



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

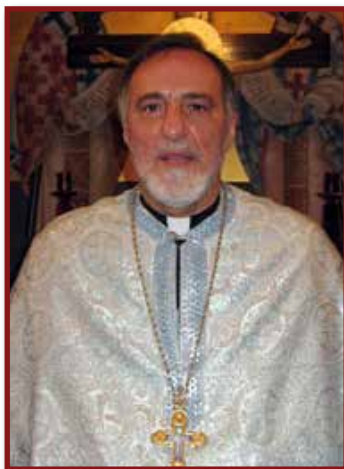
Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community, a Happy New Year and may this New year 2021, be fruitful, healthy, exciting and challenging.

When we look back to last year, the whole world has been suffering from the Corona Virus Pandemic. This virus started back in January 2020, and it is still here today. It has created a financial disaster, and it is going to take a long time until we get back to normal. Over 300,000 people in the United State have died from this terrible disease, and still even to this day, thousands more are dying daily.

We would like to thank the scientific world--the doctors, the medical researchers, and the pharmaceutical companies that have come up with a vaccine that is now available. But for that vaccine to be delivered to us, it is going to take longer than was expected. The vaccine will be given first to the frontline responders, such as doctors, nurses, medical staff, and those residents who are in nursing homes. We have to wait patiently, but as we wait, we need to stay diligent and continue to follow the CDC guidelines because it's not over yet. We have a long way to go to bring complete success to come out of this Pandemic. If we don't listen and take precautions, this virus will be here with us for a longer time than we anticipated. It's all up to us to fight this together. If we do this and if everyone is on the same page, we can overcome and beat this terrible and horrific virus.



I would like to quote Ephesians 5:15-17 which says: "Be very careful then, how you live not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's Will is." During this pandemic, we all had to make certain cuts and sacrifices in our financial situations to make do with what we were able to afford. We also know that millions of people all over the world are suffering from job losses and no food to put on their dining room tables. If we look around us, we still have a high unemployment rate, higher gas prices, higher costs on food and other important items and necessities. We have over 50 million people in the

United States who are going hungry, and not only losing their jobs, but are in danger of losing their homes and being evicted. This cannot happen in the richest country in the world. How can this be? Something is not right here. The people need relief badly and something must be done about it.

My brothers and sisters, in this New Year we need to bring a joyous and fresh attitude to our daily activities. Let's put all the errors and misfortunes that happened last year on the back burner and start anew, bringing the

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the forefront of our lives. Since the Corona Virus started, we forgot about God. We have lacked in our faith and our weekly and Sunday worship. Many of you have not been in Church in almost a year since the start of this Pandemic. That is not good for any of us. We have deprived ourselves and our children from coming to church. We need to have a better relationship with Christ now more so because we are going through this terrible ordeal. We need to get back on track

K O I N O N I A



## Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

and set sail to a new destination; a destination that brings us back to worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ. Society will never provide this for us. The only thing that our society can provide for us is our fake and wordly existence. We are going backwards instead of going forward in a positive direction. Why? Because we have taken Christ out of our lives, and we have substituted Him with earthly pleasures.

As you are reading this article, thank God that you are alive to see the beginning of this New Year 2021. In thanksgiving, let's make a positive effort to pursue our lives according to

the will of God and to put our spiritual household in order, not only for certain events of the year, but for the remainder of our lives.

Presvytera Toula, and I would like to wish everyone in the Community a Happy and Blessed New Year, and pray through our Lord Jesus Christ that He blesses and keeps everyone healthy and wise.

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021**

### **ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2021**

Θα ήθελα να εκμεταλλευτώ αυτήν την ευκαιρία για να ευχηθώ σε όλους στην Κοινότητα, ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ! και ελπίζω το νέο έτος 2021, να είναι γόνιμο, υγιές, συναρπαστικό και με πολλά ενδιαφέροντα.

Όταν κοιτάζουμε πίσω στην χρονιά που πέρασε, θα δούμε ότι όλος ο κόσμος υπέφερε από την πανδημία του ιού Corona. Ο ιός αυτός ξεκίνησε τον Ιανουάριο του 2020 και εξακολουθεί να υπάρχει μέχρι σήμερα. Δημιούργησε μια οικονομική καταστροφή και θα χρειαστεί πολύς χρόνος μέχρι να επανέλθουμε στα φυσιολογικά μας επίπεδα. Πάνω από 300.000 άνθρωποι στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες έχουν χάσει τη ζωή τους από αυτήν την τρομερή ασθένεια, ακόμη και σήμερα χιλιάδες άτομα πεθαίνουν καθημερινά.

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον επιστημονικό κόσμο - γιατρούς, ιατρικούς ερευνητές και τις φαρμακευτικές εταιρείες που κατάληξαν σε ένα εμβόλιο το οποίο είναι σήμερα διαθέσιμο. Αλλά για να μας παραδοθεί, θα περάσει περισσότερος χρόνος από τον αναμενόμενο. Το εμβόλιο θα πρέπει να δοθεί πρώτα στους ανταποκριτές της πρώτης γραμμής, όπως γιατρούς, νοσηλευτές, ιατρικό προσωπικό, και τρόφιμους των γηρκομείων. Πρέπει να περιμένουμε υπομονετικά, αλλά εν όσω είμαστε στην αναμονή, πρέπει να παραμείνουμε επιμελής και να συνεχίσουμε να ακολουθούμε τις κατευθυντήριες γραμμές του CDC διότι δεν πέρασε ο ιός ακόμα. Έχουμε πολύ δρόμο ακόμη για να φέρουμε πλήρη επιτυχία και να βγούμε από αυτήν την πανδημία. Αν δεν υπακούμε και δεν παίρνουμε τις απαραίτητες προφυλάξεις, ο ιός θα είναι εδώ μαζί μας για μεγαλύτερο χρονικό διάστημα από ό,τι αναμενόταν. Είναι όλα στο χέρι μας, να τον καταπολεμήσουμε από κοινού. Αν το κάνουμε και αν όλοι

είμαστε στην ίδια σελίδα, μπορούμε να τον ξεπεράσουμε και να νικήσουμε αυτό το φοβερό και φρικτό ιό.

Θα ήθελα να επιστήσω την προσοχή σας στο εδάφιο προς Εφεσίους 5:15-17 που αναφέρει Α "Να είστε πολύ προσεκτικοί, λοιπόν, πώς ζείτε - όχι τόσο ως ασύνετοι, αλλά τόσο ως σοφοί, αξιοποιώντας στο έπακρο κάθε ευκαιρία, γιατί οι μέρες είναι δύσκολες. Επομένως μην είστε ανόητοι, αλλά αντιληφθείτε ποιο είναι το Θέλημα του Κυρίου." Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της πανδημίας, όλοι έπρεπε να κάνουμε ορισμένες περικοπές και θυσίες στα οικονομικά μας, να ξοδεύουμε ό,τι ήμασταν σε θέση να αντέξουμε οικονομικά. Γνωρίζουμε, επίσης, ότι εκατομμύρια άνθρωποι σε όλο τον κόσμο υποφέρουν από την απώλεια θέσεων εργασίας, χωρίς φαγητό στο πιάτο της τραπέζιας τους. Αν κοιτάζουμε γύρω μας, έχουμε ακόμα ένα υψηλό ποσοστό ανεργίας, αύξηση των τιμών βενζίνης, υψηλότερο κόστος στα είδη τροφίμων και άλλα σημαντικά πράγματα και ανάγκες. Έχουμε πάνω από 50 εκατομμύρια ανθρώπους στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες που πεινούν, και όχι μόνο έχασαν τις δουλειές τους, αλλά κινδυνεύουν να χάσουν τα σπίτια τους και να τους γίνει ακόμη κι έξωση. Αυτό δεν μπορεί να συμβαίνει στην πλουσιότερη χώρα του κόσμου. Πώς μπορεί αυτό να συμβαίνει? Κάτι δεν πάει καλά εδώ. Οι άνθρωποι χρειάζονται επειγόντως ανακούφιση, κάτι πρέπει να γίνει γι' αυτό.

Αδελφοί και αδελφές μου, το νέο έτος επιβάλλεται να φέρει ένα χαρούμενο και ανανεωμένο επίπεδο στις καθημερινές μας δραστηριότητες. Ας ξεχάσουμε όλα τα λάθη και τις ατυχίες που συνέβησαν πέρυσι σε δεύτερη μοίρα, και ας ξεκινήσουμε εκ νέου, φέρνοντας τον Κύριο και Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστό στο προσκήνιο της ζωής μας. Από τότε που ξεκίνησε ο Ιός της Κορώνας, ξεχάσαμε τον Θεό. Μας λείπει η πίστη μας και οι εβδομαδιαίοι εκκλησιασμοί τις Κυριακής.

# CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS

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DIMITRIOS APOSTOLOU

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EFFIE KARAMBELAS - DANCE TEACHER  
ANASTASIA HATZIEFTHIMIOU-LOUKAKIS - ASSISTANT  
DANCE TEACHER, COORDINATOR OF THE ASSOCIATION  
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RENA BAGIATIS, VASILIKI MOROGIANNIS

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ROZA CORNIAS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
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EVA LALLAS

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ADVISORS: SOTIRI KOUMOUDIS, RENA KOUTSANTONIS,  
DEBBIE NISTAZOS, NITSA STAKIAS-ZDZIERA

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SAM GLAVA, DENNIS QUINTERO  
GIRLS A & GIRLS B TEAMS: JOHN CHRISOMALLIS,  
JENNA STAKIAS

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, NICOLETTA PEARCE  
RECORDING SECRETARY, MARKELLA PEARCE  
HISTORIANS, SEVA NISTAZOS AND LEAH KOUTSANTONIS  
SERGEANT AT ARMS, MARIANNA ALEVROGIANNIS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

PHAEDRA AVGERINOS AND SOPHIA GERAPETRITIS,  
DIRECTORS

PHAEDRA AVGERINOS 10TH  
NIKKI CANNING AND ROSE KOSTAKIS,  
PRE-KINDERGARTEN  
YANA KARABELAS, KINDERGARTEN  
PENNY GERAPETRITIS & VASILIKI FONIADIKI, 1ST & 2ND  
JENNA STAKIAS, 3RD & 4TH  
STAVROULA SAKELAKIS 5TH  
KALLIOPI CORNIAS & FLORA GIACOUMAKIS, 6TH  
ELENI PIKOUNIS 7TH  
MARIA FILIPPOU, 8TH & 9TH

## AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS  
ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΗ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ -  
ΣΤΑΜΑΤΙΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΣ  
PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN - ELENI MASTORAS &  
XENIA PONTIDI  
ΠΡΟΝΗΠΙΟ & ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ - ΕΛΕΝΗ ΜΑΣΤΟΡΑ &  
ΞΕΝΙΑ ΠΟΝΤΙΔΗ  
FIRST GRADE - DESPINA LARENTZOU &  
KATERINA IEROMONAHOS  
Α' ΤΑΞΗ - ΔΕΣΠΙΝΑ ΛΑΡΕΝΤΖΟΥ &  
ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ  
SECOND & THIRD GRADES - YVONNE GALETAKI  
THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS  
Β' & Δ' ΤΑΞΗ - ΥΒΟΝΝΗ ΓΑΛΕΤΑΚΗ  
THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS  
Γ' ΤΑΞΗ - ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΣ  
SIXTH GRADE - ELINA PAPADIMA  
ΣΤ' 1 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΛΙΝΑ ΠΑΠΑΔΗΜΑ  
FIFTH & SIXTH GRADES - TWO GROUPS -  
IRENE TSIATSIOULI  
Ε' & ΣΤ' 2 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΟΥ - ΤΣΙΑΤΣΟΥΛΗ  
ELLINOMATHIA - PANTELIS PSORAS  
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑ - ΠΑΝΤΕΛΗΣ ΨΩΡΑΣ  
GREEK DANCE LESSONS  
MARIA FILIPPOU, NIKI CANNING, MARIA AKALESTOS  
ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΧΟΡΟΥ  
ΜΑΡΙΑ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, ΝΙΚΗ ΚΑΝΙΓΚ, ΜΑΡΙΑ ΑΚΑΛΕΣΤΟΥ

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PATRICIA O'DRUDY, VICE-PRESIDENT  
ALEXANDRA KAROUTSOS, TREASURER  
PENNY ALAFASSOS, TREASURER  
ALEXANDRA FORAKIS, SECRETARY

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MARITSA ANGELOS  
MARIANNA LERAKIS

## YAL

FOULA PARAGIOS

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

IRENE VASILAKOPOULOS, CHAIRMAN  
POPI PARAGIOS, ADRIENNE KOURTESIS  
SOPHIA REDMILES

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

## KOINONIA DEADLINE

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

**ISSUE MONTH: FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE: JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**

Please email your article(s) to: [msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org](mailto:msalpeas@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.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

*Dear my beloved Parishioners,*

*I hope you all have a blessed New Year!*

*The Parish Council & I wish you from the bottom of our hearts all the best for the New Year 2021, loaded with many, many gifts, health, optimism, happiness, blessing, kindness, joy and many smiles full of infinite love !!!*

*Let's leave anything negative in the past and look ahead only with positive thoughts and optimism in our hearts. We have proved for another year that together we can do great things in every part of our community and church.*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your trust, your support and your great help for our church. With His blessing we move forward and everything flows calmly.*

*So let's go strong in this year that we gladly welcome.*

*Let's be equally loved, united and optimistic !!!*

*I wish you all a prosperous New Year!*

*With sincere love,*

*Stamatia Ieromonahos  
President of the Parish Council  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Baltimore*

*Αγαπημένοι μας,*

*Ευλογημένη Χρονιά για όλους μας !!!*

*Από καρδιάς το Συμβούλιο της εκκλησίας μας και εγώ προσωπικά σας ευχόμαστε ότι καλύτερο για την Νέα Χρονιά 2021 που ανέτειλε φορτωμένη με πολλά - πολλά δώρα, υγεία, αισιοδοξία, ευτυχία, ευλογία, καλωσύνη, χαρά και πολλά χαμόγελα γεμάτα με απέραντη αγάπη !!!*



*Ας αφήσουμε πίσω μας οτιδήποτε αρνητικό και ας κοιτάμε μπροστά μόνο με θετικές σκέψεις και αισιοδοξία μηνύματα στην καρδιά μας. Αποδείξαμε για μια ακόμη χρονιά ότι όλοι μαζί μπορούμε να μεγαλουργήσουμε σε κάθε τομέα της κοινότητας και της εκκλησίας μας.*

*Σας ευχαριστώ από καρδιάς για την εμπιστοσύνη, την συμπαράσταση και την βοήθεια σας προς την εκκλησία μας. Με την ευλογία του Κυρίου προχωράμε και όλα κυλούν ήρεμα σαν το νερό στο αυλάκι.*

*Πάμε λοιπόν δυνατά και σε αυτήν την χρονιά που με χαρά υποδεχόμαστε.*

*Να είμαστε το ίδιο αγαπημένοι, ενωμένοι και αισιόδοξοι!!!*

*Και τα καλύτερα έρχονται όλο και πιο πολλά!!*

*Καλή Χρονιά αγαπημένοι μας!*

*Με εκτίμηση,*

*Σταματία Ιερομόναχος  
Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης*

## MEMORIALS

***In memory of Alexios Shinas***  
***Ms. Vasiliki Shinas***

***In memory of Politimi Christakou Avarkioti***  
***Louis & Effie Stratakos***



## Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό (continued)

(Continued from pg. 2)

Πολλοί από εσάς δεν έχουν έλθει στην Εκκλησία σχεδόν ένα χρόνο, από την έναρξη αυτής της πανδημίας. Αυτό δεν είναι καλό για κανέναν μας. Έχουμε στερήσει και από τον εαυτό μας αλλά και από τα παιδιά μας την εκκλησία. Πρέπει να έχουμε μια καλύτερη σχέση με τον Χριστό, τώρα περισσότερο, επειδή διανύουμε αυτή την τρομερή δοκιμασία. Πρέπει να επιστρέψουμε στο προσκήνιο και να ξεκινήσουμε ένα νέο προορισμό. Ένα προορισμό που θα μας φέρει πίσω στη λατρεία του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού. Η κοινωνία ποτέ δεν θα μας το προσφέρει. Το μόνο πράγμα που η κοινωνία μας μπορεί να μας προσφέρει είναι η ψεύτικη και λεκτική μας ύπαρξη. Πηγαίνουμε προς τα πίσω αντί να προχωράμε προς μια θετική κατεύθυνση. Γιατί; Επειδή έχουμε βγάλει τον Χριστό από τη ζωή μας και τον αντικαταστήσαμε με γήινες απολαύσεις.

Καθώς διαβάζετε αυτό το άρθρο, ευχαριστώ τον Θεό που ζείτε για να δείτε το ξεκίνημα του νέου έτους 2021. Εις

ένδειξη ευχαριστίας, ας κάνουμε μια θετική προσπάθεια να συνεχίσουμε τη ζωή μας σύμφωνα με το θέλημα του Θεού και να τακτοποιήσουμε το πνευματικό μας κόσμο, όχι μόνο για ορισμένα γεγονότα της χρονιάς, αλλά και για το υπόλοιπο της ζωής μας.

Η Πρεσβυτέρα Τούλα, και ο υποφαινόμενος, θα θέλαμε να ευχηθούμε σε όλους στην Κοινότητα Ευτυχισμένο και Ευλογημένο το Νέο Έτος, προσεύχομαι στο Κύριό μας Ιησού Χριστό, να μας ευλογεί και να μας έχει όλους υγιείς και σοφούς.

**ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ  
2021**

## GREEK SCHOOL

*The Greek school classes enjoyed a short break from their studies to perform their Christmas poems, readings, and songs.*





*The  
Reverend Protopresbyter  
Father Michael L. Pastrokos  
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 Choir,  
Our Diamonds, Our GOYANS,  
Our Hellenic Golden Coins, Our  
Pan Hellenics, Our Greek School and  
Our Learning Center*

*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 2021 brighten your road with hope!*

## Epiphany of our Lord

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



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.

### 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 GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 225/2020

#### Encyclical on the Feast of Christmas

December 25, 2020

*Τι σοι προσενέγκωμεν Χριστέ, ὅτι ὤφθης ἐπὶ γῆς ὡς ἄνθρωπος δι' ἡμᾶς; (Στιχηρόν Ἰδιόμελον)*

*What shall we offer You, O Christ, You Who have appeared on earth as human for our sake? (Special Sticheron)*

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America,

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

In this darkest time of the year, we have arrived at the turn of time, when the brightest Star that ever shone arises in our hearts to guide us to the Cave in the City of David. We have all faced so very much this past year, and the little Child of Bethlehem calls to each of us to come unto Him and witness His vulnerability for our sake. He descended from Heaven to be incarnate within the womb of a young Virgin, and entrusted Himself to an old man whose mind was full of doubts. We too, have our innocence and our doubts, just like Mary and Joseph. But as they were faithful to the words of the Angel, God still speaks to us and tells us that He is our God, and His mercy endures forever.





This Christmas, one that is full of challenges and difficulties, of despair and even loss, let us remember Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem of Judea. They went to be obedient to the law of Caesar, but they witnessed the birth of Grace and Truth (John 1:14). They were deprived of shelter, but they made a home with the creatures of the earth and entertained the Magi of the East. They saw wonder in the eyes of the Shepherds and heard the echoes of the songs of Angels. There was a time of gifts in the midst of humble paucity.

As we arrive at the Cave and behold the One Who condescended to be laid in a Manger, let us contemplate our own journey of faith, and this time of the gifts that we may bring. The hymn above continues: "Each of Your creations that You fashioned offers thanks to You: the Angels, their hymn; the heavens, a Star; the Shepherds, their wonder; the Magi, their gifts; the earth, the Cave; the desert, the Manger; and we offer the Virgin Mother. O God before all ages, have mercy upon us!"

My Beloved Christians, even in the midst of this pandemic, we can offer ourselves to God with the same love and devotion that the Ever-Virgin Mary offered herself. When we offer Her in praise, we are in fact offering ourselves, because we are of the same flesh and bone as she, full human beings that are called to bring forth God in the world. As you celebrate this Christmas of 2020, I pray the Lord will shine in your hearts as did the Star in the sky, and guide you to a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

+ ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



## ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθ. Πρωτ. 225/2020

#### Ποιμαντορική Έγκύκλιος Χριστουγέννων

25 Δεκεμβρίου 2020

*«Τί σοι προσενέγκωμεν Χριστέ, ὅτι ὤφθης ἐπὶ γῆς ὡς ἄνθρωπος δι' ἡμᾶς;»  
(Στιχηρὸν ἰδιόμελον τοῦ ἑσπερινοῦ τῆς ἑορτῆς τῶν Χριστουγέννων).*

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίῶν, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι τῆς φετινῆς χρονιάς, ἔφτασε τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου καὶ ὁ λαμπρότερος ἀστέρας τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ἱστορίας φωτίζει ξανά τὶς καρδιές μας, ὀδηγώντας μας στὸ σπήλαιο τῆς πόλης τοῦ Δαβὶδ. Ἀντιμετωπίσαμε μεγάλες δυσκολίες αὐτὴ τὴ χρονιά, ἀλλὰ σήμερα τὸ βρέφος τῆς Βηθλεὲμ μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ ἐπισκεφθοῦμε τὸ παγωμένο καὶ σκοτεινὸ σπήλαιο, νὰ γίνουμε συναντιλήπτορες καὶ συνοδοιπόροι στὶς δυσκολίες πού τὸ ἴδιο ἀντιμετώπισε γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία μας. Κατέβη ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν καὶ ἐνανθρώπησε μέσα στὴ μήτρα τῆς νεαρῆς παρθένου Μαρίας, παραδίδοντας τὸν ἑαυτό του στὰ χέρια τοῦ Ἰωσήφ, ἀνθρώπου γεμάτου ἀπορίες γιὰ τὸ θαυμαστὸ αὐτὸ γεγονός τῆς γεννήσεως. Ἔτσι καὶ ἐμεῖς, ὅπως ἡ Μαρία καὶ ὁ Ἰωσήφ, μὲ ἀφελότητα καρδιάς, ἄς ξεπεράσουμε τὶς ὅποιες ἀμφιβολίες μας καὶ ἄς πιστέψουμε στὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀγγέλου, πού μᾶς βεβαιώνει «ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν καὶ τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα».



Αὐτὰ τὰ Χριστούγεννα τῆς πανδημίας ἀντιμετωπίζουμε μεγάλες προκλήσεις καὶ προβλήματα, μὲ οἰκονομικὰ ἀδιέξοδα καὶ ἐνίοτε καὶ ἀπώλειες ἀγαπημένων προσώπων, ἀλλὰ ἅς θυμηθοῦμε τὴ Μαρία καὶ τὸν Ἰωσήφ στὸ ταξίδι τους γιὰ τὴ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας. Ὑπάκουσαν στὴν ἐντολὴ τοῦ Καίσαρα καὶ ἔγιναν οἱ συντελεστὲς τοῦ θαύματος: «Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας» (Ἰωάν. 1:14). Στερήθηκαν καταλλήλου καταλύματος ἀλλὰ βρῆκαν τὴ θαλπωρὴ στὴ φάτνη μὲ τὰ ἄλογα ζῶα τῆς γῆς, προσκυνούμενοι ἀπὸ Μάγους ἐξ Ἀνατολῶν. Γεύθηκαν τὸ θαῦμα τῆς ἐπισκέψεως τῶν ποιμένων καὶ τῆς δοξολογίας τῶν ἀγγέλων. Τί θαυμάσια δῶρα ἀλήθεια, μέσα στὴν ἀπόλυτη ταπείνωση, μέσα στὴν ἔλλειψη τῶν ἀναγκαίων ἀγαθῶν!

Προσκυνώντας τὸ θεῖο βρέφος στὴν ταπεινὴ φάτνη τῶν ζώων, ἅς ὀλοκληρώσουμε αὐτὸ τὸ ταξίδι τῆς πίστεως προσφέροντας καὶ ἐμεῖς τὸ ταπεινὸ μας δῶρο ὡς εὐχαριστία. Τὸ ἰδιόμελο τοῦ ἔσπερινοῦ τῆς ἑορτῆς συνεχίζει: «ἕκαστον γὰρ τῶν ὑπὸ σοῦ γενομένων κτισμάτων, τὴν εὐχαριστίαν σοι προσάγει· οἱ Ἄγγελοι τὸν ὕμνον, οἱ οὐρανοὶ τὸν Ἄστέρα, οἱ Μάγοι τὰ δῶρα, οἱ Ποιμένες τὸ θαῦμα, ἡ γῆ τὸ σπήλαιον, ἡ ἔρημος τὴν φάτνην· ἡμεῖς δὲ Μητέρα Παρθένον. Ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεὸς ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς».

Ἀγαπητοί μου χριστιανοί, ἀκόμη καὶ μέσα στὶς πολλαπλὲς δυσκολίες τῆς πανδημίας, τὸ δῶρο ποὺ μπορούμε νὰ προσφέρουμε εἶναι ὁ ἴδιος μας ὁ ἑαυτός: μιμούμενοι τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν ἀφοσίωση μὲ τὴν ὁποία ἡ ἀειπάρθενος Μαρία προσέφερε τὸν ἑαυτὸ της στὸ Θεό. Ἐμεῖς προσφέρουμε Μητέρα Παρθένον, διότι ἔχουμε τὴν ἴδια φύση μὲ αὐτή, τὴν ἀνθρώπινη φύση, τὴν ὁποία προσλαμβάνει ὁ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ γίνεται ἄνθρωπος, ἐρχόμενος στὸν κόσμον. Ἐορτάζοντας τὰ Χριστούγεννα τοῦ 2020, εὐχομαί τὸ φῶς τοῦ Κυρίου νὰ λάμψει στὶς καρδιές σας, σὰν τὸ φῶς τοῦ ἀστέρα τῆς Βηθλεὲμ στὸν χριστουγεννιάτικο οὐρανό, ὀδηγώντας σας σὲ ἓνα εὐλογημένο καὶ εὐτυχὲς νέο ἔτος.

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε.

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

# PHILOPTOCHOS

As we celebrated the Miracle of Jesus Birth, we are sure that this year was difficult for many families due to Covid-19. Normally our churches would have been full, family and friends gathering, and celebrations would have taken place. Let us be grateful for the blessings we have and continue to pray that this year will be better and brighter.

As we reflected on this past year with the Pandemic and all the restrictions, our chapter was able through the generosity of all our donor's and the assistance of our Metropolis President Eleni Constantinides, of New Jersey to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos and we are extremely grateful.

Our Chapter managed to assist families with rent, utilities and clothing, provide "The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen" with monthly meals, purchased lunch / dinner and made Christmas pastry packages for the first responders at Johns Hopkins Bayview, Supplied Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets for eight families, Collected canned food items for the Bayview Shelter pantry, Collected new blankets, hats, gloves and socks for the "Helping Up Mission", fulfilled our commitments to National and Metropolis Philoptochos. We continue to support the Philoxenia House, Inc. and whenever there was a need we responded. This year will be no different, we will continue our philanthropic missions inspiring hope to those that need it.

We would like take this opportunity to thank all those that continue to support Philoptochos throughout the years whether its with donations, Artoclasia's, Tsourekia, Vasilopita's, attending our fundraisers or even with your kind words. We hope that we will be able to get together soon but until then any updates will be announced in church or on Facebook.

## DONATIONS:

### **Two Anonymous Donations for Food Baskets**

### **Donation for the Philoxenia House, Inc. Anonymous**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13 Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year may it be Blessed with Health, Happiness and Prosperity!

Με το τρόπο που γιορτάσαμε εφέτος το θαύμα της γέννησης του Χριστού, είμαστε βέβαιοι ότι αυτή η χρονιά ήταν δύσκολη για πολλές οικογένειες, λόγω του Covid-19. Κανονικά οι εκκλησίες μας θα ήταν γεμάτες, οικογένεια και φίλοι θα συγκεντρώνονταν και θα εόρταζαν. Ας είμαστε όμως ευγνώμονες για τις ευλογίες που έχουμε και να συνεχίσουμε να προσευχόμαστε όπως το νέο έτος θα είναι καλλίτερο και φωτεινότερο.

PHILOPTOCHOS



Όπως αντανakλάται, η περυσινή χρονιά, με την πανδημία και όλους τους περιορισμούς, το Τμήμα μας ήταν σε θέση χάρις στη γενναιοδωρία όλων των δωρητών μας, και την βοήθεια της Προέδρου μας της Φιλοπτώχου της Μητρόπολης Νέας Ιερσής, κας Ελένης Κωνσταντινίδη, να εκπληρώσει την αποστολή του και είμαστε εξαιρετικά ευγνώμονες γι' αυτό.

Το Τμήμα μας κατάφερε να βοηθήσει οικογένειες με το ενοίκιο, με λογαριασμούς σε επιχειρήσεις κοινής ωφέλειας και με είδη ένδυσης, παροσφέραμε στο «The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen», με μηνιαία γεύματα, αγοράσαμε μεσημεριανό γεύμα / δείπνο και πακέτα με χριστουγεννιάτικα γλυκά για τους πρώτους που ανταποκρίθηκαν στο Johns Hopkins Bayview, το Πάσχα, την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών και των Χριστουγέννων, προσφέραμε Καλάθια Τροφίμων σε οκτώ οικογένειες, Συγκεντρώσαμε κονσερβοποιημένα τρόφιμα για το Ερμάρι Τροφίμων του Bayview, συλλέξαμε καινούργιες κουβέρτες, καπέλα, γάντια και κάλτσες για το «Helping Up Mission», και τηρήσαμε τις δεσμεύσεις μας προς την Εθνική και την Μητροπολιτική Φιλόπτωχο. Θα συνεχίσουμε να υποστηρίζουμε το Σπίτι της ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ, και θα ανταποκρινόμαστε κάθε φορά που θα υφίσταται ανάγκη. Η Νέα χρονιά δεν θα είναι διαφορετική, θα συνεχίσουμε τις φιλανθρωπικές αποστολές μας και θα δίνουμε ελπίδα σε εκείνους που τη χρειάζονται.

Θα θέλαμε να εκμεταλλευτούμε αυτήν την ευκαιρία για να ευχαριστήσουμε όλους όσους συνεχίζουν να υποστηρίζουν τη Φιλόπτωχο όλα αυτά τα χρόνια, είτε με δωρεές, Αρτοκλασίες, Τσουρέκια, Βασιλόπιτες, που συμμετέχουν σε συγκεντρώσεις εράνων ή ακόμα και με τα καλά τους λόγια. Ελπίζουμε ότι θα είμαστε σε θέση να είμαστε σύντομα μαζί, αλλά μέχρι τότε οι ενημερώσεις των εκδηλώσεών μας θα ανακοινώνονται στην εκκλησία ή στο Facebook.

## ΔΩΡΕΕΣ:

**Δύο (2) ανώνυμες δωρεές για τα Καλάθια Τροφίμων**

**Ανώνυμη Δωρεά για το Οίκημα της ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ**

"Ο Θεός της ελπίδας να σας γεμίσει με κάθε λογής χαρά και ειρήνη που δίνει η πίστη, για να έχετε περίσσια ελπίδα με τη δύναμη του Αγίου Πνεύματος." Προς Ρωμαίους 15:13.  
Ευχόμαστε σε όλους ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ευλογημένη, με υγεία, ευτυχία και ευημερία!

Prot. No. 751

PATRIARCHAL PROCLAMATION  
FOR CHRISTMAS

**✠ B A R T H O L O M E W**  
BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME  
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH  
TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH  
GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE  
FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM  
\* \* \*

Most venerable brothers in Christ and beloved children,

As we journey with the All-Holy Virgin, who comes “to give birth ineffably” to the pre-eternal Word, and as we gaze upon Bethlehem, which prepares itself to receive the holy infant, behold we have once more reached Christmas filled with sentiments of gratitude to the God of love. The journey to this great feast of the nativity in the flesh of the world’s Savior was different this year with regard to the outward conditions, resulting from the current pandemic. Our church life and the participation of our faithful in the sacred services, as well as the church’s pastoral care and good witness in the world were all affected by the repercussions of the related health restrictions. However, all this does not affect the innermost relationship of the faithful with Christ or of our faith in His providence and our devotion to “the one thing that is necessary.”<sup>1</sup>

In secularized societies, Christmas has lost its original identity and has been reduced to a celebration of ostentatious consumption and worldliness, without any suspicion that on this holy day we commemorate the “eternal mystery”<sup>2</sup> of the divine incarnation. Today, the proper Christian celebration of Christmas is an act of resistance to the secularization of life and to the dilution or demise of the sense of mystery.

The incarnation of the Word reveals the content, direction, and purpose of human existence. The all-perfect God subsists as perfect man, so that we may be able to exist “in the manner of God.” “For God became human in order that we might

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Lk 10.42.

<sup>2</sup> Maximus the Confessor, *Varia on Virtue and Evil*, Century I, 12 PG 90.1184.

become deified.”<sup>3</sup> In the profound formulation of St. Gregory the Theologian, man is “commanded to become God,”<sup>4</sup> “a divinized being.”<sup>5</sup> Such is the supreme dignity afforded to humankind, which renders our existence an insurmountable honor. In Christ, all people are called to salvation. Before God, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free man, neither male nor female; for everyone is one in Christ Jesus,” according to the divinely inspired theology of the Apostle Paul.<sup>6</sup> This is a decisive reversal in the field of anthropology, the hierarchy of values, and the perception of ethos. Since that time, whosoever insults humankind also defies God. “For there is nothing as sacred as man, in whose nature God participated.”<sup>7</sup>

Christmas constitutes the entire divine-human life of the Church, where Christ is constantly experienced as the One who was, is and will come. The One “in His Mother’s embrace” is the One “in the bosom of the Father,” the child Jesus is the One who was crucified, resurrected and ascended in glory into the heaven, the righteous judge and the King of glory. It is this inexpressible mystery that we glorify with psalms and hymns, unto which we minister, while at the same time having been and being ministered by Him. This is what the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon was divinely inspired to define “following the Holy Fathers.” The “doctrine of Chalcedon,” which describes the way – beyond reason and comprehension – that the Word of God assumed the flesh of the world, is “chanted” by the all-sacred Church of Haghia Sophia in the City of Cities, the pride of Orthodoxy and the glory of the *oikoumene*, through the architectural expression, the organization of sacred space, the impressive dome, which reflects how the divine philanthropy unites all things, the heavenly with the earthly, but also through the icons and decorations, as well as through the unique theological language of splendid lighting.

In the midst of many circumstances and sorrows, we hear today the resounding voice of the “Lord’s angel,” who “brings the good news of a great joy . . . to all people, for to us is born this day a Savior, who is Christ Jesus.”<sup>8</sup> We celebrate Christmas, praying for our brothers and sisters in danger and illness. We admire the self-sacrifice of the doctors and nurses and all those who contribute to confronting the pandemic. We rejoice as we discover that the patient is approached as sacred person and is not reduced to a number, a case, an object, or an impersonal biological unit. As it has been said so eloquently, “the white gown” of the physicians is “a white cassock” that expresses surrender from what is “mine” for the sake of my brother,

<sup>3</sup> Athanasius the Great, *On the Incarnation* 54.

<sup>4</sup> Gregory the Theologian, *Funeral Oration to Basil the Great*, PG 36.560.

<sup>5</sup> Gregory the Theologian, *Homily 44 on Holy Pascha*, PG 36. 632.

<sup>6</sup> Gal 3.28.

<sup>7</sup> Nicholas Cabasilas, *On the Life in Christ* VI, PG 150.649.

<sup>8</sup> Lk 2.9–11.

“seeking the interests of the other”<sup>9</sup> and the complete commitment to the suffering one. For this “white cassock” – just as for the clergyman’s cassock, since both are symbols of a spirit of sacrifice and service – the inspiration and driving force is love, which is always a gift of divine grace and never exclusively our own achievement.

The perilous pandemic has shattered much of what we have taken for granted, revealing the limits of the “titanism” of the contemporary “man-god” and demonstrating the power of solidarity. Alongside the indisputable truth that our world comprises a whole, that our problems are common, and that their solution demands a joint action and agenda, what was supremely manifested was the value of the personal contribution, the love of the Good Samaritan, which surpasses every human standard. The Church actively supports – in deed and in word – our suffering brothers and sisters, while praying for them, their relatives and all those responsible for their care, and at the same time proclaiming that the healing of the sick – as a temporary victory over death – pertains to transcendence and to the ultimate abolition of death in Christ.

Unfortunately, the healthcare crisis has not allowed the development of activities foreseen for 2020, as “the year of pastoral renewal and due concern for the youth.” We hope that the coming year will render possible the realization of planned initiatives for the new generation. We know from experience that, when our young men and women are approached with understanding and love, they reveal their creative talents and enthusiastically contribute to such initiatives. In the end, youth is a particularly “religious” time in our life – filled with dreams, visions and deep existential pursuits, with a vibrant hope for a new world of fraternity. It is this “new creation”<sup>10</sup> – the “new heavens and new earth . . . where righteousness dwells”<sup>11</sup> that the Church of Christ proclaims as good news and reflects in its journey to the Kingdom.

Beloved brothers and blessed children,

In the Church, man is completely renewed and not just “assisted.” There, man “lives in the truth” and experiences his divine destiny. As the Holy and Great Council of Orthodoxy declared, in the Church “every person constitutes a unique entity, destined for personal communion with God.”<sup>12</sup> We share the divinely-given conviction that our present life is not our entire life, that evil and negativity do not

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<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor 10.24.

<sup>10</sup> 2 Cor 5.17.

<sup>11</sup> 2 Pet 3.13.

<sup>12</sup> *Encyclical*, § 12.

[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

have the final word in history. Our Savior is not a *deus ex machina* that intervenes and annihilates troubles, while simultaneously abolishing our freedom, as if this was a “condemnation” from which we need to be delivered. For us Christians, the unparalleled Patristic words hold true: “The mystery of salvation pertains to those who are willing to be saved, not to those who are coerced.”<sup>13</sup> The truth of the freedom in Christ is tested through the Cross, which is the way to the Resurrection.

In this spirit, concelebrating Christmas and the other feasts of the sacred Twelvetide in a God-pleasing manner with all of you, we pray from our sacred Center of the Phanar that the Savior, who condescended to the human race, may grant you health, love for one another, progress in every good thing, and every blessing from above, on the occasion of the new year that dawns and in all the days of your life. Let it be so!

Christmas 2020  
✠ Bartholomew of Constantinople  
Fervent supplicant for all before God

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To be read in church during the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Christmas,  
following the Holy Gospel.

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<sup>13</sup> Maximus the Confessor, *On the Lord's Prayer*, PG 90.880.



Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 751

ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ  
ΕΠΙ ΤΟΙΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΟΙΣ

**+ Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ**  
ΕΛΕΩι ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ,  
ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ  
ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩι ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ  
ΧΑΡΙΝ, ΕΛΕΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ  
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΝ ΒΗΘΛΕΕΜ ΓΕΝΝΗΘΕΝΤΟΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

\* \* \*

Τιμιώτατοι ἐν Χριστῶ ἀδελφοί καί προσφιλέστατα τέκνα,

Συμπορευόμενοι μέ τήν Παναγίαν Παρθένον, τήν ἐρχομένην «ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως» τόν προαιώνιον Λόγον, καί ἀτενίζοντες τήν ἐτοιμαζομένην νά ὑποδεχθῆ τό Θεῖον Βρέφος Βηθλεέμ, ἰδού ἐφθάσαμεν καί πάλιν τά Χριστούγεννα, ἔμπλεοι αἰσθημάτων εὐγνωμοσύνης πρός τόν Θεόν τῆς ἀγάπης. Ἡ πορεία πρός τήν μεγάλην ἑορτήν τῆς κατά σάρκα Γεννήσεως τοῦ Σωτήρος τοῦ κόσμου ἦτο ἐφέτος διαφορετική ὡς πρός τάς ἐξωτερι-κάς συνθήκας, λόγω τῆς σοβούσης πανδημίας. Καί ἡ ἐκκλησιαστική ζωή, ἡ συμμετοχή τῶν πιστῶν εἰς τάς ἱεράς ἀκολουθίας, ἡ ποιμαντική μέριμνα καί ἡ καλή μαρτυρία ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ὑπέστησαν τάς συνεπείας τῶν ὑγειονομικῶν περιορισμῶν. Πάντα ταῦτα ὅμως δέν ἀφοροῦν εἰς τήν ἐσωτάτην σχέσιν τοῦ χριστωνύμου λαοῦ μέ τόν Χριστόν, εἰς τήν πίστιν εἰς τήν πρόνοιαν Αὐτοῦ καί τήν ἀφοσίωσιν εἰς τό «ἐν, οὐ ἔστι χρεία»<sup>1</sup>.

Εἰς τάς ἐκκοσμικευμένας κοινωνίας, τά Χριστούγεννα ἔχουν ἀποχρωματισθῆ, κατέστησαν ἡ ἑορτή τῆς ἐπιδεικτικῆς καταναλώσεως καί τῆς κοσμικότητος, χωρίς ὑποψίαν ὅτι κατά τήν ἀγίαν ταύτην ἡμέραν τιμῶμεν τό «ἀεὶ μυστήριον»<sup>2</sup> τῆς Θείας Ἐνανθρωπήσεως. Ὁ χριστιανοπρεπῆς ἑορτασμός τῶν Χριστουγέννων ἀποτελεῖ σήμερον πρᾶξιν ἀντιστάσεως εἰς τήν ἐκκοσμίκευσιν τῆς ζωῆς καί εἰς τήν ἐξασθένησιν ἢ καί νέκρωσιν τῆς αἰσθήσεως διά τό μυστήριον.

Ἐν τῇ σαρκώσει τοῦ Λόγου ἀποκαλύπτεται τό περιεχόμενον, ἡ κατεύθυνσις καί ὁ σκοπός τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης ὑπάρξεως. Ὁ παντέλειος Θεός ὑπάρχει ὡς τέλειος ἄνθρωπος, διά νά δυνηθῶμεν νά ὑπάρξωμεν «μέ τόν τρόπον τοῦ Θεοῦ». «Ὁ Θεός γάρ ἐνηνθρώπησεν, ἵνα ἡμεῖς θεοποιηθῶμεν»<sup>3</sup>. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶναι, κατά τήν βαθυστόχαστον ἔκφρασιν τοῦ Ἁγίου Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου, «θεός κεκελευσμένος»<sup>4</sup>, «ζῶν θεούμενον»<sup>5</sup>. Αὕτη εἶναι ἡ ὑψίστη τιμή πρός τόν ἄνθρωπον, ἡ ὁποία ἀποδίδει εἰς τήν ὑπαρξίν του ἀνυπέρβλητον ἀξίαν. Ἐν Χριστῶ, ὅλοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι καλοῦνται εἰς τήν σωτηρίαν. Ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ, «οὐκ ἐνὶ Ἰουδαίος

<sup>1</sup> Πρβλ. Λουκ. ι', 42.

<sup>2</sup> Μαξίμου τοῦ Ὁμολογητοῦ, *Κεφάλαια διάφορα Θεολογικά καί Οἰκονομικά περὶ ἀρετῆς καί κακίας*, ἑκατοντάς πρώτη, IB', PG 90, 1184.

<sup>3</sup> Ἀθανασίου τοῦ Μεγάλου, *Περί ἐνανθρωπήσεως*, 54.

<sup>4</sup> Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου, *Εἰς τόν Μέγαν Βασιλείον Ἐπιτάφιος*, PG 36, 560.

<sup>5</sup> Τοῦ αὐτοῦ, *Λόγος ΜΕ'*, *Εἰς τό Ἅγιον Πάσχα*, PG 36, 632.

οὐδέ Ἕλληνας, οὐκ ἐνὶ δούλῳ οὐδέ ἐλεύθερος, οὐκ ἐνὶ ἄρσεν καὶ θήλυ· πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἶστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ», θεολογεῖ θεοπνεύστως ὁ Ἀπόστολος Παῦλος<sup>6</sup>. Πρόκειται περὶ μιᾶς καθοριστικῆς ἀνατροπῆς εἰς τὸν χῶρον τῆς ἀνθρωπολογίας, εἰς τὴν ἱεράρχησιν τῶν ἀξιών, εἰς τὴν θεώρησιν τοῦ ἡθους. Ἐκτοτε, ὅστις θίγει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, στρέφεται κατὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ. «Οὐδὲν γὰρ ὅσον ἄνθρωπος ἱερόν, ᾧ καὶ φύσεως ἐκοινωνήσεν ὁ Θεός»<sup>7</sup>.

Χριστούγεννα εἶναι ὅλη ἡ θεανθρωπίνη ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἐν τῇ ὁποίᾳ ὁ Χριστός διηνεκῶς βιοῦται ὡς ὁ Ἦν, ὁ Ὄν καὶ ὁ Ἐρχόμενος. Ὁ «ἐν ἀγκάλαις τῆς Μητρός» εἶναι ὁ «ἐν τοῖς κόλποις τοῦ Πατρός», τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦς εἶναι ὁ σταυρωθεὶς, ἀναστάς καὶ ἐν δόξῃ ἀναληφθεὶς εἰς τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, ὁ δίκαιος κριτὴς καὶ ὁ Βασιλεὺς τῆς δόξης. Αὐτὸ τὸ ἀνεκφαντον μυστήριον δοξάζομεν ἐν ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις, αὐτὸ διακονοῦμεν, διακονηθέντες καὶ διακονούμενοι συγχρόνως ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ. Αὐτὸ διετύπωσε θεοπνεύστως, «ἐπομένη τοῖς Ἁγίοις Πατράσιν», ἡ ἐν Χαλκηδόνι Δ' Οἰκουμενικῇ Σύνοδος. Τὸ «δόγμα τῆς Χαλκηδόνος», τὸν ὑπὲρ λόγον καὶ ἔννοιαν τρόπον τῆς προσλήψεως τῆς σαρκὸς τοῦ κόσμου ὑπὸ τοῦ Λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ, «ψάλλει» διὰ τῆς ἀρχιτεκτονικῆς ἐκφραστικῆς, τῆς ὁργανώσεως τοῦ ἱεροῦ χώρου, τοῦ ἐντυπωσιακοῦ τροῦλλου, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀπεικονίζει τὴν τὰ πάντα συνέχουσαν θείαν φιλανθρωπίαν καὶ συνάπτει τὰ οὐράνια καὶ τὰ ἐπίγεια, διὰ τῶν εἰκόνων καὶ τοῦ διακόσμου, διὰ τῆς μοναδικῆς θεολογικῆς γλώσσης τῆς ἐκπάγλου φωτοχυσίας, ὁ πανίερος ναὸς τῆς τοῦ Θεοῦ Σοφίας ἐν τῇ Πόλει τῶν Πόλεων, τὸ καύχημα τῆς Ὄρθο-δοξίας καὶ τὸ κλείσμα τῆς οἰκουμένης.

Ἐν μέσῳ περιστάσεων καὶ θλίψεων πολλῶν, ἤχει σήμερον ἡ λιγυρὰ φωνὴ τοῦ «ἀγγέλου Κυρίου», τοῦ «εὐαγγελιζομένου χαρὰν μεγάλην... παντὶ τῷ λαῷ, ὅτι ἐτέχθη ἡμῖν σήμερον σωτὴρ, ὅς ἐστι Χριστὸς Κύριος»<sup>8</sup>. Ἐορτάζομεν τὰ Χριστούγεννα, προσευχόμενοι διὰ τοὺς ἐν κινδύνοις καὶ ἀσθενείαις ἀδελφούς ἡμῶν. Θαυμάζομεν τὴν αὐτοθυσίαν τῶν ἰατρῶν καὶ τῶν νοσηλευτῶν καὶ πάντων τῶν συμβαλλόντων εἰς τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τῆς πανδημίας. Χαίρομεν διαπιστοῦντες, ὅτι ὁ ἀσθενῶν προσεγγίζεται ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν ὡς ἱερόν πρόσωπον καὶ δὲν μετατρέπεται εἰς ἀριθμὸν, περιστατικόν, ἀντικείμενον, ἀπρόσωπον βιολογικὴν μονάδα. Ὡς ἐλέχθη προσφυέστατα, ἡ «λευκὴ μπλούζα» τῶν ἰατρῶν εἶναι «ἓνα ἄσπρο ράσο», ἐκφράζει τὴν παραίτησιν ἀπὸ τοῦ «ἐμόν» χάριν τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ, τὸ «ζητεῖν τὰ τοῦ ἐτέρου»<sup>9</sup>, τὴν ὀλικὴν ἀφιέρωσιν εἰς τὸν πάσχοντα. Εἰς αὐτὸ τὸ «ἄσπρο ράσο» καὶ εἰς τὸ ράσον τοῦ κληρικοῦ, σύμβολον ἀμφοτέρωθεν θυσίας καὶ διακονικοῦ πνεύματος, ἡ ἔμπνευσις καὶ ἡ κινητήριος δύναμις εἶναι ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ὁποία εἶναι πάντοτε δῶρον τῆς θείας χάριτος, ποτέ ἀποκλειστικῶς ἰδικόν μας κατόρθωμα.

Ἡ ἐπικίνδυνος πανδημία ἐκλόνησε πολλὰ αὐτονόητα, ἀπεκάλυψε τὰ ὅρια τοῦ τιτανισμοῦ τοῦ συγχρόνου «ἀνθρωποθεοῦ» καὶ ἀνέδειξε τὴν δύναμιν τῆς ἀλληλεγγύης. Ὁμοῦ μέ τὴν ἀδιαμφισβήτητον ἀλήθειαν, ὅτι ὁ κόσμος μας ἀποτελεῖ ἐνότητα, ὅτι τὰ προβλήματα μας εἶναι κοινά, καὶ ἡ λύσις των ἀπαιτεῖ σύμπραξιν καὶ συμπόρευσιν, ἀνεδείχθη ἐξόχως ἡ ἀξία τῆς προσωπικῆς συμβολῆς, τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Καλοῦ Σαμαρείτου, ἡ ὁποία ὑπερβαίνει τὸ ἀνθρώπινον μέτρον. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία συμπαρίσταται ἐνεργῶς, ἔργῳ καὶ λόγῳ, πρὸς τοὺς ἐμπεριστάτους ἀδελφούς καὶ προσεύχεται διὰ τὴν ἐνίσχυσιν αὐτῶν, τῶν συγγενῶν καὶ τῶν ὑπευθύνων διὰ τὴν περίθαλψιν, διακηρύττουσα συγχρόνως, ὅτι ἡ

<sup>6</sup> Γαλ. γ', 28.

<sup>7</sup> Νικολάου Καβάσιλα, *Περὶ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ζωῆς*, ΣΤ', PG 150, 649.

<sup>8</sup> Λουκ. β', 9-11.

<sup>9</sup> Α' Κορ. ι', 24.

θεραπεία τοῦ ἀσθενοῦς, ὡς προσωρινή νίκη ἐπὶ τοῦ θανάτου, παραπέμπει εἰς τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ ὑπέρβασιν καὶ τελικὴν κατάργησιν αὐτοῦ.

Δυστυχῶς, ἡ ὑγειονομικὴ κρίσις δὲν ἐπέτρεψε τὴν ἀνάπτυξιν τῶν δράσεων, αἱ ὁποῖαι εἶχον προβλεφθῆ διὰ τὸ 2020, «ἔτος ποιμαντικοῦ ἀνακαινισμοῦ καὶ ὀφειλετικῆς μερίμνης διὰ τὴν νεολαίαν». Ἐλπίζομεν, ὅτι κατὰ τὸ ἐπερχόμενον ἔτος θά καταστῆ δυνατὴ ἡ πραγματοποίησις τῶν προγραμματισθεισῶν ἐκδηλώσεων διὰ τὴν νέαν γενεάν. Γνωρίζομεν ἐκ πείρας ὅτι, ἐφ' ὅσον οἱ νέοι καὶ αἱ νέαι προσεγγισθοῦν μὲ κατανόησιν καὶ ἀγάπην, ἀποκαλύπτουν τὰς δημιουργικὰς τῶν δυνάμεις καὶ συμμετέχουν μὲ ἐνθουσιασμόν εἰς τὰ δρώμενα. Τελικῶς, ἡ νεότης εἶναι μία ἰδιαίτερος «θρησκευτικὴ» περίοδος τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης ζωῆς, μὲ ὄνειρα, ὁράματα καὶ βαθεῖας ὑπαρξιακὰς ἀναζητήσεις, μὲ ζῶσαν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἐνός νέου κόσμου ἀδελφοσύνης. Αὐτὴν τὴν «καινὴν κτίσιν»<sup>10</sup>, τοὺς «καινοὺς οὐρανοὺς καὶ γῆν καινὴν ... ἐν οἷς δικαιοσύνη κατοικεῖ»<sup>11</sup>, εὐαγγελίζεται ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, αὐτὴν εἰκονίζει ἐν τῇ πορείᾳ πρὸς τὰ Ἔσχατα.

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἀδελφοὶ καὶ εὐλογημένα τέκνα,

Ἐν τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀνακαινοῦται ὅλος, δὲν «βοηθεῖται» ἀπλῶς, ἀλλὰ «ἀληθεύει», βιώνει τὸν ἔνθεον προορισμόν του. Ὡς διεκήρυξεν ἡ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Σύνοδος τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας, εἰς τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν «ἕκαστος ἄνθρωπος ἀποτελεῖ μοναδικὴν ὄντοτητα, προωρισμένην εἰς προσωπικὴν κοινωνίαν μετὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ»<sup>12</sup>. Ἐχομεν τὴν θεόδοτον βεβαιότητα, ὅτι ὁ παρῶν βίος δὲν εἶναι ὀλόκληρος ἡ ζωὴ μας, ὅτι τὸ κακὸν καὶ αἱ ἀρνητικότητες δὲν ἔχουν τὸν τελευταῖον λόγον εἰς τὴν ἱστορίαν. Ὁ Σωτὴρ ἡμῶν δὲν εἶναι ἕνας «ἀπὸ μηχανῆς Θεός», ὁ ὁποῖος παρεμβαίνει καὶ ἐξαφανίζει τὰ δεινὰ, ἐνῶ ταυτοχρόνως καταλύει τὴν ἐλευθερίαν μας, ὡσάν αὕτη νὰ ἦτο «καταδίκη», ἐκ τῆς ὁποίας χρῆζομεν ἀπαλλαγῆς. Δι' ἡμᾶς τοὺς Χριστιανούς ἰσχύει τὸ ἀπαράμιλλον Πατερικόν: «Βουλομένων γάρ, οὐ τυραννουμένων τὸ τῆς σωτηρίας μυστηρίον»<sup>13</sup>. Ἡ ἀλήθεια τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἐλευθερίας δοκιμάζεται διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶναι ἡ ὁδὸς πρὸς τὴν Ἀνάστασιν.

Ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τούτῳ, συνεορτάζοντες μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐν θεαρέστῳ φρονήματι τὰ Χριστοῦγεννα καὶ τὰς λοιπὰς ἑορτάς τοῦ Ἁγίου Δωδεκαημέρου, εὐχόμεθα ἐκ τοῦ ἱεροῦ ἡμῶν Κέντρου τοῦ Φαναρίου, ὅπως ὁ συγκαταβάς τῷ γένει τῶν ἀνθρώπων Σωτὴρ χαρίζεται ὑμῖν ὑγίαν, τὴν πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἀγάπην, προκοπὴν ἐν παντί ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ, καὶ πᾶσαν ἄνωθεν εὐλογίαν, ἐν τῷ ἀνατέλλοντι νέῳ ἔτει καὶ ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἡμέραις τῆς ζωῆς ὑμῶν. Γένοιτο!

Χριστοῦγεννα ,βκ'  
† Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως  
διάπυρος πρὸς Θεόν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

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Αναγνωσθήτω ἐπ' ἐκκλησίας κατὰ τὴν Θεῖαν Λειτουργίαν τῆς ἑορτῆς τῶν Χριστου-γέννων, μετὰ τὸ Ἱερόν Εὐαγγέλιον.

<sup>10</sup> Β' Κορ. ε', 17.

<sup>11</sup> Β' Πέτρ. γ', 13.

<sup>12</sup> Ἐγκύκλιος, § 12.

<sup>13</sup> Μαξίμου τοῦ Ὁμολογητοῦ, *Εἰς τὴν προσευχὴν τοῦ Πάτερ ἡμῶν*, PG 90, 880.



*The Defense Delegation of the Hellenic Embassy  
would like to extend its wishes for a joyful season  
and a happy new year!*

*Col Vasileios Lampropoulos  
Defense & Military Attaché of Greece*



## THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 01/2021

#### Encyclical on the New Year

January 1, 2021

*Ὁ ἐν τῇ ἀφάτῳ σου μακροθυμία καταξιώσας ἡμᾶς εἰς νέον ἐνιαυτὸν εἰσελθεῖν· αὐτὸς πανάγαθε Δέσποτα, τὴν εἴσοδον ταύτην τῇ θεία σου χάριτι εὐλόγησον. (Εὐχὴ τῆς Δοξολογίας ἐπὶ τῇ Πρώτῃ τοῦ Νέου Ἑτους)*

*O All-Good Master, by Your ineffable longsuffering You have vouchsafed us to enter into the New Year, bless this entrance with Your Divine Grace. (Prayer of the Doxology for the First of the New Year)*

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America,

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

We are greeting the New Year of the Grace of our Lord, even as we share the longsuffering of our Lord that has strained our hearts and souls in the year that is behind us. We salute the New Year with faith, with hope for a brighter tomorrow. We welcome the New Year with the same confidence which knows that each passing day now possesses just a shard, just a hint of more light, even though the days of January seem darker than ever. Likewise, we know that the pandemic will come to an end, and that we shall return to our lives, but perhaps not as exactly as they once were. May this re-entry into our lives be blessed!

My dear Christians, the past year has prepared us for this New Year of 2021; that we might never again take our families and friends for granted, that we might think of



the suffering of others above our own, that we might see in the midst of the obstacles to our way of worship, the light of Christ that lights our hearts, if we would but turn our attention there.

On this First Day of the New Year, eight days after the Nativity, we commemorate the Naming of the Lord, and Saint Basil the Great. The Lord was given the Name that is above every other name, Jesus, as was revealed by the Angel. This is the Name by which we have been appointed to be saved from sin, fear, and death. Saint Basil the Great reminds us that it is through manifest love for our fellow human beings and compassion for the suffering of others that our faith works unto this salvation in our hearts, and awareness in our minds. Thus, the Holy Archdiocese continues this saving work institutionally at the Saint Basil Academy, where love and compassion are extended to those in need.

As we enter this New Year of the Grace of our Lord, may we truly be blessed by His love that we may be a blessing to others, and thus may we all be granted a healthy, safe and fulfilling New Year of 2021.

With paternal love in Christ Jesus,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



## ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθ. Πρωτ. 01/2021

#### Ποιμαντορική εγκύκλιος επί τὸ νέο ἔτος 2021

1 Ιανουαρίου 2021

*«Ὁ ἐν τῇ ἀφάτῳ σου μακροθυμία καταξιώσας ἡμᾶς εἰς νέον ἐνιαυτὸν εἰσελθεῖν·  
αὐτὸς πανάγαθε Δέσποτα, τὴν εἴσοδον ταύτην τῇ θεῖα σου χάριτι εὐλόγησον»  
(Εὐχή τῆς Δοξολογίας ἐπὶ τῇ Πρώτῃ τοῦ Νέου Ἑτους).*

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Εἰσερχόμαστε στὸ νέο ἔτος τῆς χρηστότητος τοῦ Κυρίου μετὰ ἀπὸ μία δύσκολη χρονιά, ἢ ὅποια ἄφησε βαθεῖα ἴχνη πόνου καὶ ἀπωλείας στὶς καρδιές μας. Τὸ ὑποδεχόμαστε, ὅμως, μὲ πίστη καὶ ἐλπίδα γιὰ καλύτερες ἡμέρες, μὲ τὴν ἴδια βεβαιότητα ὅτι κάθε ἡμέρα ποὺ περνάει εἶναι δῶρο Θεοῦ, ἀκόμη ἓνα σταυροδρόμι στὸ δρόμο μας, μία ἐπιπλέον ἡλιαχτίδα φωτός, ἔστω καὶ ἂν αὐτὸς ὁ Ἰανουάριος φαντάζει ὁ σκοτεινότερος ὅλων. Θαρσεῖτε ὅμως! Γνωρίζουμε ὅτι ἡ πανδημία βρίσκεται πρὸς τὸ τέλος τῆς καὶ θὰ ἐπιστρέψουμε στὴν καθημερινότητά μας, ἴσως λίγο διαφορετικὰ ἀπὸ πρὶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὸ ἄς εἶναι εὐλογημένο!



Αγαπητοί μου χριστιανοί, τὸ προηγούμενο ἔτος μᾶς προετοίμασε γιὰ τὸ νέο ἔτος 2021 διδάσκοντάς μας τὴν προσωρινότητα τῶν ἀγαπημένων μας ἀνθρώπων, τὸ ὅτι ὀφείλουμε νὰ μεριμνοῦμε γιὰ τὸν πόνο τῶν συνανθρώπων μας περισσότερο παρὰ γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό μας καὶ ὅτι τὸ φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ μπορεῖ νὰ λάμψει στὶς καρδιές μας, παρὰ τὰ ἐμπόδια στὴ λατρεία ποὺ ἔφερε ἡ πανδημία.

Κατὰ τὴ σημερινὴ πρώτη ἡμέρα τοῦ νέου ἔτους, ὀκτὼ ἡμέρες ἀπὸ τὴ γέννηση τοῦ Σωτῆρος, ἑορτάζουμε τὴν περιτομὴ καὶ τὴν ὀνοματοδοσίᾳ τοῦ Κυρίου μας καθὼς καὶ τὴν ἑορτὴ τοῦ ἁγίου Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου. Ὁ Κύριος λαμβάνει «τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν ὄνομα» Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν παραγγελία τοῦ Ἀγγέλου. Μὲ τὴν ἐπίκληση αὐτοῦ τοῦ ὀνόματος σωζόμαστε ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία, τὸ φόβο, τὸ θάνατο. Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει ὅτι μὲ τὴν ἔμπρακτὴ ἀγάπη πρὸς τὸν συνάνθρωπο, μὲ τὴν εὐσπλαχνία γιὰ τὸν πόνο τῶν ἄλλων, ἡ πίστη αὐτὴ γίνεται ἔργο καὶ μᾶς ὀδηγεῖ στὴ σωτηρία τῶν ψυχῶν καὶ τῶν σωμάτων. Σὲ αὐτὸ τὸ δρόμο κινεῖται ἡ Τερά Ἀρχιεπισκοπὴ μας λειτουργώντας τὴν Ἀκαδημία τοῦ Ἁγίου Βασιλείου, ὅπου ἡ ἀγάπη καὶ ἡ εὐσπλαχνία ἐκδηλώνονται πρὸς ὅλους ὅσους ἔχουν ἀνάγκη.

Μὲ τὴν εἰσοδὸ μᾶς στὸ νέο ἐνιαυτὸ τῆς χρηστότητος τοῦ Κυρίου, ἂς εἴμαστε πραγματικὰ εὐλογημένοι μὲ τὴν ἀγάπη του, ἔτσι ὥστε καὶ ἐμεῖς νὰ γίνουμε εὐλογία γιὰ τοὺς ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους, καὶ μὲ αὐτὸ τὸν τρόπο νὰ χαρίσει ὁ Κύριος σὲ ὅλους ὑγεία, ἀσφάλεια καὶ πληρότητα χαρᾶς κατὰ τὸ νέο ἔτος 2021

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἀγάπης ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος





*Especially  
Now*

## St. Nicholas eGiving Stewardship

**One Less Thing  
to think about**

### *eGiving Benefits*

- Easy set up
- One-time/recurring payment options
- Confidential & secure
- Track easily for tax purposes

### *How it Works*

- Go to: [stnicholasmd.org/give](http://stnicholasmd.org/give)
- Select fund(s)
- Create your profile
- Select amount, payment method & frequency
- Complete donation
- THAT'S IT! Simple.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

Give yourself *One Less Thing* to think about  
**[stnicholasmd.org/give](http://stnicholasmd.org/give)**



# STEWARDSHIP

## MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD ΚΑΡΤΑ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

“THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”

“ΤΟ ΣΠΟΥΔΑΙΟΤΕΡΟ ΑΠΟ ΟΛΑ ΕΙΝΑΙ Η ΑΓΑΠΗ”

2021 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD  
2021 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ –ΚΑΡΤΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΗΣ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ

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 2021 :\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Συνολικό ποσό προσφοράς για το 2021 :\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 ας 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 / Ονόματα παιδιών και ημερομηνία γεννήσεώς τους	

### Introducing Auto Pay Set It and Forget It!

Take the work out of giving! Set up automatic offerings and pledges right from your computer or tablet that will seamlessly reoccur every week, month, quarter, or year.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website [www.stnicholasmd.org/give](http://www.stnicholasmd.org/give) or download the GivePlus mobile app. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 410-633-5020.



ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ ΣΤΟΝ  
ΑΥΤΟΜΑΤΟ ΤΡΟΠΟ  
ΠΛΗΡΩΜΗΣ  
ΡΥΘΜΙΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΙ ...  
ΞΕΧΑΣΤΕ ΤΟ!

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](http://www.stnicholasmd.org/give) ή κατεβάστε την εφαρμογή GivePlus mobile. Εάν έχετε απορίες, επικοινωνήστε με το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020.

# EARLY EDUCATION CENTER NEWS



## ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

**Hello, from the BEEC family,**

Happy Holidays to everyone. Although 2020 has been an eventful year, BEEC would like to thank Saint Nicholas Church, BEEC board, families and staff for the continued support, kindness, and compassion they have given the BEEC program when confronted with unrepresented times! BEEC currently has space available and are welcoming families to enroll, You may contact BEEC via phone 410-633-5020 or via email [BEEC@stnicholasmd.org](mailto:BEEC@stnicholasmd.org). We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy NewYear!

**Sharon Small, Center Director**



**Γεια σας απο την οικογένεια BEEC,**

Χαρούμενες γιορτές σε όλους. Αν και το 2020 ήταν ένας γεμάτος χρόνος, το BEEC θα ήθελε να ευχαριστήσει την εκκλησία και τον σύλλογο του Αγίου Νικόλα, τις οικογένειες και το προσωπικό για την στήριξη, την καλοσύνη, και την συμπόνια που έχει προσφέρει στο πρόγραμμα μας αυτές τις δύσκολες στιγμές! Προς το παρόν το BEEC έχει διαθέσιμες θέσεις και προσκαλεί νέες οικογένειες να γραφτούν. Μπορείτε να επικοινωνήσετε με το BEEC μέσω αυτού του τηλεφώνου, 410-633-5020 η μέσω email [BEEC@stnicholasmd.org](mailto:BEEC@stnicholasmd.org). Τέλος, θα θέλαμε να ευχηθούμε σε όλους Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Καλή Πρωτοχρονιά!

**Sharon Small**

**Διευθύντρια του BEEC**

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.**

Ο Δίγλωσσος Βρεφονηπιακός Σταθμός Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές περιβάλλον, ένα σπίτι μακριά από το σπίτι, ένα σπίτι μάθησης. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά ηλικίας 6 εβδομάδων έως 5 ετών. **Ο σταθμός μας ψάχνει να προσλάβει βοηθούς δασκάλων μερικής και πλήρους απασχόλησης.** Αν έχετε ερωτήσεις ή χρειάζοσαστε περισσότερες πληροφορίες, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με το Σταθμό μας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020, γραμμή 4 ή στείλτε μας μήνυμα στο Facebook.

# FINANCIALS

## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Church and Greek School

November 2020

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
<b>Income</b>			
4000 Stewardship	14,242.00	32,480.00	(18,238.00)
4010 Greek School Registration	3,465.43	2,320.00	1,145.43
Other Income	12,079.50	17,370.00	(5,290.50)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,786.93</b>	<b>52,170.00</b>	<b>(22,383.07)</b>
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>3,877.55</b>	<b>1,285.00</b>	<b>2,592.55</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>25,909.38</b>	<b>50,885.00</b>	<b>(24,975.62)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total CAPITAL COSTS (CHURCH)	0.00	2,200.00	(2,200.00)
Total GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	8,593.43	16,835.00	(8,241.57)
Total OCCUPANCY COSTS	2,543.52	5,265.00	(2,721.48)
Total PAYROLL EXPENSES	19,768.45	29,280.00	(9,511.55)
Total YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	259.90	0.00	259.90
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>31,165.30</b>	<b>53,580.00</b>	<b>(22,414.70)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(5,255.92)</b>	<b>(2,695.00)</b>	<b>(2,560.92)</b>

## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Learning Center

November 2020

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
<b>Income</b>			
4011 Learning Center Income	24,131.34	41,860.00	(17,728.66)
<b>Total 4011 Learning Center Income</b>	<b>24,131.34</b>	<b>41,860.00</b>	<b>(17,728.66)</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,131.34</b>	<b>41,860.00</b>	<b>(17,728.66)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>24,131.34</b>	<b>41,860.00</b>	<b>(17,728.66)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>LEARNING CENTER</b>			
Total Payroll Expense (L.C.)	20,283.62	26,570.00	(6,286.38)
Total Food and Classroom Supplies (L.C.)	2,338.11	5,230.00	(3,001.89)
Total Admin and Office Expenses (L.C.)	1,670.69	5,147.50	(3,366.81)
Total Occupancy Expenses/Cap Improvements (L.C.)	289.87	6,037.50	(5,747.63)
<b>Total LEARNING CENTER</b>	<b>24,582.29</b>	<b>42,985.00</b>	<b>(18,402.71)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>24,582.29</b>	<b>42,985.00</b>	<b>(18,402.71)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(450.95)</b>	<b>(1,125.00)</b>	<b>674.05</b>

## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Plateia

November 2020

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
<b>Income</b>			
4140 Plateia Income (Onsite)	3,265.90	27,755.00	(24,489.10)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,265.90</b>	<b>27,755.00</b>	<b>(24,489.10)</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
<b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>			
Total Plateia CGS Expenses	965.52	22,345.00	(21,379.48)
<b>Total COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>	<b>965.52</b>	<b>22,345.00</b>	<b>(21,379.48)</b>
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>965.52</b>	<b>22,345.00</b>	<b>(21,379.48)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>2,300.38</b>	<b>5,410.00</b>	<b>(3,109.62)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>PLATEIA EXPENSES</b>			
Mortgage Interest Expense (Plateia)	215.47	312.50	(97.03)
Total Occupancy Expenses (Plateia)	5,204.81	8,062.50	(2,857.69)
Total Payroll Expenses (Plateia)	4,554.40	3,135.00	1,419.40
Total Admin Expenses (Plateia)	2,451.36	1,535.00	916.36
Total Bus Dev/Marketing Expenses (Plateia)	891.00	5,430.00	(4,539.00)
<b>Total PLATEIA EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,317.04</b>	<b>18,475.00</b>	<b>(5,157.96)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,317.04</b>	<b>18,475.00</b>	<b>(5,157.96)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(11,016.66)</b>	<b>(13,065.00)</b>	<b>2,048.34</b>

Mortgage Principal Payments	\$ 5,064.48
<b>OVERALL PLATEIA SURPLUS (LOSS) (Operating and Mortgage)</b>	<b>(\$16,081.14)</b>

# 2020 PLEDGES-\$197,895.00 / Payments-\$202,335.74 / Balance-(\$4,440.74)

MR/MRS AGAPIOS DIAMANTIS  
 MR/MRS ALAFASSOS GINA  
 MR/MRS ALMASON STEPHEN &  
 MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS &  
 MR ANGELOPOULOS CHRIST  
 MR/MRS APOSTOLOU DIMITRIOS &  
 MR/MRS ARGIROPOULOS WILLIAM  
 MR/MRS ATSALES GUS  
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS GEORGE AND  
 MR/MRS BISBIKIS PETER- ELENI  
 MR/MRS BONOLIS CATHERINE  
 MS BURRIS STEPHANIE  
 MR/MRS CHARALAMBOPO CHARALAMBO  
 MR/MRS CHRISOVERGIS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP  
 MR/MRS CONSTANTINIDIS NICK & CHRIS  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MICHAEL C.  
 MRS CORNIAS CALLIOPI  
 MR/MRS COSSIS MILTON &  
 MRS DIMIDES ANNA  
 MR/MRS DOUKELIS GEORGE  
 MRS ELIOPOULOS ANNA  
 MRS FANTIS PENELOPE  
 MS FILIPIDIS EFFIE  
 MR/MRS FINNEY THOMAS &  
 MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL  
 MR FOTIOU JOHN  
 MR/MRS GALIATSATOS GERASIMOS &  
 MR/MRS GEORGAKAKOU- VASILIKI-  
 MS GEORGAS ANTHE  
 MRS GEORGIU ARCHODOULA  
 MS GERAPETRIDES SOFIA  
 MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA  
 MR/MRS GIANNAS APOSTOLOS &  
 HALKIAN "SAINT"  
 MRS HATZIDAKIS ANGELIKI  
 MR HATZIGEORGALI ANTONIOS  
 MR/MRS HIOTIS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS IEROMONAHOS PANTELIS  
 MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS  
 MRS KALAMBHIS MARIA  
 MRS KALIAKOURAS SOFIA  
 MR/MRS KAMOS EMMANUEL &  
 MR KAPETANAKOS FANOUIROS  
 MR/MRS KARABELAS IOANNA  
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNOPOU GUS & SUE  
 MRS KARAMIHIALIS ELEFTHERIA  
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NIKOS  
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS NIKITAS  
 MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS KEPALAS MIKE & NORA  
 MR/MRS KEVAS GEORGE &  
 MR KLOSTERIDIS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS KOLIADIS EMMANUEL &  
 MR/MRS KONTOGIANNIS VASILIOS &  
 MR/MRS KOSMAS- SAM &  
 MR/MRS KOTZIAS GEORGE A.  
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES JOHN  
 MR/MRS KOULATSOS DIONISIOS  
 MR KOUROUPIS STEVE  
 MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS DEMETRIOS  
 MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE  
 MRS LERICOS IRENE  
 MR/MRS LOIZOU CHRIS  
 MRS MANOLITSIS ISMINI  
 MR/MRS MAVRODONTIS ZAHARIAS  
 MR MAVRONIS NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL &  
 MRS MINAS ROSE  
 MR/MRS MONIODIS STEVE  
 MR/MRS NYARIS JOHN & SOFIA  
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS O'DRUDY LEO K. III &  
 MS ORFANIDIS VASILIA  
 MR/MRS PALAS JOHN  
 MS PAPADIMITRIOU MARIA  
 MRS PAPAVALIOU VIRGINIA  
 MR/MRS PARAGIOS IOANNIS &  
 MR/MRS PARTHEMOS KONSTATINOS  
 MR/MRS PATERAKIS CHARLES &  
 MR/MRS PATRIKIOS-JISSRI AIKATERINE &  
 MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE  
 MR PHILIPPOU VASILIOS

MR/MRS AGAPIOS MARIA  
 MR/MRS ALEFRANKIS- ANGELIKI,  
 MS ALPOS SOPHIA  
 MR/MRS ANASTASIOU- EIRINI-  
 MR/MRS ANGELOS JOHN & IRENE  
 MR/MRS ARAVIDES NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS ARGYRAKIS DESPINA  
 MR ATSIDIS CONSTATININE  
 MR/MRS BALOMAS HRISOSTOMOS  
 MRS BISBIKIS HELEN  
 MRS BOURNIAS LAMBRINI  
 DR/MRS CARDIGES NICHOLAS M. &  
 MR/MRS CHASABENIS- NICOLAS &  
 MRS CHRISOMALLIS SOPHIE  
 MR/MRS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS ROZA  
 MRS CORNIAS DESPINA  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS LARRY &  
 MRS DARDAMANIS EVA  
 MRS DINIOTIS ANASTASIA  
 MR/MRS DOUSKAS NIKOLAS  
 MR/MRS ELIOU ERNEST  
 MS FANTIS FLORA  
 MR/MRS FILIPPAKIS FILIPPUS  
 MR/MRS FONIADAKIS EMMANUEL &  
 MR/MRS FORAKIS NICHOLAS &  
 MRS FRANGAKIS SOFOULA  
 MRS GARNIS KATHERINE  
 MR/MRS GEORGAKAKOU- VASILIKI-  
 MR GEORGE ANTHONY M.  
 MR/MRS GERAPETRIDES TOMMY  
 MR/MRS GIAKOU MAKIS NICK  
 MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA  
 MRS GLYKIADIS DESPINA  
 MR/MRS HALKIAS FOTINI  
 MR HATZIDAKIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI NICHOLAS &  
 MR/MRS HONDROULIS EMMANUEL D.  
 MR/MRS IEROMONAHOS DIMITRIOS &  
 MISS KAIKIS PENELOPE  
 MRS KALAMBHIS MARIA  
 MRS KALOGRANI VASILIKI  
 MR/MRS KANELLOPOULOS FOTIS & RITSZA  
 MRS KAPUTSOS IRENE  
 MS KARAGIANNIS MARIA  
 MS KARAGIANNOPOU LIA  
 MR KARAMIHIALIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NIKOLAOS-  
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS APOSTOLOS-  
 MR/MRS KATSAS STAVROS &  
 MRS KEPREOS GEORGIA  
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDES MICHAEL  
 MISS KLOSTERIDIS ELAINE  
 MR/MRS KOLOTOS DORA  
 MR/MRS KONTOUDIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS KOSMOS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS KOTZIAS CHRIS  
 MR KOUKIDES GEORGIOS  
 MR/MRS KOULATSOS CHRISTOS  
 MR/MRS KOURTESIS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS KOUTSOURIS STYLIANOS  
 MR/MRS LARENTZOS JAMES-  
 MR/MRS LEWIS HOWARD E.  
 MR/MRS LOUKAS DIMITRI &  
 MR/MRS MARAGOS PETROS &  
 MR/MRS MAVROMOUSTAK GEORGE  
 MR/MRS MAVROULIS PHOTIS  
 MR/MRS MILLON EDWARD &  
 MR/MRS MITOS FRANK  
 MS MONIODIS DESPINA  
 MR/MRS NEZIS NICHOLAS &  
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z.  
 MR/MRS OINO WILLIAM  
 MR/MRS ORFANOS ANTONIOS  
 MR/MRS PANTELIS GABRIEL  
 MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS EFSTATHIOS  
 MR/MRS PAPAVALIS MICHAEL  
 MRS PARAGIOS FOULA  
 MS PARTHEMOS KALIOPE  
 MR/MRS PATRAS STEPHEN  
 MR PAYIAVLAS JOHN  
 MR PETROCHELOS GEORGIOS  
 MR/MRS PHILIPPOU PHILIP

AHEPA LORD  
 MS ALEXANDROU NIKI  
 MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHIENA  
 MRS ANASTASIS FOTINI  
 MR/MRS ANTONAS NICK  
 MR/MRS ARAVIDES ANTONIOS  
 MR/MRS ASMAR- OLIVER-ANNA  
 MR/MRS ATSIDIS IOANNIS  
 MR/MRS BASIL GEORGE JOHN  
 MR/MRS BISIOTIS DIMITRIOS-  
 MR/MRS BOURNIAS-MACE- MARIA  
 MS CHAGETAS ANGELA  
 MR CHIONIS ANTONIOS  
 MRS CHRISOMALLIS METAXIA  
 MR/MRS CHRISTESSON STAVROULA  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS THEONIMI  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS GEORGE A. &  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS KALLIOPI T.  
 MRS DENDRINOS EVANGELIA  
 MS DORIZAS ELIZABETH  
 MR/MRS EFTHIMIOU SPIROS &  
 MR/MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA  
 MR/MRS FILCHAGINA- KSENI-  
 MRS FILIPPOU IRENE  
 MR/MRS FOOTLAND RAY- KAREN  
 MR/MRS FOTINOS GERASIMOS-  
 MS FRANGAKIS- CONSTATININE-  
 Col/MRS GAVRILIS JOHN &  
 MR/MRS GEORGALAS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS GEORGELIS JOANNE  
 MS GERAPETRIDES PANAGIOTA  
 MR/MRS GIAKOU MAKIS TSAMBIKOS-  
 MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS GEORGE  
 MRS GLYKIADIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS HANDAKAS PAUL &  
 MR/MRS HATZIDIMITRIOU JOHN JR.  
 MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI ELEFTHERIOS  
 MR/MRS HOUVARDAS MINAS &  
 MRS JOHNS ASPASIA  
 MRS KAITIS ANGELA MARY  
 MS. KALATSCHIAN INGA  
 MRS KAMINARIS BARBARA  
 MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULLA  
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS- SYLVIA-  
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS &  
 MR/MRS KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS  
 MR KARAMIHIALIS THEOLOGOS K.  
 MRS KARDIASMENOS METAXIA  
 MR/MRS KASTANAKIS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS KATSOU LIS ATHANASIOS &  
 MR/MRS KERR TRAVIS &  
 MRS KLOSTERIDES- VASILIKI  
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDIS SPIRO -  
 MR/MRS KONSTANTINOU JOHN &  
 MR/MRS KORNIAIS GEORGE  
 MR KOSTOS JOHN  
 MR/MRS KOUGIANOS DIONISIOS-  
 MRS KOUKOULAS EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS KOUMOUDIS SOTIRIS &  
 MR/MRS KOUTELIS ADAMANTIOS  
 MR/MRS KOVIOS PETE  
 MR LASKARIDIS NIKOLAOS  
 MR/MRS LIKAKIS PERICLES  
 MR/MRS LOUMIOTIS DIMITRIOS &  
 MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL  
 MR MAVROMOUSTAK ELEFTHERIOS  
 MR/MRS MIHAIL NIKOLAOS &  
 MR/MRS MIHONAS KINON  
 MS MITOS DIMITRA  
 MRS MOSKONAS VASILIKI  
 MR/MRS NICOLAIDIS VASILIOS &  
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS SEVASTI  
 OLYMPIAN "OLYMPUS"  
 MR ORFANOS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS PANTOULIS NICK  
 MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS ANASTASIOS &  
 MR/MRS PAPPAS JAMES S  
 MR/MRS PARALIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS PASTRIKOS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS PATRAS PETE  
 MR/MRS PEARCE ANTHONY &  
 MR/MRS PETROPOULAKIS JOHN & SUSAN  
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE

MR/MRS ALAFASSOS SPYROS &  
 MR/MRS ALEXANDROU CONSTANTINA  
 MRS ANAN ELEZABETH A.  
 MR ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR.  
 MRS APESOS ANTIGONE  
 MR/MRS ARGETAKIS ANDRONIKOS  
 MR/MRS ATHOS JANET  
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS SOPHIA &  
 MR/MRS BENETOS JOHN &  
 MR/MRS BLACK MARK  
 MR/MRS BOUYOUKAS EFSTRATIOS &  
 MR/MRS CHALKIAS IOANNIS &  
 MR/MRS CHRISOVERGIS NICHOLAS &  
 MR/MRS CHRIST STASA  
 MR/MRS CHUVALAS DIMITRA  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS CLARA  
 MR CORNIAS NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS SEVASTI  
 MR/MRS DENWOOD FAIRLEY  
 MR/MRS DOSIS ALEXANDROS-  
 MR/MRS ELEFTHERIOU JOHN  
 MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES  
 MR/MRS FILIPIDIS NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS FILIPPOU JASON &  
 MR/MRS FORAKIS STAMATI &  
 MR/MRS FOTINOS JAMES  
 MR/MRS FRANGOS JOHN -  
 MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE  
 MR/MRS GEORGAS GEORGE  
 MRS GEORGIU MARY  
 MR/MRS GERAPETRIDES FOTINI  
 MR GIALAMAS JOANNA  
 MR/MRS GIANNAS STYLIANOS  
 MRS GOVASTES CLEOPATRA  
 MS HARRIS ATHENA  
 MR/MRS HATZIEFTHIMIO ANASTASIA  
 MRS HAZARIDES MELLI  
 MR/MRS HUNTER TYRUS & IRENE  
 MR/MRS JURADO JONATHAN &  
 MRS KAKAROLIS ARCHODOULA  
 MR/MRS KALFAS ELEFTHERIOS-  
 MR/MRS KAMINARIS DEMETRIOS  
 MR/MRS KAPETANAKOS ELIAS & STE  
 MR/MRS KARABELAS PANAGIOTIS  
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS PAVLOS & JO  
 MR/MRS KARAMANLIDES KYRIAKOS-  
 MRS KARANIKOLA ARCHONTOUL  
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS KASTELLORIZIOS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS KAZAMIAS GUS  
 MR/MRS KEVAS JOHN & MARIA  
 MR KLOSTERIDIS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS KOLENDRIANOS JOHN  
 MR/MRS KONSTANTOPOU ALEXANDER &  
 MR/MRS KOSMAS DEMETRIOS  
 MR/MRS KOTZIAS CHRIS  
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY  
 MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA  
 MR/MRS KOUROUBLAKIS VASILIS,  
 MR KOUTSANTONIS JOHN  
 MS LALLAS EVA  
 MR/MRS LENTIS- MINAS- ELENI  
 MR/MRS LOGOTIETIS NIKOLAOS &  
 MR/MRS MALTAS JOHN & ZOE  
 MRS MATTHEWS ANN  
 MR MAVRONIS MICHAEL P.  
 MR/MRS MILLER MARY  
 MRS MIMAROS PARASKEVI  
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL  
 MRS MOSKOS THOMAS  
 MR/MRS NICOLARAKIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS NYCHIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS ONASIS THEODORE  
 MR/MRS ORFANOS EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS PAPADIMITRIOU ERMA  
 MR/MRS PAPATHI AKIS MICHAEL  
 MRS PAPPAS IRENE  
 MRS PAROS MARY  
 MR/MRS PASTRIKOS/HALK NOMIKI/JOHN  
 MR/MRS PATRAS LEONARD N.&  
 MRS PELTSEMES IRENE  
 MRS PHILIPPOU KALLIOPI  
 MRS PIKOUNIS ELENI

## 2020 PLEDGES-\$204,220.00 / Payments-\$210,072.74 / Balance-(\$12,852.74)

MR/MRS PIKOUNIS GEORGE E.  
MS POLIKANDRIOTIS MARIA  
MR/MRS POWERS MATTHEW &  
MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS EMMANUEL &  
MS REDMILES SOPHIA  
MR/MRS RICHARDSON JAMES  
MRS ROROS KYRIAKI  
MR/MRS ROROS DIMITRIOS &  
MR/MRS ROXANIS DEAN & SOULA  
MS SALPEAS MARIA  
MR/MRS SARIOGLOU KERASSA  
MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS JOHN  
MR SFIRIOU ANTONIOS  
MR/MRS SISKOS STEFANOS  
MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN  
MR/MRS SPENCER ERIC AND  
MR/MRS STAKIAS GEORGE  
MR/MRS STAMIDIS SOPHIA  
MRS STILLWELL BILLY J. &  
MR/MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA  
MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN  
MRS/MRS TOPOUZOGLOU ANASTASIOS &  
MR/MRS TRINTIS NICOLAOS &  
MR/MRS TSAKALAS STEVEN  
MR/MRS TSAMOURAS CONSTANTINE  
MR/MRS TSAMPOS JOHN GEORGE-  
MR/MRS TZAVARIS STYLIANOS-  
MR/MRS VASILIOS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS VENETIS DIMITRIOS &  
MRS VIZANARIAS EVANGELINE  
MRS VOURLAS SOPHIA  
MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE &

MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES  
MR/MRS POLITIS - PAROS MINAS-  
MR/MRS PRASSINAS JAMES  
MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS GEORGE &  
MR/MRS REESE KALYOPI-  
MR/MRS ROBERTS BRIAN  
MR/MRS ROROS NICKOLETTA  
MS ROSSIS TSAMBIKA  
MR/MRS SAKELAKIS JOHN &  
MRS SARIGIANIS CHRISTINE  
MR SAZAKLIS ANTONIOS  
MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS KONSTANTINO  
MS SIGAMBRIS IRENE  
MR SKANDALIS GEORGE  
MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI  
MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS STAMATIADIS NIKITAS  
MR/MRS STAMIDIS - PEREZ CHRISOULA  
MR/MRS SVRJCEK CHRISTOPHER  
MR/MRS TASKER DALE &  
MR/MRS THEMELIS STELLA  
MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS COSTAS  
MRS TRINTIS THORINA  
MRS TSAKALOS ROSE  
MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS TSAPAKIDIS - THEOHARIS -  
MRS VASILAKOPOULOU IRENE  
MR/MRS VATAKIS TESSIE  
MR/MRS VENZKE KELLIE ANN  
MR/MRS VONAKIS EMMANUEL &  
MRS VOXAKIS SAMANTHA  
MR/MRS ZDZIERA STEVE

MR/MRS PIROVOLIKOS - MARIA -  
MS POULIMENAKOS ELENI  
MRS PROAKIS KOULA  
MRS PSICHIS DULA  
MR/MRS REPPAS PARASKEVI  
MR/MRS ROLOGAS STAVROS  
MR/MRS ROROS JOHN P.  
MR/MRS ROUFAS VASILIS  
MR SAKELLIS GEORGE  
MR/MRS SARIGIANIS- THOMAS &  
MR/MRS SENDERGAST BEN & RHEA  
MR/MRS SFIKAS PARASKEVAS  
MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS HARRY  
MR/MRS SKORDALOS VASILIOS  
MR/MRS SOURANIS MARITSA  
MR/MRS STAKIAS STELIOS &  
MR STAMATOPOULOU NICK  
MR/MRS STAVLAS JERRY  
MR/MRS SYROPOULOS NICHOLAS  
MRS TETTERIS RHODEA  
MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL  
MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS PETE  
MRS TRIPOLITIS EKATERINI  
MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE  
MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE  
MR/MRS TSE-GEORGIADIS NEKTARIA -  
MRS VASILAKOPOULOU ANASTASIA  
MR/MRS VATAKIS ARGYRO  
MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS VOULGARAKIS HARRY  
MR/MRS VOXAKIS GEORGE  
MR/MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

MR/MRS POLIKANDRIOTIS KONSTANTINO  
MR/MRS POULOS GREG & KERRY  
MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS NICHOLAS  
MRS PULIANAS DESPINA  
MR/MRS REPPAS SOTERIOS  
MRS ROLOGAS CHRISTINA  
MR. ROROS STAVROS  
MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY &  
MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS  
MR/MRS SARIOGLOU ANASTASIA  
MRS SERAFIS MARY  
MS. SFIRIOU ANTONIA  
MR/MRS SISAMIS IOANNIS &  
MR/MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN  
MR & MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS STAKIAS DIMITRIOS  
MR/MRS STAMIDIS ANASTASIOS  
MR STAVROU STAMATIOS G.  
MRS SYROPOULOS AMALIA  
MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE  
MR/MRS THEOHARIS GEORGE  
MR/MRS TRIKOULIS DEMETRIOS  
MR/MRS TSAKALAS JULIE  
MRS TSAMBIKOS IRENE  
MR/MRS TSAMPOS JOHN & KELLY  
MR/MRS TSEKIS PANTELIS -  
MR/MRS VASILIOS FRANK  
MRS VAVAKAS KIRIAKI  
MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE &  
MR VOURLAS HARRY  
MS XOURI SOFIA

## 2021 PLEDGES-\$52,970.00 / Payments-\$27,590.00 / Balance-\$25,380.00

MR ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR.  
MRS BONOLIS CATHERINE  
MRS CORNIAS DESPINA  
MR/MRS DOUSKAS NIKOLAS  
MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE  
MS HARRIS ATHENA  
MRS KAITIS ANGELA MARY  
MR/MRS KAPUTSOS - SYLVIA -  
MR/MRS KONTOUDIS KONSTANTINO  
MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA  
MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE  
MRS MILLER MARY  
MR/MRS NISTAZOS GEORGE &  
MR/MRS PAPAMINAS ANDREW  
MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY &  
MRS SERAFIS MARY  
MR/MRS STEWART JOHN  
MISS THEMELIS STELLA  
MRS VASILAKOPOULOU ANASTASIA  
MR/MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

MR/MRS APOSTOLOU DIMITRIOS &  
MRS CHRIST STASA  
MR/MRS CORNIAS LARRY &  
MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES  
MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS NICK  
MR HATZIGEORGALI ANTONIOS  
MRS KALIAKOURAS SOFIA  
MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NIKOLAOS -  
MR/MRS KOSTOS JOHN  
MR/MRS KOURTESIS MICHAEL &  
MS LERICOS IRENE  
MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL &  
MRS NISTAZOS EFSTRATIOS  
MRS PAROS MARY  
MRS SALPEAS MARIA  
MR. SFIKAS PARASKEVAS  
MRS STILLWELL BILLY J. &  
MR THEMELIS JOHN  
MR VERGOS GEORGE

MR/MRS ARGETAKIS ANDRONIKOS  
MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP  
MR/MRS DIACOLUKAS GEORGE &  
MRS FILIPPOU IRENE  
MR. GLYKIADIS KONSTANTINO  
MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI NICHOLAS &  
MR/MRS KAMINARIS DEMETRIOS  
MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL  
DR/MRS KOTZIAS CHRIS  
MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS GEORGE  
MR/MRS MARAGOS PETROS &  
MR/MRS MILONAS KIMON  
MRS PANTAZONIS MARY  
MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES  
MR. SAMARAS PETER GEORGE  
MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN  
MR/MRS TETTERIS RHODEA  
MRS TSAMOUTALIS DESPENA  
MR VOURLAS HARRY

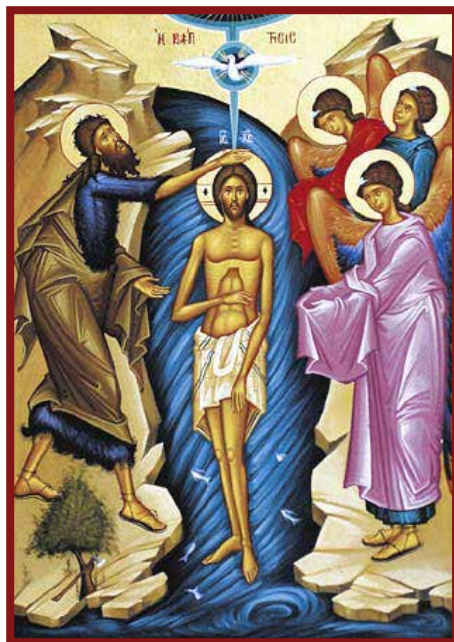
MR/MRS BELIOS PETER &  
MRS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA  
MR/MRS DIAKANTONIS NICKOLAOS -  
Col/MRS GAVRILIS JOHN &  
MRS GLYKIADIS DESPINA  
MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS  
MRS KAPUTSOS IRENE  
MR/MRS KATSOLIS ATHANASIOS &  
MR KOULATSOS DIONISIOS  
MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS DEMETRIOS  
MRS MATTHEWS ANN  
MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z.  
MR/MRS PANTOULIS NICK  
MR/MRS REESE KALYOPI-  
MRS SARIGIANIS CHRISTINE  
MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL &  
MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE  
MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE  
MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE &

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR - JANUARY

Happy New Year to Everyone. May it be blessed with abundant health and prosperity.

Friday, January 1	New Years Day. The Circumcision of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Feast Day of St Basil the Great
Sunday, January 3	Sunday before Epiphany: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am
Tuesday, January 5	Eve of Epiphany: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 (Strict Fast) Blessing of the Waters
Wednesday, January 6	Holy Epiphany Day: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Blessing of the Great Waters
Thursday, January 7	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am
Sunday, January 10	Sunday after Epiphany: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am
Sunday, January 17	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, January 24	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am
Saturday, January 30	The Three Hierarchs: Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am
Sunday, January 31	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

We celebrate the Holy Baptism of our Lord. This is a Major Feast Day of the Church. We must make an effort to come to church on this day to worship and glorify our Lord. Blessing of the Great Waters will take place near the end of the Divine Liturgy.



*Holy Epiphany*