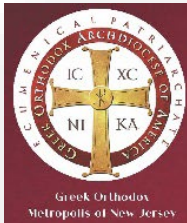


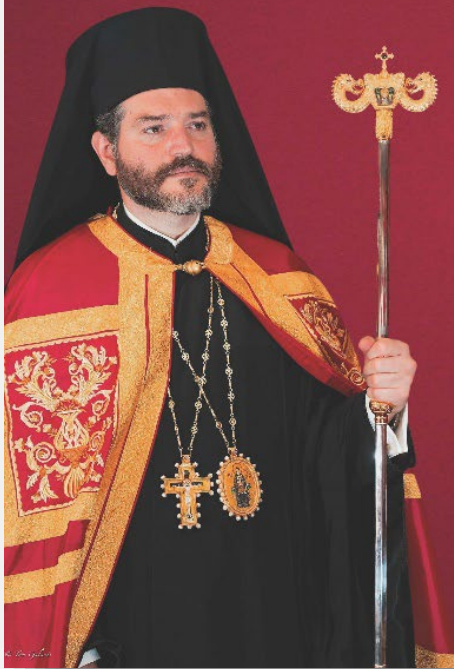
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

# SAINT NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey



Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Orthros and  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 8, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
520 S. Ponca Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224

## «*Sunday Bulletin*»

Sunday, December 8

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ  
ΒΑΛΤΙΜΟΡΗ, ΜΕΡΙΛΑΝΤ

## «εβδομαδιαίο δελτίο»

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 8 Δεκεμβρίου 2024**

Κυριακή Γ' Λουκά.

### ΚΑΛΩΣΟΡΙΣΜΑ

Εκ μέρους του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου και όλων των μελών της Κοινότητας καλωσορίζουμε τους αγαπημένους μας ενορίτες και τους φίλους επισκέπτες, που ήλθαν σήμερα να εκκλησιαστούν μαζί μας στη Θεία Λειτουργία. Σήμερα υποδεχόμαστε με κάθε τιμή και σεβασμό τον πνευματικό μας πατέρα και ποιμενάρχη μας, Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσέης, κύριο Απόστολο.

### ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

**Δευτέρα 9 Δεκεμβρίου:** Αγίας Άννης: Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ.

**Πέμπτη 12 Δεκεμβρίου:** Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος  
Θεία Λειτουργία: 9:00 π.μ

**Κυριακή 15 Δεκεμβρίου:** Κυριακή ΙΑ' Λουκά:  
Όρθρος: 8:30 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία: 09:45 π.μ.

**Δευτέρα 23 Δεκεμβρίου:** Ιερό Ευχέλαιο: 6:30 μ.μ.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Monday, December 9:** The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos, Orthros: 8:30 am

**Thursday, December 12:** Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous:  
Divine Liturgy: 9:00 am

**Sunday, December 15:** 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke: Eleutherios the Holy Martyr: Orthros: 8:30 am. Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

**Monday, December 23:** The Sacrament of Holy Unction: 6:30 pm

**Εἰσοδικόν. Ἦχος β΄.**

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ  
προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον  
ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ  
νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι,  
Ἀλληλούϊα.

**Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.**

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν  
θάνατον· ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ  
τὸν Παράδεισον· τῶν  
Μυροφόρων τὸν θρῆνον  
μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς  
Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν  
ἐπέταξας, ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστέ  
ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ  
μέγα ἔλεος.

**Κοντάκιον.**

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.

**Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.**

Come, let us worship and bow  
down before Christ. Save us, O  
Son of God, risen from the dead.  
We sing to You, Alleluia.

**Resurrectional Apolytikion.**

You destroyed death by Your  
Cross, You opened Paradise to  
the Robber. You turned the  
Myrrh-bearing Women's lament  
into joy, and You commanded  
Your Apostles to preach that  
You rose, O Christ God,  
granting the world the great  
mercy.

**Kontakion.**

On this day the Virgin Maid \*  
goes to the grotto to give birth \*  
to the pre-eternal Word \* in an  
ineffable manner. \* Dance for  
joy, all the inhabited earth, on  
hearing. \* Glorify along with  
Angels and with the shepherds \*  
Him who willed that He appear  
as \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-  
eternal God.

## Ὁ Απόστολος

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφότερα ἐν καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τὴν ἔχθραν, ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ αὐτοῦ τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασι καταργήσας, ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσῃ ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ Θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς, ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφοτέροι ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολιταὶ τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα ἡ οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογουμένη αὐξοῖ εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν Κυρίῳ· ἐν ᾧ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν Πνεύματι.

## The Epistle

**B**rethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## Τὸ Θεῖον Εὐαγγέλιον

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἦν διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὕσαν, ἦν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

## The Holy Gospel

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## **The Healing of the Bent Woman: A Call to True Faith and Compassion**

*Sunday Message by Fr. Georgios*

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday, we reflect on the powerful Gospel story of the bent woman, who suffered for eighteen long years until she encountered Christ. On a Sabbath day, while Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, He saw her, called her forward, and healed her with His divine authority. Immediately, she stood upright and glorified God, a testament to His boundless mercy and power.

Yet, this moment of joy was marred by the indignation of the synagogue leader. Instead of celebrating the woman's healing, he criticized Jesus for performing this act of love on the Sabbath, prioritizing rules over compassion. Jesus' response was swift and pointed, exposing the hypocrisy of such thinking. If even animals were cared for on the Sabbath, how much more should human beings—beloved children of God—be shown mercy?

This passage offers us two profound spiritual lessons:

**Beware of Hypocrisy:** The synagogue leader's focus on outward observance of the Sabbath law masked a heart that lacked genuine love. Hypocrisy, as condemned repeatedly in Scripture, is an offense to God because it prioritizes appearances over true righteousness. Like the Pharisees rebuked by Christ, the synagogue leader upheld the letter of the law while neglecting its spirit. True faith is not about rigid rule-keeping but about reflecting God's love and mercy in all we do.

**Guard Against Envy:** The synagogue leader's inability to celebrate the miracle revealed another spiritual ailment: envy. Instead of rejoicing in the woman's restoration, he focused on finding fault. Envy blinds us to God's blessings, both in our own lives and in the lives of others and prevents us from fully experiencing His grace.

The Gospel challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we sometimes cling to traditions or rules while neglecting the call to love and compassion? Are we hesitant to rejoice in the successes and joys of others, allowing envy to creep in?

Christ reminds us that love is the fulfillment of the law. Rituals and traditions are meaningful only when they lead us closer to God and inspire us to love our neighbor. If we focus on outward appearances but lack mercy, we miss the true essence of our faith.

Like the bent woman, we are all in need of healing—whether from physical, emotional, or spiritual afflictions. The sins of hypocrisy and envy may weigh us down, but Christ offers us a path to restoration through repentance, humility, and His infinite grace. By humbling ourselves before God, we open our hearts to receive His mercy and reflect His love to those around us.

Let us pray for God's healing power to cleanse our hearts of hypocrisy and envy, allowing us to rejoice in His blessings and glorify Him in all things. May we, like the bent woman, rise from our burdens and stand upright in faith and gratitude.



Saturday, December 14, 2024 • 7:00PM  
 Saint Sophia "The Holy Wisdom of God"  
 Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Washington, DC

scan for tickets



or visit:  
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*Cordially Invites all of the clergy and  
the beloved faithful to the*

**ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING &  
OPEN HOUSE**

on  
Friday, December 20, 2024  
6:00 - 9:00pm

At the  
**Metropolis Headquarters**  
215 E. Grove Street  
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**A JOURNEY OF FAITH  
To Thessaloniki, Mt. Athos and Constantinople  
Led by His Eminence Apostolos of New Jersey  
February 21-March 3, 2025: 11 Days / 9 Nights**



**Thessaloniki & Mt. Athos:** See the most important religious sites in Northern Greece. Visit Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki. Attend Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. Demetrios, visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Souroti to venerate the grave of St. Paisios and visit the awe-inspiring Meteora Monasteries. Men will depart for the Holy Mountain for two nights and the women will enjoy a visit to Ormylia Monastery and a visit to a museum in Thessaloniki.

**Constantinople:** Visit the important Greek Orthodox sites: the Ecumenical Patriarchate and St George Cathedral, Agia Sophia, Paragria Vlacherna where the "Te Ypermahou" was first chanted, Chora and Baloukli Monastery - Zoodochos Peghe. Also, visit the Underground Cisterns. Shop at the exciting Grand Bazaar! Enjoy a birthday banquet for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as well as a private audience with the Patriarch (subject to confirmation).

**SPACE IS LIMITED and on a FIRST-COME BASIS**

**RATE: Per person double occupancy \$4700\* & single occupancy \$5635\***

\*Rates include the air fare/tax of approximately \$475 which is not guaranteed until ticketing a month prior to departure. Rate above reflects a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made any other way. Due to Aegean Airlines group reservations policy, the air fare between Thessaloniki and Istanbul is not guaranteed and may be subject to fare increases depending on when you make your reservation to join the group. An air supplement may apply.

**Deposit of \$800 due by November 20, 2024 or late booking fee of \$50 per person will apply.**

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- \*Round-trip airfare on Turkish Airlines: EWR / IST / Thessaloniki & IST / EWR & Aegean Airlines: Thessaloniki / ATH / IST
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- \*7 1/2 days of private sightseeing for men & 6 days for the women. All entrance fees are included.
- \*Women: 6 nts first class hotel in Thessaloniki at the Electra Palace or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes and service fees.
- \*Men: 4 nts first class accommodation in Thessaloniki at the Electra Palace or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes and service fees & 2 nts accommodation on the Holy Mountain including meals and transportation on the Holy Mountain & roundtrip private ferries
- \*All 3 nts first class accommodation in Constantinople at the Divan Istanbul Hotel or similar including daily breakfast, all taxes & service fees.
- \*1 welcome dinner in Thessaloniki, 1 dinner in Constantinople & a banquet for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- \*Private audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (subject to confirmation)

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Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey

**10th Anniversary Gala**  
in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of  
His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

**Monday, January 13, 2025**  
**5:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour**  
**6:30 P.M. Dinner**

**The Venetian**  
**546 River Drive, Garfield, NJ 07026**

**Tickets.....\$160.00 per person**

For more information contact the Metropolis at  
908-301-0500 or Email [10thAnniversaryNJ@gmail.com](mailto:10thAnniversaryNJ@gmail.com)

For Sponsorships, please complete and submit the  
Sponsorship Form

All ticket purchases and sponsorships are due by January 3, 2025

<b>Sponsorship Program Levels of Support</b>	
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6 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Benefactor.....	\$10,000
10 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program	
Grand Benefactor.....	\$20,000
10 Tickets for Dinner, Full Program Insert	

All net proceeds from sponsorships and tickets for the 10th Anniversary Gala  
will be restricted to solely benefit the Sacred Ministries of the Metropolis of New Jersey