

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
OF THE ANNUNCIATION



BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Sunday, January 28, 2024

15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE



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SAINT OF THE DAY

St. Ephraim the Syrian



St. Ephraim was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia around the year 306, and in his youth was the disciple of St. James, Bishop of Nisibis, one of the 318 Fathers at the First Ecumenical Council. Ephraim lived in Nisibis, practicing a severe ascetical life and increasing in holiness, until 363, the year in which Julian the Apostate was slain in his war against the Persians, and his successor Jovian surrendered Nisibis to them. Ephraim then made his dwelling in Edessa, where he battled many heresies. The gnostic, Bardaisan, had written many hymns propagating his errors, which by their sweet melodies became popular and enticed souls away from the truth. St. Ephraim, having received a singular gift of eloquence from God, turned Bardaisan's own weapon against him, and wrote a multitude of hymns to be chanted by choirs of women, which set forth the true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the contests of the Martyrs. Of the multitude of sermons, commentaries, and hymns that St. Ephraim wrote, many were translated into Greek in his own lifetime. Sozomen says that Ephraim "Surpassed the most approved writers of Greece," observing that the Greek writings, when translated into

other tongues, lose most of their original beauty, but Ephraim's works "are no less admired when read in Greek than when read in Syriac". St. Ephraim was ordained deacon, some say by St. Basil the Great, whom Sozomen said "was a great admirer of Ephraim, and was astonished at his erudition." St. Ephraim was the first to make the poetic expression of hymnody and song a vehicle of Orthodox theological teachings, constituting it an integral part of the Church's worship; he may rightly be called the first and greatest hymnographer of the Church, who set the pattern for these who followed him, especially St. Romanos the Melodist. Because of this he is called the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Jerome says that his writings were read in some churches after the reading of the Scriptures, and adds that once he read a Greek translation of one of Ephraim's works, "and recognized, even in translation, the incisive power of his lofty genius". St. Ephraim reposed in peace, in the year 373 according to some, or 379 according to others.

TODAY

Memorial Service - May Her Memory Be Eternal

Georgia Tragas - 40 day

- **We thank our 2024 Stewardship Day Sponsors**, Donald and Lois Geyer for sponsoring January 29th, in honor of their grandson's birthday and Jeanne Tsakalos for sponsoring February 1st, in honor of Archbishop Demetrios' 96th birthday.
- Our **Greek School** will give a short presentation after Liturgy in honor of their patron saints: The Three Hierarchs which is celebrated on January 30th.
- **Please join us for Coffee Hour**, hosted by the Greek School PTO in the Father Constantine Monios Social Hall following Divine Liturgy.
- **Godparent Sunday Date Change** - On **March 10th**, we will welcome **His Grace, Bishop Constantine of Sassima** to celebrate Orthros, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Godparent Sunday. Please update your calendar.
- **Stewardship**: if you have **recurring Stewardship** payments set up online, please remember to switch your payment to "2024 Stewardship" as of January 1, 2024. "2023 Stewardship" is not an online option.
 - If you have not fulfilled your 2023 Stewardship Pledge, please do so now and help us to complete our 2023 Stewardship program.
- **If you have filled out a 2024 Stewardship Pledge** and requested offering envelopes, the offering envelopes are available in the office with your name and unique ID#. Please discard all unused 2022 & 2023 envelopes.
- **If you are visiting the Cathedral**, please introduce yourself to Fr. Anastasios Bourantas at the end of the Liturgy.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

See all events at:

annunciationbaltimore.org/calendar

LITURGICAL

- **Tues, 1/30**
 - 8:30am - Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs
- **Thur, 2/1**
 - 6:00pm - Vespers for the Presentation of the Lord into the Temple
- **Fri, 2/2**
 - 8:30 - Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of the Lord into the Temple
- **Sat, 2/3**
 - 5:00pm - Vespers
- **Sun, 2/4**
(15th Sunday of Matthew)
 - 8:00am - Orthros
 - 9:30am - Divine Liturgy

COMMUNITY

- **Wed, 1/31**
 - 7:00pm - AHEPA Worthington Chapter Meeting
- **Thurs, 2/1**
 - 10:00am - HHMM work
- **Fri, 2/2**
 - 5:30pm - Greek School
 - 7:00pm - FDF Dance Festival Wrap Up Party
- **Sun, 2/4**
 - 11:30am - Women's Guild Pretzel Sale
 - 12:00pm - Dance Practice
 - 4:00pm - Greek Letters Day (at St. Nicholas)
 - 5:00pm - AA and Al-Anon Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

2/6 - OLI MAZI GATHERING
2/17 - CHURCH SUPPER
3/3 - CONCERT SERIES
3/10 - GODPARENT SUNDAY
3/10 - WOMEN'S GUILD WINTER MEETING
3/16 - 28TH ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT
3/18 - GREAT LENT BEGINS
3/25 - FEAST DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

COMMUNITY

- **Sunday, March 10th is the Annual Pancake Breakfast**, sponsored by the Worthington Chapter of AHEPA, in the Father Constantine Monios Hall after Godparent Sunday services. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship with your family and godchildren. A free will offering of \$10 per person is suggested and all proceeds will be donated to help Cathedral ministries.
- **28th Annual Nicholas Tsakalos Memorial Retreat** - On **Saturday March 16th**, we are excited to welcome our retreat leader, Rev. Fr. Panteleimon Papasopoulos from the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville, NY. Fr. Panteleimon served as Archbishop Demetrios' Archdeacon for 18 years. The theme of this year's retreat will be **"The Battle is the Lord's in this Modern Global World."** We will celebrate Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls at the Cathedral preceding the retreat. Orthros will begin at 8am. There will also be a discussion for the youth on **Friday March 15th** in the Fr. Monios Social Hall from 6-9pm. Registration is now open! Info: <https://annunciationbaltimore.org/lentenretreat>
- **Inclement Weather Policy** - In the event of inclement weather, and there is a need to cancel or adjust the liturgical schedule, office hours and ministries of the cathedral, notification will be sent via email, text and a message placed on the Cathedral website.
- **Oli Mazi Gathering** (formerly the "Golden Age Club") - **Tuesday, February 6th at 11:30am** in the AOC. Lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP by February 2nd** to Olga Zavakos at ojzavakos@verizon.net or call/text 443-791-0064. This meeting will also kick off our \$30.00 annual membership drive. Wear your Valentine Red or your Ravens Purple and come join the fun and fellowship!
- **The first Church Supper** of 2024 sponsored by the Parish Council will be held on **Sat, Feb 17th from 4 - 7 pm** in the Fr. Constantine Monios Social Hall. Join us for fellowship. Please see the flyer for details.
- **The Growing in Faith Women's Bible Study Group** will study the Book of Ruth. Meetings will take place in the AOC on **Feb. 17 from 11:00am-12:30pm, Feb. 24 and March 2 from 10:00am -11:30am**. Contact Jeanne Tsakalos at 410-252-6021 or Jeannetsakalos@hotmail.com for more information.
- **Greek School Registration** remains open for Adults. It is never too late to sign up for Greek School. Register at: <https://forms.gle/Jh1SkcoU4bGi4dJL6>.
- **Axion Charity Events** presents their 3rd Annual Bingo Fundraiser **Sat, Feb 24th** at St. Demetrios. Tickets are on Sale now \$35 In Advance/\$40 at the Door. To RSVP, fill out the Ticket RSVP form: <https://forms.gle/Vnkgh2eG2x5VYzFq5>. Proceeds to benefit the Baltimore area Greek Orthodox Churches.



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.

PHILOPTOCHOS

- **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. Renewal \$40. Membership forms are located on the church lobby Welcome Table.
- **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 to Fr. Anastasios Fr.Anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org or leave a message requesting a return call with the church office.

WOMEN'S GUILD

- **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! The **Pick-up dates in the Social Hall Lobby are February 4 and February 11.**

YOUNG ADULT

- **Annunciation Young Adult League (YAL) 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@annunaitonbaltimore.org.
- **OCF – Orthodox Christian Fellowship** is a campus ministry to help students connect with other Orthodox Christians, navigate their time through school, and stay connected to the Church. Contact Fr. John for more info.



GODPARENT SUNDAY

- **Godparent Sunday will be observed on the following dates in the following churches. Please mark your calendars accordingly:**

- 2/11 - Saints Mary, Magdalene & Markella Church
- 2/18 - Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- 2/25 - Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
- 3/10 - Cathedral of the Annunciation
- 3/17 - Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church

2024 HOUSE BLESSINGS

- **HOUSE BLESSINGS** - Fr. Anastasios and Fr. John will be visiting and blessing homes of the Cathedral families and bringing the Church into your home during the Theophany season. Instructions for how to sign up and what to have ready can be found at this link or scan the QR Code:

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



YOUTH

Please consider supporting our Youth Ministries by making a donation in the labeled wooden collection box.

BOOKSTORE

- The **Father Dean Bookstore and Logos Gift Shop** has received a full supply of incense and charcoal, as well as decorative censers to help you celebrate the Great Feasts of 2024. The Orthodox Study Bibles have been restocked as well as new pocket-size editions of the New Testament and Psalms, great for young Christians of all ages. We offer icons and books highlighting the inspiring stories of St Basil the Great, the Holy Glorious Prophet, John the Forerunner, and the Great Feast of Theophany. This month we feature icons and textbooks based on St. John the Cave-dweller, St. Anthony, St. Gregory the Theologian, Ephraim the Syrian, St. John Chrysostom, and more. The Bookstore is a great place for browsing and contemplating. You are invited to visit.

CULTURE

- The **Hellenic Heritage Museum of Maryland** eagerly initiated the first of its 20th year anniversary activities by hosting our Greek School students this past Friday, January 26th. In addition to visiting the museum, the young people learned firsthand the difference between Santa Claus and Agios Vasilis and how he influences our culture.

STEWARDSHIP

- **Stewardship Update:** To effectively manage our budget, the Parish Council relies on the commitments made through your pledge. Please be mindful to formalize a commitment by making a pledge and fulfilling it for 2024.
- **The Day Sponsor Steward Program** offers individuals a personal milestone that directly supports our parish and her ministries. You may choose a meaningful day throughout the year, whether it is a special occasion or a tribute to a loved one in memory or honor. Please consider the Day Sponsor Steward Program by becoming a **Day Sponsor Steward** (\$3500 annual pledge) or the new **Half-day Sponsor Steward** (\$1750 annual pledge).
- **2024 Stewardship commitment link:** <https://forms.gle/v3TXkYJkFWD63TW48>. Hard copies are also available on the "Welcome" table in the church lobby. Our financial security is dependent upon Stewardship. Please carefully consider your 2024 pledge.
- If you have **recurring Stewardship** payments set up online, please remember to switch your payment to "2024 Stewardship" as of January 1, 2024. "2023 Stewardship" will not be an online option after January 1st. Please send checks or cash to the Church Office for outstanding 2023 Stewardship amounts.
- Please call or email the Church Office at **410-727-1831** or office@annunciationbaltimore.org if you require Offering Envelopes for 2024. We will make them available upon request and have your name and unique ID numbered envelopes ready for you to pick them up. Fill out a 2024 Pledge Form and check the box asking to receive envelopes. **Please discard any 2022 or 2023 envelopes you have remaining.**

- **Please note** that only baptized, Christmated Orthodox Christians in good standing may receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion (and Holy Unction when offered). If you have any questions, please reach out to Fr. Anastasios.

PASTORAL

- **In order to protect our icons and liturgical items**, please blot any lip products before venerating icons or coming up for Holy Communion.
- **If you know of a parishioner who lives in an assisted-living home or is physically unable to attend services**, please contact the Church Office to schedule a visit from Fr. Anastasios or Fr. John.

GIVING

- **Online Donations** can be made through our website. Click the DONATE button in the upper right corner. We are grateful for your continued stewardship!
- **For candles and tray donations**, you can also donate by text message, just text the dollar amount to (833) 934-2637 and follow the prompts.
 - Note: TextToTray can only be used for candles and tray donations.
 - We are also grateful for donations made by check.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

- **Cathedral Updates** – To receive Bulletins and other updates via email, visit <https://annunciationbaltimore.flocknote.com> and enter your contact information.
- **Text Alerts** - To receive ministries updates via text, text the ministry keyword below to phone number 84576:
 - **Hope/Joy** → **HopeJoy**
 - **GOYA** → **GOYA**
 - **YAL** → **YOUNGANNUN**
 - **Men's Fellowship** → **MensFellowship**

Scheduling - To all ministry, organization and committee leaders and members: 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.



TODAY'S ENTRANCE HYMNS & READINGS

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, * and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. * You rose on the third day, O Lord * and Savior, granting life unto the world. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; * glory to Your eternal rule; * glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Apolytikion for Devout Man

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ephrem, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

Ταῖς τῶν δακρύων σου ῥοαῖς, τῆς ἐρήμου τὸ ἄγονον ἐγεώργησας, καὶ τοῖς ἐκ βάθους στεναγμοῖς, εἰς ἑκάτον τοὺς πόνους ἐκαρποφόρησας, καὶ γέγονας φωστήρ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, λάμπων τοῖς θαύμασιν, Ἐφραίμ πατὴρ ἡμῶν ὅσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Apolytikion for the Deceased

Remember Your servants, O Lord, since You are good, and forgive them for all their sins in life; for no one is without sin except for You who are able to give rest to those who have passed away.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ εἰ τίς ἐν βίῳ, ἤμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰμὶ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστάσι, δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Apolytikion of the Parish

Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you."

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Kontakion

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Ἄλλ' εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλάνθρωπος.

EPISTLE 1 TIMOTHY (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος· εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ Θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶ Σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοι διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερά ᾖ ἐν πάνσιν.

GOSPEL (LUKE 19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν Ἱεριχά· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστὶ, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμὼν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι δι' ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατέβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μέναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· Ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν· ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

If you would like to have information included in the Sunday Bulletin, please send your text and/or flyer to assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org by Wednesday at Noon.

For the March/April Newsletter, send to newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org by February 15th.



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!

**IF THE DATES BELOW DO NOT WORK FOR
YOU, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO
WORK OUT A DATE & TIME.**

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, 31 (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 & 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

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 Cathedral Lobby Welcome Table.

YOU'RE
INVITED

*Oli Mazi
gathering*

FORMERLY THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH
@11:30AM AT THE AOC

LUNCH PROVIDED!

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

WE WILL BE KICKING OFF OUR \$30 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
AND EXCITED TO START PLANNING EVENTS!

WEAR YOUR VALENTINE RED OR RAVENS PURPLE!

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

KEFI IS CONTAGIOUS!



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



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.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHAI (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!



Camp Good Shepherd

Experience the Best Week of Your Summer!



CGS: MARYLAND

June 16-22, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Wo-Me-To

1200 Knopp Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Registration Fee: \$600 (Early Bird Discount until May 1, then \$675)



CGS: NEW JERSEY

June 23-29, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Linwood MacDonald

1 Flatbrook Rd, Sandyston, NJ 07826

Registration Fee: \$625



CGS: VIRGINIA (2 SESSIONS)

Week 1: July 7-13 (Completed 5th Grade - 8th Grade)

Week 2: July 14-20 (Completed 9th Grade - 12th Grade)

Camp Piankatank

1586 Stampers Bay Rd Box 435, Hartfield, VA 23071

Registration Fee: \$500

REGISTER TODAY!



[HTTP://APP.CAMPDOC.COM/REGISTER/CGSN](http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn)

MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOARCH.ORG/CAMP-GOOD-SHEPHERD](https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)

