

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION

THE ARCHANGEL

November/December 2023 NEWSLETTER



Rev. Fr. Anastasios P. Bourantas

Protopresbyter Presiding Priest

fr.anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org

Rev. Fr. John Bullock

Presbyter

fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org

Cathedral Office

assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

410-727-1831

24 W. Preston Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

A Message from Father Anastasios

Dear Faithful of the Cathedral of the Annunciation,

“Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace!”

With these words, this year will end as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Day. We will honor the wise men, shepherds and holy angels, and marvel in awe as did Mary and Joseph. The Nativity of our Lord, the Incarnation, and the Word becoming flesh, is a great miracle of our Orthodox Faith, and all of us remain in a state of amazement year after year. The Birth of Jesus gives us hope in our troubled world and proclaims that the King of Glory is with us. What a spectacular season we are about to enter.

As Cathedral faithful, the miracle of Jesus in Bethlehem is not a story to tell, but it is a life to live. We believe that Mary was visited by Gabriel the Angel who announced the good news. We believe that Jesus was born and came into the world because God loves us. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and we will live eternally with him—only if we believe!

Let us approach this upcoming Advent season with a spirit of understanding and a stronger commitment to our faith by being more patient, more forgiving and less focused on that which causes us anxiety, frustration and fear. Let us focus on participating more actively in the liturgical services →



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of the Church. There will be many feast days of saints who are celebrated, providing opportunities to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord more frequently, giving us the physical and spiritual strength to overcome the challenges that we face daily. Let us become more directed in our personal prayer life by reading the Holy Scriptures, learning about the lives of the Saints (or at least your patron saint), and becoming more familiar with the teachings of our blessed Orthodox Church. What a great time of year, even though it nears the end, there is a possibility of a new beginning with the birth of our Savior.

2023 was quite a year! A new priest, a new deacon, who was ordained recently to the Holy Priesthood, and the life of our Cathedral is slowly returning to pre-Covid glory. I look forward to working closely with Fr. John and being a teacher to him as he begins his blessed journey in the Vineyard of our Lord. AXIOS Fr. John! I am thoroughly excited to become more familiar with the many organizations that work tirelessly for our beloved Cathedral—a testament to the strength held by our faithful leaders and stewards. The ministries, activities and countless events that we enjoy are the voice of an alive, active and Christ-centered people. “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me,” says St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians.

Our Cathedral is a vibrant and shining beacon in Baltimore and the surrounding area. It embraces all who enter and knock on her doors. Our work must continue, and we must remain a stronghold in Baltimore, as we navigate the challenges and forge a path forward. Through our upcoming Capital Campaign, we will renovate our existing Educational Building and put life into the five vacant townhouses. These challenges can only be accomplished with all of us being active participants—offering our time, talent, and treasure to assure a promising future to the next generation. Without hesitation, as your spiritual Father, I am confident, with Christ and the Panaghia on our side, we will accomplish this task and the many more that we will encounter in the years ahead.

It is my prayer that during this blessed season filled with many holy days and holidays, that we stay united in our faith and become lights of hope, goodness, and love to all those we encounter. May Christ our Lord, his blessed Mother the Theotokos, and all the Saints, guide and protect all of us.

Paternaly in Christ,

Fr. Anastasios

**ALL PARISHIONERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE REQUESTED
TO ATTEND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

**If you have any have photos to share with the Newsletter
Committee,
upload them to the Newsletter Drive:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WFCn1I2wCh60UTywq1Z436wcDagXzSOs?usp=sharing>

**January/February Newsletter Submission Deadline is
Noon on December 15th**



Message from Geli Ioannou, Parish Council President



AXIOS! Congratulations to Father John on his ordination to the priesthood. The Cathedral and our community of faithful continue to be blessed by God. Bishop Constantine is thriving in Denver. Father Anastasios has brought a new energy to the Cathedral and now he has Father John to assist him in his ministries. I truly believe that these events are a part of God's plan for His church. But we as faithful parishioners, are not just called to bear witness to these recent events. We have an active role in God's plan for his church on earth as well. First and foremost, we must continue to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a desire to grow the faith and our church. A church without mission is like fire without heat!

The Orthodox Church is the oldest Christian Church on earth, yet very few Christians are aware of it. Orthodoxy is the best kept secret for those seeking God. We need to find them and embrace them. We are the church of some of history's greatest Saints, theologians and scholars who laid the foundation of traditions and doctrine that form the bedrock of our religion. We have a responsibility to teach what we have learned from these men and women, many of whom were martyred for their beliefs.

We are the beneficiaries of the men and women who purchased our beautiful church and saved it from being demolished, so that a gas station could be constructed in its place. Their sacrifices secured a spiritual home for generations of our families. We need to sacrifice to ensure that future generations will continue to have our church as their spiritual home. We are a prosperous and blessed parish, grateful for the freedoms we have in this great country. The fall General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19. A resolution will be presented seeking support and approval by the parishioners in attendance. The resolution will provide the blueprint for the Capital Campaign to proceed with much needed renovations to the Father George P. Gallos Education Building and to the five vacant properties adjacent to the Annunciation Orthodox Center.

The resolution is the culmination of hard work by many parishioners who serve on various committees, and I am grateful for their dedication and love for our church. The resolution incorporates the vision of Bishop Constantine of Sassima and Father Anastasios. On the surface, the resolution may look like an investment in bricks and mortar. I prefer to see it as an extension of our stewardship, securing the spiritual home for future generations. I respectfully request that all parishioners attend the November 19 General Assembly Meeting.

In Christ,

- Geli

Geli Ioannou

SCHEDULING OF SACRAMENTS, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please contact the Church Office before you schedule all on-site and off-site meetings, activities and events to ensure that there are no conflicts for meeting space and that the meetings/events appear on the church calendar.

Contact assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

or 410-727-1831



Sunday Worship

8:00am Orthros

9:30am Divine Liturgy

All other services can be found
on the online calendar at

www.annunciationbaltimore.org/Calendar

Office Hours

Monday–Friday

9:00am - 4:30pm

Cathedral of the Annunciation Staff

John Hall

Operations Manager

office@annunciationbaltimore.org

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

Cathedral of the Annunciation:
www.annunciationbaltimore.org

Metropolis of NJ:
www.nj.goarch.org

Archdiocese:
www.goarch.org

Deadlines for Publications:

Bulletins

Noon on Wednesday to
assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

The Archangel Newsletter

Noon on December 15th to
newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org

Organization Contacts

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers: Father Anastasios Bourantas

Choir: Fifi Nichols (Director) fnichols1@verizon.net &

Faye Hayes (Youth Choir) littleredtractor@msn.com

Byzantine Choir: Stefanos Niktas

Ushering: Bill Prevas billy0919@aol.com

Religious Education

Sunday School: Anastasia Georgiou religioused@annunciationbaltimore.org

Growing in Faith Women's Bible Study: Jeanne Tsakalos & Janine Karbelas

womensbiblestudy@annunciationbaltimore.org

Youth & Young Adult

Little Angels: littleangels@annunciationbaltimore.org

Hope/Joy: Dorothea Tsakiris & Eleni Lampadari

hopejoy@annunciationbaltimore.org

GOYA: Thomas Rafailides & Maria Showalter (Co-Presidents)

goya@annunciationbaltimore.org

Dance Groups: Peggy DiBiasi dance@annunciationbaltimore.org

Young Adult League (YAL): Alexios Vlahoyiannis (President)

yale@annunciationbaltimore.org

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (College Students): Father John Bullock

fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org

Vacation Bible School: Dorothea Tsakiris

youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org

Camp Good Shepherd Summer Camp: Father Anastasios Bourantas

Campus

Bookstore: Cheryl McCarus & Christie Williams

bookstore@annunciationbaltimore.org

Preston Room Event Coordinator: Doreen Gerovasilis

prestonhallaoc@annunciationbaltimore.org

Philanthropy & Outreach

Philoptochos: Connie Rogers philoptochos@annunciationbaltimore.org

Women's Guild: Kali Del Pizzo kmdelpizzo@gmail.com

Golden Age Club: Rhoula Monios rhoulaevie@yahoo.com

Pat Bartsocas bartsocaspat@hotmail.com

Men's Fellowship: Harry Sharkey Harry_Sharkey@hotmail.com

Cultural & Education

Greek School: Sia Kyriakakos (Principal) & Terri Hornick (PTO)

griekschool@annunciationbaltimore.org

Heritage Museum: Harry Maistros harry.maistros@comcast.net

AHEPA: Alex Klopfenstein (President) ank4394@gwmail.gwu.edu

Daughters of Penelope: Diane Homberg dopbaltimore27@yahoo.com

Library: Pascalis Papouras pascalis.papouras@outlook.com

Committees

Administrative Committee: Judy Georges Judy-wood@comcast.net

AOC Committee: Pamela Stevens pamelastevens1225@gmail.com

Festival Committee: Michael Sabracos michael.sabracos@volosports.com

Capital Campaign: Georgeann & Dean Mallas, Karen & George Philippou

Building and Maintenance Committee: Gus Stratakis gus@mjbrown.com

Finance Committee: George Roros: groros@ycp.edu

Publication Committee: Eleni Roros & Georgeann Morekas

newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org

Real Estate Committee: Jamie Caminis jcaminis@lfrvalue.com

Safety & Security Committee: Alex Klopfenstein ank4394@gwmail.gwu.edu

Stewardship Committee: Tom Boardman eatapeach15@outlook.com

Technology & Communication Committee: Nick Stathopoulos

technology@annunciationbaltimore.org

Welcoming & Social Media Committee: Rhoula Monios rhoulaevie@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry: Effie Theodore etheodore@cox.net &

Eleni Roros eroros99@gmail.com



It is more blessed to give than to receive. Giving puts us in a place of humility, whereby we grow to be more like Christ.

This month, Philoptochos honors their Patron Saints, Sts. Cosmas and Damianos, brothers and skilled physicians. They never took payment for their services. They healed freely and purely out of love for God and man, strictly observing the command of Jesus: "Freely you have received, freely give..." (Mathew 10:8).

Our Philoptochos Members strive to follow their example.

AXIOS, to our Father John Bullock on his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. May God grant him many years of ministry.

The Baltimore Station... In September and October our Philoptochos Chapter, Fr. Anastasios, Fr. John and community volunteers in fellowship served dinner to the residents and staff. The opportunity to enjoy a meal with the men was a great way to see the impact volunteers have on The Baltimore Station. The Baltimore Station, a nonprofit, is dedicated to helping homeless U.S. military veterans stabilize their lives. We thank them for their service.

Fall in Love with Philoptochos... Please join us for our Autumn General Luncheon Meeting on **Saturday, November 18th, 2023, 11:30am** at **Estiatoria Plaka**. Donation \$40pp. Contact: Rhoula Monios, rhoulaevie@yahoo.com, Fifi Nichols, fnichiols1@verizon.net.

The Philoptochos Apron sale fundraiser to benefit the Philoxenia House Elevator Project continues. If you have not purchased your aprons contact Rhoula Monios rhoulaevie@yahoo.com or Jean Prevas, jprevas@aol.com. They make great Christmas/Holiday gifts.

6th Annual Weekend Backpacks... Philoptochos is collecting NEW hats, gloves, scarves and socks in sizes Children's small through Adult until **December 15, 2023** to help Baltimore City school students stay warm this winter. A collection bin is located in front of the Church office. We are also accepting monetary donations to shop for you, payable to Annunciation Philoptochos and earmarked "Backpacks for Kids". Please contact eviewillians@msn.com with any questions.

In response to requests from My Sister's Place, the Helping Up Mission, the Franciscan Center and personal requests, Philoptochos will be preparing Thanksgiving Baskets for families in need and supporting "Adopt a Family for Christmas". This is a wonderful way to assist those in our community and in the City of Baltimore. If you would like to contribute to brighten someone else's holiday, please contact Connie Rogers connierogers2@hotmail.com or Effie Theodore, effietheodore@icloud.com.

On IOCC **Sunday, November 19, 2023**, the Philoptochos will be honoring the mission of the IOCC with a Free Will Offering Coffee Hour to benefit the IOCC. One of the projects of the IOCC is the need for School Supply Kits. We will be preparing kits with our Sunday School students in 2024 for the IOCC to distribute. Information to follow.

Philoptochos has recently supported the following organizations with donations:

- **World Central Kitchen for Maui Relief** – WCK is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate and community crisis.
- **IOCC** – for assistance following flooding across Greece.
- **Franciscan Center** – Emergency assistance to disadvantaged persons.
- **John H. Fetting Fund for Breast Cancer Prevention** - October Breast Cancer Awareness Month

TOTAL DONATIONS - \$8,500.00

Upcoming Dates:

- **November 18, 2023** – Philoptochos General Luncheon Meeting. 11:30am, Estiatorio Plaka.
- **November 19, 2023** – IOCC Sunday, Coffee hour, Free Will Offering to benefit the IOCC.
- **January 7, 2023** - Vasilopita Celebration

**In Christ,
Connie Rogers, President**

Autumn Luncheon Meeting

Please join us on November 18, 2023
11:30-2:00pm

Estiatorio Plaka
4718 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

Donation \$40/person

RSVP using the QR Code or
<https://forms.gle/nT5hpywk82aDkGWv5>
By November 13th and include Entree Selection.

Appetizers

Horiatiki Salata
Spankopita and Tiropita
Calamaraki

Entree Selection

Bakaliaro with Skordalia and Horta or
Seafood (Mussels, Shrimp & Calamari) with Rice

Dessert

Pikilia Dessert Platter

Drinks

Soft Drinks/Ice Tea
Coffee
Cash Bar*

Contact Rhoula Monios at rhoulavie@yahoo.com or Fil
Nichols at fnichols1@verizon.net for questions.

Parking available at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church or
on the street. Please DO NOT park at the Wells Fargo lot.



"Apron Fundraiser" to Benefit The Philoxenia House †

**\$35/
Each**

Each Apron is Embroidered
Shipping can be arranged for an additional charge.



#1 Athena Standing in Red
"Greek Goddess at Work"



#2 Athena w/Owl in Red
"Greek Goddess at Work"



#3 Hercules in Black
"Greek God Grillin"



#4 Philoptochos Cross in
(a)Red (b)White (c)Blue
(d)Khaki



#5 When Life gives you
Lemons make
Avgolemono in Khaki



#6 When Life gives you
Lemons make
Avgolemono in Black

Scan QR code to place your order.

To Submit Payment->Venmo @Rhoula-Monios or send check made
out to Annunciation Philoptochos to: Annunciation Philoptochos,
c/o Rhoula Monios, 24 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Contact Rhoula Monios @ rhoulavie@yahoo.com for more information



September 26



October 25



STEWARDSHIP & DAY SPONSORS

thank you

Thank you to the following parishioners who have submitted their 2023 Stewardship Pledge form - online or hardcopy - from 9/1/2023 to 11/2/2023

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andy Davis | Anastasia Georgoulis | Andreas & Eleni Liapi | Vasillios & Stacy Pikounis |
| Devin Diakoulas | Pagona Koenig | Angela Lykos | Elizabeth Sakellaris |
| Kara Diakoulas | Konstantinos & Kelsey Aikaterina Konstantinou | George & Dimitra Mexis | Nicholas & Cleo Stamatatos |

Dear Faithful of the Cathedral of the Annunciation,

A reminder from the Stewardship Committee. It is likely that what you will read you already know. But it is worth reading again, so that we keep stewardship in the forefront of our mind—the giving of our time, our talent, or our treasure to the glory of God through the operations, administration, and sacraments of this parish. As a reminder, everything we witness, from the celebration of the divine liturgy, the functions of Sunday school, the ability to sit in a clean and comfortable environment is all enabled by stewards. Your stewardship matters. The consequences of reliable stewards have a tremendous impact. Your stewardship today matters more than it did a decade or two or three decades ago. It is a matter of the number of our stewards. Every contribution does matter, but we do not have the same number of stewards that we once did so the impact of your stewardship today has a greater impact on the outcomes of our parish. If you have not considered this for your stewardship acts, please do. Stewardship is an entirely personal consideration. Factors that influence your stewardship are unique to each family. For those of you who do seek guidance and desire to participate, we do offer the Day Sponsor Steward program, which now includes a milestone for a half-day sponsor. The committee is actively promoting the Day Sponsor Steward program for they see the advantage for our parish with this organized program. Please consider covering the expenses of the parish either for a day (\$3500) or half-day (\$1750). Accepting this personal challenge may strike a chord with you; you may find personal gratification. The success of this program will greatly assist the Parish Council is managing the expenditures necessary to keep the parish operating within the standards we all expect. Finally, the committee asks for you to be responsive to our communications, to make an annual pledge so that the PC can manage effectively. When doing so, please consider the Day Sponsor Steward program.

~Fr. Anastasios, Geli Ioannou (Parish Council President) & Tom Boardman (Stewardship Chairman)

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 11/2/2023



| 2023 Pledged | 2023 Non-Pledged (no Pledge Form) | Total | 2023 Goal | Remaining | % of Goal |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| \$270,223.34 | \$288,191.40 | \$558,414.74 | \$815,000.00 | \$256,585.26 | 33.16% |

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

PHILOPTOCHOS

CHRISTMAS BAKED GOODS

FATHER CONSTANTINE MONIOS SOCIAL HALL
LOBBY

DECEMBER 17 - FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



BAKLAVA (12 PIECES)- \$36.00

KOULOURLAKIA (1 POUND) - \$16.00

KOURAMBIETHES (12) - \$20.00

FINIKIA (12) - \$26.00

CINNAMON SUGAR PECANS - \$11.00

CHRISTMAS SWEET BREAD - \$11.00

PRE-ORDER BY NOVEMBER 30, 2023

PHILOPTOCHOSANNUNCIATION@GMAIL.COM

GNMOREKAS@GMAIL.COM

Children:**Brave, Faithful, and True: Children of the Bible**
by Katherine Bolger Hyde, illustrated by Gabriel Chaplin

We hear a lot from the Bible about the outstanding men and women who helped God accomplish His purposes in both Old and New Testament times. But what about the children? The Bible does not mention many children by name. *Brave, Faithful, and True* retells the stories of twelve children—six from the Old Testament and six from the New—from the children's own point of view, bringing their encounters with God to vivid life and leading the children of today to think about what these stories might mean in their own lives.

Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas: A Family Devotional in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition
by Amanda Eve Wigglesworth

With hymns, stories, meditations, and activities for each day as well as suggestions for the whole season, *Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas* provides an invaluable resource for families looking to restore the season of Christmas to its rightful place in their lives.

**Adults:****Preparing for Confession**
by L. Joseph Letendre

Preparing for Confession has been an extremely popular book ever since it was first published in 1987. We are pleased to give it new life by bringing it back into print with this revised edition. From practical advice for preparation, to answering questions such as "what is sin?" and "what is the priest's role?" *Preparing for Confession* is the guide every Orthodox Christian needs for a more powerful experience of the Sacrament of Confession.

Behold a Great Light: A Daily Devotional for the Nativity Fast through Theophany

Contributors: Fr. Basil Ross Aden, Elissa Bjeletich Davis, Fr. Stephen De Young, Fr. Stephen Freeman, Fr. Michael Gillis, Laura S. Jansson, Nicole Roccas, Brandi Willis Schreiber

The forty days of fasting before Christmas are meant to prepare us for the Feast of the Nativity, but the busy-ness of the secular celebration can interfere with our best efforts to center our hearts on Christ. *Behold a Great Light* is a daily devotional designed to help readers contemplate the mysteries of the Incarnation during the fast and the Christmas—Theophany season, ending with the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist on January 7.

**The Father Dean Moralis Bookstore of the Cathedral of the Annunciation**

In keeping with the mission of the Father Dean Moralis Bookstore of the Annunciation to provide spiritual and educational resources for the Orthodox community, we are offering stimulating books and prayer aids, including prayer beads and bracelets, to support our children and young adults in growing their faith.

Our shelves are overflowing with beautiful and inspiring gold leaf and pure silver icons imported from Greece. There is something for every home, and gifts for all ages.

Please visit us every Sunday after Divine Liturgy and other times as needed. Please feel free to contact us at bookstore@annunciationbaltimore.org.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

BAPTISMS

- On September 17, 2023, **Loukas James Stratakis**, son of James and Erin Stratakis was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsor was Sophia Stratakis and given the Baptismal Name – **LOUKAS JAMES**.
- On September 18, 2023, **Sean MacCuish**, son of Jeffrey and Lisa MacCuish was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsor was Sophia Hobbs and given the Baptismal Name – **JOHN**.
- On October 21, 2023, **Andrew John Davis**, son of Robert and Kara Davis was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsor was Devin Diakoulas and given the Baptismal Name – **ANDREW JOHN**.
- On October 21, 2023, **Oliver James Diakoulas**, son of Brendan and Sofie Diakoulas was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsor was Devin Diakoulas and given the Baptismal Name – **OLIVER (DEMETRIOS) JAMES**.
- On October 21, 2023, **Hazel Jane Diakoulas**, daughter of Brendan and Sofie Diakoulas was baptized in the Orthodox Church. Her sponsors were Robert and Kara Davis and given the Baptismal Name – **HAZEL (JOANNA) JANE**.
- On October 21, 2023, **Andrew MacCuish**, son of John Sean and Anna MacCuish was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsors were Antonios Kokolis and Anna Georgoulis and given the Baptismal Name – **ANDREW**.
- On October 21, 2023, **Alexia MacCuish**, daughter of John Sean and Anna MacCuish was baptized in the Orthodox Church. Her sponsors were Dimitri Hobbs and Amalia Hobbs and given the Baptismal Name – **ALEXIA**.
- On October 22, 2023, **Kyriaki Westgate**, daughter of Tyler George and Sophia Westgate was baptized in the Orthodox Church. Her sponsors were Mikali and Chrysavolantou Kalogeros and given the Baptismal Name – **KYRIAKI**.

CHRISMATIONS

- On October 15, 2023, the servant of God, **John Patrick Buerger**, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation. His sponsor was Alexandra Austin and given the Chrismation Name – **MODESTOS**.

WEDDINGS

- On September 18, 2023, **John Sean Ryan MacCuish and Anna Andrew Farantos** were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Sponsor was Antonios Kokolis. Congratulations!
- On October 21, 2023, **Robert Andrew Davis and Kara Marie Diakoulas** were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Annunciation Cathedral. Their Sponsor was Devin Diakoulas. Congratulations!

FUNERALS

- On September 22, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Estelle Nicolet**, age 72.
- On October 9, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Pagona Margaritis-Koenig**, age 86.
- On October 18, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Despina Coroneos**, age 93.

May their memory be eternal.

“Growing In Faith” Women's Bible Study

The Fall 2023 Session of the Women’s Bible Study has begun. Let’s learn together as we explore the book of Galatians on the following days:

Saturday, November 11th, 10AM - 11:30AM in the AOC
Friday, November 17th, 7pm-8:30pm at Jeanne Tsakalos’ house

No prior Bible knowledge is required!
For questions, contact Janine Karbelas
womensbiblestudy@annunciationbaltimore.org





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Please provide your name, cell number and email when ordering.
Please contact John Hall or Michael Sabracos for further questions.

Use this link or the QR Code

<https://greek-orthodox-cathedral-of-the-annunciation---baltimore.square.site>



OUR GREEK FOOD, WINE & CULTURE FESTIVAL



OUR GREEK FOOD, WINE & CULTURE FESTIVAL



CHRISTMAS CARD

Consider offering your greeting in the annual Christmas Card mailed to each parish home.

Your donation of \$25 and form must be received by **November 30, 2023** via mail to:

24 W. Preston Street., Baltimore, MD 21201

Make checks payable to: **Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation** or online payment at www.annunciationbaltimore.org - DONATE

Please let us know how you would like your name to appear:

NAME: _____

POINSETTIAS



Offering poinsettias in memory of/in honor of our loved ones is a beautiful tradition.

Your donation of \$25 each and form must be received by **December 15, 2023**.

Via mail to: 24 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Make checks payable to: **Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation** or online payment at www.annunciationbaltimore.org – DONATE

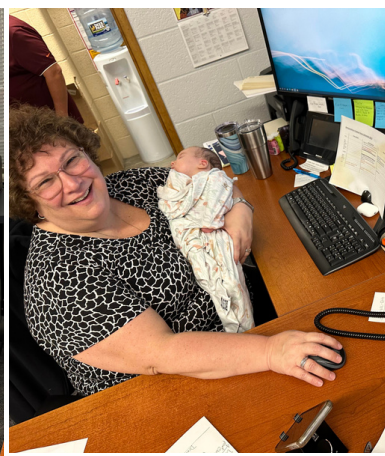
Yes, I would like to donate _____ Poinsettias at \$25 each:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Donated by: _____

OUR GREEK FOOD, WINE & CULTURE FESTIVAL



ORDINATION OF FATHER JOHN - OCTOBER 28, 2023





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Baltimore, MD 21201**

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www.prestonhallvenue.com

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**Contact Us to Host Your Next Event
Doreen Gerovasilis at (410) 802-4372
prestonhallaoc@annunciationbaltimore.org**

ORDINATION OF FATHER JOHN - OCTOBER 28, 2023



AXION CHARITY EVENTS - THANOS PETRELIS



*Thank
you!*

**For Supporting
our Foundation!**



[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.



Join the
Cathedral of the Annunciation Women's Guild
for our

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 3, 2023 ~ 12:00 Noon

Preston Hall
Annunciation Orthodox Center
25 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to:
Ronald McDonald House

Our Christmas Boutique will be open for your shopping pleasure!

Catering by Casa Mia's

Entrée Selections:

Crab Cake Platter served w/ Roasted Potatoes & Asparagus

~

Bowtie Shrimp Pasta sautéed w/ Wine, herbs & julienned vegetables

~

Sobo Noodle Teriyaki w/ Stir fry vegetable medley (Gluten Free/Vegetarian)

Drinks available at Cash Bar

Donation of \$60.00 is due at the time of reservation.

Advance ticket sales only: Cash/Check - by Sunday, November 26th

For reservations:

- Use the QR code available on the right
- Click this link: <https://forms.gle/LaBbcDFQ4qSnVhxS9>
- Or email the following:
Van Sakles at 410-561-3939
Elizabeth Petrides at queenerp@comcast.net
Stella Jenkins at stellajenkins0@gmail.com



Happy Birthday Father Anastasios!



welcome little one!

BABY PHANOURIOS





ATTENTION MUSICIANS, we would like to have you perform in the Annunciation Christmas Concert on **December 10th**.

Please contact Fifi Nichols at fnichols1@verizon.net by **Friday, November 17** for additional information.



Join Us for our
next meeting on
December 5th @ 11:30am
in the Golden Age Room
(AOC)

ALL 50+ YEARS OF AGE ARE WELCOME!!!
ENJOY THIS EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Annunciation Young Adult League (YAL) seeks to connect Orthodox Christians in Baltimore ages 18-35 for social, spiritual, and service themed events.

Fill out form @ <https://forms.gle/Td7sseHhJYp5PAxYA> OR scan the QR code to receive text and email updates on future events. Follow us on Instagram (IG) @annunbmoreyal and join our Facebook (FB) group, Annunciation YAL of Baltimore for more updates.

Email Alexi Vlahoyiannis, YAL President, at yal@annunaiatonbaltimore.org for more information.



THE PANHELLENIC

Building a better America through Education & Hellenism

The 2023/2024 Scholarship Application is OPEN!

Do you or an exceptional undergraduate student you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar? The 2023/2024 application is now open and accepting applications!

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are due January 31 2024 at 11:59 PM CST

<https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply>



SAVE THE DATE

On December 17th after the Divine Liturgy our children will participate in our Christmas Pageant "O Holy Night" Stay tuned for rehearsal dates.

GOYA - FIRST MEETING AND CORNMAZE OUTING





WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Hunger doesn't take
the weekend off

**Sunday School is helping Philoptochos collect
NEW Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks!!!**



What to Donate:

BRAND NEW hats, gloves, scarves and socks
Sizes - Children's Small through Adult

Drop Off Instructions:

Place donations in the collection bins outside
the Church office*

Donation Deadline:

December 15, 2023

Questions:

Contact Evie Williams at eviewilliams@msn.com

*Or drop off a monetary donation or check payable to Philoptochos (indicate WBHK on memo line of check) in our tray at the back of the Narthex for Philoptochos to do the shopping for you.

**Philoptochos and Sunday School thank you for
your continuing support of Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids.**



Join the Annunciation Dance groups.

Practices are planned for Sundays
after Divine Liturgy.

Contact Peggy DiBiasi at
dance@annunciationbaltimore.org



Join us for an exciting new year!

Sunday School consists of Nursery
(2 & 3 year olds) through High School.

Sunday School class time begins once Communion is offered and is received by the students. The children will meet their teachers in the church lobby to go up to Sunday School. Altars boys will also attend Sunday School.

Sunday School will end at 11:30am or after the Divine Liturgy, whichever is the later. The children will be brought down to receive Antidoron and be dismissed from the church. Register your child using QR code or at:

<https://forms.gle/Zy5bJs7q23fAvqdP8>.



YOUTH Ministries

Our Youth Ministries have begun their 2023/2024 season and are looking forward to all the activities and events planned for the year. We hope your children will Join Us!

- **Sunday School** - Preschool through High School
- **Little Angels** - Under 4 years of age
- **Hope/Joy** - 4 to 11 years of age
- **GOYA** - 7th to 12th grade
- **Altar Boys** - 8 years of age and above
- **Dance Groups** -
Filakia & Evangelakia - 1st grade to 12th grade
- **Greek School**
- **Junior Choir** - 8 to 12 years of age - Usually practices after liturgy in the Junior Choir Room for 20-30 min.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Friday, 11/10
 - Greek School
- Sunday, 11/12
 - Sunday School
 - Hope/Joy at the Maryland Zoo (Time TBD)
- Friday, 11/17
 - Greek School
- Sunday, 11/19
 - Sunday School
- Friday, 11/24 No Greek School
- Sunday, 11/26 No Sunday School
- Friday, 12/1
 - Greek School
- Sunday, 12/3
 - Sunday School
 - Hope/Joy Christmas Cookie Decorating after Liturgy at 1:30pm
- Friday, 12/8
 - Greek School (PTO Sponsored Event - Holiday Baking)
- Sunday, 12/10
 - Sunday School
 - Christmas Choir Concert
- Saturday, 12/16
 - Breakfast w/Santa
 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- Sunday, 12/17
 - Christmas Pageant "O Holy Night"
- Friday, 12/22 - No Greek School
- Sunday, 12/24 - No Sunday School
- Friday, 12/29 - No Greek School
- Sunday, 12/31 - No Sunday School



**REGISTER
NOW!**

**ANNUNCIATION
GREEK SCHOOL**



ΜΑΘΑΙΝΩ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE FOR ALL LEVELS

Pre-Register by September 1st using the QR code or at:
<https://forms.gle/Jh1SkcoU4bGi4djL6>



Phishing

Phishing is a cybercrime in which a target or targets are contacted by email, telephone or text message by someone posing as a legitimate institution to lure individuals into providing sensitive data such as personally identifiable information, banking and credit card details, and passwords.

The information is then used to access important accounts and can result in identity theft and financial loss.

Common Features of Phishing Emails:

1. **Too Good To Be True** - Lucrative offers and eye-catching or attention-grabbing statements are designed to attract people's attention immediately. For instance, many claim that you have won an iPhone, a lottery, or some other lavish prize. Just don't click on any suspicious emails. Remember that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!
2. **Sense of Urgency** - A favorite tactic amongst cybercriminals is to ask you to act fast because the super deals are only for a limited time. Some of them will even tell you that you have only a few minutes to respond. When you come across these kinds of emails, it's best to just ignore them. Sometimes, they will tell you that your account will be suspended unless you update your personal details immediately. Most reliable organizations give ample time before they terminate an account and they never ask patrons to update personal details over the Internet. When in doubt, visit the source directly rather than clicking a link in an email.
3. **Hyperlinks** - A link may not be all it appears to be. Hovering over a link shows you the actual URL where you will be directed upon clicking on it. It could be completely different or it could be a popular website with a misspelling, for instance www.bankofarnerica.com - the 'm' is actually an 'r' and an 'n', so look carefully.
4. **Attachments** - If you see an attachment in an email you weren't expecting or that doesn't make sense, don't open it! They often contain payloads like ransomware or other viruses. The only file type that is always safe to click on is a .txt file.
5. **Unusual Sender** - Whether it looks like it's from someone you don't know or someone you do know, if anything seems out of the ordinary, unexpected, out of character or just suspicious in general don't click on it!

Social Engineering Red Flags



FROM

- I don't recognize the sender's email address as someone I **ordinarily communicate with**.
- This email is from **someone outside my organization and it's not related to my job responsibilities**.
- This email was sent from **someone inside the organization** or from a customer, vendor, or partner and is **very unusual or out of character**.
- Is the sender's email address from a **suspicious domain** (like microsoft-support.com)?
- I **don't know the sender personally** and they were not vouched for by someone I trust.
- I **don't have a business relationship** nor any past communications with the sender.
- This is an **unexpected or unusual email** with an **embedded hyperlink or an attachment** from someone I haven't communicated with recently.



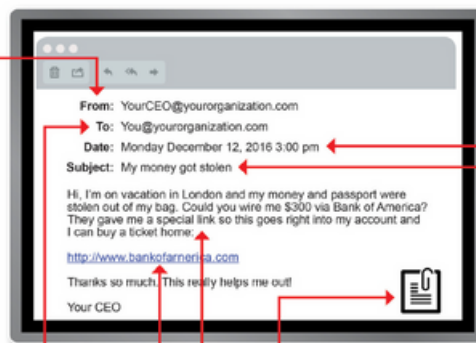
TO

- I was cc'd on an email sent to one or more people, but I **don't personally know** the other people it was sent to.
- I received an email that was also sent to an **unusual mix of people**. For instance, it might be sent to a random group of people at my organization whose last names start with the same letter, or a whole list of unrelated addresses.



HYPERLINKS

- I hover my mouse over a hyperlink that's displayed in the email message, but the **link-to address is for a different website**. (This is a **big red flag**.)
- I received an email that only has **long hyperlinks with no further information**, and the rest of the email is completely blank.
- I received an email with a **hyperlink that is a misspelling** of a known web site. For instance, www.bankofamerica.com — the "m" is really two characters — "r" and "n."



DATE

- Did I receive an email that I normally would get during regular business hours, but it was **sent at an unusual time** like 3 a.m.?



SUBJECT

- Did I get an email with a subject line that is **irrelevant or does not match** the message content?
- Is the email message a reply to something I **never sent or requested**?



ATTACHMENTS

- The sender included an email attachment that I **was not expecting** or that **makes no sense** in relation to the email message. (This sender doesn't ordinarily send me this type of attachment.)
- I see an attachment with a possibly **dangerous file type**. The only file type that is **always safe to click on is a .txt file**.



CONTENT

- Is the sender asking me to click on a link or open an attachment to **avoid a negative consequence** or to **gain something of value**?
- Is the email **out of the ordinary**, or does it have **bad grammar** or **spelling errors**?
- Is the sender asking me to click a link or open up an attachment that **seems odd or illogical**?
- Do I have an **uncomfortable gut feeling** about the sender's request to open an attachment or click a link?
- Is the email asking me to look at a **compromising or embarrassing picture** of myself or someone I know?

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL Breakfast With Santa

Hosted By:
Annunciation Sunday School
Youth Ministries Committee

OPEN TO ALL
YOUTH 18 YEARS
OF AGE AND
UNDER

Merry Christmas!

***Free photo
with Santa!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
FR. CONSTANTINE MONIOS SOCIAL HALL

8:00AM - ORTHROS

9:00AM - DIVINE LITURGY

10:30AM - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

11:30AM - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

FREE ADMISSION - RSVP BY 12/14/23





- **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.
- **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. Sunday School will end at 11:30am or after the Divine Liturgy, whichever is the later. The children will be brought down to receive Antidoron and be dismissed from the church.
- **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: philoptochos@annunciationbaltimore.org; or Fr.Anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org; 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.