serving as the South Regional Student Leader on the SLB.

If you want to find events and opportunities through OCF, learn more about the organization, or support this ministry, you can contact Peggy at southstudent@ocf.net.

Maids of Athena

The Maids of Athena is a philanthropic and fraternal organization that has empowered young women across the globe since 1930. Our sisterhood quickly grew among young Greek women and today claims chapters across the US, Canada, and Greece. We are the Junior Auxiliary of the Daughters of Penelope and are part of the AHEPA family alongside the Sons of Pericles. We typically meet once a month and welcome young women from the ages of 14-27.

The Houston chapter of the Maids of Athena, Rodanthi #41, was chartered on December 15, 1939. Since then, young women from several generations of our community have contributed to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral and our local, national, and international communities through service projects, fundraisers, educational programs, and more. Our chapter reactivated in January 2018 and has since been led by four presidents: Peggy Polydoros (2018-2019), Amalia Nichols (2019-2020), Mary Polydoros (2020-2021), and Georgia Elgohary (2021-present). In addition, Peggy now serves as Grand Secretary of the Maids of Athena, representing our community in this international role. Our chapter has welcomed over 40 young women into our organization since our reactivation. Maids are extremely involved in the church as members of GOYA, YAL, and OCF, dancers in the Young Adult Dance Group of the Houston Greek Festival, Sunday Church School students and teachers, and volunteers.

Our chapter strives to enable young women in the Houston area to turn their interests into transformative leadership opportunities with the help of lifelong friends. Our members have organized bake sales, created seasonal door hangers, run a car wash, and started our Journey to Athens fundraiser (among other initiatives) to raise money for local and national projects. Through our various fundraisers, we have donated to the Cyprus Children's Fund, IOCC, Smile of a Child, Girls Who Code, Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), the JED Foundation, and the Annunciation Cathedral. We also host sisterhood events such as Maidsgiving, movie nights, Christmas light tours, and more! Every member has the opportunity to join committees, run for officer positions, and organize and attend activities surrounding their interests and ideas. Members can also travel to conventions around the country! These conferences bring together Maids of Athena from dozens of chapters for meetings, service, sightseeing, *glendis*, and above all, unforgettable experiences.

Are you interested in joining or learning more about the Maids of Athena? Contact us at houstonrodanthi41@gmail.com and visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/maidsrodanthi41/>



Good News For Our Senior Citizens of Annunciation Cathedral

Get ready to play **BINGO** soon!!!!

We plan to start our wonderful program again, after the festival on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

We are all ready and happy to get back to "NORMAL" (whatever that may be).

Keep in mind that we are always looking for people to sponsor a lunch for our seniors especially this year!!
If anyone is interested or knows of someone, please tell them to call Paula or me and we can work it out.

Kiki H: 713 791 0075 Paula H: 713 661 5017

Stay well and be careful as we are looking forward to having fun together. See you on November 2nd.

Kiki Pantazis

Senior Citizens Meeting & Lunch Schedule

Tuesdays, November – December, 2021

(November 2, November 16, December 7, December 21)

CALLING GOYA VOLUNTEERS!



For Santa's Breakfast

Saturday, December 4, 2021

9:00 -12:00 noon

In S.P. Martel Hall

3511 Yoakum Blvd

GOYA volunteers are needed to help us in lots of fun ways: at craft tables, with face painting, games, holiday story-telling, pictures with Santa or by serving breakfast and cleaning tables. Your cheerful spirits and hard work make this charity event possible!

*Have fun **and** receive a Certificate of Community Service too!*

*** (Have your certificate signed at ticket table before leaving.)***

Sponsored by

The Daughters of Penelope

All proceeds are donated to Charities that benefit Children

For questions or to volunteer, please contact:

Linda Makris 713-478-4748, lindamakris1@aol.com

Catherine Paraschos 281-224-3976, cpparaschos@hotmail.com

Gloria Moustakis 713-857-7623, gmous@att.net

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Join us for BREAKFAST, CRAFTS, & PICTURES WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 4, 2021
9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
S.P. Martel Hall
3511 Yoakum

Sponsored by The Daughters of Penelope
All Proceeds Benefit Children's Charities



Children (2 - 10) \$6.00 (\$7.00 at door)
Adult \$7.00 (\$8.00 at door)
Santa Photo \$10.00
(All pictures will be mailed)



Pick up pre-sale or mail order tickets at the Door
Buy tickets in Martel Hall after Sunday Liturgy starting Nov.7

(Face Masks Appreciated but Not Required)

Please Detach and Return This Slip with Check

Payable to: The Daughters of Penelope
C/O Linda Makris
3515 Bellefontaine
Houston, Texas 77025

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

TICKETS: Children _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____
Adult _____ x \$7.00 = \$ _____
Photos _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT = \$ _____

For questions please contact:
Linda Makris 713/478-4748, lindamakris1@aol.com
Gloria Moustakis 713-857-7623, gmous@att.net
Catherine Paraschos 281/224-3976, cpparaschos@hotmail.com

Cathedral Calendar

November 1, 2021 – January 9, 2022

NOVEMBER**Monday, November 1**

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation – Tiropita

Tuesday, November 2

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation – Tiropita

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

6:30 pm – Greek School - Adults

Wednesday, November 3

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation – Tiropita

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, November 4

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Preparation – Pastitsio

6:30 pm – Sr. GOYA Small Group, offsite

Friday, November 5

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

Saturday, November 6

5:00 pm – Great Vespers, Cathedral

6:30 pm – Orthodox Christian Missions Dinner, Martel Hall

Sunday, November 7 – 7th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am

Monday, November 8–Archangels Michael & Gabriel

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

10:30 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Spanakopita

Tuesday, November 9

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Spanakopita

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Wednesday, November 10

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Spanakopita

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day – Cathedral Office Closed

6:30 pm – GOYA Veterans' Day Dinner, offsite,
Christie's Seafood Restaurant

Friday, November 12 - Metropolis of Denver,

YAL - Next & Family Conference, Tulsa, OK

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

Saturday, November 13

Metropolis YAL-Next & Family Conference, Tulsa, OK

Sunday, November 14 – 8th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am

Metropolis YAL-Next & Family Conference, Tulsa, OK

Monday, November 15

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Koulourakia

Tuesday, November 16

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation - Koulourakia

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

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Wednesday, November 17

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Koulourakia

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, November 18

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Finikia

6:30 pm – Sr. GOYA Small Group, offsite

Friday, November 19

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Finikia

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

Sunday, November 21 –

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am

11:00 am – Fall Parish Assembly, Martel Hall

Icarian Brotherhood Bake Sale, Courtyard

Tuesday, November 23

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day – Cathedral Office Closed

Friday, November 26

Thanksgiving Holiday – Cathedral Office Closed

Sunday, November 28 – 13th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am

Monday, November 29

9:00 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Baklava/Tsoureki

Tuesday, November 30 – St. Andrew the Apostle**Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

10:30 am – Philoptochos Preparation – Baklava/Tsoureki

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

DECEMBER**Wednesday, December 1**

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, December 2

6:30 pm – Sr. GOYA Small Group, offsite

Friday, December 3

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Pick-Up until 5pm

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

Saturday, December 4

9:00 am – Breakfast with Santa, Martel Hall

9:00 am – Philoptochos Bake Sale Pick-Up until 2pm

Sunday, December 5 – 10th Sunday of Luke**Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am**

Retro Altar Boy Day (1940's – 1960's)

GOYA Poinsettia Pickup & Distribution, after Liturgy

Monday, December 6 – St. Nicholas**Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am****Tuesday, December 7**

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

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Wednesday, December 8

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, December 9

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal, Cathedral

Friday, December 10

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

Saturday, December 11

11:00 am – Christmas Choir Concert & Philoptochos Festival of Tables, Cathedral / Martel Hall

Sunday, December 12 – 11th Sunday of Luke**Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am****Tuesday, December 14**

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Wednesday, December 15

1:00 pm – Bible Study, Room 219

6:45 pm – Bible Study, Room 219 & Zoom

Thursday, December 16

6:30 pm – Sr. GOYA Small Group, offsite

Friday, December 17

5:00 pm – Greek School – Children

6:30 pm – Greek School Christmas Program, Martel Hall

Sunday, December 19 – Sunday before Nativity**Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am**

11:00 am – Parish Elections until 3:00 pm, Martel Hall

12:00 pm – SCS Christmas Program, Cathedral

Tuesday, December 21

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

6:30 pm – Greek School – Adults

Friday, December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of Christ**6:00 pm – Divine Liturgy****Saturday, December 25 – Holy Nativity****Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ****Orthros 8:15 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am****Sunday, December 26 – Sunday after Nativity****Orthros 7:45 am / Divine Liturgy 9:00 am****JANUARY 2022****Saturday, January 1****The Circumcision of Christ / St. Basil the Great****Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am****Sunday, January 2 – Sunday before Epiphany****Orthros 7:45 am / Divine Liturgy 9:00 am****Wednesday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany****8:30 am – Vespers Divine Liturgy & Lesser Blessing of the Waters****Thursday, January 6 – Theophany of Our Lord and Savior****Jesus Christ – 8:30 am – Orthros****9:30 am – Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters**

6:30 pm – Sr. GOYA Small Group, offsite

Friday, January 7 – St. John the Baptist**Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am****Sunday, January 9 – Sunday after Epiphany****Orthros 7:45am/Divine Liturgy 9:00am/SCS 11:15am**

Philoptochos Vasilopita, following Liturgy, Martel Hall

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

REGISTRY*January 1 – September 30, 2021***WEDDINGS**

Denise Elaine Bostic and
Philip Constantine Economides
Sponsor: Katina Economides

Erika Elizabeth Klein and
John Nicholas Papadopoulos
Sponsor: Demetri P. Dale

Thecla Louise Lindemann and
Kyle Gregory Cokinos
Sponsor: Carter Cokinos

Cheyney Michelle Allen and
Alexander James Lambi
Sponsor: Sarah Lambi

Veronica Ashton Bacopulos and
Albert Alston Hewitt
Sponsor: Kati Hewitt-Jennings

Mary Michael Carbon and
Alex John Grivon
Sponsor: George M. Grivon

Courtney Elizabeth Briggs and
George James Christie
Sponsor: Terry J. Christie

BAPTISMS

Dean Michael
Parents: Kara and Alex Bergerson
Godparent: John Peter Koinis

Gregory Christopher
Parents: Victoria and Aaron Blutorn
Godparent: Michael Pappas

Eleni Vasiliki
Parents: Mitra and Demetri Economou
Godparents: Anastasia and Kosta Papisideris

Panos (Panagiotis)
Parents: Popi Stylianou and Dimitrios Georgis
Godparents: Karolina Ioannou and Christos Kou-
loubri

Evangelos James
Parents: Emily and George Grivon
Godparents: Nicol and Michael Voutsinas

Christopher
Parents: Georgea and Hayden Griffin Haby III
Godparents: Eugenia and Argeri Lagos

James
Parents: Katherine Houston and Thomas Jouganatos
Godparent: Kyle Pastor

Claiborne Alexandra
Parents: Anne and Walker Kahle
Godparent: Elizabeth Theoni Tyson McConathy

Katherine Giovanna
Parents: Alexandra and Jon Kantalis
Godparents: Elise and Demetri Dale

Michael Xenophon
Parents: Valerie and James Koinis
Godparents: Kara and Alec Bergerson

Angeliki Maria
Parents: Lindsay and Athanasios Lefas
Godparent: Athanasios Lefas

Peter Joseph
Parents: Katherine and Joseph Monk
Godparent: Stephanie Brumley

Willow Grace (Anastassia)
Parents: Alexandra and Alexander Palmer
Godparent: Constantine Steve Nicandros

Christopher William
Parents: Summer Stanforth and Derek Pratt
Godparent: Lauren Schibetta

Henry Harris

Parents: Christina and George Robertson

Godparent: Anna Rogers Schwartzel

Robert Tucker (Michael)

Parents: Anastasia and Robert Tucker Singleton

Godparent: Catherine Grace Catechis

Eleni Caroline

Parents: Maria-Eleni and Chad Soechting

Godparents: Artemis-Melania Postolos and Kyriaki Nikoletta Postolos

George Peter

Parents: Maria-Eleni and Chad Soechting

Godparents: Artemis-Melania Postolos and Kyriaki Nikoletta Postolos

Nicolaos

Parents: Danielle and Athanasios Spiropoulos

Godparent: Georgia Spiropoulos

Daphne Georgia

Parents: Arianna and Dimitri Tagaropoulos

Godparent: Sophia Gazis

Diana Blake (Athina)

Parents: Melissa Wood and Robert Vaughn III

Godparent: Clayton Vaughn

Lily Eugenia

Parents: Christina and Peter William Kaldis Venzke

Godparent: Alexandra Venzke

Brett (Daniel) Carollo

Godparent: Constantine Stephen Petrou

Thomas Millary

Godparent: Susan Engelhardt

Cynthia Lynn (Cecilia) Schumacher

Godparents: Meredith and Robert Wise

Melissa Dallas (Alexandra) Wood

Godparent: Krista Webster

CHRISMATIONS

Veronica Ashton Bacopulos

Sponsor: Kati Hewitt-Jennings

Christopher James Fox

Sponsor: Emmanouel Souganidis

Thecla Louise Lindemann

Sponsor: Gregory Cokinos

FUNERALS

Konstantinos S. Amarantos

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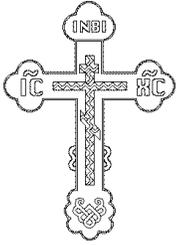
Apostolos Sotiriades

Andrew Theo

Koralia P. Varcados

Betty Economides Yianitsas

John K. Zografos



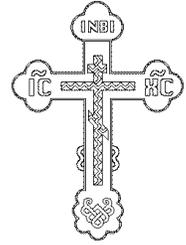
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

3511 YOAKUM BOULEVARD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006-4388

Office: (713) 526-5377

Fax: (713) 526-1048

<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.
- **By phone:**
Call AGOC Administrator Myka Evans at 832-242-9256.
- **By text:**
Simply send a text to 713-766-6357 with the amount you wish to contribute and you will receive a registration link.

If you have any questions about how to make a pledge, please contact the Cathedral office.