

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

SUNDAY MARCH 27, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS)

WELCOME: HIS GRACE BISHOP APOSTOLOS OF MEDEIA:

Today we have the honor to welcome His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia to our St. Nicholas Community. It is always an honor to have His Grace Bishop Apostolos to celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with us this morning as we commemorate the 201st Anniversary 1821 March 25th Greek Independence Day celebration.

With united hearts and souls, Greek Orthodox Christians all over the world celebrate the most glorious event "1821 March 25th Greek Independence Day". It is also a special day in which our minds and hearts are drawn to this significant event of Divine Providence that have ushered in hope and salvation for us in both spiritual and physical manner. A special "DOXOLOGY" will be chanted and celebrated today by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia along with our newly elevated Chancellor of our Metropolis of New Jersey, the Very Rev. Fr. Christoforos Oikonomidis, and our newly elevated Archdeacon Philotheos Tomczewski who are with us this morning accompanying His Grace.

Additionally we take this opportunity to welcome also our distinguished Dignitaries and important guests who have come from near and far to our beloved Church today to worship with us on this historical and prestigious day in celebrating the 201st March 25th commemoration of the Greek Independence Day Celebration. We thank all of you for visiting our community and hope that your experience will be a memorable one.

We welcome and thank the official Photographer of our Archdiocese, Mr. Dimitrios Panagos and his lovely wife Rebecca, who traveled all the way from New York to be with us in order to live stream and photograph this beautiful and historic event. Please know that today's celebration will be live streamed on YouTube and watched throughout the world.

MARCH 25TH CELEBRATION:

This Day March 25th Greek Independence Day, is related to the revolution of 1821 and the struggle for freedom of honored Fathers, Mothers, Friends, and Patriots. In the fight for Independence, it was faith in God that engendered courage in the face of injustice, affirmed the priority of human dignity, and emboldened the effort for liberty as an essential quality of human life and potential. This is why today, we honor our Heroes for their courage and love for their country. We must be proud of our culture, religion, and heritage. We humbly pray that the Lord our God gives rest to the souls our Forefathers, who nobly fought for the faith and country and died with glory, or were slain or hanged or perished in captivity. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to bring peace and rest to their souls. May their memory be eternal.

LITURGICAL PROGRAM:

Monday, March 28: Compline Service: 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 30: Presanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm

Friday, April: 1: Fourth Salutations to the Virgin Mary: 7:00 pm

THANK YOU NOTE:

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank all the members of the Maryland Independence Day Parade Committee for their dedicated effort and the long hours that they spent coordinating and putting on this great event that we are experiencing today. Also we would like to thank our St. Nicholas Choir members, the Chanters, Sfehanos Niktas and Dimitri Apostolou for their participation and dedication. Thank you also to our St. Nicholas Choir, our Evzones, Altar boys, and to our Greek School children who participated in this beautiful and memorable event. We also would like to thank the people who worked in the Kitchen and who prepared the delicious and traditional food that we

will enjoy eating today. We cannot forget also all the Dance groups that will perform for us during the celebration at the Plateia. Again let's not forget that it took a Village to put on this historical event.

ATTENTION EVERYONE:

We would like to inform everyone that after the Divine Services are over, everyone is invited to the Plateia for Lunch. A delicious traditional meal will be offered to everyone who comes for lunch at cost of course. Let's not forget that we are still in the Fasting period of Great Lent, but because of the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation, we are permitted to enjoy what we are being offered today at the Plateia. Some point of interest! We also like to inform everyone who is participating in the Maryland Independence Day Parade that there will be Food being served at the Plateia after the Parade is over. There will also be different Dance Groups who will entertain us during this historical Independence Day Celebration. Come and enjoy the festivities..

COFFEE HOUR: ATTENTION EVERYONE:

We would like to inform everyone that we are starting up again our Coffee Hour program back into the life of the Church. It's been a long struggle but finally we are now permitted to have our Coffee Hour. If anyone wishes to sponsor a Coffee Hour after Church, please call the Church office to schedule your event for any given Sunday. Usually we offer the Coffee Hour for people who are sponsoring a Memorial service in the Church, but anyone is permitted to schedule a Coffee Hour for any given event.

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Monday, March 28: Greek school Classes: 4:45 pm to 7:45 pm

Tuesday, March 29: Orthodox Bible Study: 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 30: Greek school Classes: 4:45 pm to 7:45 pm

PASCHAL LILLIES DONATION/SALUTATIONS & HOLY WEEK ITEMS:

If you would like to donate towards our Paschal Lilies in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one, please stop by the church before you leave the Church today. The price of the Lilly plant is \$25.00. We also have items for the Icon of the Salutations and Holy Week items that need to be donated. Please contact Maria Salpeas our Church Secretary at 410-633-5020.

FR MICHAEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:

If any Church Organization is planning to hold meetings during the Lenten period, they must have their meetings on days that there are no Liturgical services. Please look in the March or April Koinonia Newsletter for the Liturgical program and arrange your meetings accordingly.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS: SPECIAL NOTICE

No Memorial services will be chanted on the following Sunday's. Sunday, April 17th (Palm Sunday)
Sunday, April 24th (Holy Pascha) Sunday, May 1 (Sunday of St. Thomas).

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES:

Sunday, April 3: 3 year Memorial in memory of Archondoula Kakarolis

Sunday, April 10: 9 months Memorial in memory of Theoharis Meniakis, 2 year Memorial in memory of Maria Vergou, 2 year Memorial in memory of Nikolaos Kakarolis, 3 year Memorial in memory of Andrea Pitsos and 3 year Memorial in memory of George Doukelis.