



72 YEARS

JANUARY 2026

Saint
Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Church
Baltimore, MD



Koinonia

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CELEBRATION SAINT NICHOLAS NAME DAY - LITURGY AND DANCE



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MESSAGE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTER

Message from **FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS**, PROTOPRESBYTER

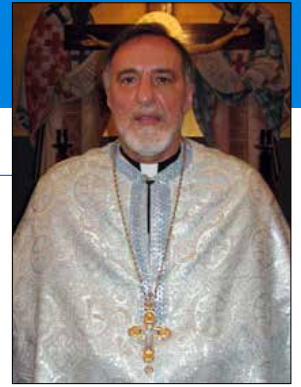
I hope that all of you had a blessed Christmas, and a fresh New Year 2026 is once again upon us. It's time to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. As we close the history of 2025 and begin a New Year, we as a Parish have a lot to be thankful for. Stepping into a New Year, we are invited to reflect on the unity that we share in Christ and to think on the many blessings He has so graciously given us throughout the years.

St. Paul reminds us of a central truth of our Christian life, that though we are many, we are united as one body in Christ. This unity in diversity is a reflection of God's plan for His people a plan that calls us to work together in love and harmony. Entering into a New Year we will be greeting each other with a joyous "Happy New Year" and I hope that this year 2026 will be a happier and most successful. Just a week ago we celebrated one of the most important events in our Church history. "The Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and soon in this month of January we will be celebrating another important event the Baptism (Epiphany) of our Lord in the Jordan River which became a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy spirit descended upon Him, like a dove, and when this happened a voice from Heaven and said; " This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". This was the voice of God the Father. In the Divine Liturgy we also pray and say, " Let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God, and we later pray and say; "Your own of Your own, we offer to You..." is a great reminder that this statement is a call to "Action" challenging us to return and to entrust everything-- our joys — struggles, and relationships to Him. These diverse gifts, unique to each of us are meant to be shared for the common good. So, whatever each of us offers, no matter how insignificant it may seem strengthens and builds up the Body of Christ, and reflects our God given freedom and the beauty of that unity in diversity that we talked about earlier in the article. For when we offer to God what He has given us we express not only our gratitude but also our unity as a community of faith. In addition to what we stated above as we pray in the Divine Liturgy each of us in the New Year should make a better effort in attending Church on Sunday's. We all need to worship the Lord together as a family. The Divine Liturgy should be where we come and pray for ourselves, our families, relatives and friends seeking forgiveness and reconciliation.

So, for this New year, let's make a promise to God that we will strive to be victorious over sin and that our attendance in the Divine Liturgy will increase so that our hearts and minds will always belong to God.

May this New Year 2026 bring happiness and health to all of you. Have a Blessed New Year filled with much love, joy, happiness and prosperity.

With Love in our Incarnate Lord, Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos



Ελπίζω να περάσατε όλοι σας ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα και ένα φρέσκο Νέο Έτος 2026 είναι και πάλι εδώ. Ήρθε η ώρα να είμαστε ευγνώμονες για τις ευλογίες του περασμένου έτους και να κάνουμε έναν απολογισμό όλων των επιτευγμάτων μας. Καθώς κλείνουμε την ιστορία του 2025 και ξεκινάμε ένα Νέο Έτος, εμείς ως Ενορία έχουμε πολλά να είμαστε ευγνώμονες. Μπαίνοντας σε ένα Νέο Έτος, καλούμαστε να αναλογιστούμε την ενότητα που μοιραζόμαστε εν Χριστώ και τις πολλές ευλογίες που μας έχει δώσει τόσο ευγενικά όλα αυτά τα χρόνια.

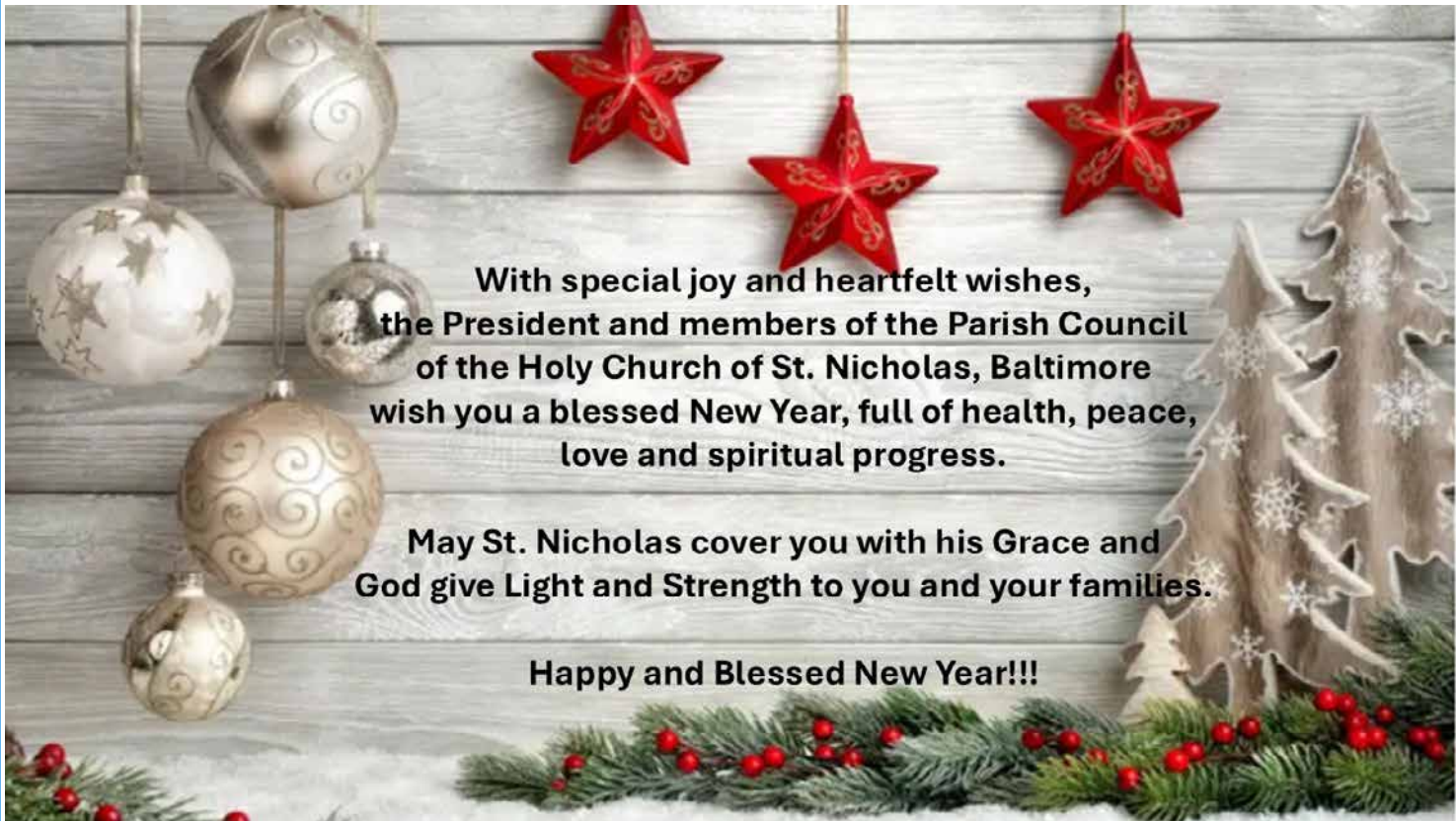
Ο Άγιος Παύλος μας υπενθυμίζει μια κεντρική αλήθεια της χριστιανικής μας ζωής, ότι αν είμαστε πολλοί, είμαστε ενωμένοι ως ένα σώμα εν Χριστώ. Αυτή η ενότητα στην ποικιλομορφία είναι μια αντανάκλαση του σχεδίου του Θεού για τον λαό Του, ένα σχέδιο που μας καλεί να εργαστούμε μαζί με αγάπη και αρμονία. Μπαίνοντας σε ένα Νέο Έτος, θα χαιρετάμε ο ένας τον άλλον με ένα χαρούμενο «Καλή Χρονιά» και ελπίζω ότι αυτό το έτος 2026 θα είναι ένα πιο ευτυχισμένο και επιτυχημένο. Μόλις πριν από μια εβδομάδα γιορτάσαμε ένα από τα πιο σημαντικά γεγονότα στην ιστορία της Εκκλησίας μας. «Την Ενσάρκωση του Κυρίου και Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστού». Σύντομα, αυτόν τον Ιανουάριο, θα γιορτάσουμε ένα άλλο σημαντικό γεγονός, τη Βάπτισμα (Επιφάνεια) του Κυρίου μας στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό, η οποία έγινε φανέρωση του Θεού στον κόσμο, επειδή ήταν η αρχή της δημόσιας διακονίας του Κυρίου μας. Όταν ο Ιησούς αναδύθηκε από το νερό, οι ουρανοί άνοιξαν ξαφνικά και το Άγιο Πνεύμα κατέβηκε πάνω Του σαν περιστέρι, και όταν συνέβη αυτό, μια φωνή από τον Ουρανό είπε: «Αυτός είναι ο Υιός μου ο αγαπητός, στον οποίο είμαι πολύ ευαρεστημένος». Αυτή ήταν η φωνή του Θεού Πατέρα. Στη Θεία Λειτουργία προσευχόμαστε επίσης και λέμε: «Ας παραδώσουμε τον εαυτό μας και ο ένας τον άλλον και ολόκληρη τη ζωή μας στον Χριστό τον Θεό μας, και αργότερα προσευχόμαστε και λέμε: «Τα δικά σου, τα προσφέρουμε σε Σένα...». Είναι μια σπουδαία υπενθύμιση ότι αυτή η δήλωση είναι ένα κάλεσμα για «Δράση» που μας προκαλεί να επιστρέψουμε και να εμπιστευτούμε τα πάντα - τις χαρές μας - τους αγώνες μας και τις σχέσεις μας σε Αυτόν. Αυτά τα ποικίλα δώρα, μοναδικά για τον καθένα μας, προορίζονται να μοιραστούν για το κοινό καλό. Έτσι, ό,τι προσφέρει ο καθένας μας, όσο ασήμαντο κι αν φαίνεται, ενδυναμώνει και οικοδομεί το Σώμα του Χριστού και αντανάκλα την θεόδοτη ελευθερία μας και την ομορφιά αυτής της ενότητας στην ποικιλομορφία για την οποία μιλήσαμε νωρίτερα στο άρθρο. Γιατί όταν προσφέρουμε στον Θεό αυτό που μας έχει δώσει, εκφράζουμε όχι μόνο την ευγνωμοσύνη μας, αλλά και την ενότητά μας ως κοινότητα πίστης. Εκτός από όσα αναφέραμε παραπάνω, καθώς προσευχόμαστε στη Θεία Λειτουργία, ο καθένας μας τη Νέα Χρονιά θα πρέπει να καταβάλλει μεγαλύτερη προσπάθεια να παρευρίσκεται στην Εκκλησία τις Κυριακές. Όλοι πρέπει να λατρεύουμε τον Κύριο μαζί ως οικογένεια. Η Θεία Λειτουργία θα πρέπει να είναι το μέρος όπου ερχόμαστε και προσευχόμαστε για τον εαυτό μας, τις οικογένειές μας, τους συγγενείς και τους φίλους μας, αναζητώντας συγχώρεση και συμφιλίωση.

Έτσι, για αυτή τη Νέα Χρονιά, ας δώσουμε μια υπόσχεση στον Θεό ότι θα προσπαθήσουμε να νικήσουμε την αμαρτία και ότι η συμμετοχή μας στη Θεία Λειτουργία θα αυξηθεί, ώστε οι καρδιές και οι διανοίες μας να ανήκουν πάντα στον Θεό.

Είθε η Νέα Χρονιά 2026 να φέρει ευτυχία και υγεία σε όλους σας. Να έχετε μια ευλογημένη Νέα Χρονιά γεμάτη πολλή αγάπη, χαρά, ευτυχία και ευημερία

Με αγάπη εν σαρκωθέντι Κυρίον μας, Πατήρ Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικός

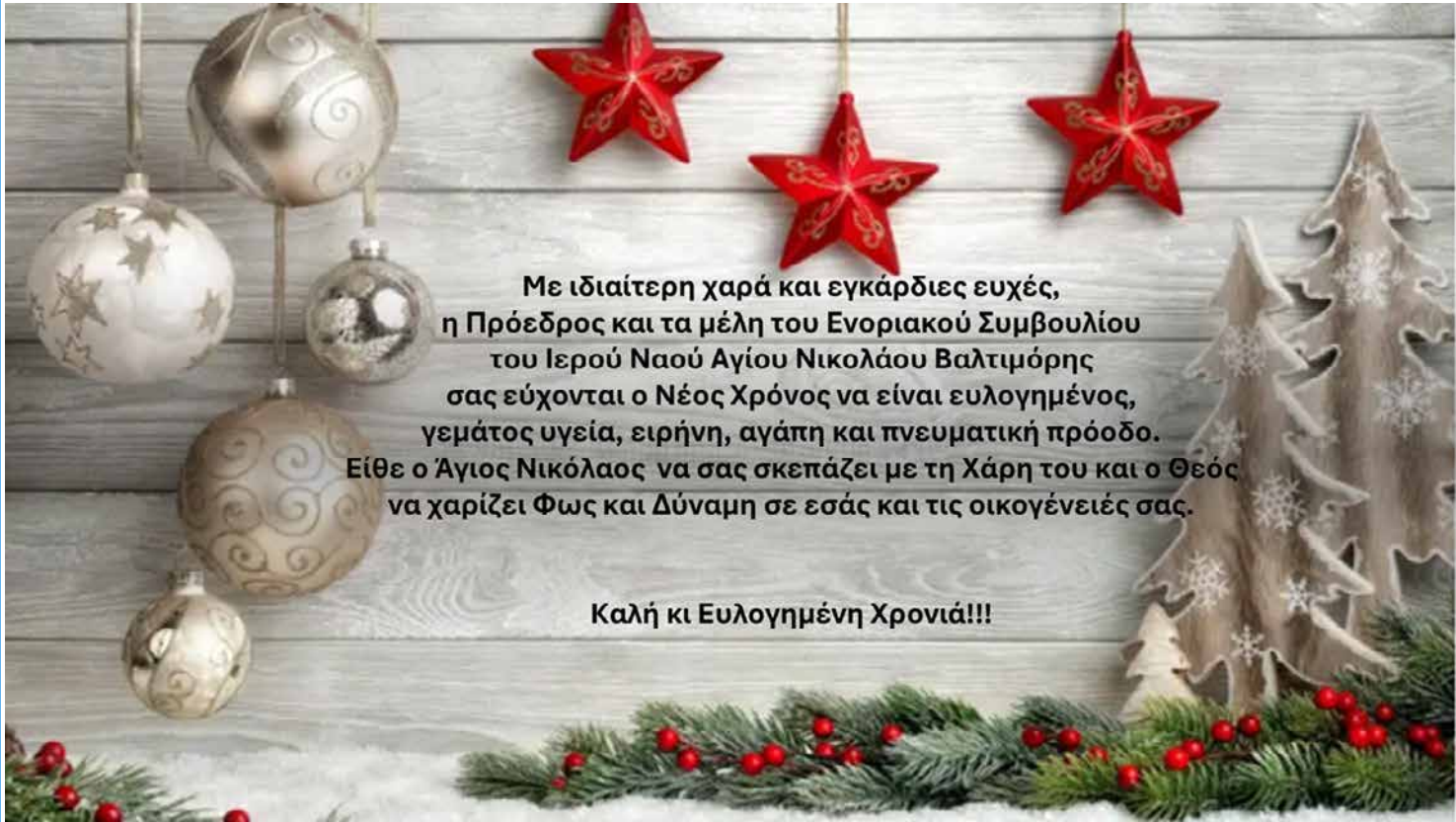
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**With special joy and heartfelt wishes,
the President and members of the Parish Council
of the Holy Church of St. Nicholas, Baltimore
wish you a blessed New Year, full of health, peace,
love and spiritual progress.**

**May St. Nicholas cover you with his Grace and
God give Light and Strength to you and your families.**

Happy and Blessed New Year!!!



**Με ιδιαίτερη χαρά και εγκάρδιες ευχές,
η Πρόεδρος και τα μέλη του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου
του Ιερού Ναού Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης
σας εύχονται ο Νέος Χρόνος να είναι ευλογημένος,
γεμάτος υγεία, ειρήνη, αγάπη και πνευματική πρόοδο.
Είθε ο Άγιος Νικόλαος να σας σκεπάζει με τη Χάρη του και ο Θεός
να χαρίζει Φως και Δύναμη σε εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας.**

Καλή κι Ευλογημένη Χρονιά!!!

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5TH & 6TH GRADE - KELLY PEROS VASILIADES

AL ELLINOMATHEIA COORDINATOR -

PARASKEVI KOTSATOU ARGETAKI

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KELLY PEROS VASILIADES

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

KOINONIA DEADLINE

Please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff by the deadline stated below:

ISSUE MONTH: FEBRUARY 2026

SUBMISSIONS DUE: JANUARY 20th

Please email your article(s) to: vkotsatou@stnicholasmd.org

Articles are due no later than the 20th of each month. If they are received after the deadline they will be published in the following month's issue.

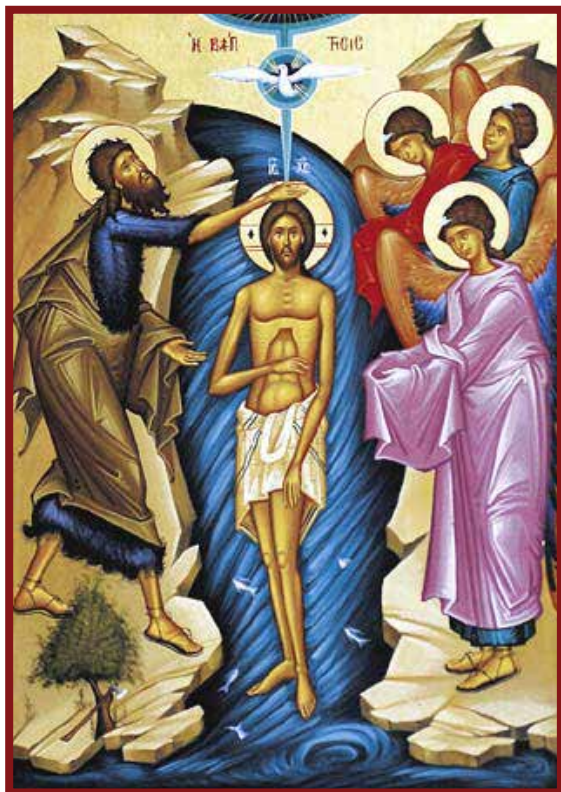
All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

Thank you

Epiphany of our Lord

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

www.goarch.org



Introduction

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

Biblical Story

The story of the Nativity of Christ is The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world

was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.

In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him. At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father.

On the right side of the icon angels are shown with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ. They are prepared to receive Him as He comes out of the water.

The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of Epiphany

The celebration of this Feast of our Lord begins on January 5, a day known as the Forefeast of Theophany. Depending on the day of the week, this could be an evening service with Vespers followed by the Liturgy of Saint Basil or a morning service with Matins and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Following the service on January 5, the service of the Blessing of the Waters is conducted. Prior to the evening or morning service the Royal Hours with the Typika are said.

On January 6, the day of the Feast, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is conducted preceded by Matins and followed by the second Blessing of the Waters.

The Blessing of the Waters is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water to be retrieved by divers.

The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At the Vespers/Divine Liturgy on January 5: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18. At the Divine Liturgy on January 6: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17.



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 578/2025

Archebiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of Christmas

December 25, 2025

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*Today the Virgin gives Birth to Him Who is above all being
(Kontakion of Christmas)*

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the midst of all our Christmas celebrations, it is the hymnography of the Church that always calls us back to the essence of the Feast, so that, as we pause to consider the miracle of the Nativity of our Lord, the wonder of the Angels, Shepherds and Magi might come over us as well. The Birth of the Prince of Peace taking place in the humble cave of Bethlehem, which He shared with mute beasts of burden, is truly a marvel of marvels. For as the Kontakion of Saint Romanos the Melodist affirms, the God Who is beyond every possible conception and category of human comprehension, wills to be born a human being, from the womb of the Virgin Theotokos.

It is an act of God's supreme love for all creation. For as the Evangelist says, God, Who "so utterly loved the world, gave His Only-Begotten Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but possess eternal life" (John 3:16). And it is also an act of the highest love of a human being for God. Because the Virgin was willing to become

the living Temple of God, offering her very body to provide the human nature that would become the Body of God. For nine months, she housed the Lord of the Universe in the Tabernacle of her womb, until the moment arrived for “Him Who is above all being” to come forth into the wounded and fragile world.

As a newborn and vulnerable Babe, dependent in every way upon His Mother and those around her for safety, nourishment and protection, our Lord and God entered into our experience as human beings, so that we might in turn enter into the Divine Life. For each and every one of us now has the potential to bring forth within our hearts, minds and souls the fullness of God, even unto grace upon grace (John 1:16). The fragility of our existence has become God’s own fragility, and His healing Spirit now infuses every aspect of creation.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let us embrace the Child of Bethlehem Who is born within us, in the cave of our hearts. He is gentle and humble, and He understands how exposed and assailable our human condition can be — for He endured it with us and for us. Let us bring forth in our lives His many qualities: love, mercy, compassion, equanimity and forgiveness. And as the Virgin watched Him grow within her own womb and throughout her own life, let us also behold the miracle of His Presence within our lives and within our communities, to the honor and praise of His Holy Name.

Χριστὸς Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐπιδοφόρος" (The Archbishop of America, Elpidophoros).

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 578/2025

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος
για την έορτή τῶν Χριστουγέννων.

25 Δεκεμβρίου 2025

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρες καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Απογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

*«Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει»
(Κοντάκιον τῶν Χριστουγέννων)*

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Μέσα στὴν ἀτμόσφαιρα τῶν ἐορτῶν τῶν Χριστουγέννων, ἡ ὕμνογραφία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μᾶς ἐπαναφέρει στὸ βαθύτερο νόημα τῆς μεγάλης αὐτῆς ἐορτῆς, ὥστε νὰ ἀναλογιστοῦμε αὐτὸ τὸ μεγάλο θαῦμα τῆς γεννήσεως τοῦ Κυρίου μας καὶ νὰ γεμίσουν οἱ καρδιές μας μὲ ὑπέρλαμπρη χαρά, ὅπως οἱ Ἄγγελοι, οἱ Ποιμένες καὶ οἱ Μάγοι. Ἡ γέννηση τοῦ ἄρχοντα τῆς εἰρήνης, ἡ ὁποία λαμβάνει χώρα σὲ μία ταπεινὴ σπηλιὰ στὴ Βηθλεέμ, παρουσία τῶν ἄλογων πλασμάτων, εἶναι τὸ θαῦμα τῶν θαυμάτων. Διότι, ὅπως μᾶς διαβεβαιώνει καὶ τὸ κοντάκι τοῦ ἀγίου Ρωμανοῦ τοῦ

Μελωδοῦ, ὁ Θεός, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶναι ὑπεράνω κάθε δυνατῆς νοήσεως καὶ κάθε ἀνθρώπινης κατανοήσεως, «ὁ ὑπερούσιος», γίνεται ἄνθρωπος, ἀπὸ τῆ μητέρα τῆς Παρθένου.

Πρόκειται γιὰ ἔκφραση τῆς ὑπέριστης ἀγάπης τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς ὅλη τὴν κτίση. Διότι, ὅπως λέει ὁ εὐαγγελιστής, «Οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον» (Ἰωάν. 3,16). Καὶ εἶναι ταυτόχρονα πράξη ὑψίστης ἀγάπης τοῦ ἀνθρώπου πρὸς τὸ Θεό. Διότι ἡ Παρθένος δέχθηκε νὰ γίνει ὁ ζωντανὸς ναὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, προσφέροντας τὸ ἴδιο τῆς τὸ σῶμα, γιὰ νὰ δοθεῖ ἡ ἀνθρώπινη φύση κατὰ τὴν ἐνσάρκωση τοῦ Θεοῦ. Γιὰ ἐννέα μῆνες φιλοξένησε τὸν Κύριο τοῦ σύμπαντος στὴ μητέρα τῆς, ὥσπου ἔφθασε ἡ στιγμή «ὁ ὑπὲρ πάντων τῶν ὄντων» νὰ ἐξέλθει στὸν εὐθραυστο καὶ δοκιμαζόμενο αὐτὸν κόσμον.

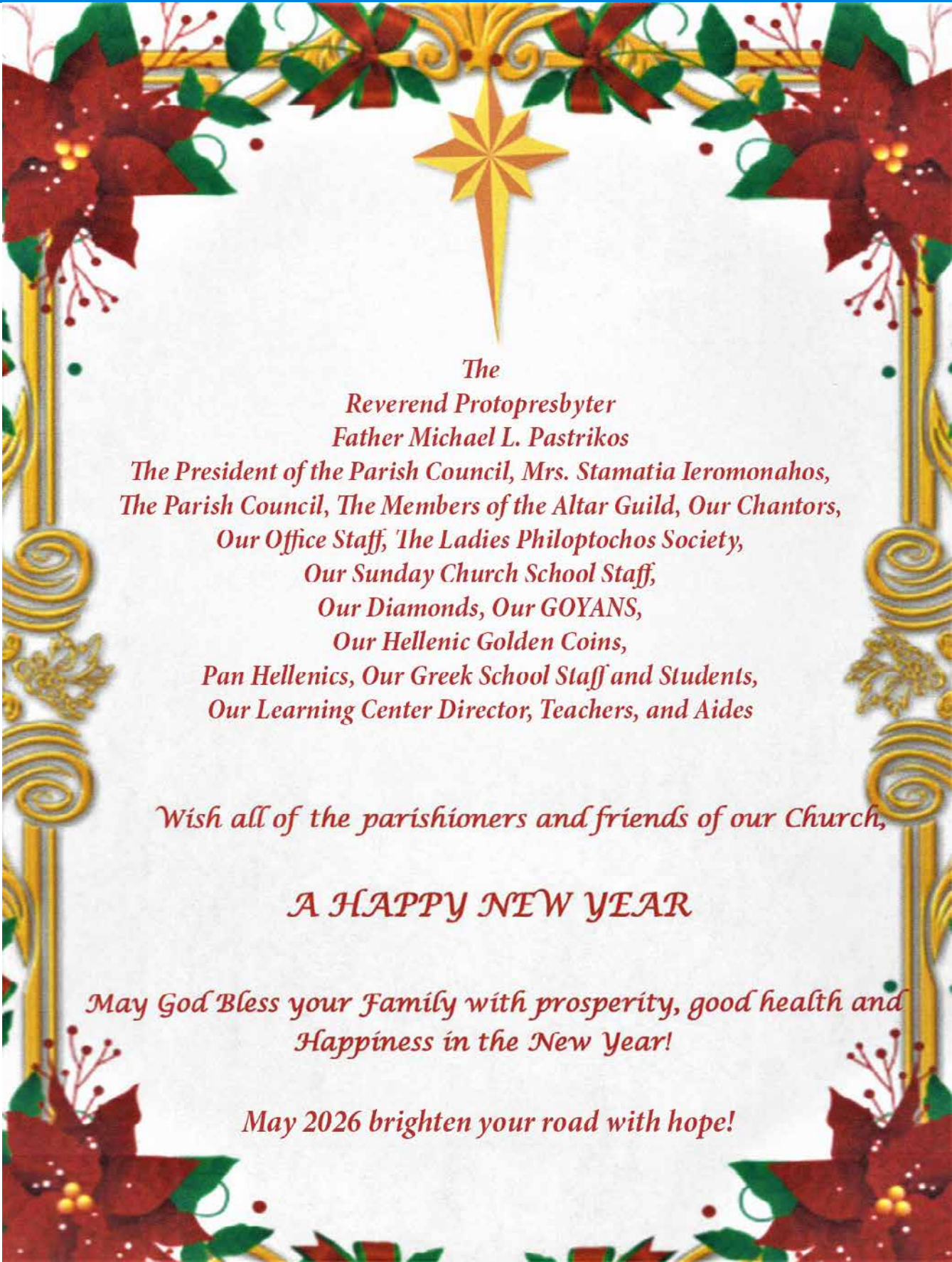
Ὡς νεογέννητο καὶ εὐάλωτο βρέφος, ἐξαρτώμενο κατὰ πάντα ἀπὸ τὴ μητέρα του καὶ ἀπὸ ὅσους τὴν περιέβαλλαν, βρίσκοντας ἀσφάλεια, τροφή καὶ προστασία, ὁ Κύριος καὶ Θεὸς μας εἰσέρχεται στὴν ἀνθρώπινη ἐμπειρία, ὥστε καὶ ἐμεῖς, μὲ τὴ σειρά μας, νὰ εἰσέλθουμε στὴ θεία ζωὴ. Διότι καθένας ἀπὸ ἐμᾶς ἔχει πλέον τὴ δυνατότητα νὰ ἐλκύσει μέσα στὴν καρδιά, τὸν νοῦ καὶ τὴν ψυχὴ του τὴν πληρότητα τοῦ Θεοῦ ὡς «χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος» (Ἰωάν. 1,16). Τὸ εὐάλωτο τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας γίνεται τὸ εὐάλωτο τοῦ ἐνσαρκωμένου Λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐνῶ τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς χάριτος διαποτίζει πλέον κάθε πτυχή τῆς κτίσεως.

Γι' αὐτὸ, ἀγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ, ἅς ἀγκαλιάσουμε τὸ νεογέννητο τῆς Βηθλεὲμ, ποὺ γεννᾶται μέσα στὴ σπηλιὰ τῆς καρδιάς μας. Εἶναι πρᾶο καὶ ταπεινὸ καὶ γνωρίζει πόσο ἐκτεθειμένη καὶ εὐάλωτη εἶναι ἡ ἀνθρώπινη φύση μας, διότι τὴν ὑπέμεινε γιὰ χάρις μας. Ἄς γεμίσουμε, λοιπόν, τὴ ζωὴ μας μὲ τὰ χαρίσματα ποὺ μᾶς δίνει ἀπλόχερα, δηλαδὴ τὴν ἀγάπη, τὸ ἔλεος, τὴ συμπόνια, τὴν πραότητα καὶ τὴ συγχώρηση. Καὶ ὅπως ἡ Παρθένος τὸν ἔβλεπε νὰ αὐξάνει μέσα στὴ μητέρα τῆς, ἅς ἀτενίσουμε καὶ ἐμεῖς τὸ θαῦμα τῆς παρουσίας του μέσα στὴ ζωὴ μας, ἀλλὰ καὶ μέσα στὶς κοινότητές μας, δοξολογώντας τὸ ἅγιο ὄνομά του.

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε!



† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος



*The
Reverend Protopresbyter
Father Michael L. Pastrikos*

*The President of the Parish Council, Mrs. Stamatia Ieromonahos,
The Parish Council, The Members of the Altar Guild, Our Chantors,
Our Office Staff, The Ladies Philoptochos Society,
Our Sunday Church School Staff,
Our Diamonds, Our GOYANS,
Our Hellenic Golden Coins,
Pan Hellenics, Our Greek School Staff and Students,
Our Learning Center Director, Teachers, and Aides*

Wish all of the parishioners and friends of our Church,

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May God Bless your Family with prosperity, good health and
Happiness in the New Year!*

May 2026 brighten your road with hope!



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Message of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey New Years 2026

Beloved children in the Lord,

By the mercy of God we are granted to stand at the threshold of a new year, lifting our hearts in thanksgiving to the Lord of time and history, “for in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). The passing of years does not merely mark the flow of time, but invites us to a deeper encounter with Christ, “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

The holy Orthodox Fathers remind us that time is a sacred gift entrusted to us for repentance and sanctification. Saint Basil the Great exhorts us: “Do not waste the present moment; for the past is no longer yours, and the future is uncertain.” Each new year, therefore, is a renewed call to conversion of heart, to vigilance of mind, and to growth in love. It is not enough that the year be new; we ourselves must be renewed in Christ.

Saint John Chrysostom teaches that the true measure of time is not the number of days, but the quality of our life in Christ. A year lived without prayer, forgiveness, and mercy becomes barren; but even a single day lived in humility and repentance becomes rich in grace. As we enter the new year, let us ask ourselves: Do our homes reflect the peace of Christ? Do our words bear witness to the Gospel? Do our lives reveal hope in a world often wounded by fear, division, and loneliness?

In the midst of uncertainty and rapid change, the Orthodox Church proclaims with confidence that our hope is not in human strength or worldly assurances, but in the Lord who was born, crucified, and risen for our salvation. Saint Athanasius reminds us that Christ became man so that man might become “by grace what He is by nature.” This is the purpose of our journey through time: to be transformed, little by little, into the likeness of Christ.

As your spiritual father and chief shepherd in Christ, I call you to begin this year with prayer, with faithfulness to the holy sacraments of our Orthodox Church, and with renewed love for one another. Let us strengthen our families as local communities and churches, guide our children by example, care for the poor and the suffering, and remain steadfast in the life of the holy Church. In this way, the new year will truly become a year of the Lord's favor.

May the blessing of the New Year be not only a change of date, but a change of heart. May the good Lord grant you health of soul and body, peace in your homes, and steadfast hope in every trial. Entrusting you all to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, I remain,

With paternal love and blessings in Christ,

F. Metropolitan Agostolo
†APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Μήνυμα του Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Αποστόλου για το Νέο Έτος 2026

Αγαπητά μου τέκνα εν Κυρίω,

Με την ευλογία του Θεού αξιωνόμαστε να στεκόμαστε στο κατώφλι ενός νέου έτους, υψώνοντας τις καρδιές μας με ευχαριστία προς τον Κύριο του χρόνου και της ιστορίας, «έν αὐτῷ γὰρ ζῶμεν καὶ κινούμεθα καὶ ἐσμέν» (Πρξ. 17:28). Η διαδοχή των ετών δεν σηματοδοτεί απλώς τη ροή του χρόνου, αλλά μας προσκαλεί σε βαθύτερη συνάντηση με τον Χριστό, «ὁ αὐτὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας» (Εβρ. 13:8).

Οι ἅγιοι Ορθόδοξοι Πατέρες μας υπενθυμίζουν ὅτι ὁ χρόνος εἶναι ἱερό δῶρο, τὸ ὁποῖο μας ἐμπιστεύθηκε ὁ Θεός γιὰ μετάνοια καὶ ἁγιασμό. Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος μας προτρέπει: «Μὴ καταφρόνει τὸν παρόντα καιρὸν· τὸ παρελθὸν οὐκ ἔστιν σόν, καὶ τὸ μέλλον ἄδηλον». Κάθε νέο ἔτος, λοιπόν, ἀποτελεῖ νέα πρόσκληση σε μεταστροφή καρδιάς, σε νήψη τοῦ νου καὶ σε αὐξηση τῆς ἀγάπης. Δεν ἀρκεῖ τὸ ἔτος νὰ εἶναι νέο· χρειάζεται κι ἐμεῖς οἱ ἴδιοι νὰ ἀνανεωνόμαστε ἐν Χριστῷ.

Ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος διδάσκει ὅτι τὸ ἀληθινὸ μέτρο τοῦ χρόνου δὲν εἶναι ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν ἡμερῶν, ἀλλὰ ἡ ποιότητα τῆς ζωῆς μας ἐν Χριστῷ. Ἐνα ἔτος χωρὶς προσευχή, συγχώρηση καὶ ἔλεος γίνεται ἀκαρπο· ἐνῶ ἀκόμη καὶ μία ἡμέρα, ὅταν βιώνεται με ταπείνωση καὶ μετάνοια, γίνεται πλούσια σε χάρη. Εἰσερχόμενοι στὸ νέο ἔτος, ἀς ἀναρωτηθούμε: Ἀντανακλοῦν τὰ σπίτια μας τὴν εἰρήνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Μαρτυροῦν τὰ λόγια μας τὸ Ευαγγέλιο; Φανερώνει ἡ ζωὴ μας ἐλπίδα σε ἕναν κόσμον συχνὰ πληγωμένο ἀπὸ φόβο, διχασμὸ καὶ μοναξιά;

Μέσα στὴν ἀβεβαιότητα καὶ τὶς ραγδαίες ἀλλαγές τῶν καιρῶν, ἡ Ορθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία διακηρύσσει με βεβαιότητα ὅτι ἡ ἐλπίδα μας δὲν στηρίζεται στὴν ἀνθρώπινη δύναμη ἢ στὶς κοσμικὲς διαβεβαιώσεις, ἀλλὰ στὸν Κύριο, ὁ ὁποῖος γεννήθηκε, σταυρώθηκε καὶ ἀναστήθηκε γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία μας. Ὁ ἅγιος Ἀθανάσιος μας υπενθυμίζει ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἐγένε ἀνθρώπος, «ἵνα ἡμεῖς θεοποιηθῶμεν κατὰ χάριν». Αὐτὸς εἶναι ὁ σκοπὸς τῆς πορείας μας μέσα στὸν χρόνο: νὰ μεταμορφωνόμαστε, λίγο-λίγο, στὴν ὁμοιότητα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ως πνευματικός σας πατέρας και ποιμενάρχης εν Χριστῷ, σας καλώ να αρχίσετε το νέο έτος με προσευχή, με πιστότητα στα άγια Μυστήρια της Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας μας και με ανανεωμένη αγάπη μεταξύ μας. Ας ενισχύσουμε τις οικογένειές μας ως μικρές εκκλησιαστικές κοινότητες, ας καθοδηγήσουμε τα παιδιά μας με το παράδειγμά μας, ας φροντίσουμε τους φτωχούς και τους πάσχοντες και ας παραμείνουμε σταθεροί στη ζωή της Αγίας Εκκλησίας. Έτσι, το νέο έτος θα γίνει αληθινά «ένιαυτος Κυρίου δεκτός».

Είθε η ευλογία του Νέου Έτους να μην είναι μόνο αλλαγή ημερομηνίας, αλλά αλλαγή καρδιάς. Είθε ο Κύριος να σας χαρίζει υγεία ψυχής και σώματος, ειρήνη στα σπίτια σας και ακλόνητη ελπίδα σε κάθε δοκιμασία,

Με πατρική αγάπη και ευχές εν Χριστῷ,



† Ο Νέας Ίερσέης Απόστολος



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Message of Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for the Feast of the Epiphany 2026

Beloved children in the Lord,

By the grace of God, we are granted once again to celebrate the radiant feast of the Holy Epiphany, the manifestation of the Holy Trinity at the Jordan River. Today, the heavens are opened, the Father bears witness to the Son, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove, and Christ is revealed to the world as the Light that enlightens every person.

As Saint Gregory the Theologian proclaims, “Christ is illumined; let us shine forth with Him. Christ is baptized; let us go down with Him, that we may also rise with Him.” The Baptism of the Lord is not merely an event of the past, but a living invitation for each of us to renew our own baptismal calling—to walk in repentance, humility, and obedience to the will of God.

The Lord enters the waters of the Jordan not because He is in need of purification, but in order to sanctify creation itself. Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that “He descended into the waters, not to be cleansed, but to cleanse them, and through them, all who would be reborn by water and the Spirit.” In Christ’s descent, the fallen world begins its ascent; the waters become a source of healing, renewal, and life.

The Holy Epiphany calls us to remember who we are: children of God, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In a world often troubled by confusion, division, and fear, the voice of the Father still resounds: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Through Christ, this voice

becomes a word of hope addressed also to us, calling us to live as sons and daughters of light.

As we bless the waters today, we pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit may bless our homes, our families, our communities, and all creation. May this feast renew our faith, strengthen our love, and inspire us to bear witness to Christ through lives of mercy, truth, and peace.

With paternal love in Christ, I pray that the light of the Theophany may illumine your hearts and guide your steps throughout the new year.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With paternal love and wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Apostolos". The signature is written in a cursive style and ends with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

+ Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Μήνυμα του Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Αποστόλου για την Εορτη των Θεοφανίων 2026

Αγαπητά τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ,

Με τη χάρη και τη φιλανθρωπία του Θεού αξιωνόμαστε και πάλιν να εορτάσουμε τη μεγαλοπρεπή και λαμπροφόρο εορτή των Ἁγίων Θεοφανείων, κατά την οποία φανερώνεται στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό το μυστήριο της Αγίας και Ομοουσίου Τριάδος. Σήμερα οι ουρανοί ανοίγονται, η φωνή του Πατρός μαρτυρεί περί του Υιού, το Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα καταβαίνει εν εἶδει περιστεράς και ο Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός αποκαλύπτεται στον κόσμο ως το Φως το αληθινό, «ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον».

Ὅπως διδάσκει ο ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος, «Φωτίζεται ὁ Χριστός· λάμπωμεν σὺν αὐτῷ. Βαπτίζεται ὁ Χριστός· συγκαταβῶμεν, ἵνα και συναναβῶμεν». Η Βάπτιση του Κυρίου δεν αποτελεί απλῶς ἕνα ιστορικό γεγονός, αλλά φανερώνει μια διαρκή και ζῶσα πρόσκληση προς ὅλους τους πιστούς, να ανανεώνουν το βαπτισματικό τους χρέος και να πορεύονται εν μετανοία, ταπεινώσει και υπακοή στο ἅγιο θέλημα του Θεού.

Ο Κύριος εισέρχεται στα ὕδατα του Ιορδάνη ὄχι διότι ἔχει ἀνάγκη καθαροῦ, αλλά για να αγιάσει την κτίση ολόκληρη. Κατά τον ἅγιο Ἰωάννη τον Χρυσόστομο, «κατήλθε στα ὕδατα ὄχι για να καθαρθεῖ, αλλά για να τα καθαρίσει και, δι' αὐτῶν, ὅλους ὅσοι πρόκειται να

αναγεννηθούν εξ ύδατος και Πνεύματος». Με την εκούσια κατάβαση του Χριστού, ο πεπτωκός κόσμος αρχίζει την ανάβασή του και τα ύδατα καθίστανται πηγή αγιασμού, θεραπείας και ζωής.

Η αγία εορτή των Θεοφανείων μας υπενθυμίζει την υψηλή μας κλήση: ότι είμαστε τέκνα Θεού, σφραγισμένα με τη δωρεά του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Σε έναν κόσμο που δοκιμάζεται από σύγχυση, διχασμούς και φόβους, η φωνή του Πατρός εξακολουθεί να ηχεί ακατάπαυστα: «Οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα». Ἐν Χριστῷ, ἡ φωνή αὐτῆ γίνεται και για εμάς λόγος παρηγορίας, ελπίδας και ευθύνης, καλώντας μας να ζούμε και να μαρτυρούμε ως υιοί και θυγατέρες του φωτός.

Καθώς κατά την ημέρα αὐτῆ αγιάζονται τα ύδατα, δεόμεθα ὅπως ἡ χάρις του Παναγίου Πνεύματος επισκιάσει και ευλογήσει τας οικίας, τας οικογενείας, τας ενορίας και ολόκληρη την κτίση. Εἴθε ἡ πανίερη αὐτῆ εορτῆ να ανανεώσει την πίστη μας, να στερεώσει την αγάπη μας και να μας εμπνεύσει ὥστε να μαρτυρούμε τον Χριστό με ζωὴ ελέους, αληθείας και ειρήνης.

Με πατρική αγάπη ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐχομαι ολόψυχα ὅπως το φως των Θεοφανείων φωτίζει τις καρδιές σας και κατευθύνει τα βήματά σας καθ' ὅλη τη διάρκεια του νέου ἔτους.

Μετά πολλῶν πατρικῶν ευχῶν,



† Ο Νέας Ἱερσέης Ἀπόστολος

The Baptism of Christ | Theophany

From the first century of the Christian Church, the faithful have always observed “The Festival of Lights.” In the deep Midwinter, this feast celebrates the advent of the Son of God, his coming into the world as Jesus Christ, and his early years up to and including his baptism in the Jordan, which heralded the beginning of Jesus’s ministry on earth.

Over the centuries, various aspects of Christ’s early years were separated into individual feasts observed on different days: his Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, his presentation in the Temple, and his circumcision. But the principal event of the Feast of Lights—Christ’s Baptism—was always commemorated on January 6. Why is this event so important?

The event depicted in the icon is that described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; here is Matthew’s version:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

“But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Mt 3:13–17)

This, then, is the Epiphany (revelation) of the Holy Trinity, otherwise known as Theophany, which literally means a “revelation of God” in Greek (Θεοφάνεια). The icon depicts the Holy Trinity (something rare in Orthodox iconography): God the Father, shown in the abstract bursting into the human realm, at the very top of the composition; God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove; and God the Son, Christ, in the midst of the Jordan River.

The paradox that Jesus Christ might be revealed as God through an act of submission to a mere man, John, is shown well in the icon. Though John is baptizing Christ, it is the former who is shown bent over in reverence to the latter. In other icons, John is shown with his face turned toward heaven and beholding the miracle of the Theophany; either way, despite being the Baptizer, he is not central to the scene. Near John is a tree with an axe laid at the root, recalling John’s own preaching to those who came to him: “And now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn

down, and cast into the fire” (Mt 3:10). In the icon, this detail shows that although the Baptizer must now “decrease so Christ may increase,” John’s teachings and role are not

done away with now that the Holy Trinity has been revealed. On the bank opposite John the Baptist, angels wait invisibly to receive the newly baptized Christ and clothe Him. So on the left is the Forerunner of Christ, John, his sermon of repentance represented by the tree and axe; on the right are the angels, who wait in reverence to accept the newly revealed Son of God. In the middle is the moment of revelation itself.

Jesus Christ, despite being submerged in the Jordan, is shown standing up and staring straight at us. His body is depicted as strong and beautiful, as it is understood classically, and in older icons He is naked. Christ appears almost as wide as the river Jordan itself—indeed, it is as though Jesus Christ, rather than the river, is cutting a swath through the rocky wilderness on either side.

The Icon of the Theophany, in addition to depicting the Holy Trinity, also answers the question of the Forerunner: I need to be baptized by

You, and are You coming to me? The answer is in what Christ does with his hands. Whereas in Western art, Jesus is shown submitting to John’s authority, in Orthodox icons Christ’s hands are shown not in prayer but in a sign of blessing. Rather than the waters of the Jordan cleansing Christ, it is Christ who purifies and blesses the waters. This is why at the bottom of most Theophany icons, terrible little creatures appear to be fleeing from the feet of Christ; they represent the Jordan itself and sometimes the sea. This is a reflection of the words of the Psalmist regarding the Messiah, the Christ: “The sea saw and fled, the Jordan turned back” (Ps 114:3).

This is the depth and profundity of the Baptism of Christ, the Feast of Lights that revealed the Holy Trinity and cleansed the waters of baptism so that we, like the fish shown in the icon, may swim in pure waters.

Of old, the river Jordan

Turned back before Elisha’s mantle at Elijah’s ascension.

The waters were parted in two

And the waterway became a dry path.

This is truly a symbol of baptism

By which we pass through this mortal I{Pe.

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters!

(English text adapted from <http://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/baptism-of-christ-the-theophany-icon/>)



JANUARY 30

THE THREE HIERARCHS



The eleventh-century Christian appears to have been much more deeply concerned about his religion than the generations which preceded him and those which have followed. He enjoyed a greater freedom of expression than the predecessor who worshipped Jesus Christ at the peril of his life, and his life was not crowded with the

social changes brought on by the invention of the printing press and the machine age. Unencumbered by ideologies spawned in revolution and knowing only one Mother Church, his popular topic of conversation was religion, which invariably came down to a debate about who was the greatest figure in Christian history. These rather innocent and well-intended arguments, which by today's standards appear ill-considered, very often assumed serious proportions, to the point that a formal consideration was necessitated and resulted in the rather unusual celebration of three of our greatest theologians on the same day.

There are heroes galore in the Christian Church, any one of whom could be selected as a favorite, and of the favorites that cropped up in private or public discussion there were three that were most commonly mentioned. These three, who had the remarkable coincidence of serving the Lord in the fourth century, were St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. The debates that began in the home or market-place soon spread into the Church and its councils and found their way into the upper echelons of the hierarchy, not out of proportion but out of an evolution of ideas wholly natural to the eleventh-century Christian structure.

With an absolute state rule there was little challenge for the brighter minds of the time in government, civil service, as a result of which the intellectuals as well as the dedicated found themselves

drawn to the Church. The tax collector commanded little respect, but the cleric was a man very highly esteemed, and it was to this spiritual servant that the average citizen turned for many services, some of which were outside his sphere of authority. It was quite natural then that a religious question would be brought to the priest and that the controversy would pyramid beyond him to the highest and most respected prelates.

Honored as "Doctors" of the Church, Sts. Basil, Gregory, and John were intellectual giants of equal stature, serving God and man with an equally high level of devotion and spirit. They were theologians and philosophers of the highest order, as well as gifted educators, orators, and spiritual leaders whose influence was such that seven hundred years after they appeared they were still so highly esteemed as to touch off a dispute as to who just might be greatest. After years of polemics, the burning issue reached a climactic conclusion in 1081, during the reign of Emperor Alexios, and then only by what would appear to be the result of divine intervention.

One of the most highly respected prelates of the day was Bishop John of Galatia, known throughout the Byzantine Empire for his considerable wisdom and spiritual integrity, a man who had refused to be drawn into an argument which by then divided the Christian community into three different camps in a sorry display of ill-advised but unavoidable dispute. Some of the greatest minds of the Church became involved in a matter that was spinning out of control and which posed a serious threat to the solidarity of the Faith.

Bishop John of Galatia received a vision in which the Three Hierarchs in question appeared to him to deplore the current disagreement and to ask him to step into the breach with an announcement of their visit and their admonition that the three were equal in the sight of God. Whoever disputed this would, therefore, dispute God. The elated Bishop John went to Constantinople to announce the divine visitation and the tumult was transformed to quiet accord when this relatively simple solution to what up until then had been an uncompromising strife was revealed. Almost overnight harmony was restored. A formal declaration of the equality of the three saints was issued and January 30 was designated as the feast day celebrating the equation of St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom.

THE HISTORY OF THE VASILOPITA

In the middle of the table during New Year's, a Vasilopita bread is placed in honor and tribute and eternal memory of St. Basil the Great. Every year a gold coin is placed in the Vasilopita for good luck to whoever receives it. The history of the vasilopita has two versions. The first version is explained like this:

In the time of the Roman Emperor Julianos, somewhere in the East, when traveling towards Persia, he passed through the city of Caesarea. On hearing of his arrival, Bishop Basil (a long time friend and student buddies in Athens) came out to greet him, along with the people of the city.

The Emperor demanded that royal gifts be brought to him, because that was the tradition when royalty came to visit. Bishop Basil was poor he had nothing expensive to offer to the Emperor, so he offered him three loaves of bread. As a thank you, the Emperor instructed his servants to repay the bishop with plain hay from the fields. The Bishop did not leave without an answer to the injustice and embarrassment that he received from the Emperor.

"Your Majesty, we the people offered to you what we had and what we traditionally eat, and you returned the favor with an insult."

The Emperor became angry and said: "Now accept my gift and when I return victorious from battle, I will burn down your city and I will imprison your people because even the gods that I worship, you and your people are against."

St. Basil returned to the city and invited his people to give him information concerning the Emperor's decision and said: "Don't worry, let's all gather up our coins together in one place, and when we hear that the Emperor is coming, we will throw them in the street as he is coming and from this act of love he will be satisfied and he will forget the threats that he made to us. Everyone did as the Bishop advised them to do. He then separated the gold, the silver, the stones and gems and placed them in a safe place. The Bishop then to be fair wrote down all the names of the people who gave. When the King came back with his army of soldiers, the Bishop told everyone to fast for 3 days and they were all told to travel to the Twin Hills of Caesarea where the church of the Mother of God was located. The Bishop then told them to pray to the Virgin Mary so she could change the murderous mind of the King.

At that time, the Bishop saw a vision of soldiers surrounding the area. He saw the Virgin Mary sitting on a large throne with angels guarding her. He heard her say: "Call upon Merkourios". In an instant, Merkourios the Great Martyr showed up with his armor and weapons and She gave the command to defeat the King. Then She called upon St. Basil and gave him a book describing the creation of the world. St. Basil then wrote the translation of the six days that God took to create the world. When it came for him to write about mankind, the vision disappeared into the heavens. His brother, St. Gregory of Nyssa added to the theme.

After that scene, St. Basil then left and came down to the city and visited the church of St. Merkourios. He realized that the Holy relic of the Saint was gone and it was placed on the hilltop to calm the worries of the people. "Let us all glorify God my brethren, King Julianos is dead. Come and receive back the gold pieces that you gave to save the city", said the Bishop. The people said in response, "we were giving this money to the king and we can't deny the heavens who protected us from death." St. Basil complemented them on their faith and he gave them back one-third of their gift. The remaining amount was used to build hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages and hostels. This event then became a tradition as well as historical for the people of Caesarea.

Now there is another version of the story that is expressed differently from the previous version.

Once upon a time in the land of Caesarea, there was once a ruler

who sent his servants to the Bishop of Caesarea asking for the treasure of the city and if the Bishop refused he would send his army to capture and imprison all of the people of the city. The Christians, who truly loved their Bishop, after hearing what the ruler demanded, went to their homes and collected all the gold, and silver that they had to offer as their gift to the Bishop so he can repay the ruler. During the night, the Bishop began to pray to God for the protection of the city. In the morning the armies of the ruler surrounded the city. The ruler asked to see the Bishop; the people told him that he was waiting for him in the front entrance of the church. The ruler came to the Bishop and told him to give up all of the treasures of the city.

The Bishop just stared at him and said, "The only treasure that this city has is its poor, hungry and the suffering."

"Let's leave that aside", said the ruler, "tell me where you hid the gold."

"The gold is for the poor", the Bishop said, "there is no surplus."

The ruler got angry and said, "If you don't give me all the gold, I will take yours."

The Bishop smiled and said, "You can look all you want but the only thing you will find is the clothes and vestments that I am wearing."

The ruler said to him, "I will exile you and send you in chains to another country"

The Bishop then said, "My country is in heaven".

Then the ruler said, "I will kill you."

"Even better", said the Bishop. "That will give me the opportunity to reach heaven above sooner."

The ruler became angry, he was frustrated and he wanted to do harm to the bishop. So, he commanded the soldiers to attack him. The Bishop answered, "Your greediness will finish you. Don't hurt the people of the city, because they caused you no harm. If you desire your gold, it's here waiting for you." At that moment, he showed him a large bag, but before the ruler had a chance to get a closer look, a man on a horse was descending from the heavens above and was battling the soldiers of the ruler. This man was as bright as the sun.

In that instant, the ruler's army turned to dust. They vanished. The man on the horse was St. Merkourios who rode down with angels and defeated the army. When this miracle happened, the residents of the city were glorifying God. Now that the city was saved, the Bishop was now put into a difficult position because he was thinking of what to do with the gold that the people offered. He had a dilemma. He thought about inviting everyone together to give them back their gold, but he was afraid that his people would be greedy and start another chaos. So, the Bishop took council in prayer and asked the Lord to give him some insight on this dilemma.

The next day the Bishop invited all the servants from the house of the poor and asked them to bake small loaves of sweet bread and to place or insert some gold coins in them. Afterwards, the bishop then distributed the sweet bread to each resident of his city. Some of them questioned "the gift" of bread given to them by their beloved Bishop.

What kind of a gift was this? They didn't know what to make of it. But later as they gathered in their homes, each family cut the small sweet bread and what should they find, but the pieces of gold hidden inside. This was a blessing because everyone was satisfied with the gold pieces they received.

From then on, this became an annual tradition and it has been passed down from generation to generation. And on New Year's Day as we celebrate with our families the cutting of the sweet loaf of bread or as it has become known as the "Vasilopita" named so in honor of St. Basil the Great, we too look forward to finding the lucky "coin" in the hopes that we too will be blessed in the coming year and years to come.

**Happy New Year and May God and
Agios Vasili Bless all of us!**



Η ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΙΤΑΣ

Στη μέση του πρωτοχρονιάτικου τραπέζιού φέγγει η ευλογία του αγίου και μεγάλου Βασιλείου, η βασιλόπιτα, ο εορτασμός του άγτου. Το φλουρί που κρύβει, σημάδι της τύχης, μας παραγγίζει στην ανθρωπινή αδυναμία μας για τ' άγνωστα μελλούμενα.

Πως έμεινε στα έθιμά μας;

Ο Ιουλιανός ο Παραβάτης, Ρωμαίος αυτοκράτορας στην Ανατολή, πηγαίνοντας για την Περούσια, πέρασε κοντά από την Καισάρεια. Τον προϋπάντησε τιμητικά ο παλιός συσπουδαστής του στην Αθήνα, ο Επίσκοπος τότε Βασίλειος, μαζί με το λαό.

Ο Αυτοκράτορας απαίτησε δώρα βασιλικά κατά τα ήθη και τ' αξιώματά του. Ο ασκητής επίσκοπος δεν είχε τίποτε, κι έτσι του πρόσφερε τρία κριθίνα ψωμιά. Ο βασιλιάς διέταξε τους υπηρέτες του να δώσουν στον επίσκοπο, σαν αντιδώρημα, χορτάρι σκέτο απ' τους αγρούς. Αλλά ο άγιος δεν άφησε αναπάντητη την άδικη καταφρόνηση:

—Εμείς, βασιλιά, σου προσφέρουμε από 'κείνο που τρώμε, καθώς εξήγησε. Η βασιλεία σου μας αντάμειψε, καθώς αρμυρίζει από εκείνο που τρώγει.

Ο βασιλιάς εθύμωσε και είπε:

—Τώρα, δέξου το δώρο και όταν επιστρέφω νικητής, τότε την πόλη σου θα κάψω και θα αιχμαλωτίσω τον ανόητο λαό που εξαπατάς, διότι και τους θεούς που προσκυνώ περιφρονούν, όσο για μένα, θα λάβεις την πρόπευσα αμοιβή.

Ο άγιος επέστρεψε στην πόλη και κάλεσε το λαό να τον πληροφορήσει για τις απειλές του αυτοκράτορα και τέλος είπε:

—Μη λυπηθείτε, αδελφοί μου, τα χρήματά σας, φροντίστε μόνο τη ζωή σας. Συγγεντώστε τα λεπτά σας σ' ένα μέρος. Όταν ακούσετε πως έρχεται εκείνος, θα τα ρίχνουμε σωρούς στο δρόμο, κι όπως είναι φιλοχρημάτος, αυτά θα κλέβουνε την προχούση του και θα τον κάνουν να ξεχάσει τις απειλές του.

Οι χριστιανοί έκαναν όλοι όπως τους είπε. Εκείνος σύναξε το χρυσάφι, το ασήμι, τους πολύτιμους λίθους, όλα, μέσα στο σκευοφυλάκιο κι έγραψε τ' όνομά του καθένος και ό,τι καθένος έφερε.

Όταν μαθεύτηκε πως επιστρέφει ο βασιλιάς με το στρατό του, ο άγιος είπε σ' όλους να νηστέψουμε τρεις μέρες κι όλοι μαζί ανέβηκαν μετά στο όρος Δίδυμο της Καισαρείας, όπου βρισκόταν ο ναός της Θεοτόκου και με πόνο άρχισαν να δέονται στην Παναγία ν' αλλάξει τη βουλή του αυτοκράτορα. Είδε τότε ο άγιος Ιεράρχης ουράνια στρατιά να κυκλώνει το όρος. Θρόνος στη μέση ψηλός, όπου καθόταν δοξασμένη η Κυρία των αγγέλων—η Παναγία. Την άκουσε να λέει:

—Καλέσατέ μου τον Μερκούριο.

Φάνηκε τότε ο μεγαλομάρτυρας Μερκούριος με τα όπλα του κι εκείνου του έδωσε προσηγορία να αφανίσει τον Ιουλιανό. Μετά εκάλισε τον Άγιο Βασίλειο και του παρέδωσε βιβλίο με τη δημιουργία της Κτίσης γραμμένη μέσα. Στην αρχή υπήρχε η επιγραφή "είτε" στο τέλος, όπου η θέση της πλάσης του ανθρώπου, έγραφε "τέλος". Κι αλήθεια, αργότερα, ο Άγιος Βασίλειος έγραψε ερμηνεία στην εξάημερο δημιουργία του Θεού. Όταν όμως ήταν να γράφει για τον άνθρωπο, έφυγε στους ουρανούς. Ο αδελφός του Άγιος Γρηγόριος, ο επίσκοπος Νύσσης, συμπλήρωσε γι' αυτό το θέμα.

Μετά, λοιπόν, απ' αυτήν την οπτασία, ο Άγιος κατέβηκε μόνος στην πόλη και πήγε στο ναό του Αγίου Μερκουρίου. Διαπίστωσε ότι το λείψανο του μάρτυρα έλειπε κι ανέβηκε πάλι στο Δίδυμο να ησυχάσει το λαό:

—Δοξάστε το Θεό, αδελφοί μου! Ο Ιουλιανός δεν υπάρχει πια. Ελάτε να παραλάβετε τα χρήματά σας. Και τους εξήγησε. Άλλα εκείνοι είπαν:

—Θα τα δίνουμε στον ασεβή βασιλέα και θα τ' αρνηθούμε στον ουρανό, που μας έσωσε τη ζωή; συγνημένοι, την προθυμία τους, έδωσε στον καθένα το ένα τρίτο των όσων πρόσφερε και με τα υπόλοιπα έκτισε νοσοκομεία, γηροκομεία, ξενώνες, ορφανοτροφεία.

Το ιστορικό αυτό γεγονός πέρασε στις παραδόσεις του λαού. Η συλλογική του μνήμη το μεταπλάθει, το εξαιρετικό και άγιο θέλει να το κάνει απλό και οικείο, κι έτσι το φέρνει μέσα στην καθημερινότητα του. Να τι λένε:

Μια φορά, ένας σκληρός άρχοντας της Καππαδοκίας έστειλε

ανθρώπους στο Δεσπότη της Καισαρείας και του ζήτησε θησαυρούς, αλλιώς θα πολιορκούσε την πόλη, είπε, να την πάρει ολόκληρη. Οι χριστιανοί, που αγαπούσαν πολύ τον επίσκοπό τους, πήγαν αμέσως στα σπίτια τους και του έφεραν τα χρυσαφικά τους. Όλη τη νύχτα ο άγιος Δεσπότης της Καισαρείας προσευχόταν να σώσει ο Θεός την πόλη. Το πρωί κατέφθασε ο άρχοντας με το στρατό του, που αμέσως περικύκλωσε την πόλη. Μπήκε με την ακολουθία του μέσα κι αναζήτησαν το Δεσπότη. Του έδειξαν το ναό. Πλησίασε και τον βρήκε στη θύρα να τον περιμένει, χλωμός και αδύνατος από την αγρυπνία και τη νηστεία.

—Δώσε μου λοιπόν αυτής της πόλης το χρυσάφι. Του είπε.

Εκείνος τον κοίταξε με λύπη και του απάντησε:

—Βλέπεις σ' αυτή την πόλη τίποτε πολύτιμο, που να προδίδει πλούτο;

—Δεν μπορεί παρά να υπάρχει.

—Πλούτος αυτής της πόλης είναι οι φτωχοί και πεινασμένοι, οι χτυπημένοι από την απουσία των πλουσιών.

—Άσε τα λόγια, Δέσποτα, και πές μου που έχεις κρύψει το χρυσάφι.

—Το χρυσάφι άρχοντα είναι για τους φτωχούς. Κανένος δεν περισεύει.

Ο άρχοντας θύμωσε τότε και του λέει:

—Αν δεν μου δώσεις το χρυσάφι, θα πάρω το δικό σου.

Ο Δεσπότης χαμογέλασε ελαφρά.

—Όσο κι αν ψάξεις δεν θα βρεις άλλο από το ράσο που φορώ.

—Θα σε στείλω αλυσοδεμένο μακριά από την πατρίδα σου.

—Η πατρίδα μου έμενα είναι ο ουρανός.

—Θα σε θανατώσουν.

—Καλύτερα, γιατί θα με στείλεις πιο γρήγορα εκεί.

Ο άρχοντας κόντησε να σκάσει από το κακό του και διατάζει τους αξιωματικούς του να επιτεθούν. Τότε ο επίσκοπος του λέει:

—Η πλεονεξία σου θα σε αφανίσει. Μην πειράξεις τους ανθρώπους αυτής της πόλης, που δεν σε πειράξαν. Εδώ είναι το χρυσάφι και σε περιμένει.

Και του έδειξε ένα μεγάλο σεντούκι. Αλλά πριν προλάβει να το πλησιάσει είδαν όλοι ένα λαμπρό καθαλό να ορμάει με το στρατό του, που έλαμπε κι εκείνος. Άρχοντας και στρατός έγιναν σκόνη. Έφυγαν κι ακόμα φεύγουν. Ήταν ο Άγιος Μερκούριος με αγγέλους, λένε.

Δόξασαν όλοι το Θεό. Μα ο Δεσπότης βρέθηκε σε δύσκολη θέση μετά. Πως να μοιράσει να μοιράσει πάλι τα χρυσαφικά στους κατοίκους της πόλης του. Να τους καλέσει, φοβήθηκε ότι θα τους πιάσει η πλεονεξία και καθένος θα κοιτάξει να πάρει τα καλύτερα κοσμήματα. Προσευχήθηκε και ο Θεός τον φώτισε τι να κάνει.

Κάλεσε τους υπηρέτες και διακόνους από τα πτωχοκομεία και τους είπε να ζυμώσουν μικρά ψωμάκια και σε κάθε ψωμάκι να βάλουν κι από μερικά χρυσαφικά. Μετά τα μοίρασε σαν δώρο στους πιστούς του κι αυτοί τα πήραν παραξενεμένοι. "Τι δώρο είναι αυτό από το δεσπότη μας;" ρωτούσαν ο ένας τον άλλον. Μα όταν κάθε οικογένεια έκοβε το ψωμάκι, έβρισκε τα χρυσαφικά της.

Από τότε φτιάχνουμε τη βασιλόπιτα με το φλουρί, την πρώτη μέρα του χρόνου. Έτσι λέει αυτή η παράδοση.

Τον Μέγα Βασίλειο συνηθίσαμε να τον βλέπουμε σαν ευχάριστη φιγούρα της πρωτοχρονιάς, σαν ροδομάγουλο ασπρογένι κι ασπρομάλλη παππού με τα δώρα. Για τα παιδικά μας χρόνια, ταιριάζει, αλλά αργότερα, ας τον γνωρίσουμε όπως είναι: Ωχρό, ασκητικό, με σοφία και δύναμη. Και η αγάπη του επίσης εκδηλώνεται με δύναμη και αγιότητα. Τα έργα του τότε, και η γνώση του ως τώρα, μας χαρίζουν την αληθινή του όψη. Βλαστάνουν λόγο γλωρό ως σήμερα, όπως λένε απλοϊκά και κάποια κάλαντα:

"Ο άη-Βασίλης έρχεται από την Καισαρεία,

Βαστάει πέννα και χαρτί, χαρτί και καλαμάρι

Και το ραβδί του ακούμπησε να πει τ' αλφαβητάρι

Και το ραβδί του ήτο ξερό, χλωρούς βλαστούς επέτα...

Κι επάνω στους χλωρούς βλαστούς περδίνια εκκακαριόντα..."

Μια ευχή (για εφέτος και για κάθε χρόνο) Η βασιλόπιτα να μας ενώνει πάντα γύρω από το πρωτοχρονιάτικο τραπέζι...και το νόημα κι οι συμβολισμοί που τη συνοδεύουν αιώνες τώρα να φωτίζουν το νου και τις πράξεις όλων των ανθρώπων...και ν' ανοίγουν το δρόμο μας προς το μέλλον με υγεία, πρόοδο και ανθρωπιά.

Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. to), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucratius. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian."

Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice

at naught, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before."

The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restored if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counselors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379, at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

Saint Basil is also celebrated on January 30th with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom.



On January 6th

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Today the waters of the Jordan are transformed into healing by the coming of the Lord.

Today the transgressions of men are washed away by the waters of the Jordan.

Today Paradise has been opened and the Son of Righteousness shines down upon us.

Today we have been delivered from darkness and illuminated with the light of the knowledge of God.

Today the Master hastens toward baptism that He may lift man up to the heights.

Today the Master buries in the waters the sin of mortal man.

Today the Master receives testimony from on high, that He is the beloved Son.

Today the Master comes to sanctify the nature of the waters.

~Epiphany Prayer



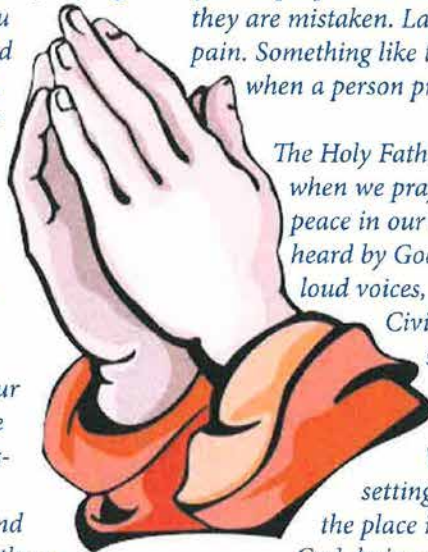
NOTICE:
Due to increased postal charges, the 2026 Ecclesiastical Church calendars will be distributed personally to pledged stewards of Saint Nicholas Church. To ensure that every steward receives a calendar, only one will be given to each family. The calendars may be picked up by visiting the Church Secretary during regular business hours. If anyone is unable to pick up their calendar during those times, please contact Eleni Kostalas-Lentis, Church Secretary, at (410-633-5020) to arrange a suitable time for pick up.
Thank you for your cooperation.

HOW CAN I RECEIVE SPIRITUAL CONTRITION THROUGH PRAYER?

A monk once asked his Abbot who was filled with wisdom and was experienced in the fields of spirituality a question: "I love chanting the Byzantine Hymns, and I am very proud to say that I have a great voice." The Abbot said: "The Soul my son is not satisfied totally just by hearing the melody of the hymn. It is satisfied by the written word of the Hymn's Contents." The Abbot continued by saying that if you just sing for the melody, you are in danger of falling into vanity, and your heart will turn as hard as a rock. Whether you pray or chant, always be in the presence of God. Don't allow your thought to stray. It is through the process of humility that gives birth to contrition. Don't show off your wisdom or knowledge. It's better to choose to be taught than to teach.

Taking all this in mind, if God sees your love and humility, He will give you the talent of Contrition. In order for Christians to pray, the Abbot said that we must first have peaceful enthusiasm and silence. When we pray together with others in church, we must suspend ourselves from outside distractions and loud voices which bring turmoil to the hearts that are praying. In order to pray, we must reach deep down in our heart and bring out the inner pain with a peaceful mind dedicated to God.

There are people, who suffer from physical ailments. Even though they go under surgery or cauterization, they suffer the pain and stress without yelling or causing other problems. They go through the procedure with peace in their hearts. There are also people who are impatient that through their loud voices cause and create disruption or confusion for others. If these people think that they will avoid the pain, they are mistaken. Later on they will be in greater pain. Something like the examples above happen when a person prays.



The Holy Fathers of the Church say that when we pray in complete silence and peace in our heart, our prayer is always heard by God. Whenever we pray with loud voices, with demonstration whether Civil or Political, this can become scandalous. We as Christians should refrain from outside disturbances when we pray. We need to choose a proper setting or place, and make sure that the place is very peaceful. This is what God desires according to the prophet who said; "When I see a person praying with in a peaceful and humble manner, the words which are heard, then they will be accepted by God." Any person who chooses to pray in this manner becomes the example of Light for others to follow.

Father Michael L. Pastrikos



SPONSOR A COFFEE HOUR

We have resumed the Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour in memory of a loved one, for the health of your family, or in honor of our Saint Nicholas Church. Please call the office at 410-633-5020 to schedule.

Thank you for your support!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you have not been receiving notifications from the church, we kindly request that you notify the church office of any change of address, phone number (home and/or cell) as well as change of your e-mail address.

Thank you for your cooperation.

CLIP IT, AND SUBMIT IT TO CHURCH

Blessing Your Home

Dear Parishioners:

In the month of January, we celebrate a Great Feast within the Orthodox Church. Epiphany, the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6th. It is the season of the blessing of the Holy Waters, when also the parish priest through his very rich custom brings the Blessed Holy Water to the faithful in their homes and business establishments. This enables everyone to receive the Great Blessing of our Lord for the New Year of 2026. I feel that this is a beautiful custom, that as your priest, bringing the Blessed Holy Water of Epiphany to you, my parishioners, allows me to remain close to you and your family. We request that you fill out the form below or call the church office, and your request will be forwarded to Father Michael who will contact you to arrange a convenient time.

PLEASE NOTE: Only those homes that submit this form or call will be visited. I hope that each family will take advantage of this traditional and important blessing for the New Year of 2026. With Paternal Blessing and Best Wishes for this Holiday Season!

*With Love in Christ Jesus,
Father Michael*

BLESSING OF HOME/BUSINESS

NAME: **PHONE:**

ADDRESS:

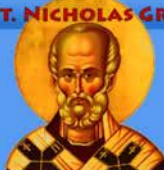
Preferred time of visit: Morning **Afternoon** **Evening**

(Please check one)

Please complete this form and return to the church office or call 410-633-5020.



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BALTIMORE
A PARISH OF THE METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY





HOPE & JOY

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGES 3-11

Strengthening the relationship of Youth Orthodox Christians with Jesus Christ & His Church through fellowship, prayer, discussion, interactive activities, crafts and more!

Contact Eva Mavroulis 717-969-0016

JOY & HOPE SIGN UP

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it
Proverbs 22:6

Ecumenical Patriarch and Pope Sign Joint Declaration Affirming Commitment to Unity, Rejection of Violence



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Leo XIV sign a joint declaration at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on November 29, 2025. (Photo credit: Vatican Media)

December 1, 2025

At the Phanar, the sacred center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople on November 29, 2025, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Leo XIV signed an historic Joint Declaration that reiterated their commitment, on behalf of both Churches, to continue to pursue dialogue for the ultimate goal of restoring full communion between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Declaration also reaffirms the Hierarchs' mutual rejection of using religion to justify violence. This Joint Declaration will form the foundation of future efforts to heal ancient divisions and heed the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

The Declaration firmly rejects religious violence and concludes on an inspiring note of abiding faith in these troubled times: "While we are deeply alarmed by the current international situation, we do not lose hope. God will not abandon humanity."

On the eve of the feast of Saint Andrew the First-called Apostle, brother of the Apostle Peter and patron of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we, Pope Leo XIV and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, give heartfelt thanks to God, our merciful Father, for the gift of this fraternal meeting. Following the example of our venerable predecessors, and heeding the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to walk with firm determination on the path of dialogue, in love and truth (cf. *Eph* 4:15), towards the hoped-for restoration of full communion between our sister Churches. Aware that Christian unity is not merely the result of human efforts, but a gift that comes from on high, we invite all the members of our Churches – clergy, monastics, consecrated persons, and the lay faithful – earnestly to seek the fulfilment of the prayer that Jesus Christ addressed to the Father: “that they may all be one, even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you... so that the world may believe” (*Jn* 17:21).

The commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, celebrated on the eve of our meeting, was an extraordinary moment of grace. The Council of Nicaea held in 325 AD was a providential event of unity. The purpose for commemorating this event, however, is not simply to call to mind the historical importance of the Council, but to spur us on to be continuously open to the same Holy Spirit who spoke through Nicaea, as we wrestle with the many challenges of our time. We are deeply grateful to all the leaders and delegates of other Churches and ecclesial communities who were willing to participate in this event. In addition to acknowledging the obstacles that prevent the restoration of full communion among all Christians – obstacles which we seek to address through the path of theological dialogue – we must also recognize that what binds us together is the faith expressed in the creed of Nicaea. This is the saving faith in the person of the Son of God, true God from true God, *homoousios* with the Father, who for us and our salvation was incarnate and dwelt among us, was crucified, died and was buried, arose on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. Through the coming of the Son of God, we are initiated into the mystery of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and are invited to become, in and through the person of Christ, children of the Father and co-heirs with Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Endowed with this common confession, we can face our shared challenges in bearing witness to the faith expressed at Nicaea with mutual respect, and work together towards concrete solutions with genuine hope.

We are convinced that the commemoration of this significant anniversary can inspire new and courageous steps on the path towards unity. Among its decisions, the First Council of Nicaea also provided the criteria for determining the date of Easter, common for all Christians. We are grateful to divine providence that this year the whole Christian world celebrated Easter on the same day. It is our shared desire to continue the process of exploring a possible solution for celebrating together the Feast of Feasts every year. We hope and pray that all Christians will, “in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (*Col* 1:9), commit themselves to the process of arriving at a common celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year we also commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic Joint Declaration of our venerable predecessors, [Pope Paul VI](#) and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, which extinguished the exchange of excommunications of 1054. We give thanks to God that this prophetic gesture prompted our Churches to pursue “in a spirit of trust, esteem and mutual charity the dialogue which, with God’s help, will lead to living together again, for the greater good of souls and the coming of the kingdom of God, in that full communion of faith, fraternal accord and sacramental life which existed among them during the first thousand years of the life of the Church” ([Joint Declaration of Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras](#), 7 December 1965). At the same time, we exhort those who are still hesitant to any form of dialogue, to listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches (cf. *Rev* 2:29), who in the current circumstances of history urges us to present to the world a renewed witness of peace, reconciliation and unity.

Convinced of the importance of dialogue, we express our continued support for the work of the [Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church](#), which in its current phase is examining issues that have historically been considered divisive. Together with the irreplaceable role that theological dialogue plays in the process of rapprochement between our Churches, we also commend the other necessary elements of this process, including fraternal contacts, prayer, and joint work in all those areas where cooperation is already possible. We strongly urge all the faithful of our Churches, and especially the clergy and theologians, to embrace joyously the fruits that have been achieved thus far, and to labor for their continued increase.

The goal of Christian unity includes the objective of contributing in a fundamental and life-giving manner to peace among all peoples. Together we fervently raise our voices in invoking God's gift of peace upon our world. Tragically, in many regions of our world, conflict and violence continue to destroy the lives of so many. We appeal to those who have civil and political responsibilities to do everything possible to ensure that the tragedy of war ceases immediately, and we ask all people of good will to support our entreaty.

In particular, we reject any use of religion and the name of God to justify violence. We believe that authentic interreligious dialogue, far from being a cause of syncretism and confusion, is essential for the coexistence of peoples of different traditions and cultures. Mindful of the 60th anniversary of the declaration [Nostra Aetate](#), we exhort all men and women of good will to work together to build a more just and supportive world, and to care for creation, which is entrusted to us by God. Only in this way can the human family overcome indifference, desire for domination, greed for profit and xenophobia.

While we are deeply alarmed by the current international situation, we do not lose hope. God will not abandon humanity. The Father sent his Only-Begotten Son to save us, and the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, bestowed upon us the Holy Spirit, to make us sharers in his divine life, preserving and protecting the sacredness of the human person. By the Holy Spirit we know and experience that God is with us. For this reason, in our prayer we entrust to God every human being, especially those in need, those who experience hunger, loneliness or illness. We invoke upon each member of the human family every grace and blessing so that "their hearts may be encouraged, as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery," who is our Lord Jesus Christ (*Col 2:2*).

From the Phanar, 29 November 2025

SAINT NICHOLAS NAME DAY LITURGY



SAINT NICHOLAS NAME DAY DANCE





Saint Nicholas: Our Church

A new month... A new year! Αρχιμηνιά κ' Αρχιχρονιά! A fresh start... All is calm as we bask in the joyful celebration of our Lord's birth. For us Orthodox Christians the

celebration continues as we commemorate the Epiphany, the Theophania on January 6th. What a wonderful experience it must have been for those witnessing the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity! Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending on Jesus, as the heavens above open and the voice of God is heard proclaiming "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased!"

This is the reason that our Church signifies this day as one of the most important days on the liturgical calendar; the Glory of God is revealed to us. This inspirational day in early January, decreed by the Holy Fathers, sets the pace for all the major feast days that our Church will commemorate throughout the year.

We, the members of every congregation, are the LIVING CHURCH of Christ. Our beautiful Saint Nicholas building is the church, as are all sanctified structures in which parishioners gather to attend services. This is the building which calls us to worship and thank God. On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock no matter where we are we know that the liturgical service is beginning. Even if we find ourselves far from Saint Nicholas, our heart tells us that we belong in church, hearing the Good News, celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy, glorifying and worshipping God with our church family. What could be so important on Sunday mornings and during the vespers of high holy days as to draw us away from our church, away from honoring and thanking God as an Orthodox Christian community. Of course, we pray as individuals at home or wherever we find ourselves, but it pleases God more to see His children—His Body—united in prayer glorifying His name. Do we not realize that our fellow parishioners miss us when we are absent from among them?

The following comes from the late Father Menelaos Papageorgiou, Protopresbyteros, of the Greek Orthodox Church "Zoodohos Peghe" in Martin's Ferry, Ohio which the author finds worthy of sharing with the readers of the Koinonia.

"I am your church. I am here because you built me. I am beautifully situated in your midst. In the center of your community I will be a cherished landmark to the thousands who come to my door over the years. You built me because you knew that your life would be incomplete and unfulfilled without me. I am your church. I am here not simply to adorn, but to serve. Your children and youth come to me to learn the ways of honesty, industry, morality and religion. Your brides and grooms come to my altar that their weddings may be hallowed and sweetened by divine blessings. I am your church. I comfort your sick and sorrowing. I bury your dead and offer rest and solace to the weary. I bring pardon and peace to those who are burdened with sin. My message of mercy brings new life. I am your church. My doors are open to all—rich and poor, bond and free. My pulpit rings out the message of good will to men, of peace and pardon and of a Savior's love to all. I teach you the ways of life and guide you on the road to heaven. I am your church. Come and worship with me; and I will serve you all your days on this earth and beyond."

As you read Father Papageorgiou's meaning of the church, can't you hear our beloved Saint Nicholas speaking to you? Can you imagine life without our church? I don't think any of us can. Saint Nicholas offers us several avenues to nurture us spiritually, learning more about our Lord Jesus Christ and thus bringing us closer to Him. How do we respond?

As we begin the new year and make many resolutions to improve our personal lives, let us resolve not to overlook resolutions which will benefit our souls. Let us resolve to address our spiritual needs in preparation for our salvation by giving as much, if not more, thought and effort to our spiritual well-being as we do to our material needs.

Beginning this Sunday morning let us resolve to be IN church regularly; accepting the invitation of the Panaghia Platitera embracing us with outstretched arms, answering the welcoming call to worship of Saint Nicholas.

Let us heed the words of Father Papageorgiou by taking an in-depth look at our beloved Saint Nicholas; showing our appreciation for all that she offers us by supporting her; not only monetarily, but with our time and God-given talents so that she "will serve (us) all (our) days on this earth and beyond."

**Wishing you a Blessed and
Happy New Year!**

On a lighter note the author thinks that you will enjoy "The Month After Christmas"

(Continued...)

HAPPY NEW YEAR



The Month After Christmas

Tw'as the month after Christmas, and all
Through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog
I would taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose
Such a number!
When I walked to the store it was less a walk
Than a lumber.
I remembered the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rare,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread
And the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "None
For me please!"
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt—
I said to myself, as only I can
"You can't spend another winter disguised as a man!"
So - - away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like
Must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie - - not even a lick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or cornbread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, life's no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

~Author Unknown

GOOD QUOTES

God is under no obligation to give us what we expect.

All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone (with God).
—Blaise Pascal

God plus one believer is a majority.

When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry – your Savior, a Lifeguard walks on water.

Let nothing trouble you, let nothing frighten you
Everything passes, God never changes

Patience, Obtains all.

Whoever has God, wants for nothing. God alone is enough.

—Saint Teresa of Avila

When I am at peace within, I live among spiritual riches.

—Anonymous

Believe in the sun even if it isn't shining.
Believe in love even when alone.
Believe in God even when He is silent.

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back; May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His Hand and May God bless you.



ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TAKEN FROM CHURCH BULLETINS!

Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.

*Thursday night - Potluck Supper.
Prayer and medication to follow.*

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.



Greek Corner

In addition, I am adding “The Greek Corner” which is the outcome of phrases frequently used during conversations with Father Michael. They are sayings, parables, idioms with variations that address and express life situations or specific persons and have been common throughout the Greek world for many generations. In fact, such messages are universal. You are encouraged to inform us of some that are familiar to you. Please send them to: el817@yahoo.com



1.). Ο καλός φίλος στην ανάγκη φαίνεται!

A friend in need is a friend indeed!

2.). Το σίδερο ζεστό κολάη!

Strike while the iron is hot!

3.). Όποιος βιάζεται, σκοντάφτει!

One who is in a hurry, stumbles!

Haste makes waste!

4.). Δέκα, δέκα τα λέγη!

He/she speaks 10 words at a time! Talks a lot! Motor mouth! Blabber mouth!

5.). Όποιος γυρίζει, μυρίζει! και όποιος κάθεται, βρωμάει!

One who makes the rounds, gets a whiff of everything! One who is idle stinks!

An active person gets to see and get a taste for what is available; he generally comes out ahead; making better choices when shopping, comparing products and prices!

One who is idle is limited in knowing what is available, in making choices.

Dear reader,

We thought that a new twist to The Greek Corner would be of interest to you!

What does each of these American phrases mean?

Is there a Greek phrase of similar meaning?

We would like your participation. Enjoy!

Please give us your opinions/answers by emailing Father Michael: frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com

We're looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

- 1) Down to the wire.....means?Similar meaning of Greek phrase.....
- 2) In hot water.....means?Similar meaning ofGreek phrase.....
- 3) Up in the air.....means?Similar meaning of Greek phrase.....
- 4) Bite the bullet.....means?Similar meaning of Greek phrase.....
- 5) Burn the midnight oil.....means?Similar meaning of Greek phrase.....

Ομήνας Δεκέμβριος στο σχολείο μας είχε έντονο εορταστικό χαρακτήρα και γέμισε χαρά, δημιουργία και συνεργασία τόσο το εκπαιδευτικό δυναμικό όσο και το μαθητικό.

Στο πλαίσιο των χριστουγεννιάτικων δραστηριοτήτων, παρασκευάσαμε παραδοσιακούς κουραμπιέδες, με τη θερμή υποστήριξη του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Κηδεμόνων, ο οποίος φρόντισε πρόθυμα για την προμήθεια όλων των απαραίτητων υλικών.

Μαζί με τους μαθητές, γνωρίσαμε και ονομάσαμε τα υλικά που χρησιμοποιήσαμε και στη συνέχεια συμμετείχαμε όλοι ενεργά στη διαδικασία παρασκευής. Η δραστηριότητα πραγματοποιήθηκε μέσα σε κλίμα ενθουσιασμού, συνεργασίας και χαράς.

Παράλληλα, όλα τα παιδιά του σχολείου μας έμαθαν αλλά και θυμήθηκαν τα παραδοσιακά κάλαντα των Χριστουγέννων. Τα τραγούδησαν στη γειτονιά του Αγίου Νικολάου και στη συνέχεια, όλοι μαζί, στη μεγάλη κοινοτική αίθουσα, παρουσία συγγενών και φίλων τραγούδησαν χριστουγεννιάτικα τραγούδια, μεταφέροντας το εορταστικό πνεύμα σε όλους.

Με αυτές τις όμορφες δράσεις, το σχολείο μας εύχεται σε όλους καλή κι ευλογημένη χρονιά, με υγεία, χαρά και ευτυχία το νέο έτος.

Με εκτίμηση,

Καλλιόπη Πέρου - Βασιλειάδη
Εκπαιδευτικός Δημοτικής Εκπαίδευσης

The month of December at our school had a strong festive character and filled both the teaching staff and the students with joy, creativity, and a spirit of cooperation. As part of the Christmas activities, we prepared traditional kourabiedes with the warm support of the PTA, which kindly took care of providing all the necessary ingredients.

Together with the students, we became familiar with and named the ingredients we used, and then everyone actively participated in the preparation process. The activity took place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, collaboration, and happiness.

At the same time, all the children of our school learned and revisited the traditional Christmas carols. They sang the carols in the neighborhood of Agios Nikolaos and later, all together in the large community hall, in the presence of relatives and friends, they sang Christmas songs, sharing the festive spirit with everyone.

Through these wonderful activities, our school wishes everyone a happy and blessed New Year, filled with health, joy, and happiness.

Sincerely,
Kelly Peros Vasiliades
Greek Language Teacher



SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH HAPPENINGS



Father Michael teaches about the church and what Christmas means to the students of the Greek School every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Our Greek school celebrating with family, friends, and a visit from Santa.



RHODIAN SOCIETY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



COME JOIN THE
Rhodian Society of Maryland
AT OUR ANNUAL
BULL, SHRIMP & OYSTER FEAST

TO BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Friday, February 06, 2026
from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

UAW Hall Local 239
1010 S. Oldham Street

Celebrate Valentines Day Early!!



Come join us for a good time, plenty of food, good friends,
games and music!

**Menu: All you can eat Steamed Shrimp, Raw Oysters, Pit
Beef, Pit Ham, Greek Salad, Corn Pudding, Shrimp soup,
Beer, soft drinks & much more included!! (menu subject to
change)**

Adults: \$65.00/pp & kids 12 & under \$30.00

Interested in tickets or a table please contact:

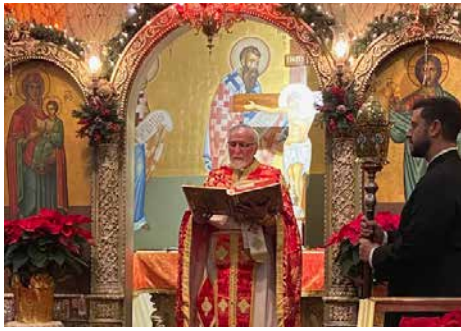
**Stella Karais, Bill Nychis, Vasilli Phillipou, Maritsa Angelou,
visit us on Facebook**



HGC AND GREEK SCHOOL SINGING THE KALANTA



SAINT NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



THANK YOU - CHRISTMAS CARD & POINSETTIAS

To our Beloved Parishioners who donated generously to the Community Christmas Card and Poinsettias,
we THANK YOU!

Fr. Michael and Presbytera Toula Pastrikos
Pantelis, Stamatia, Dimitris, Anna, & Katerina Ieromonahos
Saint Nicholas Diamonds
Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Nicholas Church
Saint Nicholas G.O.YA.
Saint Nicholas Sunday School
Saint Nicholas Greek School and P.T.A.

Saint Nicholas Hellenic Golden Coins Dance Group
Saint Nicholas Pan-Hellenic Dance Group
AHEPA Lord Baltimore Chapter #364
"Diagoras" Rhodian Society
Ladies Pan Chian Society
Olympian Brotherhood of America
United Chios Societies of Baltimore

Spiro, Penny, Katerina, & Christina
Alafassos
Niki, Spiro, Nicholas, & Yianni
Alexandrou
Mary Amann
The Angelos Family - Mark, Popi, Irene
& Michael
Ms. Mary Antonas
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Aravides & Family
Andronikos, Paraskevi & Yiannis
Argetakis
Pantelis & Debbie Argirakis
Irene Filippou Arvanitis
Mr. & Mrs. George & Phaedra Avgerinos
& Family
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Irene Black & Family
Catherine K. Bonolis
Lambrini Bournias
The Bournias Family
Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Britzolakis &
Family
Stanley Cavouras
Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Foula Cejpek &
Family
Bobby & Aspasia Charalambopoulos
George & Stavroula Chrisovergis
John & Teri Chrissomallis & Family
Metaxia Chrissomallis & Family
Sophie Chrissomallis
Mr. Phillip & Mrs. Marina Christ &
Family
Garifalia Conway
Harry J. Cook
Fotini Cornias
Larry, Kyriala, Kalliopi, Markella, &
Vasili Cornias
Roza Cornias
Milton & Emily Cossis
Anastasia & Marianthi Diniotis
Nikolas, Dimitra, Anastasios, & Stefanos
Douskas
Konstantinos Douskas & Family
Vasiliki Douskas & Family
Ernest & Lillian Eliou
James & Valasia Fakas
Nicholas Filippou

Col. John E. & Patricia Gavrilis
Mike & Valentina Georgalas & Family
The Georgas Family
Fotini, Sofia & Penny Gerapetritis
Tommy, Irene, & Michael Gerapetritis
Despina Glykiadis
Konstantinos Glykiadis
Athena (Tina) Harris
Anastasia - Stasa Hatziefthimiou
Minas & Karla Hatziminas
Foula Haziminas
Minas & Fotini Houvardas & Family
George Ieromonahos & Family
Kapetanakos Family
Panagiotis & Eleni Karabelas & Family
Athanasios Karaflos
Gus & Sue Karagiannopoulos & Family
Eleftheria Karamichalis
Theologos Karamichalis
Mr. & Mrs. George Karoutsos & Family
Michael & Nora Kefalas
Mike & Katina Klosteridis & Family
Zinovia Koliadis
Kyriaki & Kostas Kontoudis
Jimmy & Denise Kosmas & Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Kostakis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Koukides
Mr. George Koukides
Sotiri & Vasso Koumoudis & Family
Eva Lallas
Nikolaos Laskaridis
Minas, Eleni, Despina, & Georgia Lentis
Pericles & Melina Likakis
John Makris & Family
Manolis & Sofia Mastromanolis
Argie & Jimmy Maurakis & Family
Mrs. Tsambika Mavromoustakos
Christine Micklos
Mr. & Mrs. Kimon & Zinovia Milonas
Michalis & Flora Moniodis
Nezis Family & Anthi Koukoulas
Bill & Eva Nychis
John & Katina Palas & Family
Mr. Mrs. Takis & Kalliopi Papadopoulos
The Papatthakis Family
Lucas & Renee Papavasiliou & Family

John, Popi, Foula, & Eliana Paragios
Paralis Family
Mary Paros
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos & Angelica
Parthemos
Tony, Maria, Markella, & Nicoletta Pearce
Kalliopi Philippou
Vasilios Philippou & Aphrodite Strifas
Eleni Pikounis
John & Despina Pikounis & Family
Georgia Pitsos & Family
Minas, Sophia, & Maria Politis
James Prassinis & Family
George V. Protopapas & Family
Manolis Protopapas & Family
Nikolaos & Marina Protopapas
Christina Rologas
Dimitrios & Poli Roros
Dean & Soula Roxanis
Yianni, Voula & Vasili Sakelakis
Mike & Colette Sakellis
John & Angeliki Sfakianoudis & Family -
Υπερ Υγεια
Antonia Sfiriou
George Skandalis & Family
Mrs. Paraskevi Souranis
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Stakias & Family
Mr. & Mrs. George & Mary Stakias &
Family
Mike & Lemonia Stakias & Family
Gerasimos & Kalliopi Stavlas
George, Emily, Dimitri, Niko, & George
Nick & Kiki Syropoulos
Rhodea Tetteris
John, Renee, Johnny, & Stella Themelis
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel & Maria
Theoharis & Family
Thorina Trintis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsamos
Stasa, Irene, Theofilos Vasilakopoulos
Frank & Irene Vasilios
George & Irene Vonakis
Iosif Vonakis & Family
The Yeakim Family
Steve & Katina Yianakis

SAINT NICHOLAS EPIPHANY SERVICE



GREEK SCHOOL - VASILOPITA AND EPIPHANY





PTA OFFICERS & MEMBERS

President	Alexandra Forakis
Vice President	Maria Ieromonahos
Treasurer	Alexandra Karoutsos
Recording Secretary	Angela Yeakim
Corresponding Secretary	Stella Fotinos
Members	Angela Tserkis
	Anna Ieromonahos
	Dimitra Douskas
	Lia Dimas
	Maria Lykos
	Moshoula Tsamouras
	Sofia Vasiliadis
	Sophia Politis
	Tsambika Korologos



Monday, January 12th at 5:30 pm

Monday, February 9th at 5:30 pm

Monday, March 9th at 5:30 pm

Monday, April 20th at 5:30 pm

Monday, May 11th at 5:30 pm



Monday, January 5th	Theophany - Craft & Video, Vasilopita Cutting
Monday, January 12th & Wednesday, January 14th	Lambades Making
TBD	Three Heirarchs Program
Thursday, February 12th	Tsiknopempti Fundraiser
Wednesday, February 18th	Apokries Activities/Crafts
TBD	Godparents Sunday -Spaghetti Lunch, Laganes & Tiropites Fundraiser
Monday, February 23rd	Clean Monday: Lenten Foods & Craft
Monday, March 2nd	Marti Bracelets
Sunday, March 22nd	Greek Independence Day Program
Wednesday, April 1st	Easter Crafts
Saturday, April 4th	Lazarus Breakfast
Monday, May 4th	Protomagia Celebration
Wednesday, May 27th	End of Year Program
TBD	6th Grade Dinner
June 11th -14th	Kids Zone at Greek Festival



SAINT NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The Saint Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center provides a safe, nurturing, home away from home learning center. We accept children from 6 weeks till 5 years of age. BEEC is hiring part-time and full-time aides to assist our teachers at the Center. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call the Center at 410-633-5020 extension 4 or message us on Facebook.

BEEC had a Christmas Program for the center's families where the children sang Christmas carols in both Greek and English. Our program was completed with a visit from Santa Claus. The Jumping Jaguars class did a phenomenal job singing their songs "O Elato" and "Dashing through the snow".

Happy New Year! To welcome 2026, Father Michael will be blessing our school and we will cut the traditional Vasilopita with the BEEC Staff. The children will be having a pajama party every Wednesday for the month of January.

Το Δίγλωσσο Κέντρο Προσχολικής Αγωγής Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές, φροντιστικό, κέντρο μάθησης μακριά από το σπίτι. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά από 6 εβδομάδων έως 5 ετών. Εάν έχετε οποιεσδήποτε ερωτήσεις ή χρειάζεστε πρόσθετες πληροφορίες, μη διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με το κέντρο στο 410-633-5020 εσωτερικό νούμερο 4 ή να μας στείλετε μήνυμα στο Facebook.

Το BEEC διοργάνωσε ένα Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πρόγραμμα για τις οικογένειες του κέντρου, όπου τα παιδιά τραγούδησαν χριστουγεννιάτικα κάλαντα στα ελληνικά και στα αγγλικά. Το πρόγραμμά μας ολοκληρώθηκε με την επίσκεψη του Άγιου Βασίλη. Η τάξη Jumping Jaguars έκανε μια εκπληκτική δουλειά τραγουδώντας τα τραγούδια της «Ο Έλατο» και «Rashing through the snow».

Καλή Χρονιά! Για να καλωσορίσουμε το 2026, ο Πατέρας Μιχαήλ θα ευλογήσει το σχολείο μας και θα κόψουμε την παραδοσιακή Βασιλόπιτα με το προσωπικό του BEEC. Τα παιδιά θα κάνουν πιτζάμα πάρτι κάθε Τετάρτη για τον μήνα Ιανουάριο.



Goya would like to thank everyone for supporting us in 2025 and wish the community a happy and healthy new year!

Upcoming Events:

- 1/10 Annapolis Tournament
- 1/17 Holy Trinity Tournament
- 2/7 Annual Bingo



SAINT NICHOLAS GOYA BINGO NIGHT

February 7, 2026

Greektown Square & Events Center - 701 Quail Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

DOORS OPEN @ 4:30pm ~ GAMES BEGIN @ 6:00pm



*50/50 Raffles
Specials
Tricky Tray Raffles
Door Prizes & More!*

*Food, Sweets,
Beer, Wine & Drinks
Available for purchase!*

Wear Pink or Red for a chance to win surprise prizes!

***BINGO PRIZES INCLUDE:
Designer Handbags,
Electronics, Fun Baskets
& Surprises!***

***\$45 per person | Advance ticket sales only
For Tickets & Tables Text Penny 443-756-2201***

All you need is love AND Fabulous Prizes...



PHILOPTOCHOS

Jeremiah: 29: 11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Wishing everyone a Blessed New Year with Health, Happiness, and Prosperity!*

As the year begins, we look forward to continuing the mission of Philanthropy and assisting those in need. We are grateful for all the continued support and generosity to our Philoptochos.

Thank you to all those that have donated to the annual hat, gloves, and blanket drive. We will continue to collect items until the end of January. Your donations will be donated to the local Family Crisis Center.

On January 11th, we will hold our Annual Vasilopita cutting, and a special tray will be passed around to benefit St. Basil's Academy.

Individual vasilopitakia will be distributed to all the worshippers at the end of the Divine Liturgy. At this time, we would like to thank Mrs. Despina Kostalas for her donation and wish her and her family a Blessed New Year.

Please note the Brunch that was scheduled for Sunday, January 18th has been cancelled to unforeseen circumstances. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL APOKREATIKO DANCE TO BENEFIT THE PHILOXENIA HOUSE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST AT JIMMY'S FAMOUS SEAFOOD. DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Donations to Saint Nicholas Philoptochos:

Mrs. Despina Kostalas
Spiros Catering
Mrs. Flora Moniodes
Mrs. Garifilia Conway

Saint Nicholas Food Drive:

Anonymous Donor

In memory of Michael Verinakis:

Maria Verinakis

Donations to Philoxenia House:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Koukides

Ιερεμίας: 29:11 *Διότι γνωρίζω τα σχέδια που έχω για εσάς», δηλώνει ο Κύριος, «σχεδιάζει να σας ευημερήσει και όχι να σας βλάψει, σχέδια να σας δώσει ελπίδα και μέλλον. Ευχόμαστε σε όλους μια ευλογημένη νέα χρονιά με υγεία, ευτυχία και ευημερία!*

Καθώς ξεκινά η χρονιά, ανυπομονούμε να συνεχίσουμε την αποστολή της Φιλανθρωπίας και να βοηθήσουμε όσους έχουν ανάγκη. Είμαστε ευγνώμονες για όλη τη συνεχή υποστήριξη και γενναιοδωρία προς τη Φιλόπτωχο μας.

Ευχαριστούμε όλους όσους έχουν κάνει δωρεές για την ετήσια συγκέντρωση καπέλων, γαντιών και κουβερτών. Θα συνεχίσουμε να συλλέγουμε είδη μέχρι το τέλος Ιανουαρίου. Οι δωρεές σας θα διατεθούν στο τοπικό Κέντρο Οικογενειακής Κρίσης.

Την 11η Ιανουαρίου, θα κάνουμε την Ετήσια κοπή της Βασιλόπιτας, και ένα ειδικό δίσκο θα περάσει για να ωφεληθεί η Ακαδημία του Αγίου Βασιλείου.

Ατομικά βασιλοπιτάκια θα διανεμηθούν σε όλους τους προσκυνητές στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας. Αυτή την ώρα, θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τη κα Δέσποινα Κωστάλα για τη δωρεά της και να της ευχηθούμε, όπως και στην οικογένειά της, έναν Ευλογημένο Νέο Χρόνο.

Λάβετε υπόψη ότι το Brunch που ήταν προγραμματισμένο για την Κυριακή 18 Ιανουαρίου ακυρώθηκε λόγω απρόβλεπτων συνθηκών. Ανυπομονούμε να δούμε όλους στην επόμενη εκδήλωσή μας.

ΚΡΑΤΗΣΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ: ΕΤΗΣΙΟΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΑΤΙΚΟΣ ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ PHILOXENIA HOUSE ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 21 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ ΣΤΟ JIMMY'S FAMOUS SEAFOOD. ΛΕΙΠΤΟΜΕΡΕΙΕΣ ΘΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΗΣΟΥΝ

Δωρεές στον Άγιο Νικόλαο Φιλόπτωχο:

Κα Δέσποινα Κωστάλα
Spiros Catering
Κα Φλώρα Μονιόδη
Κα Γαρφαλιά Κόνγουει

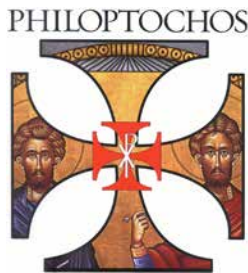
Saint Nicholas Food Drive:

Ανώνυμος Δωρητής

Στη μνήμη του Μιχαήλ Βερινάκης:
Μαρία Βερινάκη

Δωρεές στον Οίκο Philoxenia:

Κος και κα Χάρης Κουκίδης



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Fotini Anastasis

Chris Angelopoulos
Barbara Fourtinakis
GTG - Elkton Chapter
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Katsaros
Joanna Oliveri
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Souranis
Stavros Rologas
Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
Rose Tsakalos

In Memory of Penelope Fantis

Chris Angelopoulos
Irene Arvanitis
Eleni Kostakis
Kalliopi Philippou
Stavros Rologas
Sarioglou Families
Paraskevi Souranis
Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
Michael & LEMONIA Stakias
James & Karen Temple
Katholiki Trintis

In Memory of Flora Karais

Nicholas Cornias
Maria Pearce
Effie Roufas

In Memory of Nikolaos Karanikolis

Arieta Roros

In Memory of Nicholas Lallas

Eva Lallas

In Memory of Alexandra & Konstantinos Likakis

Mr. & Mrs. Perry Likakis

In Memory of Ioannis Maltas

Maria Maltas Cokinos

In Memory of Nick Melanitis

John Ioannis Melanitis

In Memory of Kalliopi Pikounis

Chris Angelopoulos
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Society
Chapter 3014
Angeliki Argetakis
Fotene Andreadis
Robert & Kalliope Badavas
Effie, Maria, Nikoletta Filipidis
Katina & Michalis Klosteridis
George & Maria Kornias
Fran & Lazaros Giannakopoulos
Toula Koukoula-Woods
Paraskevi Reppas
Stavros Rologas
Arieta Roros
Dimitrios and Politimy Roros
Kiki Roros
Deborah Rowe
Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
John & Maria Tamvakologos
Patricia Topouzoglou
Ronald & Sharon Siegel
Kiriaki Vavakas

In Memory of George Roros

Kiki Roros

In Memory of Konstantinos Roros

Arieta Roros

In Memory of Antonios and Kalliopi Zografides

Sofia Protopapas

In Honor of Vasilios Skordalos' Name Day

Eva Lallas

In Honor of Roza Cornias' Birthday

Eva Lallas



NOTICE:

All organizations must review their upcoming events with ELENI KOSTALAS-LENTIS (410-633-5020) who will add the event to the official church calendar on the bulletin board across from Father Michael's office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

HELP US GROW THROUGH E-GIVING



It's through your contributions that we're able to carry on important work both spiritually and in our community.

Electronic giving is a convenient, easy way to support Saint Nicholas.

By giving electronically, you can:

- Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, smartphone or tablet.
- Donate easily for special projects.
- Set up recurring offerings and pledges and never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again.

Show your support and try one of our e-Giving options. If you would like to give electronically, visit our website www.stnicholasmd.org or download the GivePlus mobile app.

Thank you for all you do to support our Saint Nicholas family throughout the year!



Christ is born!

CHRIST IS BORN!



GLORIFY

HIM!

The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensward.org.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

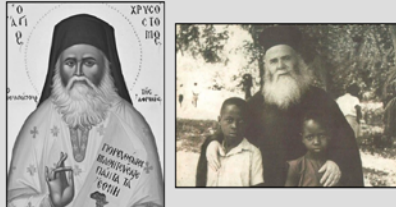
- Africa
- Bethlehem
- Christmas
- Chrysostomos
- Egypt
- Gospel
- Mission
- Nativity
- Nazareth
- Swahili

Q G J Y Z Z R Q N B V L Q A J
 S V U M E H E L H T E B B C Y
 D O N E P D H Z G Q C U W I T
 P Y M I S S I O N Q H K E R I
 G R C O L B H M U J R A B F V
 G L N L T S M B J N I J A A I
 M F C T U S I H A Y S K N L T
 J S Q Y P L O Z S B T K A Q A
 E O B G I Y A S R W M U Q L N
 K N E H O R G Q Y G A U O G S
 V C A U E S N E G R S T Z B Q
 P W R T L I P S Q N H I K O F
 S W H K H A D E J D N C J F V
 E Y I Z M C B R L M H F F L O
 F G R K H O D X B X E Y N F E

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Chrysostomos died only about 50 years ago, so we still have photos of him.

Do you think his icon looks like him?



The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Volume 13, Issue 52

Where is Jesus from?

Have you ever met somebody new? When we meet somebody, you might get asked, "What's your name?" or "Where are you from?" or "Where do you live?" When we want to know more about somebody, it's important to know where he or she came from.



In today's Gospel we hear something about where our Lord, Jesus Christ is from! We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but today we hear about how, when Jesus was a little child, He went with His family to Egypt. Then, when it was safe for Him to come back, He lived in a town called Nazareth. Lots of people wanted to know "Where is Jesus from?" Well, He lived in Bethlehem, Egypt, and then Nazareth.

These places are important because the prophets had written about them long, long before Jesus was even born! The prophet Micah wrote that a ruler would come from Bethlehem. The prophet Hosea wrote that God's Son would come out of Egypt. And other prophets wrote about the savior coming from Nazareth.

So, long before Jesus was born, the Scriptures said the savior would come from three different places. And today, when we ask "Where is Jesus from?" we know He came from all three!

SAINT CHRYSOSTOMOS

MISSIONARY TO AFRICA

Tomorrow is such a special day, because it's the first time we get to celebrate somebody as a saint! Just this year, Saint Chrysostomos was named a saint, and he is a wonderful example for all of us!



Saint Chrysostomos was born in Greece, and he was the 7th child in his family. His family was very poor, and even though he wanted to go to school, he couldn't, because his family didn't have the money. But Chrysostomos wanted to serve the church and he was determined to do that. He studied his whole life to learn how to serve. He finally got his degree when he was 56 years old!

Saint Chrysostomos was a faithful man, but he was also a very brave man. He wanted to go to Africa to serve the people there. The Bible tells us to go out into all the world, teaching the people the Good News of Christ, so that is what Chrysostomos did. He learned Swahili and he preached to the people. He baptized lots of people. He got people from Greece and the United States and other places in Europe to help the people of Africa. Chrysostomos knew God wants *everybody* to know about His Son, Jesus Christ!

We can follow this holy saint's example! We can help Christians all over the world. Ask your parents or your priest how you can help our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters in Africa. We can show our love, just as Saint Chrysostomos did!

We celebrate St. Chrysostomos tomorrow, December 29th.

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STEWARDSHIP

We are counting down the days of 2025 and soon we will be celebrating the New Year 2026.

How does time fly? Since we are entering the New Year we would like to remind everyone in the Parish of their financial responsibilities. The Stewardship Committee sent out to all the homes the new Pledge Cards for the 2026 year. Please read it at your convenience, fill it out and send it back with your generous contribution. Now remember your contribution is not for one day, but your donation and free will offering is for the whole year. If you are a college student we understand the situation that you're in but we still would like you to fill out the pledge card even though we are not asking for any monetary donation. It's great that our children are getting a higher level of education and we respect and honor that, but we also would like to send our college students all the communications that go out every year. This is an opportunity for our students to know what is happening in their own parish. It's time to get serious when we talk about church finances. We are not supported by any Government, we receive the support from our "Stewards". We are trying our best to meet the financial challenges for every year that passes and begins. We need the help of everyone in the Community to step up to the plate and realize that your donation helps supports and keeps the doors open of the Church. We keep saying this every year to our parishioners to help, and for them to realize that their contribution is very special because it goes to a worthy place. Without your help and your financial assistance we cannot reach our goals, nor can we be successful in our future challenges. We all know what it takes to run the Church efficiently. We understand that we have an elderly parish, but we also have a vibrant and young parish. People think our parish is old but really it is very young. We have a lot of young people Single and Married, that have not stepped up to the plate to help the finances of the Church. We have young Married Couples who have not filled out a Pledge card since they were married years ago. This is something that we need to take care of immediately if we want to grow and be financially and spiritually successful. That is not the way to support your church. We need to have better communication with our young people so they realize and understand the true needs of the church. The Uniform Parish Regulations state that a Pledge Card must be filled out every year in order to verify that we are members of the church. By filling out a Pledge Card solidifies that you love your church and that you care for the progress of your church. The members of the Parish Council can only do certain things to establish an open communication with our parishioners, but the rest of the responsibilities has to come from the members and Stewards of the Parish. It is not right that others take on the burden, we all have to dig in our pockets



just like our Father's, Mother's, Grandparents, and our Ancestors did to keep our Orthodox Faith alive. We take this opportunity to CHALLENGE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SUPPORTED THEIR CHURCH FOR YEARS TO COME BACK AND START FRESH. We can only do this as a United Family. We can't do this separately. Let's make this New Year an example for everyone to follow. Happy New Year.

ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ

Μετράμε αντίστροφα τις ημέρες του 2025 και αύριο θα γιορτάσουμε το νέο έτος 2026. Πώς περνάει ο χρόνος; Με την εισοδό μας στη νέα χρονιά θα θέλαμε να υπενθυμίσουμε σε όλους τους ενορίτες μας τις οικονομικές ευθύνες τους. Η Επιτροπή της Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς ταχυδρόμησε σε όλα τα σπίτια τη νέα Κάρτα Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς για το έτος 2026. Παρακαλούμε μελετήστε τη με την ησυχία σας, συμπληρώστε τη και επιστρέψτε τη με τη γενναϊόδωρη συνεισφορά σας. Να θυμάστε η συμβολή σας δεν είναι για μία ημέρα, αλλά είναι δωρεά, είναι προσφορά ελεύθερης βούλησης, για ολόκληρο το έτος. Εάν είστε φοιτητής πανεπιστημίου καταλαβαίνουμε την κατάσταση στην οποία βρίσκεστε, αλλά θα θέλαμε ακόμα να συμπληρώσετε την Κάρτα Υπόσχεσης, παρόλο που δεν ζητάμε χρηματική δωρεά. Είναι πολύ σημαντικό που τα παιδιά μας αποκτούν υψηλότερο επίπεδο εκπαίδευσης και το σεβόμαστε και το τιμούμε, αλλά θα θέλαμε επίσης να στείλουμε στους φοιτητές μας όλα τα νέα της Κοινότητας που ταχυδρομούμε κάθε χρόνο. Είναι μια ευκαιρία για τους μαθητές μας να γνωρίζουν τι συμβαίνει στην Κοινότητά τους. Είναι ώρα να σοβαρευτούμε, όταν μιλάμε για τα οικονομικά της Εκκλησίας. Δεν υποστηρίζομαστε οικονομικά από καμία κυβέρνηση, η υποστήριξη μας προέρχεται μόνο από τους "Οικονόμους" μας. Προσπαθούμε να καταβάλουμε κάθε προσπάθεια για να αντιμετωπίσουμε τις

οικονομικές προκλήσεις του κάθε έτους που περνάει και αρχίζει. Χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια όλων στην Κοινότητα να εντείνουν την προσοχή τους και να συνειδητοποιήσουν ότι η δωρεά τους βοηθά και υποστηρίζει να κρατούνται οι πόρτες της Εκκλησίας ανοιχτές. Το επαναλαμβάνουμε αυτό κάθε χρόνο στους ενορίτες μας, να βοηθήσουν και να συνειδητοποιήσουν ότι η συμβολή τους είναι πολύ ξεχωριστή γιατί βοηθά ένα αξιόλογο μέρος. Χωρίς τη βοήθειά τους και την οικονομική τους βοήθεια δεν μπορούμε να επιτύχουμε τους στόχους μας, ούτε μπορούμε να έχουμε επιτυχίες στις μελλοντικές μας προκλήσεις. Όλοι γνωρίζουμε τι χρειάζεται για να λειτουργήσει αποτελεσματικά η Εκκλησία. Καταλαβαίνουμε ότι έχουμε μια παλιά Ενορία, αλλά έχουμε επίσης μια ζωντανή και νέα ενορία. Οι άνθρωποι πιστεύουν ότι η ενορία μας είναι παλιά, αλλά πραγματικά είναι πολύ νέα. Έχουμε πολλούς νέους ανθρώπους ελεύθερους και παντρεμένους, που δεν έχουν ενταθεί να βοηθήσουν και να συμβάλουν στα οικονομικά της Εκκλησίας. Έχουμε νεαρά παντρεμένα ζευγάρια που δεν έχουν συμπληρώσει κάρτα υπόσχεσης από τότε που παντρεύτηκαν χρόνια πριν. Αυτό είναι κάτι που πρέπει να φροντίσουμε αμέσως αν θέλουμε να μεγαλώσουμε και να επιτύχουμε οικονομικά και πνευματικά. Αυτός δεν είναι τρόπος υποστήριξης της εκκλησίας σας. Πρέπει να έχουμε καλύτερη επικοινωνία με τους νέους μας, ώστε να συνειδητοποιήσουν και να κατανοήσουν τις πραγματικές ανάγκες της εκκλησίας. Οι Ομοϊόμορφοι Κανονισμοί των Κοινοτήτων δηλώνουν ότι κάθε χρόνο πρέπει να συμπληρώνουμε την κάρτα της εθελοντικής προσφοράς, προκειμένου να επιβεβαιωθεί ότι είμαστε μέλη της εκκλησίας. Συμπληρώνοντας την κάρτα υπόσχεσης εδραιώνετε ότι αγαπάμε την εκκλησία μας και ότι φροντίζουμε για την πρόοδο της. Τα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου μπορεί να κάνουν μόνο ορισμένα πράγματα για να δημιουργήσουν μια ανοιχτή επικοινωνία με τους ενορίτες μας, αλλά το υπόλοιπο των ευθυνών πρέπει να προέρχεται από τα μέλη και τους οικονόμους της εκκλησίας. Δεν είναι σωστό οι άλλοι να επωμιζονται το βάρος, όλοι πρέπει να βάλουμε βαθιά το χέρι στις τσέπες μας όπως ακριβώς έκαναν και οι Πατέρες μας, οι Μητέρες μας, οι Παππούδες μας και οι Προπάτορές μας για να κρατήσουμε ζωντανή την Ορθόδοξη Πίστη μας. Παίρνουμε αυτή την ευκαιρία για να προκαλέσουμε όλους εκείνους που δεν υποστήριξαν την εκκλησία τους οικονομικά για χρόνια να επιστρέψουν ΠΙΣΩ και να κάνουν μια νέα αρχή. Μπορούμε να το κάνουμε αυτό μόνο σαν μια ενωμένη οικογένεια. Δεν μπορούμε να γίνει από τον καθένα ξεχωριστά. Ας γίνει αυτό το νέο έτος παράδειγμα προς μίμηση να το ακολουθήσουν όλοι. Ευτυχημένο το νέο έτος.



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- Select amount, payment method & frequency
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“ΤΑ ΣΑ ΕΚ ΤΩΝ ΣΩΝ: ΟΡΑΜΑΤΙΖΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΟΣΟ ΥΨΗΛΑ....ΟΣΟ
ΕΚΕΙ ΠΟΥ ΜΠΟΡΕΙ ΝΑ ΦΤΑΣΕΙ”

2025 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD
2025 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ –ΚΑΡΤΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΗΣ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

In gratitude for God's blessings I/we make the following commitment to the ministries of St. Nicholas Church:
Σαν έκφραση ευγνωμοσύνης μου για τις ευλογίες που έχω λάβει από τον Θεό, δεσμεύομαι με την ακόλουθη
οικονομική και εθελοντική μου προσφορά προς την Εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου:

\$ _____ (Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Yearly)
\$ _____ (Εβδομαδιαίως / Μηνιαίως / Ανά Τρίμηνο / Ετησίως)
TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE FOR 2025 :\$ _____
Συνολικό ποσό προσφοράς για το 2025:\$ _____

Come and See God work through your talents, skills, and experience, as well as your financial support.

Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do.

We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.

Γίνετε μάρτυρες του έργου του Θεού! Δώστε από το ταλέντο με το οποίο σας έχει προικίσει,
με τις ικανότητες, τις εμπειρίες, την οικονομική σας ευχέρεια. Η προσφορά μας στον Χριστό και την
Εκκλησία Του σας βασιστεί στην αγάπη μας προς Αυτόν, όχι στην οικονομική μας δυνατότητα.

Planned Giving _____ Please send me information on making a planned gift to the Church.
Δωρεά που σχεδιάζω _____ Παρακαλώ στείλτε μου πληροφορίες σχετικά με τον τρόπο που μπορώ
να προσφέρω _____ να δωρίσω.

Print Full Name/ Γράψτε με κεφαλαία γράμματα το επίθετό σας

Signature/ Υπογραφή

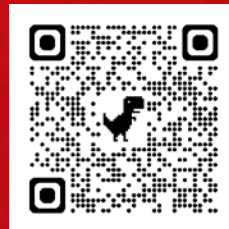
Date/ Ημερομηνία

Name / Όνομα	Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως	
Name of Spouse / Όνομα συζύγου	Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως	
Occupation / Επάγγελμα		
Occupation / Επάγγελμα (Spouse)		
Street Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση		
City / πόλη	Zip Code / ταχ. τομέας	
Home Phone / Σταθερό τηλέφωνο σπιτιού		
Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο	Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο (Spouse)	
Email Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση		
Email Address of Spouse / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση συζύγου		
Communication Preferences / Προτιμήσεις επικοινωνίας		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail / Ταχυδρομείο	<input type="checkbox"/> Email / Ηλεκτρονική	<input type="checkbox"/> Text / Μήνυμα
Dependent Children's Names and Birthdates / Όνόματα παιδιών και ημερομηνία γεννήσεώς τους		

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Δεν χρειάζεται να θυμάστε να στείλετε τη προσφορά σας. Ρυθμίστε την αυτόματη δωρεά και την εθελοντική σας προσφορά απευθείας από τον υπολογιστή σας ή το tablet σας που θα επαναλαμβάνεται ανελλιπώς κάθε εβδομάδα, μήνα, τρίμηνο ή έτος.

Εάν επιθυμείτε να στείλετε τη δωρεά σας ηλεκτρονικά, επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα μας www.stnicholasmd.org/give ή κατεβάστε την εφαρμογή GivePlus mobile. Εάν έχετε απορίες, επικοινωνήστε με το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020.

EVENTS



ST. NICHOLAS
DIAMONDS
Christmas
LUNCHEON PARTY

SATURDAY : JANUARY, 17, 2026 : 1:00PM

Greektown Square 8 Event Center
700 Quail St., Baltimore, MD 21224

TICKETS: \$50

MENU:

2 LAMB CHOPS ROASTED VEGETABLES
CRAB CAKE ROASTED POTATOES

THE SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

GODPARENT/GODCHILD SUNDAY



WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

TIME: Orthros-8:30; Divine Liturgy-9:45 am

WHERE: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
520 Ponca St., Baltimore, MD

Come celebrate this special day by attending church with your Godparent/s and/or your Godchildren and prepare yourselves to receive Holy Communion together. Please make this day a time to strengthen your spiritual relationship with each other.



SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 31ST, 2026

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
PARATHOSI
A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

NOTICE

✠ Sunday Coffee Hour Sponsored by St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



Coffee & Assorted Cookies - \$200
Includes setup, cleanup, paper goods

Coffee Service Only - \$120
Includes setup, cleanup, paper goods

Fruit Tray - \$40

Spanakopita - \$75
100 pieces

Tyropita - \$75
100 pieces

Tray of Cheese, Olives & Crackers - \$100

Sandwiches - \$2 per piece
Tuna, Shrimp or Chicken

For orders please call 410-633-5020 or visit the
St Nicholas Office at 520 Ponca St



Sunday Coffee Hour & Makaria Menus

✠ Makaria Menu Sponsored by St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



Appetizer Choices
Cheese Pies (included)
Spinach Pies (included)
Fried Calamari (add \$2.00pp)



Choices of salad (1)
Garden Salad, Greek Salad, Village Salad, Caesar Salad

Choices of Entree (1)
Roll & Butter (included)

Package #1 - \$31pp
Salmon (broiled/grilled)
Shrimp Creole
Shrimp Orzo
Cod Fish (broiled/fried)

Package #2 - \$39pp
Two (2) Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes
Choice of Fish and One (1) Jumbo Lump
Crab Cake

Sides (2 choices)
Greek Style Lemon Potatoes, Roasted Red Skin Potatoes,
Kritharaki(orzo), white rice, fresh cut vegetables, string beans Greek style

Beverages (items included)
Red or White Wine, Coffee and Tea, Sodas,
Water
Also available - Paximadia

Bar Options
Mixed Drinks \$6
Domestic Beer \$6
Imported Beer \$6
Mixed Drinks and Beer Available at Per
Drink Charge \$10

tel church: 410-633-5020
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~ TESTIMONIALS ~

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"THE ROOM WAS BUZZING WITH MUSIC AND
LAUGHTER . . . JUST BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!"

"THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS!
THE VENUE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANT!"

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- EXTENSIVE MENU OPTIONS TO SUIT YOUR TASTE AND MATCH YOUR BUDGET
- BAR PACKAGE OPTIONS
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MORE FUN FACTS

Fact: Marla Gibbs continued working for an airline for two years after being cast on a hit TV show. Prior to taking her place on the stoop of 227, Marla Gibbs played housekeeper Florence on the 1970s and 1980s sitcom *The Jeffersons* (a spinoff of *All in the Family*). In a 2022 interview, the 90-year-old Gibbs told the *Hollywood Reporter* that, despite appearing as though she had gotten her big break, she kept her job in reservations for United Airlines until the third season of the show—just to be safe.

One of President John Tyler's grandsons is still alive today—even though the President was born in 1790. How is this possible? President Tyler, the 10th US president, was 63 when his son Lyon Tyler was born in 1853; Lyon's son was born when he was 75. President Tyler's living grandson, Harrison Tyler is 95, while Lyon's other son, Lyon Jr., passed away in 2020 at the age of 95. The Tyler family still maintains the President's home, Sherwood Forest Plantation, in Virginia.



The tallest man ever recorded was American giant Robert Wadlow (1918–1940), who stood 8 feet 11 inches. Wadlow's size was the result of an abnormally enlarged pituitary gland.

Population Milestone: About 108 billion people have lived on Earth, and currently, over 7 billion are alive. This means that only 7% of all humans [Answers Next Page](#) today.

Walking Distance: The average person will walk approximately 120,000 km (75,000 miles) in their lifetime, which is more than three times around the Earth.

Drunk Driving: On average, a drunk driver will drive under the influence more than 80 times before being arrested for the first time, highlighting a significant public safety issue.

Comfort Objects: Surprisingly, 34% of adults still sleep with a comfort object, such as a stuffed animal or blanket, showing that childhood habits can persist into adulthood.

Mosquitoes and Blood: It would take 1.2 million mosquitoes, each sucking once, to completely drain the blood from an average human.

Internet Participation: The 1% rule in online communities suggests that only 1% of users actively create content, while 99% are lurkers who consume content without contributing.

NHL Scoring: If none of Wayne Gretzky's goals counted, his assists alone would still make him the all-time leading scorer in the NHL, showcasing his incredible playmaking ability.

Manga vs. Toilet Paper: In Japan, more paper is used to create manga than for toilet paper, reflecting the immense popularity and cultural significance of manga.

\$ A FOCUS ON FINANCES \$

HOW TO RAMP UP FOR RETIREMENT

Retirement has been on my mind - just a few more months until “game time.” I’ve seen that the key to success isn’t just saving—instead, setting up an income plan, planning for contingencies and giving real thought to the question “what’s next?” are top of mind. You don’t want to spend your golden years hoping the stock market behaves and your savings last longer than you do, sitting on your couch, or fretting about any number of what-ifs. Looking backward and forward, here’s where my mind is when it comes to retirement:

SAVE NOW, BECAUSE LATER NEVER COMES

If you’re in your 20s or 30s, time is still on your side. Don’t squander it. Thanks to the magic of compound returns, the earlier you start, the less heavy lifting you have to do. But if you’re in your 40s, 50s, or even if you haven’t saved much, the second best time to start is right now. The key is to save aggressively and maximize every available vehicle. No matter where you are, leverage retirement plans, catch up contributions and employer matching, and set the table for success by reducing debt and expenses.

IT’S GO TIME

Saving for retirement is only half the battle. The other half is living in it. That’s where guaranteed lifetime income comes in. You want to set up a retirement plan where your core expenses - housing, utilities, food, health care - are covered by income sources that won’t dry up if the stock market takes a dive. At the very least, create a “worst case” or “fallback” plan where with minor adjustments you can make this happen. Here are some potential sources of guaranteed income:

If you’re eligible for a military, federal or corporate pension, make sure you understand your payout options.

The longer you wait to claim Social Security (up to age 70), the higher your monthly benefit. Delaying could mean thousands of extra dollars per year in guaranteed income.

Think of an income annuity as a “DIY pension.” You use part of your retirement savings to buy one, and it guarantees a steady paycheck for life. This can help cover gaps between your fixed expenses and your other income sources.

PLAN FOR INFLATION

Inflation is a silent budget-killer. One of the most powerful features of military retirement and Social Security is that they are inflation-adjusted income streams. Plan for rising costs in your spending forecast. **Diversify for growth and stability.** Not all of your retirement savings should go into guaranteed income streams. You still need investments for long-term growth to handle unexpected expenses and enjoy the fun side of retirement - if all goes well, it could span decades.

Retirement isn’t about hoping you have enough. It’s about planning so you know you do. Start saving now, no matter where you are in life.

BRITAIN TO LOWER VOTING AGE

The British government has unveiled plans to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote.

As The New York Times reports, the policy change represents “the largest expansion of voting rights in decades” for Britain. “The last nationwide reduction in voting age, to 18 from 21, came more than 50 years ago.”

“Declining trust in our institutions and democracy itself has become critical, but it is the responsibility of government to turn this around and renew our democracy, just as generations have done before us,” Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner explained in a policy document laying out the plan.

Representing more than 1.6 million people, Britain’s new voting bloc could play a pivotal role in the election. [Answers Previous Page](#)

WILL AMERICA BE NEXT? FOURTEEN OR FIGHT.

(100 POINTS IF YOU GET THAT REFERENCE—
LET US KNOW)





A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

You know you're old when you and your teeth stop sleeping together.

How do you measure a snake in inches? Ever seen a snake with feet?

When interviewing for a job, always tell them you're willing to give 110%. Unless you're applying to be a statistician.

Consider this: When you put a bed in your bedroom, you have less bedroom.

A Biker went to a hairdresser, who stared at his greasy hair in disbelief and asked, "So, did you come to cut your hair or just for an oil change?"

A resident who had arrived for a vacation was told by the desk clerk, "In our traditional farm hotel, you are awakened by the call of the rooster."

"Very good," the vacationer replied. "Please tell him 9 o'clock."

College nowadays is just kidnapping done backwards: If you don't give us a ridiculously large amount of money, we'll send your child back.

Why is it always hotter in the stadiums after a game? All the fans have left.

A priest advertised a sermon titled "What Heaven is Like, and How to Get In," but it drew only a moderate crowd. So he thought hard, and the next Sunday advertised "What Hell is Like, and How to Get In." The church was filled to overflowing.

Which building in New York has the most stories? The public library.

"I used to work at McDonald's, making minimum wage. You know what that means when someone pays you minimum wage? You know what your boss was trying to say? 'Hey, if I could pay you less, I would, but it's against the law.'"

—Chris Rock

I hate when people mix up "your" and "you're." There so stupid.

I got so fed up with trick-or-treaters at Halloween that I finally turned off the lights and pretended I wasn't in. My lighthouse, my rules.

How do you know when you've been ghosted? The poltergeist doesn't text you back.

Has anybody noticed how we've replaced doffing the hat with taking out the earbuds when we meet someone?

What is a zombie's favorite language? Latin. Being dead and all.

A diner motioned over a waiter and exclaimed, "There is a hair in my soup!"

"What did you expect for the price?" the waiter replied. "An entire wig?"

Some people ask the secret to our long marriage. It's this: We take time to go to a restaurant twice a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and a slow walk home. She goes Tuesdays, and I go Fridays.

I just got fired from my job as a set designer. I left without making a scene.

A motorist speeding down the road at 80 miles an hour was stopped by a policeman.

"Was I driving too fast?" the motorist asked.

"Heavens, no," the policeman replied. "You were flying too low."

The fact that Head & Shoulders doesn't have a body wash called Knees & Toes disappoints me.

A man who was late paying his bills received the following note: "Your account has been on our books for over a year. We just wanted to remind you that we have now carried you for longer than your mother did."

"Every morning, I get up and make instant coffee so I'll have enough energy to make the regular coffee." —Steven Wright





Exercise Your Brain!

WORD SEARCHES OF GRATITUDE



Feeling Grateful

Word Search

What are YOU thankful for on Thanksgiving Day and all the other days of the year? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- ANIMALS
- BED
- BIRTHDAY
- BOOKS
- CARS
- CHALLENGES
- DAD
- EARTH
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- GRANDPARENTS
- HEALTH
- HEARING
- HEART
- HOME
- ICE CREAM
- JOKES
- LAUGHTER
- LUNGS
- MOM
- MOON
- MUSIC
- NATURE
- OXYGEN
- POPCORN

L	E	R	D	I	D	N	V	I	K	B	S	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
X	Q	I	A	C	C	D	V	G	P	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	V	S
T	Q	Q	D	E	S	J	Q	E	S	L	A	O	R	G	U	Q	T	Z
A	R	Y	G	C	R	B	G	T	Z	T	C	O	J	U	Z	C	E	C
S	T	N	E	R	A	P	D	N	A	R	G	X	N	H	T	S	F	M
T	W	M	A	E	T	J	N	N	E	I	S	Y	P	Z	R	A	K	S
E	O	A	R	A	S	M	I	O	A	D	I	G	W	G	Y	A	N	E
H	B	S	T	M	X	M	C	T	O	I	V	E	A	N	Q	O	I	G
C	S	I	H	Z	A	B	Z	V	R	M	K	N	N	I	V	B	L	N
U	B	Z	Z	L	Z	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	D	Q	O	H	E
O	H	P	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	E	Y	N	A	L	Q	H	L
T	G	O	F	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	H	X	E	K	T	U	L
D	E	P	Q	C	P	X	P	T	Y	K	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	A
X	X	C	T	H	G	I	S	L	F	A	M	I	L	Y	G	B	F	H
S	K	O	O	B	W	C	M	A	E	H	Z	U	G	S	V	B	E	C
X	F	R	Q	V	H	U	V	E	I	G	H	J	R	D	M	Q	U	D
D	G	N	S	O	S	I	N	H	V	T	M	S	F	S	E	O	H	S
S	Z	E	O	I	L	L	E	M	S	E	K	O	J	F	I	J	M	B
Z	Z	L	C	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	H	Z	P	H	L	A	A

- RAIN
- READING
- SCHOOL
- SHOES
- SIGHT
- SMELL
- STARS
- SUNSHINE
- TASTE
- TEACHER
- TOUCH
- VACATION



(ANSWERS ON PAGE 9)

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 11/1/24 - 10/31/25

Contribution Type	Transaction Location	Pledged	Received	Outstanding	Report Date:	01/07/2026
Pledged	Office	\$66,255.00	\$55,085.00	-\$11,170	Number Of Family Contributions	89
	Office/Vanco/e-Sched	--	\$150,204.22	--	Number of Individual Contributions	487
TOTAL	--	--	\$205,289.22	--		--

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Adams, Michael & Sylvia | Dendrinis, Evangelia | Ieromonahos, Dimitrios & Maria |
| Agapios, Maria | Diakantonis, Nickolaos & Agathi | Ieromonahos, Pantelis & Stamatia |
| Alafassos, Spiro & Penny | Diniotis, Anastasia | Jurado, Jonathan |
| Alexandrou, Constantina | Dotis, Markellos & Georgia | Kafouros, Demetrios |
| Alexandrou, John & Despina | Douskas, Konstantinos | Kaikis, Clemis & Maria |
| Alexandrou, Niki | Douskas, Nicolas & Dimitra | Kaitis, Angela |
| Alourdas, Nick | Douskas, Vasiliki | Kalambihis, Maria |
| Alsop, Andrew & Vasilias | Eleftheriou, John | Kaliakoudas, Sofia |
| Amann, Mary & Franz | Eliopoulos, Anna | Kaminaris, Demetrios & Michelle |
| Anastasiades, Demos & Nancy | Eliou, Ernest & Lilian | Kammas, Georgios & Eleftheria Tzanakaki |
| Angelopoulos, Chris | Fakas, James & Valasia | Kamos, Mary |
| Angelos, John & Irene | Fakas, Vasilios | Kapetanakos, Elias & Stephanie |
| Angelos, Mark & Kalliope | Fantis, Penelope | Kapetanakos, Soulla |
| Apesos, Antigoni | Filipidis, Effie | Kaputsos, Irene |
| Aravidis, Nickolas & Smaragda | Filipidis, James | Karabelas, Ioanna |
| Argetakis, Andronikos & Paraskevi | Filipidis, Maria | Karabelas, Pete & Helen |
| Argetakis, Angeliki | Filippakis, Filippos | Karaflos, Nektarios |
| Argetakis, Niko & Vasilias | Finney, Thomas & Virginia | Karagiannis, Carla |
| Argirakis, Pantelis & Despina | Forakis, George | Karagiannis, Maria |
| Argiropoulos, William & Fotini | Forakis, Michael & Alexandra | Karagiorgos, Nicholaos |
| Argyarakis, Despina | Forakis, Nicholas & Athena | Karais, Konstantinos |
| Asmar-, Oliver & Nikoletos, Anna | Forakis, Stamati & Despina | Karamihalis, George |
| Athanasiou, Antonios & Penny | Fotinos, Aikaterini | Karamihalis, Theologos |
| Athos, Janet | Fotinos, James | Karanikolis, Nikos & Vasiliki |
| Atsalis, Gus & Kalliope | Fotinos, Michael | Karavedas, Viola |
| Atsidis, Ioannis & Efthimia | Foukas, Andromahi | Kardiasmenos, Metaxia |
| Avgerinos, George & Phaedra | Fragakis, Aikaterini | Karoutsos, Apostolis & Anna |
| Avgerinos, Vasilios & Sophia | Frangakis, Sofoula | Karoutsos, George & Alexandra |
| Bakalis, John | Frangos, John & Katerina | Karoutsos, Nikitas |
| Bakiasi, Edward | Galiatsatos, Chrysoula | Kastanakis, Michael & Nikki |
| Balatsoukas, Konstantina | Gargiulo, Angela | Kastellorizios, Konstantinos & Maria |
| Balomas, Patricia | Gatanas, Angelos | Katsaros, Emanuel |
| Basil, George & Angie | Gavrilis, John & Patricia | Katsas, Stavros & Evangelia |
| Benetos, Ioannis & Cynthia | Georgakakou, Vasiliki & Chandar, Bharath | Kattavenos, Michael & Stamatia |
| Bisbikis, Pete & Eleni | Georgalas, Michael & Hrisovalantou | Kazamias, Voula |
| Black, Mark & Sakellis Black, Irene | Georgalas, Olga | Kazos, Vagelis & Maria |
| Bonolis, Catherine | Georgas, George | Kefalas, Mike & Nora |
| Bouloubasis, Nicholas | Georgiadis, Diogenis & Nektaria | Kevas, George & Agella |
| Bournias, Lambrini | Gerapetrites, Panagiota | Kevas, Yanni |
| Bournousouzis, Panagiota | Giakoumakis, Nick & Marianna Gavrilis | Klosterides, Michael |
| Britzolakis, Georgios & Eugenia | Gialamas, Joanna | Klosterides, Michael & Klosterides, Eleni |
| Canning, Nicole | Giannakoulis, George & Amy | Klosterides, Spiros & Paraskevi |
| Cardiges, Nicholas | Giannas, Stylianos & Maria | Koliadis, Zinovia |
| Chagetas, Angela | Giorgakis, Antonios & Halkias Giorgakis, | Koliofotis, Evangelos & Athina |
| Charalambopoulos, Charalambos & Aspasia | Theoharou | Kolotos, Dora |
| Charalambopoulos, George & Sofia Koutsoumbis | Giorgakis, John & Maria | Komninos, Emmanuel |
| Chionis, Antonios | Giorgakis, Vasilios | Komninos, Joanna |
| Chrissomallis, Metaxia | Gluszc, Christine | Konstantinou, John & Charlotte |
| Chrissomallis, Sophie | Glykiadis, Despina | Kontoudis, Konstantinos & Kyriaki |
| Christ, Philip & Marina | Glykiadis, Konstantinos | Kornias, George & Maria |
| Christakou, Stavroula | Glytsis, Filippos & Papakanaki, Georgia | Korologos, Louis & Anastasia |
| Conway, Rose | Gray, Jamison | Kosmas, Demetrios & Denise |
| Cook, Harry | Gyftopoulos, Sofia | Kosmas, Sam & Leraki, Marianna |
| Cornias, Arezina | Halikias, Anastasia | Kostos, John |
| Cornias, Clara | Halikias, Anna | Koukides, Georgios |
| Cornias, Despina | Halkias, Fotini | Koukides, Harry & Stella |
| Cornias, Fotini | Harris, Athena (Tina) | Koukides, John |
| Cornias, John | Hatzidimitriou, John & Harriet | Koumoudis, Kyriakos |
| Cornias, Kiriaki | Hatziefthimiou, Anastasia | Koumoudis, Sotiris & Vasiliki |
| Cornias, Larry | Hatzigeorgalis, Antonios | Kouroupis, Steve |
| Cornias, Nicholas | Hatzigeorgalis, Nicholaos | Kourtesis, Michael & Adrienne |
| Cossis, Milton & Amalia | Hatzinicolos, Nick & Olga | Koutsantonis, Demetrios |
| Cozmo, Theodore & Kiriaki | Hazarides, Melli | Koutsantonis, George |
| Dardamanis, Eva | Hiotis, Michael & Hiotis, Despina | Koutsouris, Stylianos & Maria |
| Dealagdon, Aladdin | Houvardas, Minas | Kouvaris, Paula |

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 11/1/24 - 10/31/25

Contribution Type	Transaction Location	Pledged	Received	Outstanding	Report Date:	01/07/2026
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TOTAL	--	--	\$205,289.22	--		--

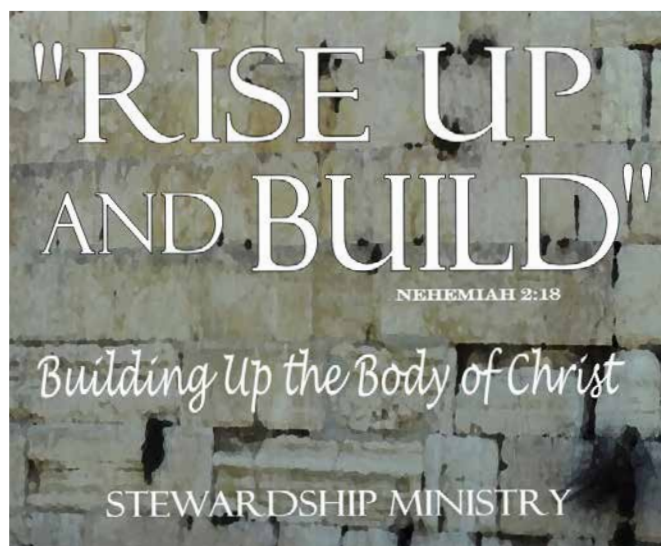
Kovios, Panagiotis & Christine	Parthemos, Kaliop	Skandalis, George
Kron, Christopher & Alexa	Parthemos, Konstantinos & Angelika	Skevofilax, Emmanuel
Laiakis, Dimitrios & Anastasia	Pateris, Nicanor	Sotirchos, Elias & Yiouli Ktena
Lallas, Eva	Patras, Leonard	Souranis, Maritsa
Lambrow, Stephanie	Patras, Pete & Diane	Souranis, Michael & Thoula
Larentzos, James & Despina	Patras, Stephen	Souranis, Paraskevi
Laskaridis, Nikolaos	Patrikios, Aikaterine & Jissri, Mike	Spencer, Eric & Donna
Ledakis, Panagiotis	Peach, Antonia	Stakias, Dimitrios & Joanne
Lentis, Minas & Kostalas, Eleni	Pearce, Anthony & Maria	Stakias, Michael & LEMONIA
Loizou, Chris & Doxia	Pelekakis, Maria	Stakias, Stelios & Tina
Lykos, Konstantinos	Perdikakis, George	Stamatopoulos, Nicolas
Makris, John	Petrinolis, Georgios & Irene	Stamidis, Anastasios & Angela
Maltas, John	Petropoulos, Dimitrios	Stamidis, Stergios & Fotini
Marianos, Vasilios & Lamprini	Philippou, Kalliopi	Stamoulis, George & Maria
Mastromanolis, Manuel	Philippou, Philip	Stamoulis, Kyriakos & Jessica
Mastrovasilis, Michael & Lisa Kastellorizios	Philippou, Vasilios	Stavlas, Jerry & Kalliope
Matsangos, Argyro	Pikounis, Adrew	Stavrakis, Demetrios & Antonia
Mavromoustakos, Tsampika	Pikounis, Eleni	Stewart, John & Rita
Mavronis, Michael & Kleopatra	Pikounis, George & Vasiliki	Syropoulos, Amalia
Mavronis, Nicholas	Pikounis, John & Despina	Syropoulos, Nicholas & Angeliki
Mavroulis, Photis & Eva	Polikandriotis, Kostas & Hariklia	Tasker, Dale & Kalomira
Mekins, Angeliki	Polikandriotis, Maria	Tetteris, Rhodae
Melissaratos, Aristides	Polychronis, Aristides & Virginia	Themelis, Constantine & Thalia
Micklos, Angelos & Panagiota	Poulimenakos, Eleni	Themelis, John & Renee
Micklos, Christine	Prassinis, Demetrios & Carol	Theoharis, Emmanuel & Maria
Miller, Emanuel & Shirley	Protopapas, George & Sofia	Topouzoglou, Anastasios & Patricia
Millett, Earl & Alex, Elizabeth	Protopapas, Marina	Triantafilos, Mary
Millon, Edwards & Florence	Protopapas, Nicholas	Triantafilos, Peter
Milonas, Kimon	Pulianas, Despina	Trintis, Thorina
Mimaros, Paraskevi	Qirjako, Spiro & Bona	Tsakalas, Steven & Dina
Minadakis, Antonios & Agapi	Quintero, Dennis & Rita	Tsakalos, Jeanette
Minas, Rose	Redmiles, Sophia	Tsamouras, Constantine & Moshoula
Moniodis, Michael & Effie	Reese, Kalyopi & John	Tsampos, Michael & Christina
Moniodis, Michael & Flora	Reppas, Paraskevi	Tsapakidis, Nikolaos
Moskos, Thomas & Tampa	Reppas, Soterios & Elia	Tsapakidis, Theoharis & Tsapakidis Papadimas, Evan
Myaris, John & Sofia	Riggin, Matthew & Elia	Tserkis, George
Nakos, Angelo & Mary Kamos	Rigopoulos, Mary Ann	Tsironis, Evdokia
Nickoles, Josh	Roberts, Brian & Maria	Tzavaris, Stelios & Theodosia
Nicolarakis, George	Rologas, Christina	Tzimas, Anna
Niotis, Vasilios	Roros, Dimitrios & Poli	United Chian Society Of Baltimore
Nistazos, George & Despina	Roros, John & Angeliki	Vasilakopoulos, Anastasia
Nistazos, Nickolas & Alena	Roros, Kyriaki	Vasilakopoulos, Irene
Nychis, George & Angeliki	Roros, Stavros	Vasiliades, Antonios & Sofia
Nychis, Vasilios & Evangelia	Roufas, Anthie	Vasiliades, Minus & Kelly
O'Drudy, Leo & Tricia	Roussos, Anthony & Laura	Vasiliadis, Antonios & Sofia
Ohno, Maria	Roxanis, Dean & Soula	Vasilios, Frank & Irene
Oikonomou, Fr. Georgios	Roxanis, John	Vatakis, Tessie
Orfanos, Anthony & Regina	Roxanis, Steven	Venetis, Dimitrios & Kiki
Orfanos, Michael	Sakpazis, Ioannis & Maria	Verenakis, Maria
Palas, John & Katina	Saliaris, Panagiotis	Vergos, John
Pandelidis, Demetrios & Elisavet	Samaras, Peter	Vizaniaris, Evangeline
Pantelides, Joanne	Sarioglou, Anastasia	Vlachos, Nikolaos & Sevi Froumis
Papadimitriou, Maria	Sarioglou, Kerassa	Vonakis, George & Irene
Papadopoulos, Anastasios & Marianthi	Sarioglou, Nikolaos	Vonakis, Joseph
Papadopoulos, Efstathios & Kalliopi	Sarlanis, Kiriako	Vourgarakis, Harry
Papalexopoulos, Christianna	Sazaklis, Antonios	Voxakis, Samantha
Papathakis, Matthew	Sevdalis, Spiros	Xouri, Sofia
Papavasiliou, Dimitris	Sevdalis, Theohariti	Yeakim, Dionysios & Angela
Papavasiliou, Lucas & Renee	Sfakianoudis, John & Angeliki	Yianakis, Steve & Katina
Papavasiliou, Virginia	Sfakianoudis, Kon/Nos & Angela	Zdziera, Ariadne
Papavasilis, Arhontoula	Sfakianoudis, Vasilis & LEMONIA	Zdziera, Genevieve
Paragios, Ioannis & Popi	Sfriou, Antonia	Zdziera, Maximus
Paralis, Kon/Nos & Anna	Sgouros, Shirley	Zdziera, Panagiota
Paros, Mary	Sigambris, Irene	Zdziera, Steve & Nitsa
Parthemos, Antonia & Mitchem, Jos	Siskos, Stefanos & Dina	Zervos, Christine

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 11/1/25 - 10/31/26

Number of Stewards: 82 Total Pledged: \$3,455

Almason, Joseph
Amann, Mary & Franz
Angelos, John & Irene
Aravidis, Nickolas & Smaragda
Argirakis, Pantelis & Despina
Avgerinos, George & Phaedra
Black, Mark & Sakellis Black, Irene
Bonolis, Catherine
Bouyoukas, John
Cardiges, Nicholas
Cook, Harry
Cornias, Clara
Cornias, Fotini
Cornias, Kiriaki
Cossis, Milton & Amalia
Cozmo, Theodore & Kiriaki
Douskas, Konstantinos
Eliopoulos, Anna
Fakas, James & Valasia
Filippakis, Filippos
Filippou, Nicholas
Forakis, Michael & Alexandra
Gargiulo, Angela
Georgakakou, Vasiliki & Chandar, Bharath
Georgalas, Michael & Hrisovalantou
Gray, Jamison
Harris, Athena (Tina)
Houvardas, Foula
Ieromonahos, Pantelis & Stamatia
Kaminaris, Demetrios & Michelle
Kapetanakos, Elias & Stephanie
Kaputsos, Marshall
Karaflos, Athanasios
Karoutsos, Apostolis & Anna
Kerr, Travis & Catherine
Koliadis, Zinovia
Kostakis, George & Eleni
Kotzias, Chris & Chrisoula
Koukides, Georgios
Koukides, Harry & Stella

Koumoudis, Kyriakos
Kourtesis, Michael & Adrienne
Kron, Christopher & Alexa
Ledakis, Panagiotis
Lentis, Minas & Kostalas, Eleni
Mastromanolis, Manuel
Mavroulis, Photis & Eva
Millon, Edwards & Florence
Milonas, Kimon
Nistazos, George & Despina
Nistazos, Nickolas & Alena
Nychis, Vasilios & Evangelia
O'Drudy, Leo & Tricia
Papadopoulos, Anastasios & Marianthi
Papavasili, Arhontoula
Paragios, Ioannis & Popi
Parthemos, Kaliopé
Parthemos, Konstantinos & Angelika
Patrikos, Fr. Michael & Dimitra
Paterakis, Chuck & Olga
Patrikios, Aikaterine & Jissri, Mike
Peach, Antonia
Pelekakis, Maria
Polychronis, Aristides & Virginia
Powers, Terry & Tasia
Prassinis, Demetrios & Carol
Quintero, Dennis & Rita
Redmiles, Sophia
Roros, Dimitrios & Poli
Sfikas, Paraskevas
Skandalis, George
Stamatopoulos, Nicolas
Stamidis, Anastasios & Angela
Stamidis, Stergios & Fotini
Themelis, John & Renee
Vasilakopoulos, Irene
Vasiliadis, Antonios & Sofia
Vatakis, Tessie
Vourgarakis, Harry



*Please remember to
submit your
2026 Stewardship
Cards!*

SAINT NICHOLAS MAILING LIST

To subscribe to the St. Nicholas mailing list, please follow these steps:

- 1) Open your Email client and create a new message.
- 2) Enter stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org as the To address. If this address does not work, you may need to use **STserv@stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org**. Older list serve accounts were configured with the STserv address.
- 3) Enter **“subscribe” stnicholasbaltimore** in the body of your message where *stnicholasbaltimore* is the name of the list you are subscribing to.
- 4) Leave the subject of the message blank. If your mail program requires text in the subject field, enter random characters.
- 5) Send the email; you will receive a confirmation if you successfully subscribed.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR - JANUARY

KALO MINA! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

KALO MHNA! EYTYXISMENO TO NEO ETOΣ!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY!

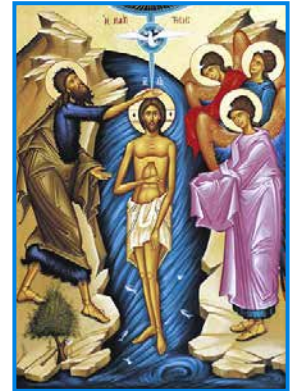
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 - Circumcision of our Lord/Περιτομή του Ιησού Χριστού & St. Basil the Great / Ο Μέγας Βασίλειος
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - Sunday before Holy Epiphany/ Κυριακή πρό τῶν Φώτων
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

MONDAY, JANUARY 5 – Eve of Epiphany / Προεόρτια τῶν Φώτων
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am --

Blessing of the Holy Waters will take place at the end of the Liturgy.

NOTE: On this day (Jan 5th) we are to follow a Strict Fast.



Holy Epiphany of Our Lord

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 – Holy Epiphany of our Lord / Αγία Θεοφάνεια τοῦ Κυρίου
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am --

Blessing of the Holy Waters will take place at the end of the Liturgy.

On January 6, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. This is a major Feast Day of our church. We must make every effort to come to church on this day to worship and glorify our Lord.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 – Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner /
Σύναξις τοῦ τιμίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 – Sunday after the Feast of Epiphany / Κυριακή μετά τῶν Φώτων
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 – St. Anthony the Great / Ἀντώνιος ὁ Μέγας
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 - 12th Sunday of Luke / IB' Λουκᾶ
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 - 15th Sunday of Luke / IE' Λουκᾶ
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 – The Three Hierarchs / Οἱ Ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες
ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

May our Incarnate Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bring you and your family all the joy, happiness, and love during this Blessed New Year of 2026.