#### THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION

# THE ARCHANGEL May/June 2023 NEWSLETTER





# A Message from Father Anastasios

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

From the 40-Day Great Lent, to the proclamation of *"Come Receive The Light"* on Holy Saturday night and finally hearing the salvific announcement that *"Christ is Risen"*, we have patiently journeyed together and arrived to the glorious day of the Resurrection of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Throughout Great Lent we chanted the hymns to the Mother of our Lord, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, during the Salutation services of the Akathist Hymn. Likewise we were spiritually nourished by the Monday Compline services and the Wednesday and Friday Liturgies of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts.

Many blessings have been bestowed on our blessed Cathedral of the Annunciation. On the feast day of our Church, we were honored to welcome His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia to celebrate the Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy of the Annunciation Feast. Many faithful throughout Baltimore and surrounding parishes were present to honor the Mother of our Lord, as the Archangel Gabriel proclaimed the "good news" to her. In addition, His Grace Bishop Apostolos, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, ordained to the Holy Diaconate, our pastoral assistant, John (Trevor) Bullock. "AXIOS-He is Worthy!" we all proclaimed as



**Rev. Fr. Anastasios P. Bourantas** Protopresbyter Presiding Priest

fr.anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org

Rev. Fr. Dn. John Bullock Deacon fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org

Cathedral Office assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

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Deacon John begins his diaconal ministry at our Cathedral. We congratulate him and Diaconissa Irene and their son, Panayioti with the blessings of our Cathedral. We were honored again by the pastoral visit of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America on Palm Sunday Evening as we commenced the Holy Week services of the Bridegroom. May God grant many years to the spiritual leaders of our Orthodox Church.

With much humility, I have greatly enjoyed serving our Cathedral during the past six months. The faithful men and women and the youth of our church have inspired me to strive for greater achievements for our Cathedral. We remember the amazing history that has been vital in our community and look forward to the present and future opportunities that our Risen Lord plans for us. We are at the cusp of time, that shows promise and resolve in these challenging times. Christ is our hope, Christ is our anchor, Christ is our strength and he will guide us as we forge towards and fulfill the mission of our church of "proclaiming the Gospel to all". Let all of us - individuals, families, committees, organizations and ministries - work unified to continue the work of the church, by assisting all those in need, teaching the tenets of our Orthodox Church, and remaining a shining beacon of light here in this great city of Baltimore.

I want to personally thank all who made this miraculous season of our Savior's Resurrection a time of joy. John Hall and Erene Kariotis in the office were always there to assist in any way possible through communications and providing guidance to all who called, emailed and stopped by the Cathedral. The Chanters and the Choir were spectacular as always in leading the melodious sounds of the holy services. The altar servers, myrrh bearers and readers were an inspiration in their faithful presence in our church. The many men and women who prepared meals, decorated the Kouvouklion for our Lord's Epitaphion, those who carried and escorted His body, the faithful members of the Parish Council and Philoptochos are to be commended for their exemplary commitment to the work of the Church. Most of all, we are grateful for the thousands of faithful and visitors that participated and attended the many services of our Cathedral. Just as on Palm Sunday, when all came to see Jesus in His Entry into Jerusalem, our presence reveals the strong faith we hold as Orthodox Christians.

Let us all rejoice in our Lord's Three-Day Resurrection and further commit ourselves to His message of loving God with all our heart, souls and minds and the continued love for our neighbors, brothers and sisters. We must love, because He loves us unconditionally.

Wishing all a blessed season of our Lord's Resurrection and may He grant us peace and joy, so that we may overcome the challenges of our world with the everlasting light that He gave to us and to all those who believe.

Αληθώς Ανέστη! Truly He is Risen! Paternally in Christ,

Fr. Anastasios Bourantas

OUR NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL BE MAY 7, 2023

All Parishioners are Requested to Attend If you have any have photos to share with the Newsletter Committee, upload them to the <u>Newsletter Drive</u>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WFcn1I2wCh6 0UTywq1Z436wcDagXzSOs?usp=sharing

> May/June Newsletter Submission Deadline is Noon on June 19th

### Message from Geli Ioannou, Parish Council President



Christ is Risen!

The agenda for the May 7 Spring General Assembly meeting has been mailed to your home and it is included on the next page of this newsletter. The issue of the five vacant properties across the street from the Cathedral is on the agenda. As a community, we need to determine a path forward and determine how these properties will serve the misson of the Cathedral and be incorporated into the strategic plan for the future of the Cathedral. The Capital Campaign Committee is awaiting instruction from the Parish Council regarding this focus.

The purpose of the discussion at the General Assembly meeting is not to seek a final decision as to what we will do, but serve as an information session that will discuss the pros and cons of all the options available to us and how they fit in with an overall master plan for both sides of the street. Thus far, there has been a substantial amount of work done exploring all the options. I want to thank Gus Stratakis and the members of the Building & Maintenance Committee, James Caminis and the members of the Real Estate Committee, the Parish Council and the Capital Campaign Committee for their time and efforts analyzing and discussing the various options. All the volunteers who serve on these committees will attend the General Assembly meeting to hear your thoughts and answer your questions.

Our strategy includes holding a series of follow-up meetings throughout the spring and summer so that the Parish Council can further analyze the different options and ascertain if there is a general consensus on how to proceed. Our desire is for the Parish Council to approve a plan that will be presented at a special General Assembly meeting for a vote.

A substantial amount of the discussion on May 7 will be specific to bricks and mortar, costs and affordability as these are matters that must be discussed. However, before reviewing the various options and the associated costs, we will first discuss what is most important. How can what we build, better serve the Cathedral's purpose – to share God's love and proclaim the Gospel through charity, evangelism and service. How can what we build – better serve our faithful? How can what we build - better serve our surrounding community? How can what we build – support our mission? The famous Swiss theologian, Emil Brunner once wrote, "The Church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning." The discussions on bricks and mortar will be fruitless unless they lead us to planting seeds that will secure the Cathedral's future for generations to come.

In Christ,

- Geli



## SCHEDULING OF SACRAMENTS, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

All must be scheduled with the Church Office.

Contact <u>assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org</u> or 410-727-1831



Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

This is to notify all the faithful stewards and members of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation that on Sunday May 7, 2023 the Spring General Assembly will be held following the Divine Liturgy.

#### <u>Spring General Assembly Agenda</u>

- Opening Prayer
- Priest's Report
- President's Report
- Election of a Chairperson
- Minutes from Fall General Assembly
- Financial Report
- Nominations for Metropolis Clergy Laity Representatives on May 15, 2023 Garfield, NJ
  Priest, PC President, 2 at large Representatives
- Informational Presentation on the five Vacant Preston Street Properties
- Committee Presentation
  - Real Estate
  - Building & Maintenance
  - Capital Campaign
  - Parish Council
- Closing Prayer

Parishioners must be in good standing both financially and sacramentally to vote at a Parish Assembly meeting.

Fr. Anastasios Bourantas

Geli Ioannou



# **GROWING IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY**

Join the Women's Bible Study Group On May 6th and May 20th 10am - 11:30am at the AOC.

Contact Jeanne Tsakalos & Janine Karabeles: <u>psuvthokie@gmail.com</u> for more information

<u>Sunday Worship</u> 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy

<u>Office Hours</u> Monday–Friday 9:00am - 4:30 pm All other services can be found on the online calendar at www.annunciationbaltimore.org/Calendar

<u>Annunciation Cathedral Staff</u> John Hall *Operations Manager* <u>office@annunciationbaltimore.org</u>

Erene Kariotis Administrative Assistant assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org 410-727-1831

> 2023 Parish Council Members President: Geli Ioannou Vice President: Melissa Hogle Treasurer: Ernie Rafailides Secretary: Eleni Roros

Cristian Cazac	Georgeann Morekas
Paul Dezes	Pascalis Papouras
Alex Klopfenstein	Stephanie Smith
Steve Kousouris	Effie Theodore
Harry Monios	Panos Tsakiroglou
Nikki Monios	

Annunciation Cathedral: www.annunciationbaltimore.org

Metropolis of NJ: www.goarch.org/-/metropolis-ofnew-jersey

> Archdiocese: www.goarch.org

#### Deadlines for Publications: <u>Bulletins</u>

Noon on Wednesday to assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

<u>The Archangel Newsletter</u> Noon on June 19 to <u>newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org</u>

#### **Organization Contacts**

Administrative Committee–Judy Georges: Judy-wood@comcast.net AHEPA—Alex Klopfenstein: ank4394@gwmail.gwu.edu Altar Boys—Father Anastasios Bourantas: fr.anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org AOC Committee—Pamela Stevens: pamelastevens1225@gmail.com Bookstore—Cheryl McCarus & Christy Williams: <u>cmccarus@me.com</u> / christieawilliamsrd@yahoo.com Building & Maintenance Committee—Gus Stratakis: gus@mjbraun.com Capital Campaign—Georgeann & Dean Mallas, Karen & George Philippou Chanter/Byzantine Music—Stefanos Niktas: Choir - Adult-Fifi Nichols: fnichols1@verizon.net Choir - Youth—Faye Hayes: fihayes!@msn.com Dance Groups—Peggy DiBiasi, Nestor & Stephanie Mathoudakis, Antoni & Constantia Seas: dance@annunciationbaltimore.org Daughters of Penelope—Diane Homberg: dianehomberg@yahoo.com Finance—George Roros: groros@ycp.edu GOYA Basketball—Steven Demos: sedemos1223@gmail.com & Mike Baglanis: pmbaglanis@stephengould.com GOYA—President - Yianni Apostolo, Parent Advisors - Frances Apostolo, Cleo Pappas & Maria Brown: goya@annunciationbaltimore.org Greek Festival—Michael Sabracos: mike.sabracos@thealtopartners.com Greek School—Sia Kyriakakos (Principal) & Toula Bellios (VP), Terri Hornick (PTO): greekschool@annunciationbaltimore.org Growing in Faith Women's Bible Study—Jeanne Tsakalos & Janine Karabeles: psuvthokie@gmail.com Hellenic Heritage Museum—Harry Maistros: harry.maistros@comcast.net Hope/Joy-Dorothea Tsakiris & Eleni Campanides: hopejoy@annunciationbaltimore.org Library—Pascalis Papouras: pascalis.papouras@outlook.com Little Angels—Irene Bullock & Maria Morris: littleangels@annunciationbaltimore.org Men's Fellowship—Harry Sharkey: <u>Harry Sharkey@hotmail.com</u> Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)—Trevor Bullock: fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org Parish Council—Geli Ioannou: parishcouncil@annunciationbaltimore.org Parish Historian—Nicholas Prevas: nmprevas@outlook.com Philoptochos—Jean Prevas: philoptochos@annunciationbaltimore.org Preston Room Event Coordinator—Doreen Gerovasilis: prestonhallaoc@annunciationbaltimore.org Publication Committee- Eleni Roros & Georgeann Morekas: newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org Real Estate Committee—Jamie Caminis: jcaminis@lfmvalue.com Safety & Security—Alex Klopfenstein: ank4394@gwmail.gwu.edu Stewardship Committee—Tom Boardman: wrayboard@aol.com Summer Camp—Trina Madani: trina.madani@gmail.com Sunday School—Maria Durham and Anastasia Georgiou: religioused@annunciationbaltimore.org Technology & Communication Committee—Nick Stathopoulos: nickstath29@gmail.com Ushering—Bill Prevas: billy0919@aol.com Vacation Bible School—Dorothea Tsakiris: youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org Welcoming Committee—Rhoula Monios: rhoulaevie@yahoo.com Women's Guild: Pamela Stevens: pamelastevens1225@gmail.com YAL (Young Adult League)—George Roros, Christian Jenkins, and Dimitri Sidou yal@annunciationbaltimore.org Youth Ministries Committee—Eleni Roros, Effie Theodore & Rhoula Monios: youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Our Philoptochos chapter was very busy in March and April. In addition to supporting ongoing Cathedral community needs, PHILANTHROST National and Metropolis Philoptochos programs and our Baltimore organization programs, we were honored to host Bishop Apostolos of Medeia following the Vesper and Salutations service on March 24th and the Feast Day of the Annunciation Liturgy and ordination to the diaconate of Deacon John on March 25th. We also hosted the Palm Sunday luncheon for our community as well as a reception for Archbishop Elpidophoros on Palm Sunday evening following the Bridegroom Service.

FELLOWSHIP. FAITHINK We are committed to the Cathedral community to assist with medical, counseling and financial needs, as well as offering hospitality to our community. Our reach goes beyond that to our Baltimore neighbors as well as our neighbors in need wherever that may be. We look for opportunities to support people. We work hard, but our work is important. If you are not yet a member of Philoptochos, please join us. The gentlemen of our community are welcomed to join the Chapter as Associate Members.

OPTOCK OPTOCK

We recently sponsored the Baltimore Station "Take a Swing for Recovery" fundraiser for homeless vets and continue to support local soup kitchens as well as the "Weekend Backpacks for Kids (WBPK)" program. Contact Effie Theodore effietheodore@icloud.com, for more information regarding WBPK.

You are invited to our Spring General Meeting on May 13th at the AOC for our festive Mother-Daughter-Granddaughter-Goddaughter Luncheon. Please contact Connie Rogers or Maria Letras for tickets (see the flyer at the end of the newsletter).

Our 11th Annual Flea Market is scheduled from 30 June – 6 August. If you have items to donate for the sale, contact Jean Prevas - jprevas53@gmail.com; Judy Georges - Text 443-301-5041; or Georgeann Morekas – Text 443-845-1176, to arrange a date/time to drop off your donation. Please do not contact the Church office. To volunteer for Flea Market preparation and the sale, contact Diane Homberg dianehomberg@yahoo.com.

This is a massive undertaking, but the rewards are great. The money we raise helps support all the programs and special requests we receive each year for individual needs, charitable programs, and disaster relief. We welcome all to come and help us set up and sell.

> Jean Prevas President



# LADIES, COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN STYLE!

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Join Philoptochos for our Spring Mother-Daughter, Granddaughter, Goddaughter and Friends Spring Brunch Wear your favorite hat!





# **PRESTON HALL**

Contact Us to Host Your Next Event

(410) 802-4372 prestonhallaoc@annunciationbaltimore.org

www.prestonhallvenue.com





SAVE THE DATE! Women's Guild General Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 12 noon following Liturgy in the AOC Lobby

The meeting agenda & details will follow in future Sunday bulletins.



#### **Book Reviews**

by Presvytera Colette Bourantas

#### *Children:* <u>Celebrate the Earth</u> by Dorrie Papademetriou

Every Vespers service in the Orthodox Church begins with the reading of Psalm 104. The psalm of David celebrates the goodness and beauty of the created world and affirms the timeless importance of stewardship and love for all that God has provided.

#### *Adult:* <u>The Ascetic Lives of Mothers: A Prayer</u> <u>book for Orthodox Moms</u> by Annalisa Boyd

Annalisa Boyd knows motherhood-its challenges, its joys, and its potential for spiritual growth. In this prayer book she offers a wide selection of prayers a mother can use to intercede for their families as well as to grow in virtue themselves.

# The Bookstore

The bookstore invites you to stop in and have a look at our new icons and greeting cards.

We also have a new selection of incense burners with charcoal and various fragrances of incense.

> We will be sampling the incense fragrances on Sunday during coffee hour.



We hope to see you!

Cheryl McCarus and Christie Williams

#### **ORDINATION OF DEACON JOHN**

On March 25th, I had the honor of being ordained to the diaconate on our parish feast day, the Feast of Annunciation.

It was an honor and huge blessing to be ordained here at the Cathedral.

I want to thank everyone for their love, support, and prayers, and I look forward to serving you in this exciting new capacity!



Father John Bullock



Photographs courtesy of Michael Stavrinos

## Visit from His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia







# Preparing for Holy Week at the Cathedral



















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#### SALUTE TO THE 2023 GRADUATES

If you or your child are graduating from high school, college or graduate school, please CLICK HERE to fill out the 2023 Graduate Recognition Form to be recognized in this year's SALUTE to the GRADUATES.

All graduate recognition forms need to be submitted by May 7th. In addition to completing the form, please send a formal photo of each graduate to <u>parishcouncil@annunciationbaltimore.org</u>

We will showcase all our Parish's graduates at the Cathedral on May 21st

#### https://forms.gle/fESTGHKT9Ku73rLV9





#### Anastasia K. Michals Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship

The Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos is offering an opportunity to qualifying High School seniors entering an accredited University, College or Trade School, to apply for a merit-based scholarship. The scholarship application can be found under Resources on the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos website at <u>www.njphiloptochos.org</u>.

Hard copies are available on the Welcome Table in the Cathedral lobby.

The deadline for submitting the application is <u>June 15, 2023</u>.

#### AHEPA Worthington Chapter Scholarships

A new version of the application is available for downloading at <u>www.AHEPA30.org</u>. Completed applications must be submitted via the website only.

The deadline for all requirements is <u>June 30, 2023</u>. Further instructions can be found on the application or check out the flyer on the Welcome Table in the Cathedral lobby.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



APPLY NOW FAITH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2023 This merit-based scholarship program is available to the best and brightest graduating high school seniors of Hellenic descent and/or Greek Orthodox faith who are enrolling in a 4-year accredited U.S. university this fall. Scholarships are awarded on a merit basis with applicants given the option to be considered for additional financial need-based allocations.

For full application details and to apply now, visit thefaithendowment.org/scholarships or scan:





THEFAITHENDOWMENT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

Founded in 2004 by a group of visionary Greek American leaders and philanthropists, FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that supports the development of innovative educational, cultural, and scholarship programs that promote Hellenism, an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith, and the relationship of the two to America's history and multicultural landscape for young people. FAITH has proudly awarded over 1,950 grants and scholarships to our community's brightest young leaders.

# **STEWARDSHIP & DAY SPONSORS**

As our Lord has blessed you and your family, **please consider becoming a Day or Half-day Sponsor Steward.** The Day Sponsor Steward annual pledge is \$3,500 and the Half-day Sponsor Steward annual pledge is \$1,750. Choose any day throughout the year for a special occasion, in memory of or in honor of a loved one and submit to the stewardship committee or the Cathedral office. Your kindness and generosity will be greatly appreciated and blessed.

**The average daily operating cost of our parish is \$3,500.** Daily operating costs include administration, utilities, cleaning, maintenance, insurance, the commitment to the Archdiocese, and parish salaries. It's what is necessary to make sure our parish is open to you and all.

**Stewardship is the giving of Time, Treasure, and Talent**. It is giving back to God for the gifts He has given to you. Day or Half-day Sponsorship may not be within everyone's capabilities, but if it is within your household, the Stewardship Committee humbly asks for you to be "one of the ones" who allow us to reach our 2023 Stewardship goal or kindly consider becoming a Day or Half-day Sponsorship for 2024.

Whether you have made your annual commitment or have yet to do so, **please help us reach a goal of obtaining 100 Day Sponsor Stewards in 2023.** 

For those who still need to become 2023 Stewards, there is no time like the present!

- 1. Just visit our church website at: www.annunciationbaltimore.org
- 2. Click on "Become a Steward" in the upper right- hand corner.
- 3. Fill out the information and submit.

You may also scan the QR code to the right and fill out online or pick up a hardcopy from the Welcome Table in the Cathedral Lobby, fill out and submit to the Cathedral Office.



#### Do I need to fill out a Stewardship pledge form?

**YES!** It is through the commitments in pledges that the Parish Council is able to manage the budget and discretionary spending. Pledges help us quantify how many families we have in our parish and allows you to register as a steward in good standing. If you submitted your donation without a pledge, please complete your pledge form as soon as possible.



#### As of April 18, 2023

2023 Pledged	2023 Non-Pledged (no Pledge Form)	Totals
\$128,415.00	\$167,949.40	\$296,364.40

Our goal is to fund 100% of our Cathedral's expenses via Stewardship. This year our budgeted expenses are approximately \$1.2 million.



#### Thank you to the following parishioners who have submitted their 2023 Stewardship Pledge form online or hardcopy - as of 4/19/2023



Aiello, J. Christopher & Stephanie Antoniades, John Apesos Lazarides, Kathe Barberis, Terry and Helen Birkel, Alice and Joseph Boardman, Thomas A. and Wendy R. Boudouris. Steven Bronstein, Emanuel and Titsa Brown, Todd and Maria Bullock, Trevor and Irene Burton, Tyler and George, Christina Campanides, Demetrios and Eva Carroll, R Stephen and Helen B. Chios, Linda Chriss, Andrew and Constance Cole, Edd and Stacy Cole, Michael and Barbara N. Condax, C. James and Beverly A. Conits, Nick and Elena Constantine, Maryanth Constantinou, Peter G. and Christina M. Coroneos, Mary N. Cossis, Elia D. and Kara R. Cossis, Metaxia Costa, Philip and Sara Coutros, Peter G. Daidakis, Arthur and Susan Dardamanis, Mary deBorja, Christopher and Gale Demetrakis, Dean Demopulos, Barbara Demos, Emmanuel and Bessie Deros, Nicholas Deros. Stella Dezes, Paul and Jennings, Gina Dimitri, James and Darla Doccolo, Mitsie M. Donkar, Eli and Susan Georges, James and Julia Wood Georgitsos, Voula Geyer, Donald L. and Lois P. Glazerman, Jonathan & Katherine Glyphis, Sophia D. Green, Morgan and Stephanie Gumas, Diana Halkias, Ioannis and Irene Hall, John Hansard, Alfred and Steleane

Hogle, Ronald and Melissa Homberg, Diane Hornick, Scott and Terri Ioannou, Evangelos N. and JoAnn Ioannou, Nicholas A. and Alice A. Kalezis, Efrosene Karabelas, Steve and Janine Kariotis, Mary M. Karsos, Pantelis and Angela Karsos, Sophia Kimos, Evelyn Constantine Kokinos, Zaharoula Koronios, George P. and Krista Kousouris, Steven and Mary Lou Kutson, Nicholas and Fifi Kyriakakos, Harilaos and Maria Lampadarios, Jasmine Laun, Albert J. and Kathryn F. Letras, Constantine A. and Maria Link, Lawrence and Stephanie Lintzeris, George and Kelly Lukaszczyk-Perry, Stella and Perry, Joseph Madani, Sohrab & Trina Magiros, Eva Maistros, Harry C. Mallas, Konstantine and Georgeanne Manthalos, Olympia Margaritis, Loula Markakis, Nicolas James and Phaedra K. Marsh, Stephen F. and Niki P. Marudas, Thomas N. and Georgia McBrien, Claudia McNamara, Katherine McShane, Helen Coutros Memphis, Diana Monios, Amalia Monios, Harry and Zaharoula Monios, Mary Monios, Nikki Morekas, Georgeann N. Morris, Paul and Maria Motsiopoulos, Christos and Diana Nicholas, Nitsa Nichols, George and Catherine Nopulos, Pamela P. Pagonakis, Paskalis and Paula Panagakos, Katherine

Panageotou, Vasilis and Diana

Panagiotopoulos, Christos John and Helen Pappas, Basil M. and Linda Paraskevopoulos, Helen Paraskevopoulos, Nicholas G. and Elizabeth Petrides, Elizabeth R. Petrinolis, Georgios N. and Irini Philippou, George & Karen Poulos, Dimitra K. Prevas, Nicholas M. Prevas, Stephen and Jean E. Prevas, William and Susan Rafailides, Ernest and Rania Roros, Isidoros & Jennifer Roros, Isidoros and Eleni Roulis, Theodora Samios, William A. and Esther S. Sfondilis, John P. and Maria Sharkey, Harry Siotka, Loretta Prevas Smith, Sean and Stephanie Sophocleus, Gregory J. Sotirakos, Diamando Sotirelis, Thomas S and Maria Stamatakis, Eve Stathopoulos, Nicholas Stevens, Pamela A. Stone, Thomas and Corinna Svignos, Robert and Adrian Theodore, Nicholas and Effie Tomczewski, Stephen and Patricia Tomczewski, Steven G. and Flora Tsakalas, Carolyn Tsakiris, Connie Tsakiroglou, Panagiotis Tsamoutalis, James and Abbie Tsamoutalis, Steve and Theresa Elizabeth Tsapkini, Kyrana Tsouvalos, James & Karen **Tsouvalos**, Marcus Van Velsen, Deanne Vavaroutsos, Peter and Vavroutsos, Helen Voultepsis, Alex and Roanthi Voultepsis, Caroline Wiles, Michael and Elizabeth Williams, Mark F. and Christie A. Zavage, Gerald R. (Jerry) and Andrea P. Ziesat, H. Anthony

# Palm Sunday & Visit from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

























#### EASTER PLANTS DONATED

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

- Xenophon Maglaras, donated by Effie Maglaras & Family
- Vickie and Gust Bellios, donated by Maria & Constantine Bellios
- Dimitrios Bellios, donated by Maria & Constantine Bellios
- Our Parents, donated by Honorable Stephen & Dr. Elizabeth Sfekas
- Mrs. Deborah Paterakis, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. & Mrs. George E. Tzomides, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Argyroula Anderson, by Karen and James Tsouvalos
- Paul & Frances Hogle, donated by Ronald and Melissa Hogle
- Angelo and Connie Voutsos, donated by Ronald and Melissa Hogle
- Vasilios, Dorothy & Estelle Demetrakis, donated by Dean Demetrakis
- Louis & Rose Sitaras, donated by Dean Demetrakis
- Alexandria C., Constantine G., & George C. Maistros, donated by Harry, Christopher & Lucy Maistros
- Parents & Brother, donated by Jennifer Capandonis
- Husband, our parents, brothers & sisters, donated by Helen Antoniades
- John Padusis, donated by Evan, Renee & John Padousis
- Family & Friends, donated by Efrosene Kalezis
- Paul George Stamas, donated by Annitsa, Bruce, Valarie, Christopher & Hannah Searles
- Bill Lazarides, Chris, Marlene, Stephen, Argetta & Sideris Apesos, donated by Kathe Apesos Lazarides
- Zannis & Teresa Stamatakis, donated by Isidoros G. & Eleni Roros & Family
- George Roros & Stelios Stamatakis, donated by Isidoros G. & Eleni Roros & Family
- Stelios Stamatakis, donated by Eve Stamatakis
- Lambros & Eleni Stamatakis & Loizos & Chrysi Maratheftis, donated by Eve Stamatakis
- Constantine & Catherine Kutson, donated by Gus & Maria Letras & Family
- Athanaseos & Stamatia Letras, donated by Gus & Maria Letras & Family
- George & Chresy Kostis, donated by Gus & Maria Letras & Family
- Deborah Ann Paterakis her sister, donated by Sandra Hondroulis
- James Stratakis, donated by Gus Stratakis
- Georgia Stratakis, donated by Gus Stratakis
- Dr. & Mrs. Constant J. Georges, donated by Jim & Judy Georges
- Joseph Werner, donated by Peggy Daidakis Werner
- Zoe & George Piendak, donated by Peggy Daidakis Werner
- Domna & Paul Daidakis, donated by Peggy Daidakis Werner
- Perry Nichols, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nichols
- Phillip Arnass, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nichols
- Benedict E. Glyphis, donated by Sophia Glyphis
- Emmanuel & Irene Glyphis, donated by Sohpia Glyphis
- George & Mary Dematatis, donated by Sophia Glyphis
- Michael & Zinovia Prevas, donated by Nicholas M. Prevas
- William Koras, donated by Jeanne Koras & Family
- James G. Karangelen and Anastasia Canelos, donated by Georgeann N. Morekas
- George & Georgia Karangelen and Spyros & Ekaterina Morekas, donated by Georgeann N. Morekas



Holy Friday Youth Retreat & Preparations











































#### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:** (continued)

- James & Maria Condax and George & Helen Bowers, donated by The Condax Family
- Ed & Chris Jackovitz, donated by Dr. & Mrs. Mark Williams
- Royce & Jimmi Williams, donated by Dr. & Mrs. Mark Williams
- Efstratios & Martha Panselinos, donated by Martha Kimos
- Savvas Sarris, donated by wife, children, grandchildren & great-grandchild
- Argiris & Artemi Halkias, donated by John Halkias Family
- John Alexiades, donated by John Halkias Family
- Georgia Emily Farantos, donated by Farantos & Hobbs Families
- Our beloved parents Nick & Fifi Efstatios, donated by Chris & Helen Panagiotopoulos
- Steve & Katherine Nichols, Angelo & Anita Leos & Sam Leos, donated by John & Maria Leos
- Nicholas & Kalliopi Paros, Zoe Maltas & John Paros, donated by George & Kelly, Zoe & Stephanie Lintzeris
- Demetrios & Stella Lintzeris, donated by George & Kelly, Zoe & Stephanie Lintzeris
- Linda & Emily Fannon, donated by George & Kelly, Zoe & Stephanie Lintzeris
- John Stamos, donated by Nick & Effie Theodore
- Nikolas & Panagiota Maroutsos, donated by Nick & Effie Theodore
- Spiros & Efthemia Stamatelos, donated by Nick & Effie Theodore
- Nicholas & Christina Theodore, donated by Nick & Effie Theodore
- Stamatis & Angeliki Stamatopoulos, donated by Nick & Effie Theodore
- Eva & Theodore Andriotis, donated by Maria & Aristides Cederakis
- Oreanthe & Isidoros Cederakis, donated by Maria & Aristides Cederakis
- Nick & Jean Frank, donated by Tom & Nikki Zizos, Children & Grandchildren
- Constantine Frank, donated by Tom & Nikki Zizos, Children & Grandchildren
- Alexander Pappas, donated by Chrysanthe Pappas
- Lori Prevas Papaeracleous, donated by Loretta Prevas Siotka
- Athanasios Kostoulias, donated by Antoinette Kostoulias
- Athanasios Kostoulias, donated by Tula, Dina, Bruce & Sia
- Our beloved deceased, donated by Nick & Alice Ioannou
- Dimitrios Cossis, donated by Paul & Gina Dezes
- Georgiy and Yaya, donated by Anonymous
- George & Irene Frangas, donated by Edd & Stacy Cole
- Sandra & Charles Pefinis and Warren Jensen, donated by Mark, Mia, Elia, Rae Jensen
- Steve Zavakos, Efthimia Zavakos, Faye Lericos, Dimitra & Dimitrios Zavakos, donated by Ollga Zavakos
- George Stratos, Olga Stratos, Stavroula & Paul Stratos, donated by Ollga Zavakos
- Peter J. Stratos, John & Diana Stratos, donated by Ollga Zavakos
- Peter P. Handakas, Bessie Handakas, Evdokia Kerasiotis, Nick Kerasiotis, Paraskevas & Steve Sollon, Evdokia & Flora Sollon, donated by Ollga Zavakos
- Xeophon Maglaras, donated by Aliceanne & John Alden
- John & Lucia Plakitsis, donated by The Shelley Family
- Michael & Virginia Polites, donated by the Shelley Family
- Apostolos & Domna Daidakis, donated by Arthur and Susan Daidakis
- Zoe & George Piendak, donated by Arthur and Susan Daidakis
- Evan & Ceres Alevizatos Chriss, donated by Andrew and Constance Chriss
- Athanasia Loukas, donated by Gus & Beverly Loukas



# Holy Friday Services at the Cathedral

























#### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:** (continued)

- George T. Christopoulos, donated by Maria & Isaac Fleming
- Michael N. Mallis, donated by Emanuel & Jeanne Caminis
- Larry & Stephanie Vakoutis, donated by Emanuel & Jeanne Caminis
- George Deros, donated by John and Patricia Deros
- Perry Demos, donated by Eugenia Demos
- Nicholas, Pota & Harry Karvounis, donated by Eugenia Demos
- Theodore Dourakos, donated by Constance Dourakos
- Stelios Stamatakis, donated by Demetrios and Eva Campanides
- George T. Christopoulos, donated by Constance Christopoulos
- John Georgitsos, donated by Voula Georgitsos
- Michael Lukaszczyk, donated Christopher Fleming
- Nicholas P.K. Brown, donated by Evelyn Brown
- Linda Skandalis, donated by George Skandalis
- Stratos and Mary Tsakiris, donated by Mary Flax
- Alexander Paris Bhanos, donated by Sue Bhanos
- Ted, Evangeline & Dean Constantine, donated by Maryanth Constantine
- Alex & Nota Alexander, donated by Maryanth Constantine
- Kosta & Stavroula Thomakos, donated by Maria Thomakos

#### **IN HONOR OF:**

- Metaxia Cossis, donated by Maria & Constantine Bellios
- Ms. Sandra Hondroulis, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. James E. Hondroulis, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Godparent, Eleni Tsakalas Flannery, donated by Valarie Elise Searles
- Godparents, Jim & Nancy Pappas, donated by Christopher & Hannah Searles
- Bess Arbes Stamas' 99th Birthday, donated by Annitsa, Bruce, Valarie, Christopher & Hannah Searles
- Father Anastsios Bourantas, donated by the Cathedral Staff
- Father John Bullock, donated by the Cathedral Staff
- The Parish Council, donated by the Cathedral Staff
- Grandchildren Cris, Kelsey, Tara & Olivia, donated by Mr. & Mrs. James. L. Dimitri
- Kiriaki Roros & Eve Stamatakis, donated by Isidoros G. & Eleni Roros & Family
- Alexandra, Calliopi, Nicholas & Georgia Ioannou, donated by Nick & Alice Ioannou
- The Cossis Family, donated by Elia and Kara Cossis
- Effie Maglaras, donated by Aliceanne & John Alden
- Stella Deros, donated by John & Patricia Deros
- Ann S. Matthews, donated by Nicholas & Stephanie Kambouris
- Father Anastasios Bourantas for his Nameday, donated by Korina Bourantas



# Holy Friday Service & Holy Saturday Resurrection



#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

#### <u>BAPTISMS</u>

- On February 18, 2023, Christina R. Ghani was baptized as an adult in the Orthodox Church. Her Sponsor was Eric G.
   Smith and given the Baptismal Name - CHRISTINA
- On February 19, 2023, Ali Karim Ahmed was baptized as an adult in the Orthodox Church. His sponsors were Dr. Nicholas and Eyphemia Theodore and given the Baptismal Name - KOSMAS
- On February 26, 2023, Karter Jackson Seubarran, son of Damion C. Seubarran and Hailey Alexis Barnes was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsors were Konstantina Vavaroutsos, Panagiota Vavaroutsos and Eleni Vavaroutsos and given the Baptismal Name - DIMITRIOS

#### **CHRISMATIONS**

- On February 17, 2023, the servant of God, Tyler Dennis Westgate, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation. His sponsor was Angela Karsos and given the Chrismation Name - GEORGE
- On April 2, 2023, the servant of God, Kelsey Marie Wooden, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation. Her sponsor was Maria Marigo Konstantinou and given the Chrismation Name -AIKATERINI

#### **WEDDINGS**

- On February 18, 2023 Alexander F. Smith and Christina R.
  Ghani were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Sponsor was Eric G. Smith.
   Congratulations!
- On February 18, 2023 Eric G. Smith and Sara L. Fowler were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Koumbaro/Sponsor was Alexander F. Smith. Congratulations!
- On February 19. 2023 Tyler Dennis (George) Westgate and Sophia Maria Karsos were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Sponsor was Pantelis Karsos. Congratulations!
- On April 22, 2023 Konstantinos Konstantinou and Kelsey Marie (Aikaterini) Wooden were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Sponsor was Emmanuel Konstantinou. Congratulations!

#### **FUNERALS**

- On January 21, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Mary G. Padussis**, age 99.
- On January 27, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, Ryan James Christos (Hilarion) Hamilos, age 53.
- On February 20, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Dimitrios Cossis**, age 79.
- On March 2, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Elizabeth Dorothy Poulos**, age 99.
- On March 13, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Despina Coutros**, age 79.
- On March 24, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Diana Marie Keene**, age 73.
- On April 6, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Kathy Karantzalis**, age 72.
- On April 27, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Pari Mavrophilipos**, age 92.

#### May Their Memory Be Eternal

# Light a Candle >>

In this time more than ever we need prayer. You may virtually light a candle for yourself or a loved one.

Please click the link above and follow the instructions. A photo of the lighted candle will be sent to the email address you specify.



# MARCH 26, 2023 - GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



























## **GREEK SCHOOL UPDATE - CONGRATULATION GRADUATES!**



On June 4th, we will be celebrating and honoring this year's graduates of the Cathedral's Greek Language Program.

#### The Class of 2023 includes: Sebastian Baylor Alexander Frangos Domna Kevrekidis Kristi Niktas

The Greek School Administration and PTO would like to congratulate these four graduates and all our students for persevering through the last few years. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and hope they look upon their years in the program with fondness, great memories, and a lasting appreciation for the Greek culture and language.

The Greek School Program will open registration for the upcoming school year in June, so please keep a lookout for this announcement.

#### The first day of Greek School for the 2023/2024 School Year will be Friday, <u>September 8, 2023</u>.

**Sebastian Baylor:** Sebastian joined Greek school in the fall of 2015 and is deeply grateful to all his teachers: Ms Kelly, Ms Elizabeth, Ms Yvoni, Ms Stamatiki, Ms Poly, Ms Maria, and Ms Litsa. He enjoys spending time with his classmates and appreciates progressing with them through the grades. He also enjoys practicing the language skills he gained with his Greek relatives. Sebastian believes that Greek school has been very good for him and thinks that other children joining the school will find the friendships and experiences very valuable to them as well. Sebastian is completing 8th grade at Roland Park Elementary Middle School and will attend high school at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute this fall.

**Alex Frangos:** Alex started Annunciation Greek School in September of 2015. His first class was Intro to Prep with Kyria Kelly. He has learned a lot in eight years and is practicing his Greek every summer when he visits his family in Karpathos, Greece. He has also made many friends in Greek School. He is happy to graduate with his classmates, Domna, Kristi, and Sebastian, and finally get his Friday nights back. Alex is now in 7th grade at Catonsville Middle School, where he is a straight-A student and plays clarinet in the band. He would like to thank all of his Greek School teachers for their hard work and commitment!



**Domna Kevrekidis:** Domna (Marina Sofou) Kevrekidis, who will be 13 this July, is a proud Manhattanite, with roots from Kos and Alexandroupolis. She came to Baltimore and the Cathedral School in 2018; and has, since then, been looking forward to her "I survived Greek School" T-shirt upon graduation. Her Friday evenings have led to several friendships over the years, a bond with every one of her teachers, and a strong sense of pride in being in the four-student band of this year's 6th grade class. Domna will be a senior in middle school next year, she loves stories, arts and math, her grandmothers, windsurfing in Greece in the summer, and sledding in the winter. The next step for her is joining GOYA and learning the Greek island traditional dances.

**Kristi Niktas:** We are very excited and proud that Kristi Niktas is graduating Greek School this year. Although our beautiful young lady has been through a lot, she has a big heart and is a good person. Kristi is a child that is very connected to church and God. She loves to play basketball, dance and sing. And always enjoys spending time with her good friends. This year, she is graduating from middle school along with Greek School, and will be attending Mercy High School. She is very happy and enthusiastic to be embarking on this new journey in education. We wish her every success in life!



# Happy Retirement!

The Greek school, Father Anastasios and the congregation of Annunciation Cathedral would like to thank Mrs. Politimi Roros and Mrs. Stamatiki Economidis for their decades of dedicated service to our students. Mrs. Poli will be retiring after teaching 13 years with us and Mrs. Stamatiki has taught for six years in the Greek school! Their tireless efforts helped fuel the children's love for the Greek language and culture. Thank you for your hard work, love and commitment to our future generations!



#### WOMEN'S GUILD & YAL SPONSOR A SUCCESSFUL TAVERNA NIGHT

































YAL is the young adult ministry group that serves the young professional community (21-35) of the Baltimore, MD area. We are here to serve Annunciation, the Orthodox community, and provide a welcoming and fun group for all to enjoy. Whether you are new to the Baltimore area or have been a long-time resident, come join us. We look forward to seeing you at our events. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - Annunciation Yal of Baltimore

Thank you to all that made Taverna Night a huge Success. Our 2024 date will soon be scheduled.

Our next event is Night out at the Ball Park - Oriole game on Saturday, May 13. Gametime is 7:05pm.



GOYA Lenten Retreat -April 7

# <image>

## Hope/Joy Easter Egg Hunt - April 16



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sponsored by the Annunciation Youth Ministries Committee

# JUNE 26 TO 30, 2023 9:00AM-2:00PM

For Chidren - K to 6th grade All Greek Orthodox children welcome

Cost is \$35 per child - includes lunch and T-shirt Register your child by June 1st at: <u>https://forms.gle/sGh1T5rmFQaFs7b49</u>







24 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201

We are looking for volunteers. Let us know if you can help.

Early Drop-off Available

For more information contact: youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org



#### **Upcoming Youth Events Schedule**

- MAY 5 5:15 7:30pm: Greek School
- MAY 6: Hope/Joy Outing
- MAY 7 10:45 11:15am: Sunday School
- MAY 7: Sunday School Year End & Awards
- MAY 7 12 3pm: Filakia/Evangelakia Dance Practice
- MAY 12 5:15 7:30pm: Greek School
- MAY 13: Metropolis Oratorical Festival 900 S Trooper Rd, Norristown, PA
- MAY 14: Mother's Day GOYA Hosted Coffee Hour
- MAY 14 12 3pm: Filakia/Evangelakia Dance Practice
- MAY 19 9:30 11am: Little Angels Chapel of Holy Wisdom
- MAY 19 5:15 7:30pm: Greek School Last Day & Ice Cream Social Celebration
- MAY 21: Graduate Sunday following Liturgy

- MAY 21: GOYA Elections after Church
  - MAY 21: GOYA Paintball Tournament and Pool Party
- MAY 21 12 3pm: Filakia/Evangelakia Dance Practice
- JUNE 2 9:30 11am: Little Angels Chapel of Holy Wisdom
- JUNE 4 11:30am 12pm: Greek School Graduation
- JUNE 4 12 3pm: Filakia/Evangelakia Dance Practice
- JUNE 9, 10, 11 TBD: St. Nicholas Greek Festival / Performances by the Annunciation Dance groups
- JUNE 15-17: GOYA Ocean City Trip
- JUNE 18: Father's Day GOYA Hosted Coffee Hour
- JUNE 26 to 30th: Vacation Church School at the Cathedral
- JULY 2: Chesapeake Summer Camp—Staffers Report
- JULY 3 to 7: Chesapeake Summer Camp—Campers Report

**Our Youth Ministries** are having a great year. Each ministry has had many activities since the start of the 2022/23 season and are looking forward to all the activities and events planned for the rest of the year.

#### If you have children that would like to participate in one of the following Youth ministries, it is not too late. Join us!

- <u>Sunday School</u> Preschool through High School
- Little Angels Under 4 years of age
- <u>Hope/Joy</u> 4 to 11 years of age
- GOYA 7th to 12th grade
- <u>Altar Boys</u> 8 years of age and above
- <u>Dance Groups</u> Filakia & Evangelakia - 1st grade to 12th grade
- <u>Greek School</u>
- Junior Choir 8 to 12 years of age - Our Junior Choir is practicing in the Junior Choir room on 5/7 for 20-30 min following Liturgy.

Sunday School is looking for Teachers for the upcoming 2023/2024 year. Contact Anastasia Georgiou at r<u>eligioused@annunciation</u> <u>baltimore.org</u>





# **SAVE THE DATES**



# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual FLEA MARKET

# ACCEPTING DONATIONS - April 24 - June 25, 2023

FLEA MARKET OPEN JUNE 30 – AUGUST 6 EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY 10:30-2 EVERY SUNDAY 11 - 2

Furniture, Lamps, Artwork, Kitchen Items, Household Items, Linens, Electronics, Costume Jewelry, Fashion Accessories, Collectibles, Luggage, Holiday Items, Books, and More!

> Cathedral of the Annunciation 24 West Preston Street Baltimore, Maryland, 21201 FREE PARKING – MD Avenue Lot

Questions: <u>philoptochosannunciation@gmail.com</u> Judy Georges – TEXT 443-301-5041 Georgeann Morekas – TEXT 443-845-1176

#### **HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCES - EARLY YEARS OF PARISH LIFE**



Περιοδικόν «ΚΕΡΑΥΝΟΣ»

85 Years Ago on Sunday, May 8, 1938, Archbishop Athenagoras visited Baltimore and consecrated our historic sanctuary in the impressive Orthodox tradition. Part of the ceremony included the ancient custom of sealing the relic of a saint within the center the Holy Altar table. A relic from Saint Euthymia was chosen for the consecration service. A reporter from "The Baltimore Sun" later described what he witnessed that day: "There was a profusion of brocaded vestments, candles, flowers and palms, and the choir sang Byzantine music in the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom."

This historic event took place one year after the Greek community bought the church building in 1937. Did you know our magnificent sanctuary was originally constructed in 1889 for the Associate Reformed Church (a Protestant congregation) in the Romanesque style with Byzantine touches? The Protestant parish later had four Tiffany stained glass windows installed by 1903 – the large circular "Sermon on the Mount" to the right of the altar, and three on the west wall near the rear of the sanctuary.

Did you know that prior to 1937, the Annunciation community had worshipped for nearly thirty years at the Homewood Avenue and Chase Street Church acquired in 1909? One of the most significant events at Homewood Avenue took place 101 years ago. In 1922, the first Archbishop of America visited Baltimore within a week after assuming the role as head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in New York. A grand banquet was held at the Liberty Hotel on Charles Street in honor of Archbishop Alexander's first visit to our parish on Sunday, May 21, 1922.

A superb image of that historic event, along with many other rare photographs and documents, can be seen in the Main Lobby showcases prepared by Parish Historian Nicholas M. Prevas. All items are captioned so you can enjoy and learn more about our fascinating history. Also, the complete story of our first 100 years of progress (1906-2006) is entitled "House of God...Gateway to Heaven", which can be purchased in our redesigned bookstore on the lower level.



#### <u>Pastoral Reminders</u>

- **Prosforon** (Holy Communion Bread) One of the great honors for a family is to bake Prosforon to be used for the Divine Liturgy. Please contact the Cathedral office if you would like to provide Prosforon.
- Coffee Hour Contact the Cathedral Office if you would like to host or co-host a Coffee Hour on Sunday.
- Sacramental Wine and Altar Supplies You may make a financial gift to help defray the cost of the sacramental wine that is used for Holy Communion. Please note on the memo line of your check or on the envelope "Sacramental Wine". The donation is \$150.00, which may be offered in memory or in honor of a loved one. For more information, contact the Cathedral office.

REMINDER

- Forty Day Baby Blessing Contact the Cathedral Office to schedule the service. These blessings take place immediately after the Divine Liturgy and families should plan to arrive at the Cathedral no later than 9:30 am. Ushers will have seating available for you and will direct you when it is time for the service.
- **Sunday School** All youth are invited to participate in the Religious Education program at the Cathedral. Pews are reserved for students in the Cathedral during the Divine Liturgy to the left of the Altar. Once the students receive Holy Communion, they will be escorted to their respective classrooms for the lesson. The students will be brought down at 11:15 am to the sanctuary or at the conclusion of the Divine liturgy to receive antideron and be dismissed (whichever is the later).
- Altar Boys Young men, ages 8 and above are encouraged to serve in the Altar. Dress code is dark trousers, black dress shoes, white long-sleeved dress shirt and conservative tie. They should arrive no later than 9:30 am and must receive a blessing from the presiding priest before serving. Altar boys will be dismissed for Sunday School once they receive communion when Sunday School is in session.
- **Memorial Services** Kindly contact the Cathedral two weeks prior to schedule a memorial service for your loved one. Be mindful that conflicts sometimes do occur due to the ecclesiastical calendar of the Orthodox Church. It is up to the family to prepare and distribute the koliva (boiled wheat) unless other arrangements have been made with the Philoptochos (contact Georgeann Morekas, 443-845-1176). Flowers and koliva should be at the Cathedral no later than 9:00 am on Sunday morning. Pews will be reserved in the center for family members on a first come basis. Father Anastasios will visit the Greek Orthodox Cemetery on Windsor Mill Road first, then the other burial sites unless prior arrangements have been made. If flowers are ordered, it is the family's responsibility to take them to the gravesite.
- **Death** When a death occurs in the family, contact the funeral home of your choice and Father Anastasios. Arrangements for the funeral will be made in conjunction with the funeral home and Father Anastasios.
- Hospital and Nursing Home Visits It is up to the family to notify Father Anastasios when a visit is necessary. It is advised to contact him immediately by calling 410-727-1831. If it is a medical emergency and the office is closed, the emergency telephone number will be given. Due to legal obligations and privacy laws he is not at liberty to offer information regarding a parishioner.
- **Parking** Parking on the Cathedral lots are reserved only for Cathedral activities. If there are no activities, the lots are closed. Cars left on the lot, regardless of parking permit, will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Electronic/Written Communications All communications that are disseminated through the parish are done with the consent and blessing of Father Anastasios. The e-mail listserv is a private listing that only contains Patriarchal/Archdiocesan/Metropolis and Cathedral information. It is not used to advertise for private business. The sole purpose is to keep our parishioners informed about relevant events in the life of our parish. Death announcements are sent only if the funeral takes place at the Cathedral or our Cemetery Chapel.
- Social Services Assistance The Philoptochos has resources available to those who require social services assistance. All requests are confidential and can be submitted to: <u>philoptochos@annuncationbaltimore.org</u>; or <u>Fr.Anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org</u>; or leave a message at the church.
- **Good Standing** If you have already obtained a civil divorce, you must also receive an Ecclesiastical Divorce from the Church. This brief process is confidentially handled by the parish priest and must be completed in order to be in good standing with the Church, meaning that you may not partake in the Sacramental life of the Church (ex: being a sponsor at a wedding or baptism, receiving Holy Communion, Holy Unction, serving on Parish Council, voting at Parish Assemblies, and entering into another marriage). Please consider your personal situation and be in good standing with the Church. If you have questions or concerns please contact Fr. Anastasios directly.
- Steward of the Parish As Orthodox Christians we are stewards of the Church not merely members. Stewardship is our lifetime commitment to our Church that begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues annually when we financially, physically, and spiritually contribute and participate in the life of the Church. Our Stewardship Pledge is made as a grateful response for what God has given us through Christ. All parishioners over 18 years of age who submit a stewardship commitment and remain current with that commitment during the year will be considered voting members of the parish. All members of a household who are over the age of 18 should submit their own stewardship commitment. More rights and responsibilities of our stewards are outlined in the charters and by-laws of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Metropolis of New Jersey, and the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation.