

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
OF THE ANNUNCIATION

BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Sunday, March 17, 2024
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY



Rev. Fr. George Mastakas

Presiding Priest

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Rev. Fr. John Bullock

Presbyter

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Cathedral Office

410-727-1831 assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org

Saint and Feasts
Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind



what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

TODAY

Memorial Services

Nicholas Efstatis - 2 years

Iphigenia (Fifi) Efstatis - 5 years

May Their Memory Be Eternal

- **The Philoptochos is sponsoring the coffee hour reception** in the Father Constantine Monios Social Hall following the Divine Liturgy to welcome Father George and Presvytera Evelyn and their family to the Cathedral community.
- **The Sacramental Wine** is donated by Demetrios and Eva Campanides, Peter and Eleni Campanides, and John and Christine Skarvelis in honor of Eve Stamatakis, on the occasion of her birthday. May God continue to bless her with good health.
- **Our St. John Oratorical Festival speakers** will present their speeches today in church, following coffee hour. Please stay to support our youth as they present on topics related to our faith, our Church, and our world.
- **If you are visiting the Cathedral**, please introduce yourself to Fr. George at the end of the Liturgy.
- Please join us this evening in the Cathedral for the **Forgiveness Vespers at 5pm.**

SPRING PARISH ASSEMBLY

Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, March 31 following the Divine Liturgy. Agenda will include a Financial Update, Committee Reports, and Attendee Nominations for the Metropolis & National Clergy Laity Conferences. Parishioners must be in good standing both financially and sacramentally to vote at a Parish Assembly meeting.

FOOD PREPARATION

- Come one, Come ALL. Please join us in the Mentis Room at **11am** to prepare for Pascha and our annual Festival.
 - **March 29 & 30** – Dolmades;
 - **April 12 & 13** – Koulourakia;
 - **April 19 & April 20** – Kourambiedes.
- Contact Mike Baglanis, 410-627-1899 or Georgeann Morekas, 443-845-1176.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

See all events at:

[annunciationbaltimore.org/
calendar](http://annunciationbaltimore.org/calendar)

LITURGICAL

- **Mon, 3/18**
 - 6:00pm - Compline
- **Wed, 3/20**
 - 6:00pm - Presanctified Liturgy
- **Fri, 3/22**
 - 8:30am - Presanctified Liturgy
 - 6:30pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos
- **Sat, 3/23**
 - 8:30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva (Cemetery Chapel)
- **Sun, 3/24 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**
 - 8:00am - Orthros
 - 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
 - 7:00pm - Vespers for the Annunciation

COMMUNITY

- **Mon, 3/18 - Clean Monday**
 - Church Office Closed
- **Tues, 3/19**
 - 6:30pm - Parish Council General Meeting
- **Thurs, 3/21**
 - 10:00am - HHMM work
 - 6:00pm - GOYA Board Meeting & Basketball Practice
- **Fri, 3/22**
 - 5:30pm - Greek School
- **Sun, 3/24 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**
 - 5:00pm - AA and Al-Anon Meeting



Save the Dates
Thursday, May 23 to
Sunday, May 26.

LITURGICAL

- **Salutations Service** - If you are interested in intoning the ending prayers of the Salutations service ("Ασπλε, αμόλυντε) in either Greek or English, please contact Fr. George.
- **We are also looking for readers for Agape Vespers.** If you are interested and can read proficiently in a foreign language, please contact Fr. George.

PHILOPTOCHOS

- Every year for Pascha, the Philoptochos **remembers our students and our members of the military** who are away from home by sending **Paschal boxes** filled with homemade goodies. Please submit names and addresses of students/members of the military to connierogers2@hotmail.com so that we may send this gift from home to them. Deadline **Friday, April 5, 2024**.
- **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 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. George fr.george@annunciationbaltimore.org or leave a message requesting a return call with the church office.

YOUTH

- The **Regional St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** will take place on **April 6** at Saint Demetrios, and our Cathedral will be hosting the Metropolis Oratorical Festival on **May 11**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Anastasia Georgiou at religioused@annunciationbaltimore.org.
- **Camp Good Shepherd Summer Camp** – Our summer camp ministry is looking for staff volunteers for June 16-22! Must be 18 yrs or older and one year out of high school. Questions? campgoodshepcb@gmail.com. Apply at: <https://forms.gle/YGpEwTuMeZPwNnuz9>

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@annunaiatonbaltimore.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. Students typically meet every other Friday on the Hopkins campus. Contact Fr. John for more info.



3/18 - GREAT LENT BEGINS
3/23 - LITURGY FOR THE MIRACLE OF KOLIVA
W/ MEMORIAL SERVICE
3/24 - GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
3/24 - VESPERS FOR THE ANNUNCIATION
3/25 - FEAST DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

MUSIC

- **The choir is recruiting** new and old members to join us for the Lenten and Pascha season. We will rehearse on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm** in the choir room and on Sundays before Liturgy begins. Come and be a part of this wonderful, uplifting and rewarding ministry and join your voice with ours. For further information, please contact our choir director, Fotini Fifi Nichols, fnichols1@verizon.net.

COMMUNITY

- **Easter "Sunday Best" Children's Clothing Drive - Lenten Giving Project #1:** Sunday School is collecting new clothing for the children who visit the Franciscan Center. Let's help the Franciscan Center reach its goal of providing clothing for 200 children for Easter this year. Easter dresses, polo shirts, slacks, nice hats, etc., in sizes 2T-6T (toddlers), 4-6x (young kids) and 7-16 (older kids) are needed. **Place donations outside the church office in the boxes marked Easter "Sunday Best" Children's Clothing Drive by Thursday, March 21.** The Franciscan Center will distribute the donations at the Children's Easter Party on **March 27**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our "Children Helping Children" giving projects. Any questions, please contact Diane Boia at 410-227-6906.
- **Independence Day Parade** - On **March 25**, the Greeks and Philhellenes around the world will celebrate the 203rd anniversary of Greece declaring its independence from Ottoman rule. **The annual parade will be held, Sunday, March 24 at 2pm** in Baltimore's Greektown. Join us for the Parade, showcasing ethnic, cultural, religious and musical groups from Maryland and surrounding states. Visit, www.greekparade.com for information. All organizations and families are encouraged to walk and represent our community. Contact Paul Dezes at paul.dezes3@gmail.com.
- **Greek School Registration** remains open for Adults. It is never too late to sign up for Greek School. Register at: <https://forms.gle/Jh1SkcoU4bGi4dJL6>.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The **2024 Philoptochos Scholarship Applications** are available on line on the church website. Printed copies are also on the Welcome Table at church. The due date for submitting Philoptochos Scholarship Applications is **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**. The Scholarships will be presented in church on Philoptochos Scholarship Sunday, on **June 9**. For additional information contact Deanna Sakellaris at dsak702@verizon.net or 410-591-6601.
- The **AHEPA Lord Baltimore Chapter 364 Scholarship deadline is April 15, 2024!** Go to www.ahepa364.org for info, instructions, and application. Any questions contact chairperson, Col. John E Gavrillis, by text 443-474-4001.

BOOKSTORE

- **The Bookstore features “Lent Wonderful Lent!”** The Father Dean **Moralis Bookstore and Logos Gift Shop** is highlighting merchandise following the themes and Gospel readings of the Great Feasts. We offer the spirit filled book called **Lent Wonderful Lent**, written for children and young adults about the meaning of Great Lent as a time of repentance. This book also explains the meaning of each Sunday in Orthodox Lent that can enrich us all.
- **Other offerings** include: easy to read and easy to share pamphlets on “Forgiveness and Reconciliation” and “Confession and Prayer”; **The Lenten Spring** and **Meditations for Great Lent: Reflections on the Triodion** as reviewed by Presvytera Nicoletta; **Sets of icons** in three sizes and price points depicting the Great Feasts: Christ’s entry into Jerusalem, the Mystical Supper, Christ carrying His Cross, the Crucifixion and Resurrection; **Monastery incense candles** scented with the fragrances of Damascus Rose, Sweet Myrrh, and Virgin Mary’s Bouquet; **Ceramic censers with monastery incense and charcoal** to prepare your home with the scents of the season; and **Hand-painted wooden eggs** from Ukraine with ornate religious designs.
- **Special gift bundles** have been assembled for children, teens, and young adults to inspire and guide them through the season of Lent and Pasha. **Brave, Faithful and True: Children of the Bible** retells the stories of 12 children, 6 from the Old Testament and 6 from the New Testament, from the children’s point of view and brings their encounters with God to vivid life. Children of today will be inspired to think what the stories mean in their own lives and no matter what age they are, children can work with God to help bring about His plan. **Celebrate the Earth** and **You are an Orthodox Christian**.
- For perfect gifts, consider a Bookstore Gift Card!
<https://squareup.com/gift/MLF7HAY1H9CTY/order>

CULTURE

- **Sarakosti** is the Greek name for the 40 days of Lent before the feast of Pascha. Kyra, of course, in Greek means ‘lady’. It is natural that Sarakosti seems to go by so slowly for those who are fasting as they hurry to reach its end (Pascha). For this reason when there were no calendars people wanted to keep track of time during the Paschal Lenten period. So, they created a homemade calendar and named it Kyra Sarakosti. They drew up an image of a woman with no mouth as she is fasting (sustaining from dairy and meat products). Her hands are crossed in prayer. She has a cross on her head like a nun and has seven feet for the seven weeks of Great Lent including Holy Week. Every Saturday one of her feet is cut. The last foot to be cut on Holy Saturday welcomes the next day as Pascha. The **Hellenic Heritage Museum of Maryland** invites you to create a Kyra Sarakosti this year to help make the fasting period seem shorter and fun.

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.
- 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.

PASTORAL

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

Submit for the Sunday Bulletin by **Wednesdays at Noon** to assistant@annunciationbaltimore.org
Submit for the upcoming Newsletter by **April 15th** to newsletter@annunciationbaltimore.org.



TODAY'S ENTRANCE HYMNS & READINGS

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ Εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion for the Deceased

Remember Your servants, O Lord, as You are good, and pardon whatever sins they have committed in this life; for no one is sinless but You, who are able to give rest to those who have passed away.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ εἴ τι ἐν βίῳ, ἥμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰμὶ σὺ δὲ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι, 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 εὐαγγελίζειται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Kontakion

O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Τῆς σοφίας ὁδηγέ, φρονήσεως χορηγέ, τῶν ἀφρόνων παιδευτά, καὶ πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστά, στήριζον, συνέτισον τὴν καρδίαν μου Δέσποτα. Σὺ δίδου μοι λόγον, ὁ τοῦ Πατρὸς Λόγος· ἰδοὺ γὰρ τὰ χεῖλη μου, οὐ μὴ κωλύσω ἐν τῷ κράζειν σοι· Ἐλεῆμον, ἐλέησόν με τὸν παραπεσόντα.

EPISTLE (ROMANS 13:11-14; 14:1-4)

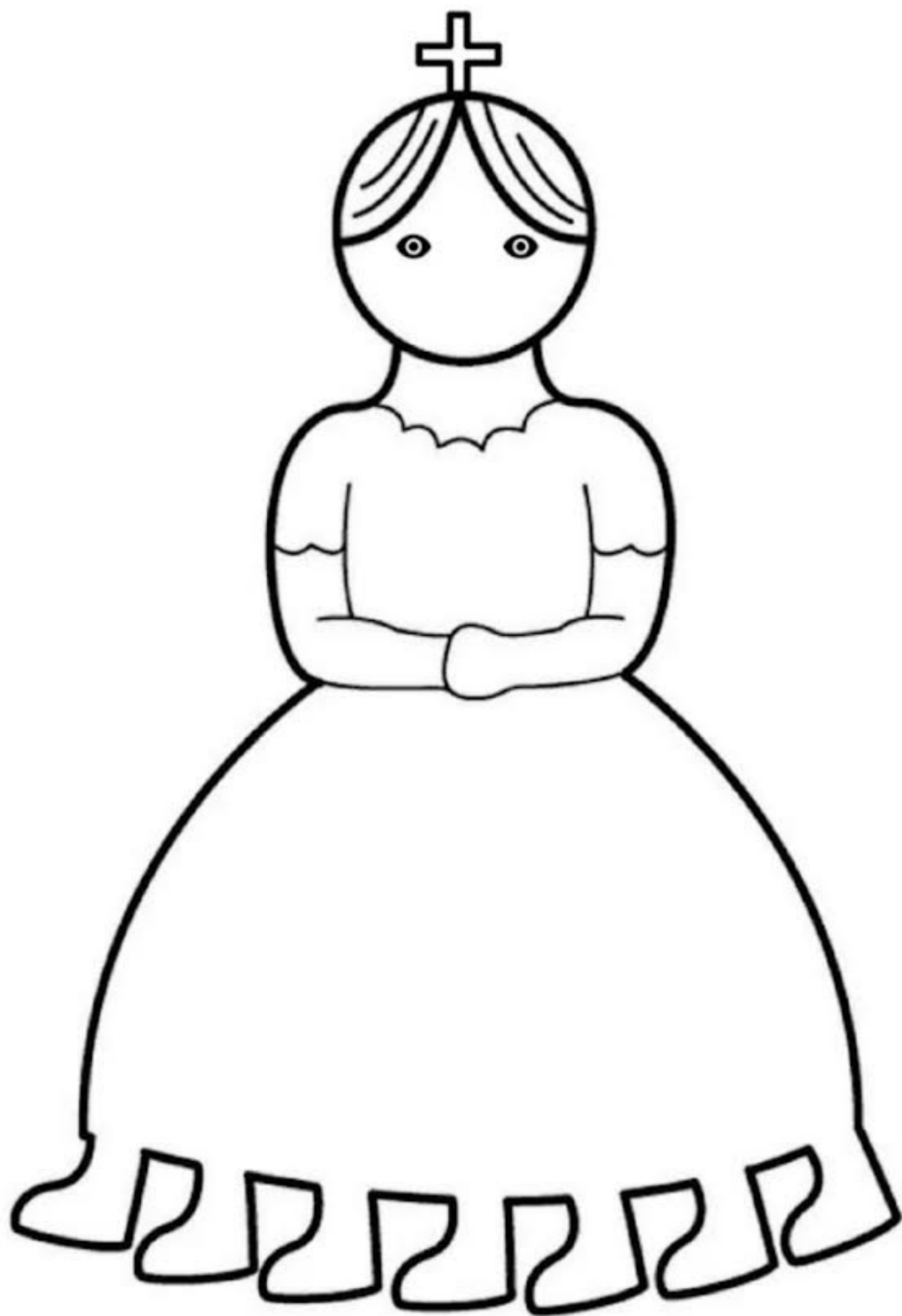
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν. Ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκοτοῦ καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὅπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ, ἀλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὃς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενείτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ Θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; τῷ ἰδίῳ Κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει, σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γάρ ἐστιν ὁ Θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 6:14-21)

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἐὰν γὰρ ἀφῆτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφῆτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὥσπερ οἱ ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποί· ἀφανίζουσι γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀπέχουσι τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν. σὺ δὲ νηστεύων ἁλειψαί σου τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῇς τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων, ἀλλὰ τῷ πατρί σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ, καὶ ὁ πατὴρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σὴς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπτει διορύσσουσι καὶ κλέπτουσι· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὔτε σὴς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπτει οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γάρ ἐστιν ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδία ὑμῶν.



Sunday School's 2024 Lenten Giving Project #1

Easter "Sunday Best" Children's Clothing Drive

What to Donate

New Easter dresses, polo shirts, slacks, nice hats, etc., in sizes 2 - 16.

Drop Off Instructions:

Place donations outside the church office in the boxes marked Easter "Sunday Best" Children's Clothing Drive.

Donation Deadline: Thursday, March 21

All donations are for the children who visit the Franciscan Center and will be distributed at the Children's Easter Party on March 27.





2:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
ON EASTERN AVE. IN BALTIMORE'S GREEKTOWN





GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

HONORING OUR ANCESTORS'
SACRIFICES TO PRESERVE THE IDEALS
OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

FOR INFORMATION

PARADE HOTLINE: 443-267-4735

www.greekparade.com

 /greekparade  @greekparade



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
POT LUCK LENTEN
LUNCH
HRISI
PAREA

GUEST SPEAKER OUR PARISH HISTORIAN
NICHOLAS M. PREVAS



Tuesday, April 2, 2024
at the AOC
11:30am

**RSVP TO OLLGA ZAVAKOS WITH WHAT YOU
WOULD LIKE TO BRING AT
OJZAVAKOS@VERIZON.NET OR
443-791-0064 BY 4/1/24**

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/v3TXkYJkFWD63TW48>

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

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!

PASCHAL BAKED GOODS



**SATURDAY, APRIL 27th following Saturday of Lazarus
Services**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28th following Palm Sunday Services
PICK-UP from the AHEPA ROOM**

Packaged and decorated:

TSOUREKI (Sweet Bread) - \$11.00

KOULOURLAKIA (1 pound) - \$16.00

KOURAMBIETHES (dozen) - \$20.00

Pre-Order your selection by Friday, April 12, 2024:

philoptochosannunciation@gmail.com

Kathe Lazarides kdap19@gmail.com

Georgeann Morekas gmorekas@gmail.com

**The proceeds from the sale benefit the good works of the
Cathedral of the Annunciation Philoptochos Society**



Red Eggs for Pascha

Get ready for Pascha with a dozen red dyed eggs - \$10/dozen.

Reserve your Eggs at:

<https://forms.gle/qWMJibBsMYx5nvoh8>

Deadline to reserve is April 26.

Pickup is on Holy Thursday (5/2) between 3pm to 5pm or Holy Friday (5/3) between 12 noon to 3pm.

Contact Eleni Roros at 443-621-0587 or eroros99@gmail.com with any questions.



Scan to Reserve Easter Eggs

Saturday of Lazarus *April 27, 2024*

Our Youth Ministries invite all to assist after the Divine Liturgy with:

Palm Making

Bay Leaf Preparation

Decorating the Cathedral

"Lazarakia" Baking by the children

Potluck Lenten Lunch

Everyone is welcome to participate and are invited to bring a Lenten Dish to share.

Please reserve your space at:

<https://forms.gle/9tLaZyxgQLQvHaJ9>

Orthros & Divine Liturgy - 8am to 10am
Palm Making & Potluck Lunch - 10am



Scan for Saturday of Lazarus

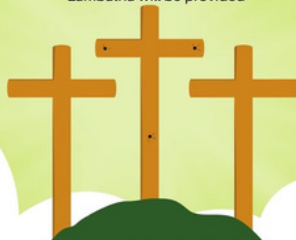
Holy Friday **YOUTH RETREAT** **Friday May 3, 2024** **11am to 4pm**

All Youth Pre-K to High School

Includes the Apokathelosis/ "Unnailing from the Cross" service at 3pm.

Special Activity - Decorate your Lambatha

Lambatha will be provided



Scan to Register

Lunch included

Register by 4/28/24 at

<https://forms.gle/i8qnFU9Wnz18cTc36>

For more info: youthministries@annunciationbaltimore.org
If anyone is available to volunteer for all or part of the day, let us know.

Excused Absence letters will be available.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

JOIN US FOR AN



Easter

EGG HUNT

MAY
5TH

Annunciation Cathedral Courtyard
Hunt Begins After the 12 noon Agape Service

52ND ANNUAL

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

G R E E K FOOD • WINE • CULTURE FESTIVAL

MAY 23

5 P.M. - 9 P.M.

MAY 24 AND 25

11 A.M. - 9 P.M.

MAY 26

11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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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)

