

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION

THE ARCHANGEL

January/February 2024 NEWSLETTER



Rev. Fr. Anastasios P. Bourantas

Protopresbyter Presiding Priest

fr.anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org

Rev. Fr. John Bullock

Presbyter

fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org

Cathedral Office

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410-727-1831

24 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

A Message from Father Anastasios

Happy and Blessed New Year 2024!

May the blessings of this New Year bring rejuvenation in our world and grant us a stronger faith to endure the challenges we face every day.

The Year 2023 closed and 2024 has begun with little or no fanfare. Should there be a difference? Should we feel a change in our daily life? What has changed? Not much; Sunday rolled into Monday and Tuesday, and so on. Nothing has changed. The reason is that Jesus Christ our Lord, who was baptized in the River Jordan by St. John, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Jesus Christ is the only constant we have in our lives. The weather changes often, people's emotions and actions vary, and we live in a state of flux, anxiety and uncertainty that causes us to lose focus on the important elements in our lives.

As this Year of our Lord 2024 flows, let us challenge ourselves to stay oriented on our faith and focused on Christ, the Panaghia, the Angels and the Saints who serve as our examples and guides. We must imitate their lives of purity, kindness, forgiveness, and love of others. An easy life is neither guaranteed nor expected. However, when we allow Christ to dwell in our hearts and minds, we are comforted in difficult situations.



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Recall the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste - those brave soldiers who stood on a frozen lake overnight. They refused to denounce their faith in Christ for a quick relief from the discomfort and the cold. They knew their reward would be great if they remained strong in their faith. It was so strong, that at dawn, 40 crowns descended from heaven and rested on their heads, achieving the ultimate sacrifice of martyrdom.

As faithful of our blessed Cathedral of the Annunciation, under the Chief Shepherd of our Metropolis of New Jersey, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos, we will continue the work and challenges that are ahead of us. We will embark on a Capital Campaign that will revitalize and allow a brighter future for our facilities and our ministries. We will continue to serve the faithful in their needs, those who are shut-in, imprisoned, ill or homeless. We will enhance the Education programs of the Sunday School and Greek School by placing greater emphasis on the curriculum, and by participating in workshops and seminars. We will promote all the ministries of our Cathedral that provide philanthropic assistance to our community. We will make our youth programs more relevant so that this generation may know the faith and become beacons of knowledge to our world. We will work as one unified Cathedral community, that will include our sister churches in Baltimore, Maryland, and our Holy Metropolis, so that the salvific message of our Lord to love one another may become a reality.

I want to offer thanks to the Parish Council and our newly elected President, Mr. Ernie Rafailides, and as one, we will work for the glory of God and our Cathedral to serve the needs of our parish. Also, I want to express wholehearted appreciation to our past President of the Parish Council, Mr. Geli Ioannou. Geli has selflessly served our Cathedral for six years and has offered his time, talent and treasure with grace and honor. We are grateful to him and his family for their love and commitment for all these years. On behalf of Fr. John and all the faithful of the Cathedral of the Annunciation of Baltimore - ***Thank you Geli!***

With God's grace and guidance, I look forward to another spirit-filled year to continue the work that our Lord has commanded us.

Paternally in Christ,

Paternally in Christ,

Fr. Anastasios

**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>

**March/April Newsletter Submission Deadline is Noon on
February 15th**



Message from Geli Ioannou, Outgoing Parish Council President



Happy New Year!

As we enter a new year, we should lift our hearts in gratitude for God's gift of life and faith. It is in our church, where we are embraced by God's love and mercy, that we find strength and purpose. I witnessed the strength and purpose of our community at the General Assembly meeting on November 19, 2023. A resolution was presented to the eighty-five parishioners in attendance that had the unanimous support of the Parish Council. There was thoughtful discussion on the resolution, which was approved by the Assembly by a vote of 83-2.

The resolution provides 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 commissions the Capital Campaign Committee to embark on a \$10 million Capital Campaign. The priority will be the renovation of the education building at a projected cost of \$6.5 million. The resolution also authorizes the development of a conditioned pavilion to be constructed in the footprint of the five vacant properties, while keeping the historic facade intact. The pavilion has a projected cost of \$3.5 million.

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. However, the real work is just beginning. Father Anastasios and the Parish Council will offer direction to the Capital Campaign Committee, and the parish will soon be provided with more details of the conceptual plan and the strategy to achieve our goals. OAOI MAZI! ALL TOGETHER! – we will work to ensure that our beautiful Cathedral will serve our families and community for future generations! May God guide us on this journey. May His teachings illuminate our path and may His presence be our constant source of inspiration.

In Christ,

- Geli

Geli Ioannou

**All Parishioners in Good Standing are Requested
to attend the Special General Assembly Meeting on Sunday, January 21st
following the Divine Liturgy. The topic is the Turkey Point land sale.**



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

Erene Kariotis

Operations Manager

office@annunciationbaltimore.org

TBD

Administrative Assistant

assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

410-727-1831

2023 Parish Council Members

President: Ernie Rafailides

Vice President: Georgeann Morekas

Treasurer: Steve Kousouris

Secretary: Peter Constantinou

Cristian Cazac

Pascalis Papouras

Paul Dezes

Eleni Roros

Stella Jenkins

Melody Simmons

Alex Klopfenstein

Stephanie Smith

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 February 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) littletraktor@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 Lampadarios and James & Christina Kokorrelis
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)

yal@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: Rhoulia Monios rhouliaevie@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

Parish Historian: Nicholas Prevas nmprevas@outlook.com

Committees

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

AOC Committee: Pamela Stevens pamelastevens1225@gmail.com

Audit Committee: James Kokorrelis & Elias Cossis

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@lhmvalue.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: Rhoulia Monios rhouliaevie@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry: Effie Theodore & Eleni Roros

youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org



Vassilis is the Greek name for St. Basil, whose feast day, St. Basil's Day, is celebrated on January 1. In our Greek tradition, St. Basil brings gifts to children every 1 January. **Vasilopita**, a rich bread baked with a coin inside is attributed to St. Basil, who when a Bishop, wanted to distribute money to the poor and commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he arranged to place gold coins. Thus, the families cutting the bread were pleasantly surprised to find the coins.

In keeping with this beautiful tradition and custom of the Vasilopita, Philoptochos wishes to thank Fotini and Nicholas Kutson for donating the cross in honor of Fotini on her Name Day, January 6th, the Feast of the Theophany (Epiphany). **Χρονία Πολλά!** Our congratulations and best wishes to Athena Sidou who found the Vasilopita coin and received the gold cross. May their New Year be filled with God's blessings, good health and happiness.

We also wish to thank John and Joanna Zoulis for their donation of the Vasilopita and our youth, members of the GOYA, for all their assistance provided during Vasilopita Sunday.

Our gratitude is extended to the entire community for your generous donation on Vasilopita Sunday for the benefit of Saint Basil's Academy. Your kindness enables us to continue our support for the children and young adults in need at the Academy.

As posted in the Sunday Bulletin, December 24th, 2023, below are the Christmas Projects Philoptochos supported:

- The preparation of Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for twelve of My Sister's Place families;
- "Christmas Adopt a Family" donations of \$25 Gift Cards to benefit the families of My Sister's Place Women's Center;
- The donation of gift bags that were provided to a disadvantaged family of eight on Christmas Day;
- "Christmas Shopping with a Purpose" that benefited Baltimore's own "Hon's Honey and Atlantic City's "MudGirls Studio", organizations that assist women by providing them opportunities to lift themselves from poverty and life on the street with meaningful skills, a sense of self-respect and accomplishment, and employment.
- The 6th Annual Weekend Backpacks Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks Drive – that provided 2,000 children in Baltimore City with a pair of gloves, a scarf and a pair of socks; and
- The Philoptochos Apron Sale fundraiser that will benefit the Philoxenia House Elevator Project.

Continuing the Christmas Spirit, we also supported the following organizations:

- Kennedy Krieger Institute – Patient Food Pantry. A unique program that supports patients and their families when they return home. The meal kits provide help to alleviate the stress of being unsure of where one's next meal will come from or how one will feed their family.
- The Baltimore Station - Philoptochos members and several volunteers from our community prepared and shared a meal in fellowship with the residents and staff of The Baltimore Station, a nonprofit, dedicated to helping homeless U.S. military veterans stabilize their lives. We thank them for their service.

January 2024 is Membership Month. Philoptochos members strive to make a difference in the lives of others by fulfilling our sacred calling as Christians to help anyone in need. Please renew your Philoptochos membership and invite your friends to become members so we can continue to expand our group. Annual membership is \$40.00.

On **Sunday, February 18, 2024**, in observance of American Heart Health Month the Philoptochos will sponsor a Free Will Coffee Hour to benefit the American Heart Association. American Heart Health Month is a time to pay attention to understanding, preventing and treating heart disease. Wear Red!

Upcoming Dates:

- Paschal Baking – February 23rd (11am) and 24th (10am); March 8th and 9th at 11am
- March 2, 2024 - Philoptochos General Membership Meeting – AHEPA ROOM
- March 24th – **Feast Day of the Annunciation, Vespers and Reception**
- March 25th – **Feast Day of the Annunciation, Coffee**
- April 28th – **Palm Sunday Lunch and Bake Sale**

Wishing you with God's love, joy and peace for a blessed 2024!

In Christ, Connie Rogers, President



We are so incredibly proud of our Philoptochos past President **Jean Prevas**, who was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants!!! You do everything with all of your heart and we are so blessed to be your sisters!!! AXIA

[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.





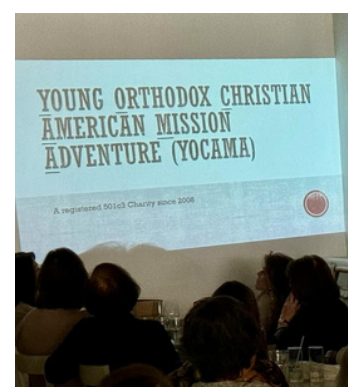
THE
BALTIMORE
STATION

We Turn Lives Around

**Philoptochos
Volunteering on
December 3, 2023**



PHILOPTOCHOS FALL MEETING - NOVEMBER 18, 2023



POINSETTIA DONATIONS 2023

In Honor Of...

- Deanne vanVelsen (sister), by Claudia McBrien
- Our parents Nicholas & Fotini Kutson, by Christian, Catherine, Fiona and Thomas Steiner
- Lillian Poulos (granddaughter), by Albert & Kathy Laun
- Ann S. Matthews, by Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kambouris & Christiana and Mr. & Mrs. George Matthews
- Ms. Sandra Hondroulis, by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. & Mrs. James Hondroulis, by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Evangelia Maheridis, by Nicholas & Kaliope DelPizzo
- Kiriaki Roros & Eve Stamatakis, by Isidoros & Eleni Roros and Family
- Chrysanthé Pappas' 100th birthday, by Jim & Nancy Pappas and Family
- Metaxia Cossis, by Maria Bellios and Constantine Bellios
- Our nephew and godson, Wyatt Tegges
- My brother AHEPAns, by Basil Pappas
- Loula Margaritis, Aiello and Tegges Families, by Don & Lois Geyer
- Mary G. Mallis, by Emanuel & Jeanne Caminis
- Our grandsons: Spyro, Sotiri and Thanos, by Georgette & Spyros Stavrakas
- Our grandchildren: Alexa, Mateo, Theodore, Lucas, Jude, by Paul and Kerry Agathoklis
- Parents: Kosmas & Betty Diveris, Jennifer Capandonis
- Helen Orfanos, by Kay Calivas and Family
- Stella Deros, by John Deros and Family

In Loving Memory of...

- Rev. Constantine Monios, by Presvytera Mary Monios
- Nicholas & Athena Christodoulou, by Presvytera Mary Monios
- Rev. Constantine Monios, by Lia Monios
- Michael & Zinovia Prevas, by Nicholas M. Prevas
- John Padousis, by Evan, Renee & John Padousis
- Nick, & Jean Frank, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Constantine Frank, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Rev. & Mrs. Dean Martin, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Helen Pappas, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Helen Kassiotis, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Kalliope Orfanos, by Tom & Nikki Zizos
- Joanne Souris Deitz, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- James P. Nopulos, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Sylvia "Tini" McLernon, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Constantine Sakles, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Harris "Bobby" Souris, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Nick and Despina Nopulos, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Christopher & Loretta Souris, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Molli & Michael McLernon, by Pam Nopulos and Family
- Constantine & Catherine Kutson, Moskos & Anastasia Tsakiris and Dr. Savas Tsakiris, by Nick & Fifi Kutson
- Deceased members of the Barberis and Kokinakos Families, by Terry & Helen Barberis
- John & Lucia Plakitsis, by The Shelley Family
- Michael & Virginia Polites, by The Shelly Family
- Constantine & Catherine Kutson, by Constantine & Maria Letras
- Athanaseos & Stamatia Letras, by Constantine & Maria Letras



In Loving Memory of... (continued)

- Larry & Stephanie Vakoutis, by Constantine & Maria Letras
- William Popomaronis, by Constantine & Maria Letras
- Chresy Kostis, by Constantine & Maria Letras
- Nick & Desi Nopulos (parents) and James P. Nopulos (brother), by Claudia McBrien Vasilios & Dorothy Demetrakis, by Dean Demetrakis
- Louis & Rose Sitaras, by Dean Demetrakis
- Lori Prevas Papaeracleous, by Loretta Prevas Siotka
- William Koras, by Jeanne Koras and Family
- Family Members, by Diane Conomos Homberg
- Luke and Tessea Carman, by Chrysoula Ponticas
- Deborah Paterakis, by Sandra Hondroulis
- Nick & Fifi Efstatios, by Chris, Helen, Yianni & Niko Panagiotopoulos
- Joseph Majchrzak, by Tsamoutalis Family
- Bill Lazarides, by Kathe Apesos Lazarides
- Sideris, Argetta, Stephen, Marlene, Christopher & Thomas Apesos, by Kathe Apesos Lazarides, Sam & Emily Poulos
- Constantine & Alexandria Maistros and George C. Maistros by Harry, Christopher & Lucy Maistros
- Dionysios & Elizabeth Serras, by Alexandratos Family
- Apostolos & Konstantina Alexandratos, by Alexandratos Family
- Litsa Pakas and Pete Pakas, by Evie Williams, Bob Levis and Family
- Stefanos & Roula Fantopoulos, by Albert & Kathy Laun
- Eleanor & Joseph Laun, by Albert & Kathy Laun
- Ed & Chris Jackovitz, by Mark & Christie Williams
- James, Litsa and Kit Sfekas, by Stephen & Elizabeth Sfekas
- Stelios Stamatakis, by Eve Stamatakis
- Lambros & Eleni Stamatakis and Loizos & Chrysi Maratheftis, by Eve Stamatakis
- Benedict Glyphis, by Sophia Glyphis
- Emmanuel & Irene Glyphis, by Sophia Glyphis
- George & Mary Dematatis, by Sophia Glyphis
- Mrs. Helen Sfondilis, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Karvounis, Mr. Harry Karvounis, by John Sfondilis
- George & Irene Frangas, by Ed & Stacy Cole
- James & Marie Condax and Costa & Kalliopy Demos, by The Condax Family
- George & Helen Bowers, by The Condax Family
- Despina Coutros, by Peter Coutros
- Deceased Family and Friends, by Efrosene Kalezis
- Joanne and Austin Deitz, by Aritee (Tee) and William Bond
- William & Thelma Bond, by Aritee (Tee) and William Bond
- James & Catherine Demos, by Emmanuel & Bessie Demos
- Nicholas T. Matthews, by Ann S. Matthews and Family
- Mrs. Deborah Paterakis, by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. & Mrs. George Tzomides, by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Hondroulis, , by Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel D. Hondroulis
- Deceased Family Members, by Titsa & Manny Bronstein
- Linda Skandalis, by George Skandalis and Family
- Agnes & Andrew Potous, Anthony & Alexandra Potus, John & Genevieve Zavage and Elizabeth Quintana, by Gerald & Andrea Zavage
- Iraclis Maheridis, by Nicholas & Kaliope DelPizzo



In Loving Memory of... (continued)

- Eva & Theodore Andriotis, by Maria & Aristides Cederakis
- Oreanthe & Isidoras Cerderakis, by Maria & Aristides Cederakis
- Deonecia (Denise) Klicos, by Andreas & Koula Savvakis
- Nicholas & Hrysoula (Julie) Klicos, by Andreas & Koula Savvakis
- Zannis & Tereza Stamatakis, Georgios Roros & Stelios Stamatakis, by Isidoros & Eleni Roros and Family
- Dimitrios Cossis, Gust and Vickie Bellios, by Maria Bellios and Constantine Bellios
- Dimitrios Cossis, Illias & Panayiota Cossis, Efstratios Tselekas, by Metaxia Cossis
- Dimitrios Cossis, by the Cossis Family
- Louis Kousouris and Peter Kousouris, by Steven & Mary Lou Kousouris
- Zoe and George Piendak, by Arthur and Susan Daidakis
- Apostolos and Domna Daidakis, by Arthur and Susan Daidakis
- Ralph & Bernadette Hodgson, by Arthur & Susan Daidakis
- Our son, Gregory by Basil & Linda Pappas
- Our parents, by Basil & Linda Pappas
- Dr. Peter Sitaras, by Marina & Jim Lillie
- Charles & Stella Pavlos, by Marina & Jim Lillie
- John Stamos, by Nick, Effie, Costa & John Theodore
- Nikolaos & Panagiota Maroutsos, by Nick, Effie, Costa & John Theodore
- Spiros & Efthemia Stamatelos, by Nick, Effie, Costa & John Theodore
- Nicholas & Christina Theodore, by Nick, Effie, Costa & John Theodore
- Stamatis and Angeliki Stamatopoulos, by Nick, Effie, Costa & John Theodore
- Pete Margaritis, Catherine & Leroy Geyer, by Don & Lois Geyer
- Ekaterina & Spyros Morekas, and Georgia & George Karangelen, by Georgeann Morekas
- James Karangelen, by Georgeann Morekas
- Anastasia Canelos, by Georgeann Morekas Nicholas Slifer, by Georgeann Morekas
- Efrosyni Papadopoulos Ziesat, by Tony Ziesat
- Michael N. Mallis, by Emanuel & Jeanne Caminis
- Larry & Stephanie Vakoutis, by Emanuel & Jeanne Caminis
- Joanne Dezes Scagliotti, by Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Gina Dezes
- Haralambos & Sophia Stavrakas, by Georgette & Spyros Stavrakas
- Alex & Athena Diacumakas, by Georgette & Spyros Stavrakas
- Virginia Constantine, by Honey & Michael Constantine
- Gus Constantine, by Honey & Michael Constantine
- Ann Graff, by Honey & Michael Constantine
- Our parents Maria & Kyrilos Kyriacou and Andreana & Stylianos Agathoklis, by Paul & Kerry Agathoklis
- Evan & Ceres Alevizatos Chriss, by Andrew & Connie Chriss
- Danny & Demetra Hajimihalis, by Alec & Voula Hajimihalis
- Argiris & Artemis Halkias and John Alexiades, by John & Irene Halkias
- Athanasios Kostoulis, by Toni, Tula and Dina
- Athanasios Kostoulis, by Bruce and Sia
- Anthony & Tasia Cavas, by Nick & Elena Conits and Family
- Maria Panos, by The Link Family
- Fannie Angelos, by The Apostolo Family
- William and Theodora Apostolo, by The Apostolo Family
- Virginia & Michael Calivas, by Kay Calivas and Family



In Loving Memory of... (continued)

- Steve Zavakos, by Ollga Zavakos
- Peter J. Stratos, John. Stratos, Diana Stratos, by Ollga Zavakos
- George P. Stratos, Stavroula Stratos, Paul Stratos, Olga Stratos, by Ollga Zavakos
- Peter P. Handakas, Bessie Handakas, Eva K. Wynn and departed loved ones of the Kerasiotes & Sollon Families, by Ollga Zavakos
- Athanasia Loukas, by Gus Loukas
- Zoe, Nicholas, Kalliopi & John Paros, by George and Kelly Lintzeris
- Stella and Demetrio Lintzeris, by George and Kelly Lintzeris
- Steve Kinigopulos, by Mary, George, Stevie, Genavieve and Ariana
- Dimetra Kinigopulos, by Mary, George, Stevie, Genavieve and Ariana
- Nick & Helen Plakotaris, by Dr. & Mrs. Christopher deBorja and Family
- Dr. Pedro deBorja, by Dr. & Mrs. Christopher deBorja and Family
- Our parents, by Melissa & Ron Hogle
- Eugenia and Peter Kariotis, by Erene Kariotis
- Panagiotis & Elizabeth Fiackos, by Demetrios & Eva Campanides
- Constantinos and Phillip Fiackos, by Demetrios & Eva Campanides
- Christos Fiackos and Chrissy Maratheftou, by Demetrios & Eva Campanides Stellios Stamatakis, by Demetrios & Eva Campanides



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

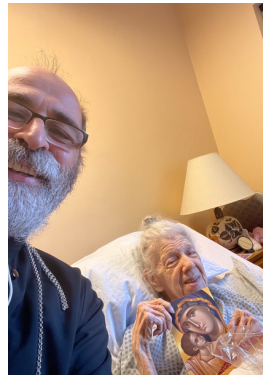
Applications are due January 31 2024 at 11:59 PM CST

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

HONORING OUR VETERANS - NOVEMBER 11, 2023



FATHERS' VISITS WITH OUR PARISHONERS



STEWARDSHIP 2024

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 in 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, Ernie Rafailides (Parish Council President) & Tom Boardman (Stewardship Chairman)

Become a 2024 steward:

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.



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



As of 1/5/2024

2023 Pledged and Non-Pledged	2023 Goal	Remaining	% of Goal
\$778,103.12	\$815,000.00	\$36,896.88	95.47%

2024 Pledged	2024 Non-Pledged (no Pledge Form)	Total	2024 Goal	Remaining	% of Goal
\$23,483.33	\$119,276.63	\$142,759.96	\$700,000	557,240.04	22.71%

STEWARDSHIP & DAY SPONSORS

thank you

2024

Thank you to the following parishioners
who have submitted their 2024
Stewardship Pledge form - online or
hardcopy - from 11/3/2023 to 1/11/2024

Agathoklis, Apostolos & Kerry
Aiello, J. Christopher & Stephanie
Amarantidis, Harry & Reina
Anagnostou, Connie
Antoniades, Eleni
Antoniades, John
Bellios, Toulia
Birkel, Alice
Bond, Bill & Aritee
Brown, Todd & Maria
Cocca, Megan
Condax, Michael & Fouty, Shannon
Constantine, Michael & Honey
Cossis, Elia D. & Kara R.
Cossis, Metaxia
Courpas, Corinna
Coutros, William G. & Mary C.
Dezes, Paul & Jennings, Gina
Dimitri, James & Darla
Donkar, Eli & Susan
Frangos, Constantine M.
Frankton, Georgia
Garefalakis, Dimitrios & Foteini
Geyer, Donald L. & Lois P.
Glazerman, Jonathan & Prevas-
Glazerman, Katherin
Hall, John
Heasley, Michael
Heisler, John & Penny
Hogle, Ronald & Melissa
Houzouris, George & Vera
Kariotis, Irene
Kimos, Evelyn Constantine
Klicos, Dina Mallis
Klopfenstein, Alex & er
Koras, Jeannette
Koronios, George P. & Krista

Kousouris, Steven & Mary Lou
Krome, Sophia Mastros
Kutson, Nicholas & Fifi
Likakis, George & Maja
Likakis, Steve
Lintzeris, George & Kelly
Lisowsky, Arthur & Evelyn
Maistros, Harry C.
Mallas, Konstantine & Georgeanne
Marvelis, Georgia
Marvelis, Gus
McMillion, Lily
Monios, Amalia
Monios, Mary
Morekas, Georgeann N.
Morris, Robert A. & Maria
Murphy, Michael G. & Pauline
Nichols, Peter & Fotini
Padousis, Katherine
Padussis, Gary & Donna
Pagonakis, Paskalis & Paula
Panagiotopoulos, Christos John & Helen
Panos, Craig J.
Pappas, Basil M. & Linda
Pappas, Zinon
Parameros, Michael
Paterakis-Lambros, Antoinette
Paterakis, Charles & Olga
Paterakis, John & Emily
Paterakis, Stephen & Victoria
Paterakis, William
Peros, Michael & Fotini
Peros, Vasilios
Philippou, George & Karen
Plakotoris, Fofy
Ponticas, Yula
Prevas, Stephen & Jean E.

Prevas, William & Susan
Prevezanos, William & Anastasia
Rafailides, Ernest & Rania
Roger, Glenn & Patricia
Roros, Dimitrios & Politimy
Roros, Isidoros & Eleni
Roulis, Theodora
Salisbury, Steve & Evanthe
Samios, William A. & Esther S.
Sfekas, Stephen & Elizabeth
Sfondiles, Angelo & Helen
Simmons, Melody
Siotka, Loretta Prevas
Sitaras, Diane P.
Skinner, Katarina & Louis
Smith, Frederick & Venice Paterakis
Smyrnioudis, Nicholas & Melissa
Sobus, Shirley
Sophocleus, Gregory J.
Sotirakos, Peter
Stamas, George P. & Georgia P.
Stamas, George S. & Tula
Svingos, Robert & Adrian
Tomczewski, Steven G. & Flora
Triantafilou, Constantine & Maja
Tsakalas, Sam & Ellen
Tsamoutalis, Steve & Theresa Elizabeth
Tunkel, David & Kontis, Theda
Van Velsen, Deanne
Vlahoyiannis, Alexios
Voultepsis, Alex & Roanthi
Voultepsis, Caroline
Wiles, Michael & Elizabeth
Williams, Mark F. & Christie A.
Ziesat, H. Anthony
Zissimos, Gus

2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Our Church Our Spiritual Home

How do I become a 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 whether online or through this form. 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.

What is our Stewardship Goal?

Our Stewardship Goal is to fund Parish ministries 100% through stewardship contributions. Though we may meet our Stewardship Goal, we may still host the festival and other events for reasons other than fundraising such as fellowship, proclaiming our faith, etc.

Do I need to fill out a pledge form?

YES! The only way to quantify both how many families we have in our church and how much revenue we can expect to raise through stewardship is by having each member fill out a stewardship commitment form or submit the ONLINE stewardship commitment form.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.

"As each has received a gift, use it to service one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)



You may submit your 2024 Stewardship pledge
by scanning the QR code or going online to:
<https://forms.gle/KmMH2LtfL1aA8zCx6>

(Hard Copies are available on the Welcome Table in the Church Lobby.)

BAPTISM OF BABY PHANOURIOS BULLOCK - DECEMBER 30, 2023





2024 HOUSE BLESSINGS

Happy New Year and a blessed Theophany.

Fr. Anastasios and Fr. John will be visiting and blessing your homes during the feast of the Holy Theophany.

House blessings will occur in zip code order. Please select a time for your blessing and have ready on a table or by your home icons: a bowl of water, a candle and an icon.

Fr. Anastasios or Fr. John will come to your home, chant a small service of the Agiasmos, and you will guide him throughout your home to bless with the Holy Water. All members of the home that are able should be present.

When filling out Signup Genius - please provide full address, telephone and any other particulars as he arrives at your home. Please sign up only in your designated zip code. If the dates provided are not suitable for your schedule or if your zip code is not listed, we will make every attempt to select a date that fits your home schedule. Please email the church office at office@annunciationbaltimore.org.

Happy New Year!

Please click on the House Blessing Signup link or Scan QR Code to access the signup:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AADAC29A2FDC52-46983874-2024#



- Jan 6, 9, 22 (Lutherville, Timonium, Cockeysville Area): 21030, 21093
- Jan 7, 10 & 29 (Baltimore City Area): 21201, 21202, 21217, 21218, 21231
- Jan 8 & Feb 5, 20 (Parkville, Roland Park, and Vicinity): 21206, 21209, 21210, 21211, 21212, 21213, 21214, 21234, 21239
- Jan 15 & Feb 29 (Sparks, Parkton and Vicinity): 21030, 21053, 21111, 21120, 21131, 21152, 21161
- Jan 12 & Feb 27 (Bel Air, Joppa, Aberdeen): 21005, 21009, 21014, 21015, 21050, 21078, 21085, 21154, 21160, 21904
- Jan 7, 17, 19 & Feb 14 (Towson Area): 21022, 21204, 21286
- Jan 6, 15, 31 & Feb 12 (Perry Hall, Kingsville, Fallston, and Vicinity): 21013, 21047, 21057, 21082, 21084, 21087, 21128, 21162, 21236
- Jan 11, 23 & Feb 28 (Columbia, Ellicott City, and Vicinity): 20723, 21029, 21042, 21043, 21044, 21045, 21046, 21075, 21228, 21738
- Jan 18 & 24 (Owings Mills, Reisterstown, and Vicinity): 21104, 21117, 21133, 21136, 21153, 21163, 21207, 21208, 21215, 21225, 21229, 21230, 21244
- Jan 26 & Feb 6 (Rosedale, Middle River, Highlandtown and Vicinity): 21220, 21221, 21222, 21224, 21237
- Jan 16 & Feb 13 (Frederick and Vicinity): 21701, 21704, 21771, 21784, 21797
- Feb 22 (Westminster and Vicinity): 21048, 21074, 21102, 21157, 21158
- Feb 1, 16 (Annapolis, Glen Burnie and Vicinity): 21012, 21032, 21037, 21054, 21060, 21061, 21076, 21090, 21108, 21113, 21114, 21122, 21401, 21403, 21409, 21035

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - DECEMBER 11, 2023



*Thank
You!*

On November 5th, all Sunday School Students from 4th grade to 12th grade received the Greek Orthodox Study Bible through our Annunciation Philoptochos and AHEPA Worthington Chapter #30's generous donation.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

BAPTISMS

- On December 30, 2023, **Phanourios**, son of Father John and Prevytera Irene Bullock was baptized in the Orthodox Church. His sponsor was Christina Bourantas and given the Baptismal Name – **PHANOURIOS**.

CHRISMATIONS

- On November 26, 2023, the servant of God, **Charles Laurence Jenkins**, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation. His sponsors were Peter and Stephanie Sourlis and given the Chrismation Name – **LAVRENTIOS**.

FUNERALS

- On November 10, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Margarita 'Rita' Diacumakos**, age 92.
- On December 4, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Constantine Lambros Viennas**, age 97.
- On December 23, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Helen Elizabeth Treantafellow**, age 97.
- On December 28, 2023 the funeral service was held for the servant of God, **Georgia Tragas**, age 93.

May their memory be eternal.



SAVE THE DATE:

The Annunciation Cathedral Concert Series presents

the Ann Street Trio featuring

Erik Franklin, Clarinet ~ Katlyn De Graw, Cello ~ Hui-Chuan Chen, Piano

Please join us on March 3, 2024 ~1:00PM at the AOC.

For more information about the artist check: www.annstreettrio.com.

RECRUITING ANNOUNCEMENT

- USE THE LINK TO APPLY

OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION

- The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, 24 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201, is seeking a personable, professional and attentive individual to fill the newly created position of Office Assistant. Responsibilities include reception, answering phones, monitoring email correspondence, and greeting guests. The applicant must have strong written and verbal communication skills, working knowledge of Microsoft Office and experience with electronic and manual filing systems. Familiarity with Orthodox Christian liturgical practices, parish life and Greek language is preferred but not required. The position is part time M-F, 8:30-2:30, 30 hours/week. Benefits include paid holidays and vacation. The ideal candidate must be friendly, respectful and welcoming. To apply, open the link, fill out the application and attach a resume ASAP. Please help us find the right person by asking around and providing the link to apply. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mBhpHnrdw_qXuRKReBZeK64ZxWYa16WeYdc5brsRqGY/edit For questions or additional information call or text Judy Georges at 443-301-5041.

NOW
HIRING

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- In an effort to support the office during the search to fill the office assistant position, we are looking for a few volunteers to assist beginning Jan 2, 2024. The ideal candidate would be available two or more days per week for 4-5 hours at a time during the transition. Experience working in an office, receiving phone calls, greeting guests, accepting deliveries as well as using a copier and other office equipment, is a plus. The opportunity to volunteer in the office will likely continue after the transition period. If interested, please fill out the attached form providing availability and preferences. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexwd-SNX6AtioZyT80DtWIO7wOJzBtdlIh8zYUo-1tlErhg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

“Growing In Faith” Women's Bible Study

The 2024 Session of the Women's Bible Study is starting with the Book of Ruth. Meetings will take place in the AOC from **10am to 11:30am** on the following days:

Saturday, January 20

Saturday, February 3

Saturday, February 24

Saturday, March 2

All are welcome. No prior Bible knowledge is required!

For questions, contact Janine Karbelas

womensbiblestudy@annunciationbaltimore.org



BOOK REVIEWS

by Presvytera Nicoletta Bourantas

Children:

God's Saintly Friends

by Kathryn Reetzke, illustrated by Abigail Holt

An introduction to Christian friendship with comforting illustrations to help your young children follow the examples of Orthodox saints. Provide your little ones the gentle encouragement they need to practice being friends just like the saints whose friendships helped to transform the world with God's



Adults:

The Lord of Spirits: An Orthodox Christian Framework for the Unseen World and Spiritual Warfare

by Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

The modern world does not acknowledge but is nevertheless haunted by spirits - angels, demons, and saints. In our time, many yearn to break free of the prison of a flat, secular materialism, to see and to know reality as it truly is. What is this spiritual reality like? How do we engage with it well? How do we permeate everyday life with spiritual presence? In *The Lord of Spirits: An Orthodox Christian Framework for the Unseen World and Spiritual Warfare*, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick provides a distillation and expansion of the material in the popular podcast *The Lord of Spirits*, which he co-hosts with Fr. Stephen De Young.



The Father Dean Moralis Bookstore of the Cathedral of the Annunciation

In keeping with the mission of the Bookstore 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.



**Stay Tuned for
Baking Dates!**

Interested in chairing a
venue, contact
Michael Sabracos at
Michael.Sabracos@volosports.com

The Festival Committee and Parish Council are happy to announce that beginning in 2024, our annual festival will be moving to Memorial Day Weekend. Please be on the lookout for more details. The dates for 2024: Thursday, May 23 to Sunday, May 26.

- **Silent Auction Support Needed** - The 2024 Greek Food *Wine* Culture Festival is scheduled for May 23-26, 2024. With less than 6 months to prepare this year, the Silent Auction Committee is asking for your help. Do you have new items to donate that you've never used (or barely)? We can use anything from kitchen, home, decorative, entertaining, jewelry, accessories or games. Items can be big and expensive, to stand alone, or small and inexpensive to be used in a basket (last year we assembled 130 baskets). If you have wine/alcohol, tickets, vacations or gift cards you can't use, they would also be put to good use. The Silent Auction produces \$18-\$20,000 in revenue for church operating expenses and is a great place for heirlooms, keepsakes, treasures and everyday items to be passed on to a top bidder who will cherish them. Please contact Judy Georges by phone, text 443-301-5041 or email judy-wood@comcast.net or place donations in the youth room on top of the display cases. Thanks so much for your generosity and support.

Save the Dates

Thursday 5/23: 5 PM - 9 PM

Friday 5/24: 11 AM - 9 PM

Saturday 5/25: 11 AM - 9 PM

Sunday 5/26: 12 PM - 9 PM

YOU'RE
INVITED

Oli Mazi gathering

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6TH
@11:30AM

LUNCH PROVIDED!

PLEASE RSVP BY 2/2/24 TO OLLGA ZAVAKOS AT
OJZAVAKOS@VERIZON.NET OR 443-791-0064

YES THE GOLDEN AGE GROUP HAS A NEW NAME
AND EXCITED TO START PLANNING EVENTS!
BRING YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS!

MEMBERSHIP \$30. ANNUALLY
ALL 50+ ARE WELCOME.

KEFI IS CONTAGIOUS!

YAL

THE YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE
OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MD

WORSHIP † FELLOWSHIP † SERVICE † WITNESS

**Annunciation Young Adult League seeks to connect Orthodox
Christians in Baltimore ages 18-35 through social, spiritual,
and service themed events.**

Fill out form @ <https://forms.gle/Td7sseHhJYp5PAxYA>, scan the
QR code or text YOUNGANNUN to 84576 to receive text/email
updates on future events. For more news & updates, follow us on
Instagram (@annunbmoreyal), join our Facebook group
(Annunciation YAL of Baltimore), or email Alexi Vlahoyiannis, YAL
President, yal@annunaiatonbaltimore.org.





CHURCH SUPPER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

4:00 – 7:00pm

Sauteed Greek Chicken OR Shrimp Athenian over Rice
Salad and French Bread

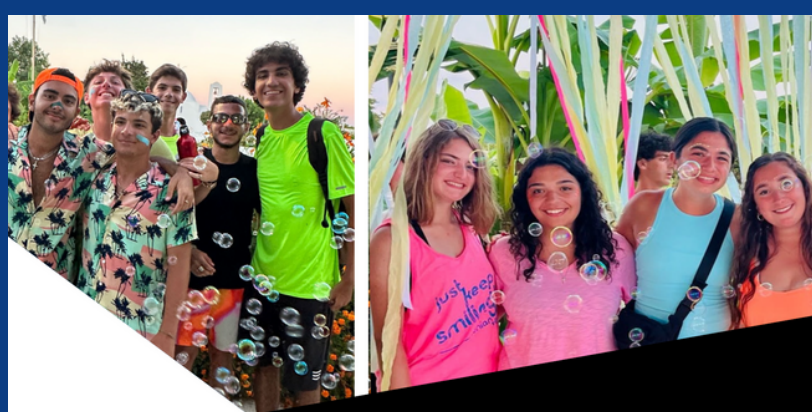
Coffee/Tea

Adults: \$15.00

Children: \$10.00

Desserts and Beverages will be available for Purchase

All Proceeds Benefit the Cathedral of the Annunciation



FALLS CHURCH, VA

Saint Katherine's

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10**

10:00 am - 6:30 pm

SIGN UP HERE:



SCAN ME



Leadership 100



GODPARENT SUNDAY

at the Cathedral

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4TH**



WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 3, 2023



PRE-ORDER FOR THE 19TH YEAR YOUR VALENTINE CHOCOLATES FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD!!!

Once again, the Ladies of the Annunciation Women's Guild are hand-dipping and gift-wrapping their special Chocolate Pretzels "Just for You" to share!! Place your orders before January 20 by Mail with the form attached on the Flyer in the Newsletter or Weekly Bulletin or before January 25 contact Pam Stevens at pamelastevens1225@gmail.com with Your Name/Order Details. The Pick-up dates in the Social Hall Lobby are February 4 and February 11. There are only a limited number of boxes available, so order early!!

WOMEN'S GUILD OF THE ANNUNCIATION

19th Annual Sale of

Hand Dipped Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Beautifully Boxed

Perfect for Valentine's Day or "Just For You"

\$10.00 per Box

Choice of Milk, Dark or Assorted Chocolates

For Orders Contact

Pam Stevens @ pamelastevens1225@gmail.com

Before Thursday, January 25, 2024

Or

Mail the Attached Form

Before January 20, 2024:

.....

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

Select Pick Up Date: February 4 _____ **February 11** _____

Number of Boxes: Dark # _____ **Milk #** _____ **Assorted #** _____

Please mail order and check to:

**Annunciation Women's Guild
c/o Pam Stevens
3 Faraday Drive
Baltimore, MD 21093**



**25 West Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201**

...in the heart of Baltimore's cultural district!

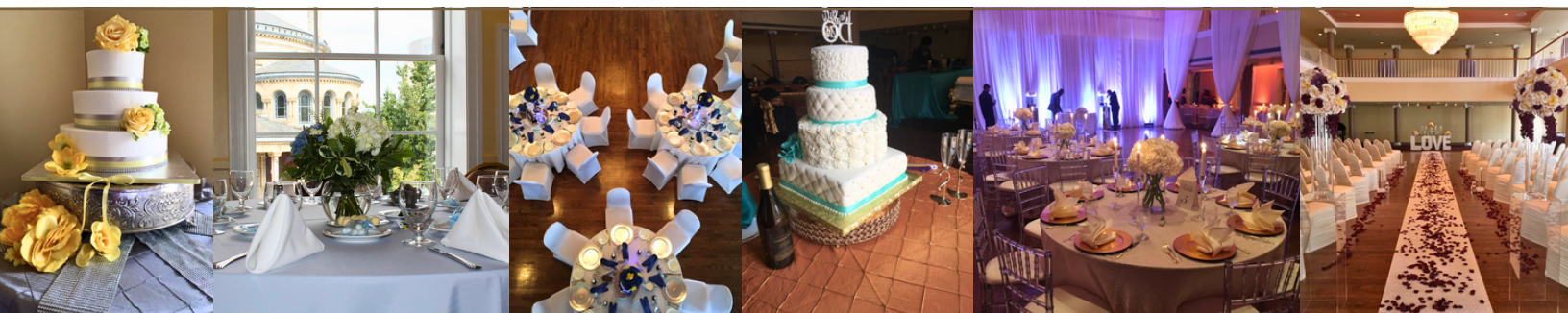
www.prestonhallvenue.com

**Did you know that our own
Preston Hall offers the perfect setting for:**

**Baptism Receptions
Rehearsal Dinners
Wedding Receptions
Birthday Parties
Anniversary Celebrations
Graduation Parties
Corporate Events/Meetings**

Directly across from the Cathedral, our newly renovated and decorated, Preston Hall is the right place for all occasions. With Discounted Parishioner Rental Fees & Complimentary Parking, our hall allows you to celebrate all your joy in a single place.

Hosting up to 300 guests



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

HELLENIC HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MARYLAND

As the Hellenic Heritage Museum of Maryland closed out 2023, we look back with pride at our accomplishments and forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2024. During the past year HHMM participated in numerous church festivals, hosted students from the Pathway School as well as the University of Baltimore and held learning activities for both Sunday School and Greek School students. Among other highlights: a well-received screening of the film “A Touch of Spice” and accompanying luncheon featuring the cuisine of Constantinople prepared by world-traveled chef Alex Pappas; cooking demonstrations of Greek favorites at the Food and Culture Festival at the Cathedral as well as the 32nd Street Farmers Market; and textile exhibitions representing Ancient Greece, Byzantium, and modern adaptations. We proudly marched in the Greek Independence Day parade in March and In October honored our parents’ and grandparents’ generation, who gave new meaning to the word, “Ochi!” Also in October we sponsored a sold-out bus trip to New York’s Ground Zero to attend Sunday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine followed by lunch at nearby Skiros Restaurant and a visit to the Ukrainian Museum. With the pandemic behind us, we have resumed our oral history project and once again our book club is meeting in person.



We thank the community for their continued support and eagerly look forward to inviting everyone to events and activities that honor our Hellenic heritage in 2024 and inspire future generations.

Thank You



HOPE/JOY ACTIVITIES



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, 1/12, 5:30pm - Greek School
- Friday, 1/12, 7:00pm - FDF Dance Practice (Evangelakia)
- Saturday, 1/13, - FDF Dance competition
- Sunday, 1/14 - FDF Dance Competition
- Sunday, 1/14, 10:45am - Sunday School
- Monday, 1/15, 7:00pm - Youth Committee Meeting
- Friday, 1/19, 5:30pm - Greek School
- Saturday, 1/20, 10:00am - Regional Religious Education Seminar
- Sunday, 1/21, 10:45am - Sunday School
- Sunday, 1/21, 11:30am - Hope/Joy Pizza and Museum Visit
- Monday, 1/22, 7pm - Youth Ministry Committee Meeting
- Friday, 1/26, 5:30pm - Greek School
- Sunday, 1/28, 10:45am - Sunday School
- Sunday, 1/28, 11:00am - Greek School Three Hierarchs Presentation by 6th Graders and Coffee Hour
- Friday, 2/2 5:30pm - Greek School
- Sunday, 2/4 4:00pm - Greek Letters Day
- Friday, 2/9 5:30pm - Greek School
- Sunday, 2/11 10:45am - Sunday School
- Friday, 2/16 5:30pm - Greek School
- 2/17 to 2/18 - GOYA Wilmington BBall Tournament
- Sunday, 2/18, 10:45am - Sunday School
- Friday, 2/23 5:30pm - Greek School
- Saturday, 2/24 - Hope/Joy Cookout
- Sunday, 2/25 10:45am - Sunday School



Join the Annunciation Dance groups.

Practices are planned for Sundays after Divine Liturgy.

Contact Peggy DiBiasi at dance@annunciationbaltimore.org



GREEK SCHOOL DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



GOYA CHRISTMAS CAROLING



GOYA
would like to thank
everyone that
supported their
Vasilopita
Fundraiser
this year!

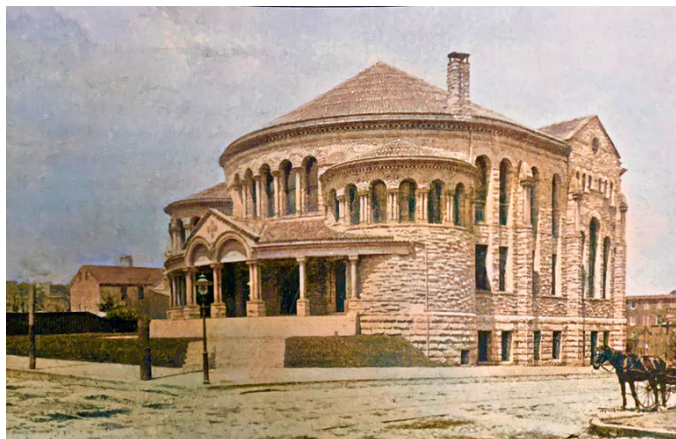
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - DECEMBER 16, 2023



THE HOLY NIGHT PAGEANT - DECEMBER 17, 2023



Historical Remembrances – The Protestants on Preston Street



The building which houses the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation marks 135 years of existence in 2024. Little has been known about the life of the first group of Christians who occupied this sacred space before the Greek Orthodox community purchased the building in 1937. Research through The Baltimore Sun Archives has now shed some light on that first Protestant congregation. Here's a segment of their story that began 135 years ago.

May 20, 1889...Plans to construct a Romanesque style church at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Preston Street were approved by the congregation of the Associate Reformed Church. The architect is Charles E. Cassell, and the cost was noted at \$75,000. An additional \$25,000 would be spent to build a rectory adjacent to the sanctuary. The entire project would take one and a half years to complete.

October 6, 1890...The Baltimore Sun noted that the first worship services at the new Preston Street church were held with The Reverend Wayland D. Ball officiating. Three years later, on May 29, 1893, the newspaper sadly announced the death of this “successful young pastor” who succumbed to illness at the age of 35. A detailed and poignant account of his funeral services a few days later clearly showed the affection the Protestants felt for their beloved pastor.

April 12, 1894...The Baltimore Sun reported that a “memorial window to the late Rev. Wayland Ball will be erected in the Associate Reformed Church and will occupy the large circular window in the main auditorium [sanctuary], east of the pulpit and facing the congregation.” The Sermon on the Mount will be the subject of the window design to be executed by Tiffany & Co. of New York. Shaded opalescent glass will be used for the figures, with only the hands and faces painted in. This subject was a favorite of the late Reverend Ball and has not been used before in any church memorial window in Baltimore.

October 21, 1894...The formal dedication ceremony for the “Sermon on the Mount” window took place before an overflowing congregation as detailed in the newspaper account. The outstanding stained-glass window measures 12 feet in diameter and was graciously donated by the Ladies Guild of the Associate Reformed Church at a cost of \$1,500 [130 years ago]. By March 1900, the Associate Reformed Church merged with the First Congregational Church and then became known as the Associate Congregational Church. Three additional Tiffany Windows would be installed and dedicated by the spring of 1903. Note: Look for more details about these stained-glass windows in a future edition of the Newsletter.

The Associate Congregational Church worshipped here until April 1934, when the parish relocated to 1311 Bolton Street in Bolton Hill. Three years later, on April 23, 1937, the first Greek Orthodox worship services were conducted in this sacred space after a procession from the original Greek Orthodox church on Homewood Avenue. That historic day in 1937 marked the official transition of the Greek Orthodox community of Baltimore to its new home at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Preston Street.



- **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.



AXION CHARITY EVENTS

3rd
Annual



FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

TICKETS

\$35

In Advance

\$40

At Door

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

GAMES BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 6:30PM

**Saint Demetrios ~ Hermes Rafailides Center
2504 Cub Hill Road, Parkville, MD 21234**

- Admission includes 20 Bingo games as well as Lucky Loser Bingo
- Extra Cards, Early Bird Game, Special Games & Raffles available for Purchase
- Generous Game Prizes and Tons of Door Prizes
- Food, Soft Drinks, Beer and Wine will be sold ~ No Outside Food or Drink Permitted

**Kate Spade ~ Michael Kors ~ Tory Burch ~ Anna Beck ~ Coach ~ Ravens ~ Orioles ~
Julie Voss Jewelry ~ Stuff for Women ~ Stuff for Men ~ Stuff for the Home ~ Gift Cards ~ Much More!**

To RSVP, fill out the Ticket RSVP form located:

<https://forms.gle/Vnkgh2eG2x5VYzFq5>

or SCAN the Ticket QR code and follow the instructions.

Payment options will appear once your RSVP is submitted.

Checks and Credit Cards are accepted.



Tables can be reserved in groups of 10 only.

Children (under 18) must have their own ticket, play their own card, and be accompanied by a paying adult. As a reminder, Bingo is a game of chance and children's attendance is at your discretion.

For Information and Tickets: axioncharityevents@gmail.com

Olga Paterakis - 410.491.4066 or Dimi Mexis - 410.598.6849

Axion Charity Events, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit foundation that engages with the Greek community in fundraising projects to enhance and support the Greek Orthodox churches of the Baltimore Metropolitan area. We serve the community by providing fellowship and organizing cultural events that benefit the various ministries of the churches.

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.



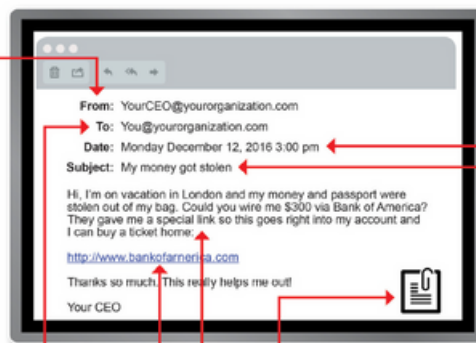
TO

- 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.bankofarnerica.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?