

Message from FR. GEORGIOS OIKONOMOU, PROTOPRESBYTER

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, parishioners of St. Nicholas,

A few days ago, I received a brochure printed fifty-four years ago. It was signed by the priest Panagiotis Chrysafidis; the President of the Community, Stefanos Giannakis; and Vasilios Eliades, the President of the Fundraising Committee. The title and theme of the flyer were the construction of the School and Community Centre of Saint Nicholas.

Written in an emotive style and invoking Greek philotimo, it invited every reader to contribute to the realization of a grand vision: the establishment of an Education Centre. That grand vision was realized through the hard work and contributions of community members, each according to their ability. The realization of this vision validated the great efforts and sacrifices of those who contributed. Today, the children of our community enjoy the fruits of that vision.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who, over the years, have laid their stones in building this legacy. They have written their own words with their own hands in the history of St. Nicholas. For those who have passed away and now rest in the bosom of Christ, we pray that they may be at peace and that their memory be eternal. For those who are still with us, we pray that God grants them good health and richly blesses their service to our church.

The example of those early founders of our congregation and Greek School is a valuable and inspiring lesson for us. Let us envision and plan strategically for the future of our congregation. Let us look forward with hope and consider what legacy we want to pass on to future generations.

As the new year begins by God's grace, I would like to share some thoughts on this vision. First and foremost, the one thing we must preserve and pass on as a precious and authentic legacy is our Orthodox Christian faith. This spiritual treasure, carried by our ancestors from the homeland, is ecumenical and multiplies as it is shared. It is a treasure that reaches out to the entire world. Let us never trade this treasure for anything in the world.

I remember with emotion visiting a patient in the hospital who, when asked about his religion, replied with holy pride, "Greek Orthodox—never changed." With this joy and spiritual satisfaction, he soon afterward gave his soul to the Lord. Let us not change, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us not betray the holy and sacred. Let the trumpets of atheism, irreligion, agnosticism, or other beliefs sound around us. Christ said, "He who has ears to hear shall hear." Let us not be led astray but instead listen to His sweet voice calling us to salvation. This is the voice that teaches us to love God, our neighbor, and even our enemy. The voice that, when we are lost, calls us like a compassionate father: "My child,

where are you?" He waits for us with an open and warm embrace, just as the father welcomed the prodigal son.

Another element we must cultivate is Greek education. We must continue the good work done in our Greek School. Greek education encompasses more than just our great language—it is our ethics, customs, culture, history, mythology, and traditions. These should be taught holistically to our children in the Greek School. It would be a great blessing if we could one day open and operate a full-time Greek School within our community, sparing parents from seeking schools of other religious traditions for their children's education. This is a lofty and challenging vision, but it is worth considering as a duty to future generations.

Finally, I want to reflect on the deeper importance of our community. Some see the community as a business or a composite of businesses. While it does have characteristics that justify this view in its legal form and function, above all, we must know that our community is an inseparable part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Our community is connected to the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey under His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey; the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America; and, of course, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople under His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Without this spiritual relationship, there can be no church. This connection grants us the blessing to celebrate valid sacraments—Divine Liturgies, Baptisms, Marriages, and all sacred acts. Expressing gratitude to God for this blessing, we commend our love and respect to these sacred authorities and support them with all our heart, strength, and prayer.

With these thoughts, I encourage us all to reflect on our responsibility for the future of our community. Let us take up our fair share of the burden and, with God's help, prove ourselves worthy successors to those who first envisioned the establishment of our church, the Greek School, and all the good works accomplished over time. May future generations, fifty or even a hundred years from now, express gratitude for the community they inherit.

Happy and Blessed New Year! Closer to God, closer to community!

**With paternal love in Christ,
Protopresbyter Georgios Oikonomou**



Kainonia

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΠΡΩΤΟΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΕΡΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΥ

Αγαπητοί μου αδελφοί εν Χριστώ, ενορίτες και ενορίτισσες του Αγίου Νικολάου!

Πριν λίγες μέρες έφτασε στα χέρια μου ένα έντυπο τυπωμένο πριν πενήντα τέσσερα χρόνια. Ήταν υπογεγραμμένο από τον ιερέα Παναγιώτη Χρυσάφιδη, τον Πρόεδρο της Κοινότητας, Στέφανο Παννάκη και τον Βασίλειο Ηλιάδη, Πρόεδρο της Ερανικής Επιτροπής. Τίτλος και θέμα του φυλλαδίου η ανοικοδόμηση Σχολείου και Κοινοτικού Κέντρου του Αγίου Νικολάου. Γραμμένο με έντονο συναισθηματικό ύφος και επίκληση του ελληνικού φιλότιμου προσκαλούσε κάθε αναγνώστη να συνδράμει για την υλοποίηση ενός υψηλού οράματος, την ίδρυση Εκπαιδευτηρίου. Το υψηλό εκείνο όραμα με σκληρή εργασία και τη συνεισφορά όλων των μελών της κοινότητας, ανάλογα με τις δυνάμεις του καθενός, πραγματοποιήθηκε. Το υψηλό εκείνο όραμα δικαιώθηκε, όπως και ο μεγάλος κόπος και οι θυσίες όσων εργάστηκαν. Τα παιδιά της κοινότητάς μας απολαμβάνουν σήμερα τον καρπό εκείνου του οράματος. Και ήθελα με την ευκαιρία αυτή να εκφράσω την ευγνωμοσύνη μου σε όλους όσους στο πέρασμα των χρόνων έβαλαν ο καθένας το δικό του λιθαράκι, έγραψαν με το χέρι τους τις δικές τους λέξεις στο βιβλίο της ιστορίας του Αγίου Νικολάου. Για όσους έχουν φύγει από κοντά μας και βρίσκονται στην αγκαλιά του Χριστού μας προσευχόμαστε να είναι αναπαυμένοι και η μνήμη τους να είναι αιωνία. Όσοι βρίσκονται ακόμα μαζί μας προσευχόμαστε ο Θεός να τους χαρίζει υγεία και να ανταποδίδει με πλούσια ευλογία την προσφορά τους στην εκκλησία μας.

Το παράδειγμα εκείνων των ανθρώπων, τόσο των πρώτων ιδρυτών της κοινότητας όσο και των ιδρυτών του Εκπαιδευτηρίου είναι ένα παράδειγμα πολύτιμο και σπουδαίο και για εμάς. Να οραματιστούμε. Να σχεδιάσουμε στρατηγικά το μέλλον της κοινότητας. Να κοιτάξουμε μπροστά ατενίζοντας το μέλλον και να αναλογιστούμε τι κληρονομιά θα θέλαμε να παραδώσουμε στις επόμενες γενιές.

Καθώς με τη Χάρι του Θεού ξεκινά ο νέος χρόνος θα ήθελα να μοιραστώ κάποιες σκέψεις πάνω σε αυτό το όραμα. Το πρώτο και κυριότερο, που οφείλουμε να διατηρήσουμε και να παραδώσουμε πολύτιμη και ανόθευτη παρακαταθήκη είναι η Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανική μας πίστη. Ο πνευματικός θησαυρός, που κουβάλησαν οι πρόγονοί μας από την πατρίδα. Ένας θησαυρός οικουμενικός, που όσο μοιράζεται τόσο πολλαπλασιάζεται. Ένας θησαυρός, που φτάνει για όλο τον κόσμο. Τον θησαυρό αυτό ας μην τον ανταλλάξουμε με τίποτα στον κόσμο. Θυμάμαι με συγκίνηση, όταν επισκέφτηκα κάποιον ασθενή στο Νοσοκομείο και έμαθα ότι όταν τον ρώτησαν το θρήσκευμά του απάντησε με ιερό καμάρι “Greek Orthodox – never changed”. Με αυτή τη χαρά και την πνευματική ικανοποίηση λίγο αργότερα παρέδωσε την ψυχή του στον Κύριο. Να μην αλλάξουμε, αδελφοί μου. Να μην προδώσουμε τα ιερά και τα όσια. Ας ηχούν δίπλα μας οι σάλπιγγες της αθείας, της αθρησκείας, του αγνωστικισμού ή άλλων θρησκειών. Ο Χριστός μας είπε «ο έχων ότα ακούει ακουέτω». Έτσι και εμείς να μην παρασυρόμαστε αλλά να ακούμε τη δική του γλυκειά φωνή, που μας καλεί στη σωτηρία. Που μας διδάσκει να αγαπάμε τον Θεό και τον πλησίον αλλά ακόμα και τον εχθρό μας. Τη φωνή, που όταν χανόμαστε μας φωνάζει πατρικά «παιδί μου, που είσαι» και μας περιμένει με ανοιχτή και ζεστή

αγκαλιά, όπως ο σπλαγγχνικός πατέρας δέχτηκε τον άσωτο υιό. Την πίστη μας και τα μάτια μας!

Ένα άλλο στοιχείο, που οφείλουμε να καλλιεργήσουμε είναι η ελληνική παιδεία. Την καλή δουλειά που γίνεται στο Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο να τη συνεχίσουμε. Γιατί η ελληνική παιδεία δεν είναι μόνο η σπουδαία γλώσσα μας. Είναι τα ήθη, τα έθιμα, ο πολιτισμός, η ιστορία, η μυθολογία, οι παραδόσεις και όλα αυτά θα τα διδάχουν τα παιδιά μας με ολοκληρωμένο τρόπο στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο. Θα ήταν μάλιστα ευχής έργον, αν αξιωνόμασταν μια μέρα να εγκαινιάσουμε και να λειτουργήσουμε στην κοινότητά μας και Ημερήσιο Ελληνικό Σχολείο, ώστε να μην αναγκάζονται οι γονείς να αναζητούν σχολεία άλλων θρησκευτικών παραδόσεων για τη φοίτηση των παιδιών τους. Είναι ένα όραμα υψηλό και δύσκολο πολύ αλλά αξίζει να σκεφτούμε αν το οφείλουμε στις επόμενες γενιές.

Το τελευταίο στοιχείο που θα ήθελα να μοιραστώ μαζί σας είναι η βαθύτερη κατανόηση της σημασίας της κοινότητάς μας. Ορισμένοι θεωρούν ότι η κοινότητα είναι μία επιχείρηση ή σύνθεση πολλών επιχειρήσεων. Και όντως στη νομική μορφή και λειτουργία έχει χαρακτηριστικά, που δικαιολογούν αυτή την προσέγγιση. Πάνω από όλα όμως οφείλουμε να γνωρίζουμε ότι η κοινότητά μας είναι αναπόσπαστο κομμάτι της Μίας, Αγίας, Καθολικής και Αποστολικής Εκκλησίας. Με αναφορά στην Ιερά Μητρόπολη Νέας Ιερσής και τον Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη μας, κύριο Απόστολο, στην Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής και τον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής, κύριο Ελπιδοφόρο και την Επαρχιακή Σύνοδο και βεβαίως στο Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο Κωνσταντινουπόλεως και τον Παναγιώτατο Οικουμενικό μας Πατριάρχη, κύριο κύριο Βαρθολομαίο. Χωρίς αυτή την αναφορά, χωρίς αυτή την πνευματική σχέση, δεν μπορεί να υπάρξει εκκλησία. Αυτή η σχέση μας δίνει την ευλογία να τελούμε έγκυρα ιερά μυστήρια, τη Θεία Λειτουργία, τις Βαπτίσεις, τους Γάμους και κάθε ιερή πράξη. Εκφράζοντας την ευγνωμοσύνη μας στον Θεό για αυτή την ευλογία καταθέτουμε την αγάπη, τον σεβασμό, την υπακοή μας σε αυτούς τους ιερούς θεσμούς και τους στηρίζουμε με όλη την καρδιά, τη δύναμη και την προσευχή μας.

Με αυτές τις σκέψεις ήθελα να αναλογιστούμε όλοι την ευθύνη μας για το μέλλον της κοινότητάς μας, να αναλάβουμε το βάρος που μας αναλογεί και να αποδειχτούμε με τη βοήθεια του Θεού άξιοι διάδοχοι των ανθρώπων εκείνων, που πρώτοι οραματίστηκαν την ίδρυση της εκκλησίας μας και του εκπαιδευτηρίου και όλων των καλών πραγμάτων που έγιναν στο πέρασμα του χρόνου. Και ύστερα από άλλα πενήντα ή εβδομήντα ή εκατό χρόνια να εκφράζον οι επόμενες γενιές ευγνωμοσύνη για αυτή την κοινότητα που παρέλαβαν.

Καλή και Ευλογημένη Χρονιά! Πιο κοντά στον Θεό, πιο κοντά στην κοινότητα!

**Με εν Χριστώ αγάπη,
Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος Γεώργιος Οικονόμου**

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

KOINONIA DEADLINE

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

ISSUE MONTH: FEBRUARY 2025

SUBMISSIONS DUE: JANUARY 20th

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

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners and friends of our church,

*A thousand good things to come
At your house this year
And I hope you have Blessed year*

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for
all you do for our church.*

*With love and appreciation,
Stamatia Ieromonahos
President of Saint Nicholas Church Baltimore
Parish Council*

Αγαπημένοι μας ενορίτες και φίλοι της εκκλησίας μας,

*Χίλια καλά να έρθουνε
Στο σπίτι σας εφέτος
Και εύχομαι να έχετε
Ευλογημένο έτος*

*Σας ευχαριστούμε από καρδιάς για όλα όσα κάνετε για
την εκκλησία μας.*

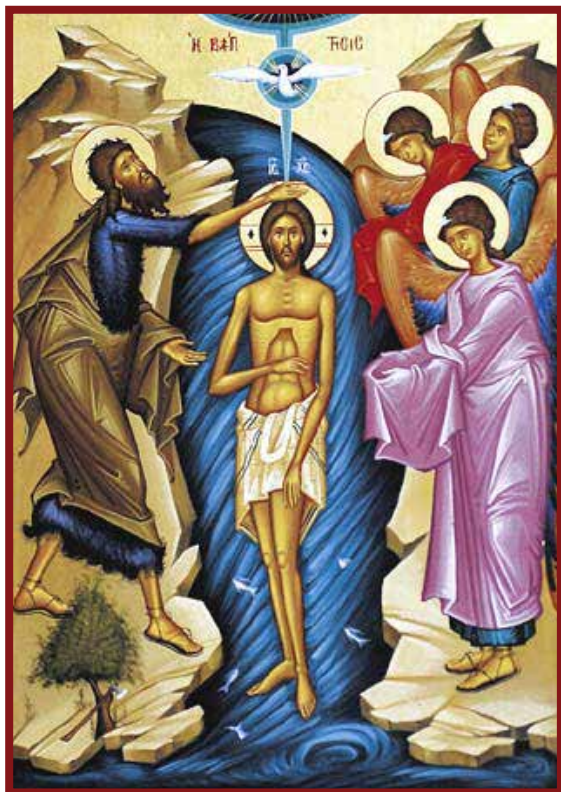
*Με εκτίμηση και αγάπη,
Σταματία Ιερομονάχου
Πρόεδρος Συμβουλίου
Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης*



Epiphany of our Lord

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

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).



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

CHRISTMAS 2024

Ἴδου ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσιν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ· ὃ ἔστιν μεθερμηνεύμενον Μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ θεός. Ματθ. 1:23

«Ὁ οὐρανός καὶ ἡ γῆ, σήμερον ἠνώθησαν, τεχθέντος τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Σήμερον Θεός ἐπὶ γῆς παραγέγονε, καὶ ἄνθρωπος εἰς οὐρανοὺς ἀναβέβηκε». Ἴδου, ὁ ἐνανθρωπήσας Υἱός καὶ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ὁ Σωτήρας τοῦ κόσμου ἀνάμεσά μας. Ὁ Θεός κατήλθε στή γῆ γιὰ νὰ ἀναβιβάσει στό ὕψος τοῦ οὐρανοῦ τόν ἄνθρωπο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ θεραπεύσει τὸ μέγα τραῦμα, τόν ἄνθρωπο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ σώσει τόν ἄνθρωπο ἀπὸ τόν θάνατο, τὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ τὸν διάβολο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ φέρει τὴν εἰρήνη τοῦ οὐρανοῦ στὸν ταραγμένο κόσμο.

Μέ μετάνοια ἀληθινή, μέ ταπείνωση περισσή καὶ καθαρὴ καρδιά ἄς πορευθοῦμε καὶ ἐμεῖς ὅπως οἱ ποιμένες πρὸς τὴν Βηθλεέμ γιὰ νὰ συναντήσουμε τόν τεχθέντα Κύριο. Ἄς προσεγγίσουμε τὸ μέγα μυστήριο τῆς ἐνανθρωπήσεως τοῦ Κυρίου μέ τὴν συμμετοχή μας στὰ μυστήρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας καὶ στὴ Χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἄς προσευχηθοῦμε ἀπὸ καρδίας ὁ ἐν σπηλαίῳ γεννηθεὶς Κύριος νὰ καταπαύσει τοὺς δαιμονικούς πολέμους καὶ νὰ χαρίσει εἰρήνη στίς καρδιές τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα καὶ εὐλογημένο τὸ νέον ἔτος 2025

"Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23

"Heaven and Earth have been united today, now that Christ has been born. Today God has appeared on Earth, and Man has ascended to the Heavens." Behold, the Incarnate Son and the Logos of God the Father, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world is in our midst. God has descended to Earth so that He may raise Man to the heights of Heaven. The Lord has come to heal Man of his great wound. The Lord has come to save Man from Sin, death, and the devil. The Lord has come to bring the peace of Heaven to a troubled and distressed world.

With true repentance, with abundant humility, and with a pure heart, let us journey, like the Wisemen of old, to Bethlehem so that we may greet our Newborn Jesus. Let us approach the great Mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord by participating in the Holy Sacraments of our Church, and in the joy of God. And let us pray with all our hearts that our Lord, who was born in a cave, may bring an end to demonic wars and grant peace to the hearts of all Mankind.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2024!

With Paternal Love and Blessings in Christ, the Newborn King,

Metropolitan Apostolos
† APOSTOLOS

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Prot. No. 828

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL
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 ALL THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH
GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE
FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Most honorable brother hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

With the grace from above, we have once again this year arrived at the festal day of the Nativity in the flesh of God the Word, who came into the world and dwelt among us “out of his ineffable loving for humankind.” We honor with psalms and hymns as well as with inexpressible joy the great mystery of the Incarnation, which is “newer than everything new, the only new thing under the sun,”¹ through which the way is opened for us to deification by grace and the entire creation is renewed. Christmas is not the experience of emotions that “come rapidly and depart even more rapidly.” It is the existential participation in the whole event of Divine Economy. As testified by the Evangelist Matthew (ch. 1. 18–2.1-23), the leaders of the world sought to obliterate the divine infant from the outset. For us faithful, along with the cry that “Christ is born” in the feast of the incarnation of the Son and Word of God the Father, as well as the mournful bells of His passion, we also hear the cry that “Christ is risen,” the good news of the victory over death and expectation of the common resurrection.

The words “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace” are heard once more in a world filled with violence, social injustice and dissolution of human dignity. The stunning progress of science and technology does not reach the depth of the human soul, because human beings are always more than what science can comprehend or to which the advancement of technology aspires. The gap between heaven and earth in our human existence cannot be scientifically bridged.

Today there is much talk about “the metahuman” and praise of artificial intelligence. The dream of “the superhuman” is of course hardly new. The concept of “the metahuman” is based on technological progress and his equipment with means previously unimaginable to human experience and history, through which humankind will be able to transcend currently valid human measures. The Church is not technophobic. It approaches scientific knowledge as “a divinely granted gift to human beings,” without however overlooking or suppressing the

¹ John of Damascus, *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, PG 94.984.

dangers of scientism. The Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, 2016) also emphasizes the contribution of Christianity “to the healthy development of secular civilization,” since God “established human beings as stewards of sacred creation and His coworkers in the world.” Moreover, it also highlights: “The Orthodox Church sets against the ‘man-god’ of the contemporary world the ‘God-man’ as the ultimate measure of all things. “We do not speak of a man who has been deified, but of God who has become man (John of Damascus, *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith* iii, 2 PG 94.988).”²

The answer to the crucial question—namely, how can we preserve the “culture of personhood,” the respect for its sacredness and emphasis on its beauty, until the final “eighth day” in the face of the titanism and prometheanism of the technological culture, its evolution and transmutation, in the midst of anthropotheistic changes and exaggerations of humankind—has been given once for all in the mystery of Divine Humanity. God the Word became flesh, the “truth has come” and “the shadow has passed.” For human beings, speaking the truth will forevermore be associated with their relationship to God as the response to God’s descent toward them and as the expectation and encounter of the coming Lord of glory. This living faith supports the human struggle to respond to the contradictions and challenges of earthly life, to life “by bread” (Mt 4.4), to survival as well as social and cultural development. Nevertheless, nothing in our life can thrive without reference to God, without the horizon of “the fullness of life, the fullness of joy and the fullness of knowledge” of His Kingdom.³

Christmas is an opportunity for us to become conscious of the mystery of divine freedom and the great miracle of human freedom. Christ knocks on the door of the human heart, yet only human beings honored with such freedom are able to open that door. “Clearly, without Him, without Christ,” as the late Fr. Georges Florovsky writes, “man cannot do anything. But there is something that only man can do—namely, respond to God’s call and welcome Christ.”⁴

By saying “Yes” to this calling from above, Christ is revealed as “the true light” (Jn 1.9), “the way, the truth and the life” (Jn 14.6), the answer to the ultimate questions and pursuits of the intellect, to the desires of the heart and the hopes of humankind, but also to the “whence” and “whereto” of creation. We belong to Christ, in Whom all things are united. Christ is “the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Rev. 22.13). In His voluntary incarnation “for us men and for our salvation,” the Word of God “did not dwell in a single human being, but embraced human nature in its entirety with His hypostasis,”⁵ thereby establishing the common eternal destiny and unity of humanity. He does not liberate one people, but the entire race of humankind; He does not savingly divide only history, but renews the whole creation. Just as for history, so too for the universe, “before Christ” and “after Christ” holds definitively and determinately valid. Throughout its journey in the world, in history and

² *Encyclical*, § 10.

³ Alexander Schmemmann, *I believe* (Athens: Akritas Editions, 1991), 129 [from the Greek].

⁴ Georges Florovsky, *Creation and Redemption* (Thessaloniki: Pournaras Editions, 1983) [from the Greek].

⁵ Nicholas Cabasilas, *Nine Unpublished Homilies* (Thessaloniki, 1976), 108.

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 870

ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΗ
ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ

+ Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ

ΕΛΕΩι ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ – ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΣΕ ΟΛΟ ΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ
ΧΑΡΗ, ΕΛΕΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΓΕΝΝΗΘΕΝΤΑ ΣΤΗ ΒΗΘΛΕΕΜ ΣΩΤΗΡΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ

Τιμιώτατοι αδελφοί Ίεράρχες και τέκνα εν Κυρίω εϋλογημένα,

Με άνωθεν εϋδοκία φθάσαμε και έφετος στην πανέορτη ήμέρα τής κατά σάρκα Γεννήσεως του Θεού Λόγου, που ήρθε στη γή και συναναστράφηκε μαζί μας «δι' άφατον φιλανθρωπίαν». Τιμούμε με ψαλμούς και ύμνους και με άνεκλάλητη χαρά το μέγα μυστήριο τής Ένανθρωπήσεως, το «πιό καινούργιο από όλα τα καινούργια, το μόνο καινούργιο στον κόσμο»¹, δια του οποίου διανοίγεται στον άνθρωπο ή όδός τής κατά χάριν θέωσης και ανακαινίζεται σύμπασα ή κτίση. Τα Χριστούγεννα δέν είναι βίωση συναισθηματισμών, οί όποιοι «γρήγορα έρχονται και άκόμη ταχύτερα παρέρχονται». Είναι ύπαρξιακή μετοχή στο όλο γεγονός τής Θείας Οικονομίας, του σχεδίου του Θεού για τή σωτηρία του κόσμου. Καθώς μαρτυρεί ο Ευαγγελιστής Ματθαίος², ή ήγεσία του κόσμου θέλησε από την αρχή να άφανίσει το Θείο Βρέφος. Για τους πιστούς, μαζί με το «Χριστός γεννᾶται» τής έορτής τής Σαρκώσεως του Υίου και Λόγου του Θεού Πατρός και τις πένθιμες καμπάνες του Πάθους, ήχει πάντοτε ταυτόχρονα και το «Χριστός Άνέστη», το εϋάγγελο μήνυμα τής νίκης κατά του θανάτου και τής προσδοκίας τής κοινής αναστάσεως.

Το «Δόξα εν ύψίοις Θεῶ και επί γής ειρήνη» άκούγεται και πάλι σε ένα κόσμο γεμάτο από βιαιότητες, κοινωνική άδικία και καταρράκωση τής ανθρωπίνης άξιοπρέπειας. Η έκπληκτική πρόοδος τής έπιστήμης και τής τεχνολογίας δέν φθάνει στο βάθος τής ανθρωπίνης ψυχής, αφού ο άνθρωπος είναι πάντοτε περισσότερο από αυτό που μπορεί να συλλάβει ή έπιστήμη και από αυτό στο όποιο αποβλέπει ή πρόοδος τής τεχνολογίας. Μέσα στο είναι του ανθρώπου δέν γεφυρώνεται έπιστημονικά το χάσμα μεταξύ ουρανού και γής.

Σήμερα άκούγεται ο λόγος περι του «μετανθρώπου» και έγκωμιάζεται ή τεχνητή νοημοσύνη. Βέβαια, το όνειρο ενός «ύπερανθρώπου» δέν είναι καινοφανές. Η ιδέα του «μετανθρώπου» στηρίζεται στην τεχνολογική πρόοδο και στον έξοπλισμό του με πρωτοφανή στην ανθρωπίνη έμπειρία και ιστορία μέσα, δια των οποίων θα μπορέσει να υπερβή το ανθρωπινο μέτρο που ισχύει μέχρι σήμερα. Η Έκκλησία δέν είναι τεχνοφοβική.

¹ «πάντων καινῶν καινότατον, το μόνον καινόν υπό τον ήλιον», Ιωάννου Δαμασκηνού, Έκδοσις άκριβής τής όρθοδόξου πίστεως, ΡG 94, 984.

² Ματθ. α', 18 - β', 1-23.

Προσεγγίζει την επιστημονική γνώση ως «δῶρον τοῦ Θεοῦ στὸν ἄνθρωπο», χωρίς ὅμως νὰ ἀγνοεῖ ἢ νὰ ἀποσιωπᾷ τοὺς κινδύνους τοῦ ἐπιστημονισμοῦ. Στὴν Ἐγκύκλιο τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Συνόδου τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας (Κρήτη, 2016), τονίζεται ἡ συμβολὴ τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ καὶ «στὴν ὑγιή ἀνάπτυξη τοῦ θύραθεν πολιτισμοῦ», ἀφοῦ ὁ Θεὸς «ἔθεσε τὸν ἄνθρωπο ὡς οἰκονόμο τῆς θείας δημιουργίας καὶ συνεργό Του στὸν κόσμο». Ἐν συνεχείᾳ, σημειώνεται μὲ ἔμφαση: «Ἡ Ὁρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία, ἔναντι τοῦ συγχρόνου ἄνθρωποθεοῦ, προβάλλει τὸν Ἐάνθρωπο ὡς ἔσχατο μέτρο πάντων: Ἐν μιᾷ γὰρ ἄνθρωπο πού ἀποθεώθηκε, ἀλλὰ γὰρ Θεὸ πού ἐνανθρώπησε»³.

Ἡ ἀπάντηση στὸ κρίσιμο ἐρώτημα, πῶς θὰ διασωθεῖ ὁ «πολιτισμὸς τοῦ προσώπου», ὁ σεβασμὸς τῆς ἱερότητας καὶ ἡ ἀνάδειξη τῆς ὠραιότητάς του μέχρι τὴν ἔσχατη «ὄγδοη ἡμέρα», μὲ τὸν τιτανισμὸ καὶ τὸν προμηθεϊσμὸ τοῦ τεχνολογικοῦ πολιτισμοῦ, τῶν μετεξελίξεων καὶ τῶν μεταπτώσεών του, ἐν μέσῳ ἀνθρωποθεϊστικῶν μετανθρωπισμῶν ἢ ὑπερανθρωπισμῶν, δόθηκε ἅπαξ καὶ διὰ παντὸς στὸ μυστήριό τῆς Θεανθρωπινότητας. Ὁ Θεὸς Λόγος ἔγινε σάρκα, ἢ «ἀλήθεια ἦρθε» καὶ «ἔφυγε ἢ σκιά. Ἀπὸ τῶρα καὶ στὸ διηνεκές ἢ ἀλήθεια γὰρ τὸν ἄνθρωπο θὰ συνδέεται μὲ τὴ σχέση του μὲ τὸ Θεό, ὡς ἀπάντηση στὴν κάθοδο τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ ὡς ἀναμονὴ καὶ ὑποδοχὴ τοῦ Κυρίου τῆς δόξης πού ἔρχεται. Ἡ ζωντανὴ αὐτὴ πίστις στηρίζεται τὸν ἀγῶνα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου νὰ ἀνταποκριθεῖ σὲ ἀντιφάσεις καὶ τὶς προκλήσεις τῆς ἐπίγειας ζωῆς του, στὴ ζωὴ «μὲ τὸν ἄρτο», στὴν ἐπιβίωση καὶ τὴν κοινωνικὴ καὶ πολιτισμικὴ ἀνάπτυξη. Τίποτε ὅμως στὴ ζωὴ μας δὲν εὐδοκίμει χωρὶς ἀναφορὰ στὸ Θεό, μὲ ὀρίζοντα τὴν «πληρότητα ζωῆς, τὴν πληρότητα χαρᾶς καὶ τὴν πληρότητα γνώσεως» τῆς Βασιλείας Του.⁴

Τὰ Χριστούγεννα εἶναι εὐκαιρία γὰρ νὰ συνειδητοποιήσουμε τὸ μυστήριό τῆς ἐλευθερίας τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὸ μέγα θαῦμα τῆς ἐλευθερίας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Ὁ Χριστὸς κρούει τὴν πόρτα τῆς ἀνθρώπινης καρδιάς, μπορεῖ ὅμως νὰ τὴν ἀνοίξει μόνον ὁ ἴδιος ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔχει τιμηθεῖ μὲ τὴν ἐλευθερία. «Ἀσφαλῶς, χωρὶς Αὐτόν, χωρὶς τὸν Χριστό», γράφει ὁ μακαριστὸς π. Γεώργιος Φλωρόφσκυ, «ὁ ἄνθρωπος δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ κάνει τίποτε. Κι ὅμως, ὑπάρχει κάτι πού μόνον ἀπὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο μπορεῖ νὰ γίνῃ – τὸ νὰ ἀνταποκριθεῖ στὴν κλήση τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ νὰ ἴδῃ τὸ Χριστό»⁵.

Λέγοντας τὸ «Ναί» στὴν ἄνωθεν κλήση, ὁ Χριστὸς ἀποκαλύπτεται ὡς «τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν»⁶, ὡς «ἡ ὁδὸς, ἢ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἢ ζωὴ»⁷, ὡς ἢ ἀπάντηση στὰ ἔσχατα ἐρωτήματα καὶ τὶς ἀναζητήσεις τοῦ μυαλοῦ, στοὺς καρδιακοὺς πόθους καὶ τὶς ἐλπίδες τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὰ ἐρωτήματα: «ἀπὸ ποῦ καὶ γὰρ ποῖο λόγο» τῆς δημιουργίας. Ἀνήκουμε στὸ Χριστό, σὲ

³ «Οὐκ ἄνθρωπον ἀποθεωθέντα λέγομεν, ἀλλὰ Θεὸν ἐνανθρώπησαντα», (Ἰωάννου Δαμασκηνοῦ, Ἐκδοσις ἀκριβῆς τῆς ὀρθοδόξου πίστεως, Γ', 2 PG 94, 988), Ἐγκύκλιος, § 10.

⁴ «παρέδραμεν ἢ σκιά. Εἰς τὸ διηνεκές τὸ ἀληθεύειν διὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπον θὰ συνδέεται μὲ τὴν σχέσιν του μὲ τὸν Θεόν, ὡς ἀπάντησις εἰς τὴν κάθοδον τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ ὡς ἀναμονὴ καὶ ὑπάντησις τοῦ ἐρχομένου Κυρίου τῆς δόξης. Ἡ ζωσα αὐτὴ πίστις στηρίζεται τὸν ἀγῶνα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου νὰ ἀνταποκριθῇ εἰς τὰς ἀντιφάσεις καὶ τὰς προκλήσεις τοῦ ἐπιγείου βίου του, εἰς τὴν «ἐπ' ἄρτω» ζωὴν⁴, εἰς τὴν ἐπιβίωσιν καὶ τὴν κοινωνικὴν καὶ πολιτισμικὴν ἀνάπτυξιν. Τίποτε ὅμως εἰς τὴν ζωὴν μας δὲν εὐδοκίμει ἄνευ ἀναφορᾶς εἰς τὸν Θεόν, μὲ ὀρίζοντα τὴν «πληρότητα ζωῆς, τὴν πληρότητα χαρᾶς καὶ τὴν πληρότητα γνώσεως» τῆς Βασιλείας Του». Ἀλεξάνδρου Σμέμαν, Πιστεύω, ἐκδ. Ἀκρίτα, Ἀθήνα 1991, σ. 129.

⁵ Γεωργίου Φλωρόφσκυ, Δημιουργία καὶ ἀπολύτρωση, ἐκδ. Πουρναρά, Θεσσαλονίκη 1983, σ. 17.

⁶ Ἰωάν. α', 9.

⁷ Ἰωάν. ιδ', 6.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 442/2024

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of Christmas

December 25, 2024

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

And the [star] led the Magi to You, who worshipped You in faith; have mercy upon them and upon us.

(Troparion, Plagal of the Second Mode)

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

This Christmas, let us manifest a special joy and appreciation that even secular society acknowledges the Birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is often difficult to keep the Feast of the Nativity as pure as we would like to, with the seemingly endless commercialization that surrounds it. Nevertheless, even with all the tinsel and sparkle, the Name of the Lord is spread abroad by the world's imperfect regard for Christmas. We can agree with Saint Paul who says: *Christ is preached! More in every way, whether by pretext or by truth. And at this, I rejoice! And I shall rejoice more!* (Philippians 1:18). We should also share in the same joy, because as inadequate as secular and commercial observances of Christmas may be, at least people are exposed to the name and narrative of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Magi (from whence the word "magician" comes), who were led to worship the Newborn Babe of Bethlehem by a Star, were astrologers watching the heavens for signs and wonders. They were not Jewish, but rather Persian, likely Zoroastrians, an ancient religion founded by Zoroaster (Greek: Ζωροάστρης), six centuries before the Birth of our Savior. They found their way to Bethlehem by following an exceptional Star that had arisen in the western night sky — a Star that had been prophesied in ways we do not fully



understand. Their path to Christ may not have followed the Hebrew Prophets, but it still led them to Him.

There are so many in this world — Christian and non-Christian alike — whose connection to the Lord comes only through the Nativity and the many cultural traditions that have arisen around it. And perhaps, one day, like the Magi, a spiritual Star will arise in their hearts and lead them to the continuing Bethlehem, (which means the House of Bread), that is our Holy Orthodox Church.

This Christmas Season let us take joy and not begrudge the journey of others. Let us be willing to find an understanding and even an admiration for all those who — like the Magi — observe with some degree of faith and recognition the Birth of our Savior. For He was born in a cave and laid in a manger for the sake of every human being, and indeed, for all creation.

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

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 442/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος Χριστουγέννων.

25 Δεκεμβρίου 2024

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

«Καὶ Μάγους σοὶ προσήνεγκεν, ἐν πίστει προσκυνοῦντάς σε· μεθ' ὧν ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς»

(Τροπᾶριο τῶν ἀναγνωσμάτων τοῦ ἑσπερινοῦ τῶν Χριστουγέννων).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Τὰ φετεινὰ Χριστούγεννα ἀποτελοῦν ἀκόμη μία εὐκαιρία νὰ δοξάσουμε τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Θεοῦ, διότι ἀκόμη καὶ ἡ κοσμικὴ κοινωνία ἐορτάζει τὴ γέννηση τοῦ σωτῆρος καὶ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Εἶναι ἀρκετὰ δύσκολο ἢ ἐορτῆ τῶν Χριστουγέννων νὰ μείνει ἀνέγγιχτη ἀπὸ τὴ φαινομενικὰ ἀτελειώτη ἐμπορευματοποίηση ποὺ τὴ συνοδεύει. Ὅμως ἀκόμη καὶ μέσα ἀπὸ τὰ στολίδια καὶ τὰ φωτάκια, ἀκόμη καὶ με ἀυτὴ τὴν ἀτελὴ κατανόηση τοῦ κόσμου γιὰ τὰ Χριστούγεννα, τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου διαδίδεται, καθὼς καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος λέει πρὸς τοὺς Φιλιππησίους: «Χριστὸς καταγγέλλεται! Καὶ ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ, εἴτε προφάσει, εἴτε

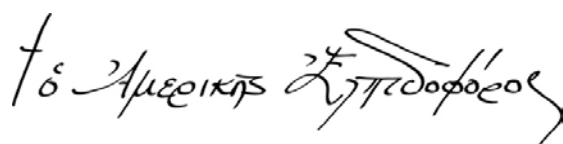
ἀληθεία. Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ χαίρω. Ἀλλὰ καὶ χαρήσομα!» (1:18). Συμμετέχουμε λοιπὸν στὴ χαρὰ τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, διότι ὅσο ἀνεπαρκεῖς καὶ ἂν εἶναι οἱ κοσμικὲς ἐκδηλώσεις γιὰ τὶς ἐορτὲς τῶν Χριστουγέννων, τουλάχιστον οἱ ἄνθρωποι εὐαγγελίζονται μὲ τὸ ὄνομα καὶ τὴν ἀφήγηση τῆς γεννήσεως τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Οἱ Μάγοι, οἱ ὁποῖοι ὀδηγήθηκαν νὰ προσκυνήσουν τὸ νεογέννητο βρέφος στὴ Βηθλεέμ, ἀκολουθώντας τὸν ἀστέρα, ἦταν ἀστρολόγοι καὶ ἐρευνούσαν τὸν οὐρανὸ γιὰ σημεῖα, ἐξηγώντας τὰ μελλούμενα. Δὲν ἦταν Ἰουδαῖοι ἀλλὰ Πέρσες, πιθανότατα Ζωροάστρες, μιὰ θρησκεία ποὺ ἴδρυσε ὁ Ζωροάστρης ἕξι αἰῶνες πρὶν τὴ γέννηση τοῦ Σωτῆρος μας. Βρῆκαν τὸ δρόμο γιὰ τὴ Βηθλεέμ, ἀκολουθώντας ἓνα ὑπέρλαμπρο ἀστέρι, ποὺ ἀνέτειλε στὸ δυτικὸ νυχτερινὸ οὐρανό, μὲ ἓνα τρόπο ποὺ ἀποκαλύφθηκε σὲ αὐτοὺς χωρὶς νὰ μπορούμε νὰ τὸν κατανοήσουμε πλήρως. Ἡ πορεία αὐτὴ μπορεῖ νὰ μὴν ἦταν ἡ ἴδια μὲ αὐτὴ τῶν ἑβραίων προφητῶν, ἀλλὰ τοὺς ὀδήγησε καὶ αὐτοὺς πρὸς τὸ Χριστό.

Πολλοὶ ἄνθρωποι στὸν κόσμον, χριστιανοὶ καὶ μὴ, ἔχουν ἐπαφὴ μὲ τὸν Κύριο μόνο μέσα ἀπὸ τὰ Χριστούγεννα καὶ τὶς πολυάριθμες πολιτιστικὲς παραδόσεις ποὺ ἔχουν ἀναπτυχθεῖ γιὰ αὐτὴν τὴ μεγάλη ἐορτή. Ἴσως κάποια μέρα, ὅπως στοὺς Μάγους, ἀνατείλει καὶ γιὰ αὐτοὺς κάποιο πνευματικὸ ἀστέρι ποὺ θὰ τοὺς ὀδηγήσει στὴν αἰώνια Βηθλεέμ, ἡ ὁποία μεταφράζεται ὡς «ἡ οἰκία τοῦ ἄρτου» καὶ εἶναι ἡ Ἁγία Ὁρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία μας.

Αὐτὰ τὰ Χριστούγεννα ἄς γευθοῦμε αὐτὴ τὴν ἀνυπέβλητη χαρὰ χωρὶς νὰ κατακρίνουμε τὸ ταξίδι τῶν ἄλλων, ποὺ ὅπως οἱ Μάγοι παρατηροῦν καὶ ἀναγνωρίζουν μὲ κάποια πίστη τὴ γέννηση τοῦ Σωτῆρος μας. Διότι γεννήθηκε στὸ σπήλαιον καὶ σπαργανώθηκε στὴ φάτνη γιὰ κάθε ἄνθρωπο καὶ γιὰ ὅλη τὴν κτίση!

Χριστὸς Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε!,



† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lydia Filipidis

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Johns
Ms. Anna Dimidis

In Memory of Sylvia Cornias

Ms. Despina Glykiadou

In Memory of Ioannis Minas

Mr. & Mrs. Zaharias Mavrodontis
Evangelos John

In Memory of Donald Bonolis

Mrs. Catherine Bonolis

In Memory of Lambrini Galiatsatos

Demetrios Venetis Family
Ms. Anna Dimidis
Ms. Maria Kalambihis

In Memory of Apostolis Venetis

Demetrios Venetis Family

In Memory of George Bakoulas

Demetrios Venetis Family

In Memory of Konstantoula Bakoulas

Demetrios Venetis Family

In Memory of Michael Cornias

Emmanuel Komninios Family

In Memory of Mary Serafis

Emmanuel Komninios Family

In Memory of Miltiades Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Dimitrios & Tsampika Sevastakis

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Diamantis Philippou

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Grammatiki Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Vasilios Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Efthimios Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Gus Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Efthimios & Chryssi Micklos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Philomila Siskos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of John Siskos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Bessie Sfikas

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of Stella Meliseratos

Ms. Christine Micklos

In Memory of George Katsimpiris

Mrs. Nicola Katsimpiris Wallace

In Memory of Ioannis Minas

Mr. Nicholas Cornias
Ms. Despina Glykiadis

In Memory of Nicholas Melanitis

Mr. John Melanitis

In Memory of Filippos Marangos

Ms. Diamanto Petropoulos
Ms. Stella Giakoumakis
Miss. Flora Giakoumakis
Mr. & Mrs. Philimon Cacavasilios

In Memory of George Roros

Ms. Kiki Roros



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS OF NJ VISITS



On December 8th, our community was honored to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey to celebrate the Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. His Eminence was warmly welcomed by members of our community.

Participating together with His Eminence in the Divine Liturgy was our proistamenos of our parish, the Rev. Georgios Oikonomou and Archdeacon Konstantinos Loukas.

In his sermon, His Eminence spoke on the Holy Gospel reading of the day, the healing of a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

His Eminence reminded the faithful that this poor woman who had suffered with this physical ailment, was made well because of her faith. For eighteen years, the woman struggled with social degradation and physical pain. Still, she went to the place of worship every week to praise God.

His Eminence stressed that this woman who suffered, continued to put her hope in God even after many years of struggle, so she endured suffering with patience and grace. She is rewarded for her perseverance and faith when she meets Christ, who has compassion for her and heals her.

His Eminence implored the parishioners to have this same faith as this women in their lives, to never doubt, but to stay strong in their faith, to stay strong in their belief in God and His Church, as it is through their faith and trust in our Lord and Savior, that they too will be spiritually healed and saved.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a beautiful luncheon was held in the community hall in honor of the Archpastoral visit of His Eminence to our community.



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

For Sponsorships, please complete and submit the
Sponsorship Form

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

Sponsorship Program Levels of Support

Sponsor.....	\$1,250
	2 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Supporter.....	\$2,500
	4 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Patron.....	\$5,000
	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



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

December 4, 2024

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy
Esteemed Members of the Metropolis Council, Beloved Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,
Dedicated Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Society,
Devout Faithful of the Greek Orthodox Communities of the Sacred Metropolis of New Jersey

Dear beloved Clergy and Faithful,

It is with much joy and enthusiasm that we are pleased to share with you all of the information for the upcoming 10th Anniversary Gala in Honor of the Ten-Year Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, which will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025, at *The Venetian* in Garfield, New Jersey.

Enclosed with this letter please find the informative Gala Flyer for the ticket sales, as well as the details for the various levels of Sponsorships for this highly anticipated event. Please know that all proceeds from the 10th Anniversary Gala, as per the wishes of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos, will be designated to assisting with the sacred Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

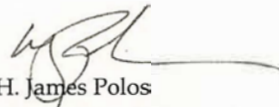
Please know that for Group/parish tickets, parishes are asked to collect the money from their parishioners for the ticket sales, fill out the enclosed Table Seating Form, and send one check for all the parish's tickets to the Metropolis (the same way that we do for the Honoree/Ambassador Banquets).

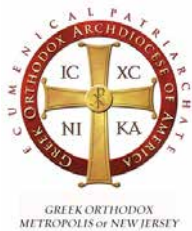
Additionally, please find enclosed the 10th Anniversary Gala Sponsorship Form. All Sponsorship forms are to be completed and sent together with payment to the Metropolis Headquarters, marked *Attn: 10th Anniversary Sponsorship*.

All checks are to be made payable to the "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey – Ministry," with "10th Anniversary Gala" in the memo line. For additional information please contact the Metropolis at 908-301-0500 or email 10thAnniversarynj@gmail.com

Please know that all tickets must be purchased and all sponsorships submitted to the Metropolis by **Friday, January 3, 2025**. We thank you in advance with your assistance and participation in this auspicious occasion and we wish all of you a most blessed and Merry Christmas.

†Archim. Philotheos Tomczewski
+ Archim. Philotheos Tomczewski
Vicar of Northern New Jersey
Co-Chairman of the 10th Anniversary Banquet


Archon H. James Polos
Vice-President of the Metropolis Council &
Chairman of the 10th Anniversary Banquet



10th Anniversary Gala

In Honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Checks are to be made payable to the "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey - Ministry" and sent together with this form to the Metropolis of New Jersey, Attn: 10th Anniversary Sponsorship, 215 E. Grove Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 For more information contact 908-301-0500 or 10thAnniversarynj@gmail.com. All Sponsorships must be submitted by Friday, January 3, 2025.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

All Sponsorships Include a Listing in the Commemorative Program Booklet

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sponsor</i>
\$1,250.00
+ 2 Tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supporter</i>
\$2,500.00
+ 4 Tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Patron</i>
\$5,000.00
+ 6 tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Benefactor</i>
\$10,000.00
+ 10 Tickets. | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Grand Benefactor</i>
\$20,000.00
+ 10 Tickets &
Full Program Insert |
|--|--|---|--|--|

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Individual, Parish or Organization Name (As you wish to be listed in the Program Booklet)

Parish Name

Parish City & State

Sponsor Contact Phone #

Sponsor Contact Email

TABLE FORM

Please fill out the full names of individuals using the tickets included with the Sponsorship Level

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



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

Monday, January 13, 2025
The Venetian, Garfield NJ

Name of Parish/Group _____

City/State _____

Tables of 10-12

1. _____ 7. _____

2. _____ 8. _____

3. _____ 9. _____

4. _____ 10. _____

5. _____ 11. _____

6. _____ 12. _____

Number of guests _____ @ \$160/person Total Due: _____ Check # _____

Date received by Metropolis of New Jersey _____

All attendees must be listed on this form. This form, with the appropriate fee, payable to the
"Metropolis of New Jersey-Ministry", should be submitted to:

Metropolis of New Jersey
215 East Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

By **Friday, January 3, 2025**. No tickets will be sold at the door.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

December 9, 2024

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhoods and the PTO/PTA,
Directors/Principals and Teachers of the Afternoon Greek Schools of the
Maryland and Northern Virginia Regions of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

I pray that my letter finds all of you well. It is with much joy and excitement that I write to Inform you that the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey will once again be celebrating Greek Letters and the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian, the Ecumenical Teachers of our Holy Orthodox Faith and profound supporters of Education.

Therefore, please know that the Metropolis Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters Celebration for the Maryland and Northern Virginia Regions will take place on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025, AT 4:00 PM AT THE ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PLATEIA IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. The beautiful program will include the students of the area Greek Schools, as they narrate various poems, sing songs, and Greek dance with great pride. Please know that all the Greek Schools of the Maryland and Northern Virginia Regions are invited to participate in this wonderful event, and I ask that the parish Greek schools please confirm your participation in this event by contacting the parish at 410-633-5020.

In addition, I ask that all those wishing to attend this beautiful celebration please R.S.V.P. by contacting the parish office at 410-633-5020 no later than Friday, January 24, 2025, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Praying that our loving Lord continues to bless you and all the devout faithful of our sacred Metropolis with every good and perfect gift from above, I remain

With paternal love and blessings,

† Metropolitan Sigoctolo
† APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey

215 East Grove Street, Westfield, NJ, 07090-1656 • Tel: (908) 301-0500 • Fax: (908) 301-1397
Web: www.nj.goarch.org • E-mail: metropolis@nj.goarch.org



**His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
Cordially invites all the dedicated Faithful
of the Maryland/Northern Virginia Regions
to the Annual**

Greek Letters Day Celebration

Honoring the Three Hierarchs of our Orthodox Church



St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory the Theologian

Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 4:00 pm

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

520 Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 410-633-5020

by January 24, 2025



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης Νέας Ιερσέης
κ. ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Σας προσκαλεί να συνοερτάσουμε
«Την Εορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών
και την Ημέρα των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων»



Κυριακή 2 Φεβρουαρίου 2025, ώρα 4:00 μ.μ.

**Ιερός Ναός Αγ. Νικολάου
520 Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224**

Παρακαλούμε RSVP στο γραφείο του Ναού
(410-633-5020) έως τις 24 Ιανουαρίου 2025



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. Paissios 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, Panagia 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 tax/fuel 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.

YOUR TOUR WILL INCLUDE:

- *Round-trip airfare on Turkish Airlines: EWR / IST / Thessaloniki & IST / EWR & Aegean Airlines: Thessaloniki / ATH / IST
- *Private arrival and departure transfers in a deluxe air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking escort
- *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)

Cloud Tours Inc. 37-21 78th Street Jackson Heights, NY 11372
Tel: 718-721-3808 Fax: 718-795-4356 Email: stephen@cloudtours.com



**A JOURNEY OF FAITH
TO THESSALONIKI, MT. ATHOS & CONSTANTINOPLE
Led by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
February 21 – March 3, 2025: 11 Days / 9 Nights**

I am requesting services for _____ people. **The exact name on the passport (s) is/are:**

Address: _____
 Daytime Tel: _____ Evening Tel: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____ Special Requests: Meals (Diabetic, vegetarian etc.): _____
Rooming with: _____ Wheelchair: Yes ___ No ___ Star Alliance number: _____

SELECT BETWEEN OPTIONS I, II:

OPTION I: Select either double or single occupancy inclusive of air: JFK / IST / Thessaloniki & Thessaloniki / IST & IST / EWR
 Per person double occupancy \$4700* x 2 \$ _____
 Single occupancy \$5635 * x 1 \$ _____

***Air tax/fuel of approximately \$475 is include in the above prices and not guaranteed until ticketed and subject to change**

OPTION II: LAND ONLY: Select either double or single occupancy. (Transatlantic flights not included. Flights Thessaloniki to IST via Athens are included).

Land only rate per person double occupancy \$3875* x 2 \$ _____
 Land only rate single occupancy \$4810* x 1 \$ _____

Departure/Arrival transfers may not be included in Land Only rates

ALL OPTIONS: Please add: Gratuities per person (not optional) \$ 185 x \$ _____
 Delivery of documents (not optional) \$ 30 x 1 \$ 30.00

***Rates reflect a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made in 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.**

TRAVEL PROTECTION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TRAVEL PROTECTION VISIT THE BELOW LINK FOR PLANS AND PREMIUMS
www.travelexinsurance.com/index.aspx?location=32-0603&go=bp

Travel protection is recommended. If you pay for it with your deposit, pre-existing medical conditions are covered
Please mail this reservation form, a copy of your passport and a deposit of \$800 per person payable to Cloud Tours Inc.
 SPACE IS LIMITED! RESERVE NOW! DEADLINE: November 20, 2024 or late booking fee, \$50 applies

TOUR INCLUDES:

- *Round-trip airfare on Turkish Airlines: EWR / IST / Thessaloniki & IST / EWR & Aegean Airlines: Thessaloniki / ATH / IST
- *Private arrival and departure transfers in a deluxe air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking escort
- *7 1/2 days of private sightseeing for men & 6 days for the women. All entrance fees as per itinerary 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 includ. 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)

CONDITIONS: Confirmation is subject to receipt of deposit with reservation form no later than Nov. 22 to guarantee your seat. Deposits received Nov. 23 and later are subject to a \$50 late booking fee & applicable air surcharges. Final balance due Dec, 27, 2024. **Air taxes / fuel surcharges are not guaranteed unless ticketed. Ticketing must occur for the group at the same time.** A minimum of 25 people required or additional costs will apply. **Cancellation fees:** Once deposit is received, an administration fee of \$200 per person applies in cases of all cancellations. Additional fees for cancellations received between Nov 23, 2024-Jan 2, 2025, \$800 per person and between Jan 3- Jan 21, 75% of the tour price and between Jan 22, 2025 to day of departure, non-refundable. No refund for no-shows or unused portions of tour. Additional cancellation fees may be imposed by suppliers subject to date of cancellation. Should the group cancel for any reason, including political strife, Cloud Tours reserves the right to charge \$150 per person administration fee, **Travel protection is recommended & must be paid with deposit to waive the pre-existing medical conditions exclusion. Travel protection is nonrefundable. You may request a copy of the Description of Coverage, prior to purchase, which includes the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions.** This plan provides insurance coverage for your trip that applies only during the covered trip. You may have coverage from other sources that provides you with similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon your other coverages. You may wish to compare the terms of this policy with your existing life, health, home and automobile policies. If you have any questions about your current coverage, call your insurer, insurance agent or broker. The purchase of this plan is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service offered to you by your travel retailer". Cloud Tours reserves the right to deny service to any person based upon its discretion and/or the particular needs or circumstances of a given group.

**CLOUD TOURS INC. 37-21 78th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372
 Tel: 718 721 3808 Fax: 718 795 4356 Email: stephen@cloudtours.com**

GREEK SCHOOL



Η πιο χαρούμενη γιορτή του χρόνου έφτασε!!! Ο Χριστός μας γεννήθηκε και ο κόσμος μας έγινε πιο όμορφος αυτές τις μέρες! Το ελληνικό σχολείο ετοιμάζεται να υποδεχτεί ξανά μαθητές και εκπαιδευτικούς και ευχή όλων είναι η Νέα Χρονιά να φέρει υγεία και γαλήνη σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο! Πριν φύγουμε για τις γιορτές των Χριστουγέννων, τα παιδιά μαζεύτηκαν στην εκκλησία μας και με τη βοήθεια του Αγίου Νικολάου, είπαν τα κάλαντα σε καταστήματα της γειτονιάς! Επέστρεψαν στην Αίθουσα Εκδηλώσεων μας και παρουσίασαν σε γονείς και συγγενείς τα όμορφα χριστουγεννιάτικα τραγούδια που είχαν ετοιμάσει! Συναντήθηκαν με τον Άγιο Βασίλη, έβγαλαν φωτογραφίες και πήραν δωράκια από τους δύο υπέροχους βοηθούς του.

Ο Ιανουάριος θα είναι αυτός, ένας όμορφος μήνας με ωραίες εκπλήξεις για τα παιδιά αφού στις 11 του μήνα, ολόκληρο το σχολείο μας θα επισκεφθεί την εκκλησία του Αγίου Γεωργίου στο Ocean City και όλοι μαζί θα παρευρεθούμε στην Θεία Λειτουργία και παρακολουθήσουμε τον αγιασμό των υδάτων! Τα παιδιά είναι περισσότερο από ενθουσιασμένα και ανυπομονούν να ζήσουν αυτήν την όμορφη εμπειρία! Στο σημείο αυτό, θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Σύλλογο Γονέων και Κηδεμόνων για την όμορφη πρωτοβουλία τους και για την οργάνωση της εκδρομής αυτής!

Ευτυχισμένο το 2025! Η Νέα χρονιά να φέρει υγεία και όμορφες στιγμές!

Παρασκευή Κοτσάτου Αργετάκη
Δασκάλα της Τρίτης και Τέταρτης Τάξης

The happiest holiday of the year has arrived!!! Our Christ was born and our world became more beautiful these days! The Greek school is preparing to welcome students and teachers again and everyone's wish is that the New Year brings health and peace to the whole world! Before we left for the Christmas holidays, the children gathered at our church and with the help of Saint Nicholas, they sang carols in neighborhood shops! They returned to our Large Hall and presented to parents and relatives the beautiful Christmas songs they had prepared! They met Santa, took pictures and got presents from his two wonderful little helpers.

January will be this, a beautiful month with nice surprises for the children since on the 11th of the month, our whole school will visit the church of St. George in Ocean City and we will all attend the Epiphany Celebration! The kids are more than excited and can't wait to have this beautiful experience! At this point, we would like to thank the PTA for their beautiful initiative and for organizing this excursion!

Happy 2025! May the New Year bring health and beautiful moments!

Paraskevi
Kotsatou Argetakis
Teacher of 3rd
and 4th Grade





NOW HIRING *TEACHERS AND AIDES!* ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The Saint Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center provides a safe, nurturing, home away from home learning center. We accept children from 6 weeks till 5 years of age. If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact the center at 410-633-5020 extension 4 or message us on Facebook.

BEEC had a Christmas Program for the center's families where the children sang Christmas carols in both Greek and English. Our program was completed with a visit from Santa Claus. We also had the best contest: Who can guess the teacher's baby picture!

Happy New Year! To welcome 2025, Father George will be blessing our school and we will cut the traditional Vasilopita. The children will be having a pajama party every Wednesday for the month of January.

Το Δίγλωσσο Κέντρο Πρόωρης Εκπαίδευσης του Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές κέντρο εκμάθησης και φροντίδας μακριά από το σπίτι. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά από 6 εβδομάδων έως 5 ετών. Αυτήν τη στιγμή έχουμε ανοικτές θέσεις για παιδιά ηλικίας 3-5 ετών στην προσχολική μας αίθουσα. Εάν έχετε οποιοσδήποτε ερωτήσεις, μη διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με την διευθυντρια, Tyshanna, στο 410-633-5020 επέκταση 4.

Το Δίγλωσσο Κέντρο Πρόωρης Εκπαίδευσης του Αγίου Νικολάου είχε ετοιμάσει ένα όμορφο χριστουγεννιάτικο πρόγραμμα για τις οικογένειες του σταθμού στο οποίο τα παιδιά τραγούδησαν τα κάλαντα στα ελληνικά και στα αγγλικά. Η γιορτή μας ολοκληρώθηκε με την επίσκεψη του Άγιου Βασίλη! Επιπλέον, διοργανώθηκε ένας μικρός διαγωνισμός «Ποιος μπορεί να μαντέψει την παιδική φωτογραφία του δασκάλου».

Καλή Χρονιά!

Για να υποδεχτούμε το 2025, ο πατέρας Γεώργιος θα ευλογήσει το σχολείο μας και θα κόψουμε Βασιλόπιτα.

Τα παιδιά του Σταθμού μας θα έχουν Πιτζάμα Πάρτι κάθε Τετάρτη, για όλο το μήνα Ιανουάριο!



PHILOPTOCHOS

Isaiah 31 - *“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Wishing everyone a very Blessed New Year filled with Health, Love, Happiness and Prosperity!

As in the past we will be collecting new hats, scarfs, gloves, throws and baby clothing for the Helping Up Mission. You may bring the items to church starting January 1st - 20th. On Sunday, January 5th a special tray will be passed to Benefit Saint Basil's Academy followed by the Vasilopita cutting. Thank you to Mrs. Despina Kostalas for her very generous donation. May God grant her and her family many years of health.

The next general meeting is on Monday, January 6th. Refreshments and appetizers will be served. Join us for an evening of fellowship! Sunday, January 19th Philoptochos Brunch. Details on Location and price to be announced.

DONATIONS:

In memory of Lydia Filipidi, John Minas, Nicholas, irene, Evanthia and John Lallas

From Eve Lallas

In memory of Niko Hatzimina

From John and Maria Georgaki

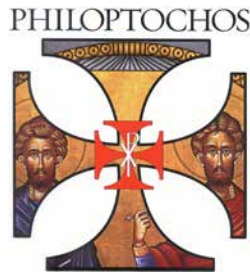
SAVE THE DATES:

SATURDAY, MARCH 15th - APOKREATIKO DANCE TO BENEFIT THE PHILOXENIA HOUSE AT JIMMY'S FAMOUS SEAFOOD

FRIDAY, APRIL 25th - PHILOPTOCHOS EVENT AT BORDY VINEYARDS

Ησαΐας 31: «*Μα εκείνοι που στον Κύριο ελπίζουν, ανανεώνουν τις δυνάμεις τους· φτερά αποκτούνε σαν του αϊτού, τρέχουν χωρίς να εξασθενούν, βαδίζουνε δίχως και ν' αποσταίνουν».*

Ευχόμαστε σε όλους καλή κι ευλογημένη χρονιά γεμάτη με υγεία, αγάπη, ευτυχία και ευημερία!



Όπως στο παρελθόν, έτσι και φέτος θα συνεχίσουμε να συλλέγουμε καπέλα, κασκόλ, γάντια, κουβέρτες και ρούχα για μωρά για το Helping Up Mission. Μπορείτε να φέρετε τέτοιου είδους αντικείμενα στην εκκλησία από την 1η Ιανουαρίου έως τις 20 του ίδιου μήνα. Την Κυριακή 5, Ιανουαρίου θα περάσει ειδικός δίσκος προς όφελος της ακαδημίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου και θα ακολουθήσει η κοπή της βασιλόπιτας. Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε την κυρία Δέσποινα Κωστάλα για την σπουδαία δωρεά της. Ο θεός να δίνει σε εκείνη και την οικογένειά της, πολλά χρόνια γεμάτα υγεία.

Η επόμενη γενική συνέλευση της Φιλοπτώχου θα πραγματοποιηθεί την Δευτέρα 6, Ιανουαρίου. Αναψυκτικά και ορεκτικά θα σερβιριστούν. Ελάτε στην παρέα μας για να περάσουμε όλοι μαζί μια όμορφη βραδιά. Την Κυριακή 19 Ιανουαρίου η Φιλόπτωχος θα διοργανώσει ένα Brunch. Λεπτομέρειες για την τοποθεσία και την τιμή θα ανακοινωθούν τις επόμενες ημέρες.

Δωρεές

Εις μνήμην της Λυδίας Φιλιππίδη, του Ιωάννη Μηνά, του Νικόλα, της Ειρήνης, της Ευανθίας και του Ιωάννη Λάλλα: από την Εύα Λάλλα.

Εις μνήμην του Νικόλα Μηνά: από τον Ιωάννη και τη Μαρία Γιωργακη

Σημειώστε τις ημερομηνίες

Σάββατο 1 Μαρτίου θα πραγματοποιηθεί ο Αποκριάτικος Χορός στο Jimmy's Famous Seafood και τα έσοδα θα διατεθούν στο Σπίτι της Φιλοξενίας.

Παρασκευή 25, Απρίλη η Φιλόπτωχος θα πραγματοποιήσει εκδήλωση στο Bordy Vineyards.



*Help Saint Nicholas GOYA
support our
Philoptochos and the Philoxenia House*

Philoxenia House opened its doors in 2002 to provide a home away from home for patients and their families seeking medical attention in Baltimore. To date it has housed 172 families, offering shelter and warm hospitality to families during their most difficult days. The ladies of our Philoptochos work tirelessly and with great passion to preserve the mission of the Philoxenia House. They are currently working on the next phase of the home which includes covering an outdoor stairway, adding an elevator, and expanding to add additional housing to accommodate more families.

Please make a donation to help them in this mission.

Venmo:

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH @ StNicks GOYA

Check: payable to Saint Nicholas GOYA

Note "Philoxenia House" in memo
section of Venmo or check



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
- 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
Or download the mobile app!

VANCO



STEWARDSHIP

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD ΚΑΡΤΑ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

“YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN: SEE OUR CHURCH AS IT COULD BE”

“ΤΑ ΣΑ ΕΚ ΤΩΝ ΣΩΝ: ΟΡΑΜΑΤΙΖΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΟΣΟ ΥΨΗΛΑ....ΟΣΟ ΕΚΕΙ ΠΟΥ ΜΠΟΡΕΙ ΝΑ ΦΤΑΣΕΙ”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. τμήμα
Home Phone / Σταθερό τηλέφωνο σπιτιού	
Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο	Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο (Spouse)
Email Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση	
Email Address of Spouse / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση συζύγου	
Communication Preferences / Προτιμήσεις επικοινωνίας	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail / Ταχυδρομείο	<input type="checkbox"/> Email / Ηλεκτρονική
<input type="checkbox"/> Text / Μήνυμα	
Dependent Children's Names and Birthdates / Όνόματα παιδιών και ημερομηνία γεννήσεώς τους	

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 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 ή κατεβάστε την εφαρμογή GivePlus mobile. Εάν έχετε απορίες, επικοινωνήστε με το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020.

Save the Date

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey



Music & Dance Festival
Philadelphia: February 14-16, 2025

*President's Day Weekend (February 14 – 16, 2025) at the
Sheraton Hotel - Downtown Philadelphia.*

Categories include:

- Greek Folk Dancing
(JOY, GOYA and Young Adult Groups)*
- &*
- Parish Youth and Young Adult Liturgical Choirs*

Registration Packets will be coming shortly



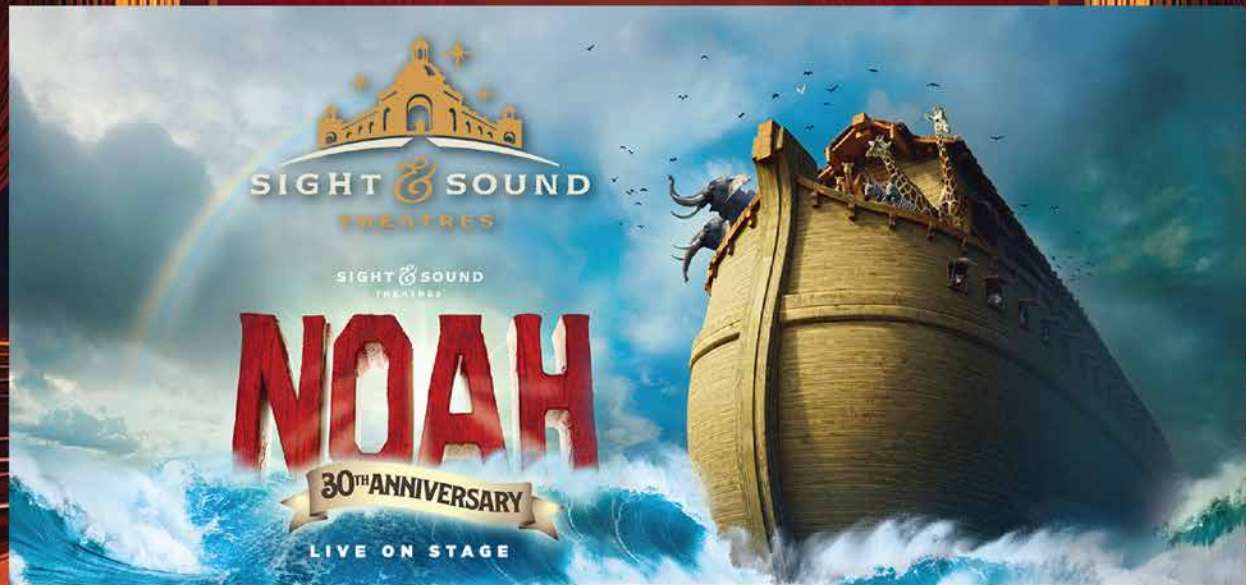
ST. NICHOLAS DIAMONDS

St. Nicholas



Day Trip LANCASTER, PA

Saturday, September 20, 2025



Seats are limited

Price \$190.00

Includes bus, lunch, and show ticket

**For more information please contact
Sofia Xouris | 240-375-5464**

Thank you for your support!

St. Nicholas



PHS

Philadelphia Flower Show

**Saturday,
March 8, 2025**

Seats are limited

Price \$90.00

Includes bus and show ticket

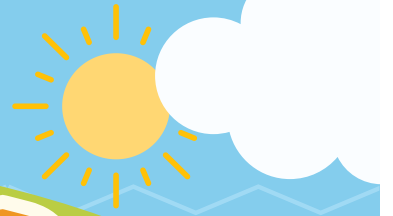
For more information please contact

Sofia Xouris

240-375-5464

Thank you for your support!

SUMMER CAMP



CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD



Maryland

June 15 - 21, 2025

Virginia

July 6-12, 2025


New Jersey

July 13 - 19, 2025

Registration Opens February 2025

More Information

 <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>

 908-301-0500



SPONSOR A COFFEE HOUR

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

Thank you for your support!

HELP US GROW THROUGH E-GIVING



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

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

By giving electronically, you can:

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

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

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



NOTICE:

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sunday Coffee Hour
Sponsored by
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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

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


Fruit Tray
\$40

Spanakopita
100 pieces
\$75

Tyropita
100 pieces
\$75

Tray of Cheese, Olives & Crackers
\$100

Sandwiches
Tuna, Shrimp or Chicken
\$2 per piece


Greektown Square & Event Center

700 S. Quail Street | Baltimore, MD 21224
tel: 410-633-5020 tel: 410-633-3131 | fax: 410-631-2706
email: info@greektownsquare.com

Greek Dishes For Pick Up
Sponsored by
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Pre-orders required Wednesday prior | Cooked or frozen

Dolmades
1/2 Tray (50 pieces)
\$50

Spanakopites
35 square pieces
\$40

Tiropites
35 square pieces
\$40

Pastitsio
1/2 Tray
\$55

Mousaka
1/2 Tray
\$60

Lamb Shank w/ Orzo
5 Orders
\$100


Greektown Square & Event Center

700 S. Quail Street | Baltimore, MD 21224
tel: 410-633-5020 tel: 410-633-3131 | fax: 410-631-2706
email: info@greektownsquare.com

Makaria Menu
Sponsored by
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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

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

Choices of Entree
Choice of two sides, Roll & Butter (included)

31pp
Flounder (broiled/fried)
Shrimp Creole
Cod Fish (broiled/fried)

39pp
Two (2) Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes
Choice of Fish and One (1) Jumbo Lump Crab Cake

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

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

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


Greektown Square & Event Center

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tel: 410-633-5020 tel: 410-633-3131 | fax: 410-631-2706
email: info@greektownsquare.com

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

STEWARDSHIP YEAR: 2024 (11/1/23 –10/31/24)						
Contribution Type	Transaction Location	Pledged	Received	Outstanding	Report Date:	12-31-24
Pledged	Office	\$97,600.00	\$96,736.00	-\$864.00	Number Of Family Contributions	428
Not Pledged	Office/Vanco	--	\$167,944.00	--	Number of Individual Contributions	478
TOTAL	--	--	\$264,680.00	--		--

Adams, Michael & Sylvia
 Agapios, Diamantis
 Agapios, Maria
 Ahepa Lord Baltimore #364
 Akalestos, Emmanuel & Kaiti
 Alafassos, Spiro & Penny
 Alevrogiannis, Argie
 Alexandrou, Constantina
 Alexandrou, Niki
 Amann, Mary & Franz
 Anastasiades, Demos & Nancy
 Angelopoulos, Chris
 Angelos, John & Irene
 Angelos, Mark & Kalliope
 Angelou, Maria
 Anonymous, Anonymous
 Apesos, Antigoni
 Aravidis, Nickolas & Smaragda
 Arbulu, Sophia
 Argetakis, Andronikos & Paraskevi
 Argetakis, Angeliki
 Argetakis, George & Kelly
 Argirakis, Pantelis & Despina
 Argiropoulos, William & Fotini
 Argyrakis, Despina
 Arnas, Kiriakos & Deana
 Aronis, Konstatinios & Moragiannis, Vasiliki
 Asmar-, Oliver & Nikoletos, Anna
 Athanasiou, Antonios & Penny
 Athos, Janet
 Atsalis, Gus & Kalliope
 Atsalis, Maria
 Atsidis, Ioannis & Efthimia
 Avgerinos, Despina
 Avgerinos, George & Phaedra
 Avgerinos, Vasilios & Sophia
 Bakalis, John
 Balatsoukas, Konstantina
 Balomas, Patricia
 Barkas, Maria & Fotini
 Basil, George & Angie
 Belios, Peter & Vergos, Karen
 Bisbikis, Pete & Eleni
 Bisiotis, Dimitrios & Fotini
 Black, Mark
 Bonolis, Catherine
 Bouloubasis, Nicholas
 Bournias, Lambrini
 Bournousouzis, Panagiota
 Bouyoukas, John
 Britzolakis, Georgios & Eugenia
 Canning, Nicole
 Cardiges, Nicholas
 Cejpek, Peter & Foula
 Chagetas, Angela
 Chalkias, Ioannis & Sofia
 Chambarlis, John
 Charalambopoulos, Charalambos & Aspasia
 Charalambopoulos, George & Sofia Koutsoumbis
 Chrissomallis, Metaxia
 Chrissomallis, Sophie
 Christ, Philip & Marinam
 Christakou, Stavroula
 Comninos, Georgio
 Conway, Rose
 Cook, Harry
 Cornias, Arezina
 Cornias, Despina
 Cornias, Fotini

Cornias, Kalliopi
 Cornias, Larry
 Cornias, Mark & Kiriaki
 Cornias, Nicholas
 Cossis, Milton & Amalia
 Curtis, John
 Dardamanis, Eva
 Dargakis, Ioannis
 Dendrinis, Evangelia
 Diacogiannis, Michael
 Diakantonis, Nickolaos & Agathi
 Dimas, Nikolaos & Dena
 Dimidis, Anna
 Diniotis, Anastasia
 Douskas, Konstantinos
 Douskas, Nicolas & Dimitra
 Douskas, Vasiliki
 Efthimiou, Giannoula
 Eliopoulos, Anna
 Eliou, Ernest & Lilian
 Fakas, James & Valasia
 Fakas, Vasilios
 Fantis, Flora
 Fantis, Penelope
 Filipidis, Effie
 Filipidis, James
 Filipidis, Nicholas
 Filippakis, Filippos
 Filippou, Jason & Maria
 Filippou, Nicholas
 Forakis, George
 Forakis, Michael & Alexandra
 Forakis, Nicholas & Athena
 Forakis, Stamati & Despina
 Fotinos, Aikaterini
 Fotinos, James
 Fotinos, Michael
 Foukas, Pavlos & Andromahi
 Fragakis, Aikaterini
 Frangakis, Sofoula
 Frangos, Constantine
 Frangos, John & Katerina
 Friedlander, Amy
 Galitsatos, Gerasimos
 Gargiulo, Angela
 Gavrilis, John & Patricia
 Gavrilis, Nick
 Gazonas, George
 Georgakakou, Vasiliki & Chandar, Bharath
 Georgalas, Michael & Hrisovalantou
 Georgas, George
 Georgas, Savas & Kyra
 Georgiadis, Diogenis & Nektaria
 Gerapetrites, Panagiota
 Gialamas, Joanna
 Giannakoulas, George
 Giannakoulas, Konstantinos
 Giannas, Stylianos & Maria
 Giannopoulos, Ilias
 Giannopoulos, Vasilios
 Giordani, Greg
 Giorgakis, Antonios
 Giorgakis, Vasilios
 Glava, Kiki
 Glykiadis, Despina
 Glytsis, Filippos & Papakanaki, Georgia
 Gourgoulianis, Demetrios
 Gyftopoulos, Sofia
 Halikias, Anastasia

Halikias, Anna
 Halkias, Fotini
 Handakas, Paul & Dorothy
 Harris, Athena
 Hatzidimitriou, John
 Hatziefthimiou, Anastasia
 Hatzigeorgalis, Antonios
 Hatzigeorgalis, Nicholas
 Hatzinicolos, Nick & Olga
 Home, Funeral
 Hondroulis, Emmanuel & Maria
 Houvardas, Minas
 Hristopoulos, Yianni
 Ieromonahos, Dimitrios & Maria
 Ieromonahos, Pantelis & Stamatia
 Iliadis, Mary
 Johns, Aspasia
 Kaikis, Andreas
 Kaikis, Clemis & Maria
 Kaitis, Angela
 Kaliakoudas, Sofia
 Kaminaris, Demetrios & Michelle
 Kanellopoulos, Fotis
 Kapetanakos, Elias & Stephanie
 Kapetanakos, Soulla
 Kaputsos, Marshall
 Karabelas, Ioanna
 Karabelas, Pete & Helen
 Karaflos, Athanasios
 Karagiannis, Carla
 Karagiannis, Maria
 Karagiannopoulos Smelser, Eleni
 Karamihalios, George
 Karamihalios, Theologos
 Karanikolis, Nick & Chrysanthi
 Karanikolis, Nikos & Vasiliki
 Karavedas, Viola
 Karellas, Eugenia
 Karousos, George & Markella
 Karoutsos, George & Alexandra
 Kastanakis, Michael & Nikki
 Kastellorizios, Konstantinos & Maria
 Kastellorizios, Lisa (Evangelia)
 Katsaros, Emanuel
 Katsaros, Michael & Sophia
 Katsas, Stavros & Evangelia
 Kattavenos, Michael & Stamatia
 Kefalas, Mike & Nora
 Kerr, Travis & Maria
 Killias, Savas & Sophia
 Kimos, Elaine
 Klosterides, Michael
 Klosteridis, Michael & Klosteridis, Eleni
 Kolaitis, Dimitrios
 Koliadis, Zinovia
 Koliotofis, Evangelos & Athina
 Kolotos, Dora
 Konstantinou, John & Mary
 Kontogeorgakis, Christos
 Kontoudis, Konstantinos & Kyriaki
 Kornias, Christos & Irene
 Kornias, George & Maria
 Korologos, John & Angeliki
 Korologos, Louis & Anastasia
 Korologos, Spiros & Tsambika
 Korologos, Triantafillos
 Kosmas, Demetrios & Denise
 Kosmas, Sam & Lerakis, Marianna
 Kostos, John

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Koukides, Georgios
 Koukides, Harry & Stella
 Koukides, John
 Koukides, Konstantinos & Styliani
 Koulatsos, Anastasia
 Koulatsos, Dionisios
 Koumoudis, Sotiris & Vasiliki
 Kouroupis, Steve
 Kourtesis, Michael & Adrienne
 Koutelis, Adamantios
 Koutsantonis, Demetrios
 Koutsantonis, George
 Koutsantonis, John
 Kovios, Panagiotis & Christine
 Kron, Christopher & Alexa
 Lagadinos, Katerina
 Laiakis, Dimitrios & Anastasia
 Lallas, Eva
 Lambrow, Stephanie
 Larentzos, James & Despina
 Laskarides, Demetrios
 Laskaridis, Nikolaos
 Lentis, Minas & Kostalas, Eleni
 Lerakis, Dimitra
 Lericos, Irene
 Lessis, Ioannis & Kalliopi
 Lioreisis, Stacey
 Luebben, Paraskevi
 Lykos, Fotis & Maria
 Makris, John
 Mamilis, Konstantinos
 Manolitsis, Ismini
 Maragos, Petros & Lambrini
 Marianos, Vasilios
 Mastromanolis, Manuel
 Mavrikos, Lambrini
 Mavrodontis, Zaharias & Voula
 Mavromoustakos, Tsampika
 Mavronis, Michael & Kleopatra
 Mavronis, Nicholas
 Mavroulis, Photis & Eva
 Mehani, Bledar & Nathanaili, Irina
 Micklos, Angelos & Panagiota
 Micklos, Christine
 Mihail, Nikolaos & Lee Ann
 Miller, Emmanuel
 Millett, Earl & Alex, Elizabeth
 Milonas, Kimon
 Mimaros, Stavros & Maria
 Minadakis, Antonios & Agapi
 Minas, Rose
 Moniodis, Michael & Effie
 Moniodis, Michael & Flora
 Moskonas, Vasiliki
 Moskos, Thomas & Tampa
 Myaris, John & Sofia
 Nezis, Nikolaos & Hariklia
 Nistazos, George & Despina
 Nistazos, Nickolas & Alena
 Nychis, George & Angeliki
 Nychis, Vasilios & Evangelia
 O'Drudy, Leo & Tricia
 Ohno, William & Maria
 Oikonomou, Fr. Georgios
 Orfanidis, Vasilias
 Orfanos, Michael
 Palas, John & Katina
 Panagodimos, Panagiotis
 Pandelidis, Demetrios & Elisavet
 Pantelides, Joanne
 Papadimitriou, Ermion
 Papadimitriou, George
 Papadopoulos, Anastasios & Marianthi
 Papadopoulos, Efstathios & Kalliopi
 Papalexopoulos, Christianna
 Papathakis, Matthew
 Papavasiliou, Lucas & Renee
 Papavasiliou, Virginia
 Paragios, Ioannis & Popi
 Paralys, Kon/Nos & Anna
 Paros, Mary
 Parthemos, Antonia & Mitchem, Jos
 Parthemos, Kalliope
 Parthemos, Konstantinos & Angelika
 Pasiyas, Giorgos & Vicky Mouhtouris
 Paterakis, Chuck & Olga
 Pateris, John
 Pateris, Nicanor
 Patras, Nikos & Kelly
 Patras, Stephen
 Patrikios, Aikaterine & Jissri, Mike
 Peach, Antonia
 Pentikis, Anthony
 Petrinolis, Irene
 Petropoulos, Konstantinos
 Philippou, Kalliopi
 Philippou, Philip
 Pikounis, Adrew
 Pikounis, Eleni
 Pikounis, George & Vasiliki
 Pikounis, John & Despina
 Pikounis, Kalliope
 Pirovolikos, Michael & Eirini
 Polikandriotis, Maria
 Polikandriotis, Nicholas
 Politis, Minas & Sophia
 Polychronis, Aristides & Virginia
 Posluszny, Jeffrey & Daphne
 Poulimenakos, Eleni
 Prassinias, Demetrios & Carol
 Protopoulos, Emmanuel & Kalliopi
 Protopoulos, George & Sofia
 Protopoulos, Nicholas
 Psichis, Dula
 Pulianias, Despina
 Qirjako, Spiro & Bona
 Quintero, Dennis & Rita
 Redmiles, Sophia
 Reese, Kalyopi & John
 Reppas, Paraskevi
 Reppas, Soterios & Elia
 Rigopoulos, Mary Ann
 Roberts, Brian & Maria
 Rologas, Christina
 Roros, Arieta
 Roros, Dimitrios & Polly
 Roros, John & Angeliki
 Roros, Kyriaki
 Roros, Nikolettta
 Roros, Stavros
 Roussos, Anthony & Laura
 Roxanis, Dean & Soula
 Roxanis, John
 Roxanis, Steven
 Sakellis, George & Penelope
 Sakellis, Michael & Kalliope
 Sakpazis, Ioannis & Maria
 Saliaris, Panagiotis
 Salpeas, Maria
 Santoro, Chris & Chrissie
 Sarantakos, Yiota
 Sarioglou, Kerassa
 Sarioglou, Nikolaos
 Sarlanis, Kiriako
 Sarris, Mihalia
 Sazaklis, Antonios
 Schaefer, Stephanie
 Serafis, Mary
 Sfakianoudis, John & Angeliki
 Sfiriou, Antonia
 Sisamis, Ioannis & Pothiti
 Siskos, Stefanos & Dina
 Skandalis, George
 Skevofilax, Emmanuel
 Skordalos, Kostantinos
 Skordalos, Vasilios & Sandy
 Smoudianis, John & Stamatine
 Sotirchos, Elias & Yiouli Ktena
 Souranis, Maritsa
 Souranis, Paraskevi
 Spencer, Eric & Donna
 Stakias, Dimitrios & Joanne
 Stakias, George & Mary
 Stakias, Michael & LEMONIA
 Stakias, Stelios & Tina
 Stamatopoulos, Nicolas
 Stamides, Sofia
 Stamidis, Anastasios & Angela
 Stamidis, Chrisoula
 Stamidis, Gefsie
 Stamoulis, Kyriakos & Jessica
 Stavlas, Jerry & Kalliope
 Stewart, John & Rita
 Syropoulos, Amalia
 Syropoulos, Nicholas & Angeliki
 Tampakakis, Emmanuel
 Tasker, Dale & Kalomira
 Tetteris, Rhodea
 Themelis, John & Renee
 Theoharis, Emmanuel & Maria
 Topouzoglou, Anastasios & Patricia
 Triantafilos, Costas & Mary
 Trintis, Thorina
 Tripoulas, Marilena
 Tsakalos, Jeanette
 Tsamouras, Constantine & Moshoula
 Tsamos, George & Demetra
 Tsamos, John & Nikolettta
 Tsamos, Michael & Christina
 Tsapakidis, Nikolaos
 Tsapakidis, Theoharis & Papadimas, Evangelia
 Tsapalas, Dimitris
 Tsapalas, Stefanos
 Tsapalas, Theodore & Pamela
 Tserkis, Vasilios
 Tspouras, Ilias & Renia
 Tsironis, Evdokia
 United Chian Society Of Baltimore
 Valilis, Evangelia
 Valilis, Panagiotis
 Vasilakopoulos, Anastasia
 Vasilakopoulos, Irene
 Vasiliades, Antonios & Sofia
 Vasiliades, Minus & Kelly
 Vasilios, Frank & Irene
 Vatakis, Tessie
 Vavakas, Kiki
 Venetis, Dimitrios & Kiki
 Verenakis, Maria
 Vergos, George
 Vergos, John
 Vergos, Stephanie
 Vizaniaris, Evangelina
 Vourgarakis, Harry
 Weglein, Elizabeth
 Xouri, Sofia
 Yeakim, Dionysios & Angela
 Yianakis, Steve & Katina
 Zdziera, Steve & Nitsa
 Zervos, Christine

STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

STEWARDSHIP YEAR: 2025 (11/1/24 –10/31/25)						
Contribution Type	Transaction Location	Pledged	Received	Outstanding	Report Date:	12-31-24
Pledged	Office	\$31,945.00	\$8,835.00	\$23110	Number Of Family Contributions	94
Not Pledged	Office/Vanco	--		--	Number of Individual Contributions	110
TOTAL	--	--	\$48,959.00	--		--

Alourdass, Nick	Kalambihis, Maria	Papavasiliou, Virginia
Amann, Mary & Franz	Kaminaris, Demetrios & Michelle	Paragios, Ioannis & Popi
Angelopoulos, Chris	Kapetanakos, Elias & Stephanie	Parthemos, Antonia & Mitchem, Jos
Angelos, John & Irene	Karaflos, Nektarios	Parthemos, Kaliope
Angelos, Mark & Kalliope	Kazamias, Voula	Peach, Antonia
Aravidis, Nickolas & Smaragda	Koliadis, Zinovia	Petrinolis, Irene
Basil, George & Angie	Komninios, Emmanuel	Philippou, Philip
Black, Mark	Komninios, Joanna	Pikounis, Adrew
Bonolis, Catherine	Korologos, Louis & Anastasia	Polikandriotis, Kostas & Hariklia
Canning, Nicole	Koukides, Georgios	Polikandriotis, Maria
Cardiges, Nicholas	Koukides, Harry & Stella	Polychronis, Aristides & Virginia
Chionis, Antonios	Koumoudis, Sotiris & Vasiliki	Prassinias, Demetrios & Carol
Cook, Harry	Kouroupis, Steve	Protopapas, George & Sofia
Cornias, Fotini	Kourtesis, Michael & Adrienne	Protopapas, Nicholas
Cornias, John	Kron, Christopher & Alexa	Redmiles, Sophia
Cornias, Larry	Lallas, Eva	Samaras, Peter
Cornias, Mark & Kiriaki	Ledakis, Panagiotis	Sarioglou, Anastasia
Cossis, Milton & Amalia	Lentis, Minas & Kostalas, Eleni	Sarioglou, Nikolaos
Fakas, James & Valasia	Loizou, Chris & Doxia	Sarlanis, Kiriako
Filipidis, James	Lykos, Konstantinos	Sazaklis, Antonios
Filippakis, Filippos	Mastromanolis, Manuel	Skandalis, George
Fotinos, Aikaterini	Mastrovasilis, Michael & Lisa Kastellorizios	Stamidis, Anastasios & Angela
Foukas, Pavlos & Andromahi	Micklos, Christine	Stamoulis, George & Maria
Gargiulo, Angela	Millett, Earl & Alex, Elizabeth	Stewart, John & Rita
Georgakakou, Vasiliki & Chandar, Bharath	Millon, Edwards & Florence	Tasker, Dale & Kalomira
Georgalas, Michael & Hrisovalantou	Myaris, John & Sofia	Themelis, John & Renee
Giannakoulis, Amy	Nickoles, Josh	Tserkis, George
Gray, Jamison	Nistazos, George & Despina	Vasilakopoulos, Irene
Harris, Athena	Nistazos, Nickolas & Alena	
Hatzigeorgalis, Antonios	O'Drudy, Leo & Tricia	
Hatzigeorgalis, Nicholaos	Oikonomou, Fr. Georgios	
Ieromonahos, Pantelis & Stamatia	Papadopoulos, Anastasios & Marianthi	
Kafouros, Demetrios	Papalexopoulos, Christianna	

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- 2) Enter stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org as the To address. If this address does not work, you may need to use **STserv@stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org**. Older list serve accounts were configured with the STserv address.
- 3) Enter **“subscribe”** *stnicholasbaltimore* in the body of your message where *stnicholasbaltimore* is the name of the list you are subscribing to.
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- 5) Send the email; you will receive a confirmation if you successfully subscribed.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR - JANUARY

Wednesday, January 1: Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia:
Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:15 am

Sunday, January 5: Eve of Epiphany: Orthros: 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:15
Blessing of the Waters (Strict Fast)

Monday, January 6: Holy Epiphany Day: Blessing of the Great Waters
Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:15 am

Tuesday, January 7: Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner
Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:15 am

Sunday, January 12: Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

Friday, January 17: Anthony the Great: Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Sunday, January 19: 12th Sunday of Luke: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

Saturday, January 25: Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople
Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Sunday, January 26: 15th Sunday of Luke: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

Thursday, January 30: Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom:
Divine Liturgy 9:00 am



Epiphany of Our Lord