### THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION



BALTIMORE, MD 21201



Sunday, January 7, 2024 SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

### **Rev. Fr. Anastasios P. Bourantas**

Protopresbyter Presiding Priest fr.anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org

**Rev. Fr. John Bullock** 

Presbyter

fr.john@annunciationbaltimore.org

**Cathedral Office** 

410-727-1831 assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

### SAINT OF THE DAY Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner



In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In Church hymnology, St. John is called a "bright

morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome.

### TODAY

- **Thank you to our GOYAns** for helping the Parish Council with Sunday duties during Liturgy.
- A second tray will be passed by the Philoptochos for the needs of St. Basil's Academy, on this the occasion of the 2024 Vasilopita cutting.
- The 2024 Parish Council will receive the Affirmation of Office today following the Divine Liturgy. We thank them for the dedication to serving our community.
- The Vasilopita for the January 7 celebration honoring St. Basil of **Caesarea** is donated by Joanna and John Zoulis for the glory of God. The cross that will be gifted to the individual who receives the coin is donated by Fifi and Nick Kutson.
- Please join the Philoptochos in the Father Constantine Monios Social Hall for the Annual Vasilopita Celebration Coffee Hour.
- 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.

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

### WEEKLY CALENDAR See all events at: annunciationbaltimore.org/ calendar

### LITURGICAL

- Thur, 1/11
  - 8:30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch
- Sun, 1/14
  - (12th Sunday of Luke)
  - 8:00am Orthros
  - 9:30am Divine Liturgy

### **COMMUNITY**

### Mon, 1/08

- 7:00pm Technology **Committee Meeting**
- Tues, 1/09 • 10:00am - HHMM Work
- Wed, 1/10
  - 7:00pm Choir Practice
- Thur, 1/11
  - 11:30am Golden Age Club Gathering
- Fri, 1/12
  - 5:30pm Greek School
  - 7:00pm Evangelakia Dance Practice
- Sat, 1/13
  - FDF Dance Festival (at Sts. Constantine and Helen -Annapolis)
- Sun, 1/14
  - FDF Dance Festival (at Sts. Constantine and Helen -Annapolis)
  - 12:00pm HHMM Meeting
  - 5:00pm AA and Al-Anon Meeting



1/13 & 14 - FDF DANCE COMPETITION 2/4 - GODPARENT SUNDAY 2/17 - CHURCH SUPPER

### **RECRUITING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION - USE THE LINK TO APPLY

• 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\_qXuRKReBZeK6 4ZxWYa16WeYdc5brsRqGY/edit. For questions or additional information call or text Judy Georges at 443-301-5041.



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 judywood@comcast.net or place donations in the youth room on top of the display cases. Thanks so much for your generosity and support.

### 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 @

<u>https://forms.gle/Td7sseHhJYp5PAxYA</u>, 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, <u>yal@annunciaitonbaltimore.org</u>.

• **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.



### **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. <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexwd-SNX6AtioZyT80DtWIO7wOJzBtddllh8zYUo-1tlErhg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&ftr=0</a>

### PHILOPTOCHOS

- **The Philoptochos has resources available** to those who require social services assistance. All requests are confidential and can be submitted to <u>philoptochos@annuncationbaltimore.org</u> or to Fr. Anastasios <u>Fr.Anastasios@annunciationbaltimore.org</u> or leave a message requesting a return call with the church office.
- WOMEN'S GUILD • 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** <u>February 4 and February</u> <u>11</u>. There are only a limited number of boxes being made, so order early!

### **YOUTH**

- Please join **HOPE/JOY** for a visit to The Walters Art Museum on <u>Sunday, January</u> <u>21st</u>. We will eat pizza in the AHEPA room right after church and then head to the museum. Parking can be reserved ahead of time through the Walters website. We plan to attend the drop-in art making and visit some of the exhibits. Please respond to the Evite or e-mail <u>hopejoy@annunciationbaltimore.org</u> if you plan to attend.
- Please consider supporting our Youth Ministries by making a donation in the labeled wooden collection box.

<u>All Event flyers</u> are available on the Welcome Table in the Cathedral Lobby. Stop by and pick one up!



### **COMMUNITY**

- **Paraklesis Service Update** Since the community has approved a direction for the vacant buildings, rather than offering Paraklesis every Wednesday, we will instead start offering Vespers on Saturday evenings, beginning Jan 20. We will still have Paraklesis service on the *first Wed of each month* for those that would like to attend with specific prayer requests.
- The first Church Supper of 2024 will be held on <u>Sat, Feb 17th</u> <u>from 4 - 7 pm</u> 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 be studying the Book of Ruth. Meetings will take place in the AOC from <u>10:00am - 11:30am starting on Sat, Jan 20, Feb 3, Feb 24, and</u> <u>March 2</u>. Contact Jeanne Tsakalos at 410-252-6021 or <u>Jeannetsakalos@hotmail.com</u> 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 <u>Sat, Feb 24th</u> at St. Demetrios. Tickets are on Sale now \$35 In Advance/\$40 at the Door. To RSVP, fill out the Ticket RSVP form: <u>https://forms.gle/Vnkgh2eG2x5VYzFq5</u>. Proceeds to benefit the Baltimore area Greek Orthodox Churches.

ΙP

STEWARDSH

### BOOKSTORE

Happy New Year! The **Father Dean Moralis Bookstore and Logos Gift Shop** will take you into 2024 with spiritual and educational resources to guide your walk in Faith. Our offerings are carefully selected for heartfelt enrichment for children and adults. To prepare for the Feast days of January and February, we have icons and literature to guide your study and meditation. For perfect gifts, consider a Bookstore Gift Card!

https://squareup.com/gift/MLF7HAY1H9CTY/order

### **CULTURE**

The **Hellenic Heritage Museum of Maryland** thanks everyone for their support as we continue to welcome visitors and suggests that a Museum Membership appear on your holiday gift list. Membership forms are available when you visit the museum most Sundays after church services, through the website <u>www.HELLENICHERITAGEMD.ORG</u>, or by appointment. Please contact Fotini Baltatzis <u>tinabaltatzis@gmail.com</u> / 410-823-0139 or Harry C. Maistros <u>harry.maistros@comcast.net</u> / 410-467-1836.

- **Stewardship Update:** To effectively manage our budget, the Parish Council relies on the commitments made through your pledge. We encourage all to satisfy their 2023 pledge by year end. Also, 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**: <u>https://forms.gle/v3TXkYJkFWD63TW48</u>. 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 <u>office@annunciationbaltimore.org</u> 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.

<u>GIVING</u>	DIGITAL COMMUNICATION
• <b>Online Donations</b> can be made through our website. Click	• <b>Cathedral Updates</b> – To receive Bulletins and other updates
the DONATE button in the upper right corner. We are	via email, visit <u>https://annunciationbaltimore.flocknote.com</u>
grateful for your continued stewardship!	and enter your contact information.
• For candles and tray donations, you can also donate by	• Text Alerts - To receive ministries updates via text, text the
text message, just text the dollar amount to (833) 934-2637	ministry keyword below to phone number 84576:
and follow the prompts.	<ul> <li>Hope/Joy → HopeJoy</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Note: TextToTray can only be used for candles and tray</li> </ul>	$\circ  \mathbf{GOYA} \to \mathbf{GOYA}$
donations.	• YAL $\rightarrow$ YOUNGANNUN
• We are also grateful for donations made by check.	<ul> <li>Men's Fellowship → MensFellowship</li> </ul>

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.

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

For the January/February Newsletter, send to <u>newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org</u> by February 15th.

### **TODAY'S ENTRANCE HYMNS & READINGS**

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You! Άγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ῗστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ᾴδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### **Apolytikion of the Feast**

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'rable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the ageold 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."

You appeared today to us on earth, O Master, and Your light was signed on us who cry aloud to You and say with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.

pore witness to προσκύνησις<sup>.</sup> τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, che form of a ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἰδει sod, who περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι. Apolytikion for the Forerunner

Έν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθῃ

Μνήμη Δικαίου μέτ' ἐγκωμίων, σοὶ δὲ ἀρκέσει ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Κυρίου Πρόδρομε· ἀνεδείχθης γὰρ ὄντως καὶ Προφητῶν σεβασμιώτερος, ὅτι καὶ ἐν ῥείθροις βαπτίσαι κατηξιώθης τὸν κηρυττόμενον. Ὅθεν τῆς ἀληθείας ὑπεραθλήσας, χαίρων εὐηγγελίσω καὶ τοῖς ἐν Ἅιδῃ, Θεὸν φανερωθέντα ἐν σαρκί, τὸν αἴροντα τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ παρέχοντα ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### **Apolytikion of the Parish**

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

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε. Ἡλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

### **EPISTLE (ACTS 19:1-8)**

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God. Έν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ τὸν Ἀπολλὼ εἶναι ἐν Κορίνθῳ Παῦλον διελθόντα τὰ ἀνωτερικὰ μέρη ἐλθεῖν εἰς " Εφεσον· καὶ εὑρὼν μαθητάς τινας εἶπε πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰ Πνεῦμα " Αγιον ἐλάβετε πιστεύσαντες; οἱ δὲ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰς τί οὖν ἐλαίβετε πιστεύσαντες; οἱ δὲ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰς τί οὖν ἐβαπτίσθητε; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· εἰς τὸ Ἰωάννου βάπτισμα. Εἶπε δὲ Παῦλος· Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισε βάπτισμα μετανοίας, τῷ λαῷ λέγων εἰς τὸν ἐρχόμενον μετ' αὐτὸν ἵνα πιστεύσωσι, τοῦτ' ἔστιν εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. Ἀκούσαντες δὲ ἐβαπτίσθησαν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ. Καὶ ἐπιθέντος αὐτοῖς τοῦ Παύλου τὰς χεῖρας ἦλθε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ " Αγιον ἐπ' αὐτούς, ἐλάλουν τε γλώσσαις καὶ προεφήτευον. Ἡσαν δὲ οἱ πάντες ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ δεκαδύο. Εἰσελθὼν δὲ εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν ἐπαἰρἡησιάζετο ἐπὶ μῆνας τρεῖς διαλεγόμενος, καὶ πείθων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ.

### **GOSPEL (JOHN 1:29-34)**

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, βλέπει ὁ Ἰωάννης τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει· Ἰδε ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. οὖτός ἐστι περὶ οὖ ἐγὼ εἶπον· ὀπίσω μου ἔρχεται ἀνὴρ ὃς ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τῷ Ἰσραήλ, διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι βαπτίζων. καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι τεθέαμαι τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον ὡς περιστερὰν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με βαπτίζειν ἐν ὕδατι, ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν· ἐφ' ὃν ἂν ἴδῃς τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον καὶ μένον ἐπ' αὐτόν, οὖτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ. κἀγὼ ἑώρακα καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὖτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ.



**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 <u>office@annunciationbaltimore.org</u>.

Happy New Year!

Please click on the House Blessing Signup link or Scan QR Code to access the signup: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AADAC29A2FDC52-46983874-2024#/</u>

- 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

### 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.

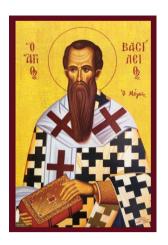
"As each has received a gift, use it to service one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)





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

Hard copies are available on the Cathedral Lobby Welcome Table.









His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

# Cordially Invites you to the ANNUAL METROPOLIS of NEW JERSEY VASILOPITA CELEBRATION

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:00 – 9:00pm

hosted by:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church 1101 River Road Piscataway, NJ 08854



# NEW YEAR

Let's celebrate the New Year together!

Thursday, January 11th 11:30am at the AOC

New Year New Name! Enjoy Felllowship, Lunch, Vasilopita!

RSVP to Pat Bartsocas at bartsocaspatchotmail.cogm or Rhoula Monios at rhoulaevie@yahoo.com

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	



# **CHURCH SUPPER**

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup> 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** 

# FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

TICKETS \$35 In Advance At Door

XION

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: <u>https://forms.gle/Vnkgh2eG2x5VYzFq5</u> 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.



3rd

Annual

Tables can be reserved in groups of IO 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 50Ic3 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.