

THE ANNUNCIATION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

11th Sunday of Luke/Fourth Sunday in Advent
Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy
Youths

December 17, 2017

Rev. Fr. Joseph Gingrich, Parish Priest

Altar Boys: All Available

Ushers on Duty: Team 1

Epistle Reading Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel Reading Luke 14:16-24

TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hymns After the Little (Gospel) Entrance

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ᾄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

APOLYTIKION FOR 11TH SUN. OF LUKE IN THE SECOND MODE

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, οἱ ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλεῆς, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

DISMISSAL HYMN FOR THE ANNUNCIATION IN THE FOURTH MODE

On this day when our salvation is crown'd for eternity, and the revelation of the Mystery of the ages. With divine grace the Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel's good tidings proclaim the news. For this we rejoice in song unto the holy Theotokos: Hail to you who are filled with grace, the Lord is with you.

Σήμερον της σωτηρίας ημών το κεφάλαιον και του απ' αιώνας μυστηρίου η φανέρωσις, Ο Υιός του Θεού, Υιός της Παρθένου γίνεται, και Γαβριήλ την χάριν ευαγγελίζεται. Διό και ημείς συν αυτώ τη Θεοτόκω βοήσωμεν. Χαιρε, κεχαριτωμένη, ο Κύριος μετά σου.

SEASONAL KONTAKION IN THE THIRD MODE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

EPISTLE READING

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For you are just in all you have done.

PRIEST: Wisdom

READER: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11.

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: ⁴When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. ⁵Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. ⁷You also used to live in them when you lived among these people; ⁸but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. ⁹Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings ¹⁰and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. ¹¹Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

LUKE 14:16-24

“A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. ¹⁷At supper time, he sent out his slaves to tell those who were invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now!’ ¹⁸But they all began to make excuses. The first told him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!’ ¹⁹Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!’ ²⁰Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!’ ²¹That slave came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind.’ ²²The servant said, ‘Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!’ ²³The lord then told the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled! ²⁴For I tell you that none of those who were invited will taste of my supper.’”

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of +Nick and +Bessie Argeroplos (Argeros) by the Argeroplos family.

CATECHISM SCHOOL

Catechism school begins at 9:30am. The details are as follows:

Cherub and Angels, preschool, K and 1: report to the classrooms at 9:30am

Grades 2-5 students should report to the community center at 9:30am

Grades 7-12 report to the community center for help with set-up. They will also help Parish council serve the meal.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON TODAY following the Divine Liturgy. Our Catechism School and Greek School Students shall present the program “*Everlasting Love*” for our parish family.

EXTEND, O LORD, YOUR MERCY AND PROTECTION UPON YOUR SERVANTS

Please pray for the health and salvation of your brothers and sisters in Christ during today’s Divine Liturgy and throughout the week: *Dora Protos, Nick Kirbabis, Konstantinos Haritos, Mary Saloom, Mike Mokas, Katherine Xidas, Magdeline Tisinger, Lucy Fasules, Peter Mihalislis, Elli Bambakidis, Stephanie Michaelson, Mary Leakas, Maria Polychronis, Alex Gounaris, Athie Zavakos, Stephen Friconi, John Wagner, Tom Xarhoulacos, Helen County and Evangelia Panson*

MEETING AND EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18TH

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon. 18 th	Greek School	5:30 pm	Community Center
Wed. 20 th	Marian Prayer Group	3:00 pm	Church
	GOYA Boys/Girls Basketball	6:30 pm	Community Center
	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Church
Thur. 21 st	Parish Council	6:30 pm	Athenagoras Room

FROM FR. JOSEPH

-Advent Fast. During this time of preparation for the birth of the Messiah Orthodox Christians are called by the Church not to eat meat, dairy products, and eggs. Fish is also forbidden on Wednesdays and Fridays. In order to show solidarity with the Advent fast no meat should be served at most parish events. This is such a small gesture that reminds us of the self-denial we are called to practice as people of faith. In our own personal lives outside of church events we do the best we can in regards to fasting. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to see me.

-When Sunday Catechism School is in session the order for reception of the Eucharist will be as follows: 1) Newly illumined/baptized 2) Altar Servers 3) Catechism School teachers and students 4) Choir 5) All others. This is being implemented so classes begin promptly and the time allotted for them is maximized. Last year there could be as much as a 15 minute waiting period for all students to arrive. Thank you for your cooperation.

-Friends of the Metropolis Sunday was last week but you can still donate this week. Friends of the Metropolis is a program that helps keep the office and ministries or our diocesan chancery solvent. Please make a check out to the “Friends of the Metropolis” today.

-House Blessings. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas would like members of the parish council or male members of the parish at large to accompany me on house blessings. Please see the house blessing schedule and volunteer with Carol as she maintains it. The schedule can be found at the candle stand/pangari in the narthex.

-True Vine. All submissions to the True Vine are to be in by the 10th of the month. No exceptions. We are moving to a new format and have deadlines to meet. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

-Translators. *Affordable Language Services* is looking for translators who have good command of Greek and English. Call David Dryden at (O) 513-792-5025 or (C) 513-767-1154.

-Christmas Tree. I would like to thank the following people for donating to the beautiful Christmas tree in our sanctuary: Mark and Cindy Keilholz, Deb and Chris Pulos, Bob Feldmann and Nikki Burns, David and Andrea Casey, John and Cynthia Barron, Anthony and Irene Zalants, Ruthann and Jim Zavakos, Bill and Nikki Cochran, John and Evanthia Valassiades, John and Mary Searles, Maria Castleman, Jim and Katina Tsatalis, and Fayez and Maria Abboud.

-Christmas Eve Sunday Morning service as usual. Evening Service at 6:00 PM.

-Christmas Day Orthros 9:00 AM and Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPIPHANY – HOUSE BLESSINGS – JANUARY 2018

The Season of Epiphany is highlighted by the service of the blessing of the waters, and the visitation and sprinkling of the blessed waters in our homes by our priest. Forms have been prepared listing the days and times Father Joseph will be in your area to bless homes. The forms are available on the information table in the Memorial Center and in the church narthex. Please complete the form and return it to the church office **no later than Wednesday, January 3rd.** Forms may be returned to the Parish Mailbox across from the office in **Fr. Joseph's mailbox.** You must be available for the time period selected. Due to the number of blessings, specific time requests may not be possible. **Those who can be home during the day, please schedule morning hours.**

If you are unable to be home for Father's visit because of a scheduling conflict or illness, please call the church office.

Lastly, per His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas' request a male parishioner or parish council member should be present with Fr. Joseph at all house blessings. Please consider volunteering.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BOOSALIS BAKING AND CAFÉ

Tsourekia orders may be picked up in the Community Center today, Sunday Dec. 17th 11 after Divine Liturgy.

PHILOTOCHOS DECEMBER COMMUNITY CARE MINISTRY (CCM)

Schneider House of Hope, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene, County, provides emergency shelter to displaced families with children go from homelessness to sustainable housing. The shelter is a permanent 10-bedroom site that can serve up to 25 adults and children. The shelter is currently housing 11 adults, 9 children, and a 21 month old. The shelter offers a comprehensive continuum of services from shelter, meals, case management, housing resources, medical and employment resources. As of October 2017, Schneider House has served 33 families comprised of 107 individuals.

YOUTH SUNDAY SIGN-UP

New this year, the Catechism School will have students become an integral part of the life of the Church by participating in the Divine Liturgy services. They will complete their duties prior to receiving Holy Communion, where they will be dismissed to Catechism School.

Youth Sunday: there are still some open slots!! 3rd-12th graders can sign up today. Go to the Youth Sunday Sign up Table in the Memorial Hall!

YOUTH SUNDAY DATES

January 7th, February 4th, March 4th, May 6th.

SAVE THE DATE – 2018 VASILOPITA LUNCHEON – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

Philoptochos invites you to our Annual Vasilopita Luncheon that benefits St. Basil's Academy. Join us **Sunday, January 7, 2018**. There will be a silent auction of pitas and the popular children's bidding table, and as always, monetary donations are welcome. Menu: Greek Roast Beef, Rice Pilaf, Capri Blend Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Spinach Salad w/ a citrus vinaigrette, Cheese Cake Assortment; Menu for Children: Chicken Tenders, Macaroni & Cheese, and Applesauce, Coffee, Lemonade, and Iced Tea. Tickets go on sale December 3, 2017. Deadline for pre-paid reservations is Sunday, December 31, 2017. **No ticket sales on the day of the event!** COST: Adults \$12/Children \$6. All tables will have a Vasilopita. RESERVE A TABLE AND BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY. For ticket sales or if you are interested in baking Vasilopita's please contact: Christa Bishop (513) 304-9128 or Angie Retzios (513) 594-5485

SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 19, 2018 DOP 3RD ANNUAL WINE TASTING 7:00 PM

Join Us! January 19, 2018 at 7:00 PM for An Evening of Wine Tasting...Five Wines to sample, each paired with its own small plate menu selections including music, desserts and Greek coffee Sponsored by The Daughters of Penelope At Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Community Center. Tickets \$30 Per Person. For Tickets: Thomai (937)422-4887 thomai@greeklsh.org

2018 PARISH CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2018 Annunciation Parish calendar is now available for pick-up. This valuable resource contains the Feasts and Fasts of the Church, Daily Scripture Readings, and much more. This year's Parish Calendar has been provided by Marker and Heller Funeral Home. We express our sincere appreciation for their generosity.

USHERS NEEDED

The Usher Teams are in need of new members. If you are interested in serving on an usher team please contact Toni Moraites at tmoraites@woh.rr.com. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

If you are visiting our Parish, please fill out the "Visitor Information Card," located in the Narthex, and hand it to one of the Welcome Committee greeters. You are welcome to come forward to receive a piece of "antidoron" (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service and join us in the Memorial Center for our Fellowship Hour following the Divine Liturgy.

If you are a "newcomer" to our Parish, please introduce yourself to our priest. He would be most happy to schedule a time to meet with you and discuss the ministries and fellowship opportunities available within our Parish.

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

For Orthodox Christians

When preparing to receive Holy Communion, please remain quietly in your pews until an Usher/ Parish Council Member directs you to approach from the center aisle. Your prayerful attention helps sustain the solemnity of the Divine Liturgy for those praying the "Prayers of Preparation" and following Holy Communion the "Prayers of Thanksgiving." You will find these prayers in the burgundy Divine Liturgy book located in the pew backs. The "Prayers of Preparation" begin on page 29 and the "Prayers of Thanksgiving" begin on page 40.

Please allow the acolyte to place the Holy Communion Cloth beneath your chin. This ensures that no particle of the Eucharist falls from your lips. Recite your baptismal name aloud; open your mouth wide; and close your mouth as the Communion Spoon enters your mouth. After receiving Holy Communion, blot your lips on the cloth and return to your pew by the side aisles.

You will find an acolyte offering you a bowl of antidoron from which you should take a single piece to ensure you consume all traces of Holy Communion.

For Non-Orthodox Christians

We welcome to our worship those Christians not fully united with us (canonically).

It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray.