The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ holds great significance in Orthodox Christianity, emphasizing the incarnation of the Son of God as the fulfillment of prophecies and the foundation of salvation. This article aims to provide an explanation of the Nativity event from an Orthodox perspective, focusing on insights gleaned from the teachings of the Holy Fathers – the renowned theologians of the early Christian Church.

The Mystery of the Incarnation
The Orthodox understanding of the Nativity places strong emphasis on the mystery of the Incarnation. The Holy Fathers teach that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, entered into human history and assumed human nature without diminishing His divine nature. This union of the divine and the human in the person of Jesus Christ is known as the hypostatic union, expressing the inseparable nature of His two natures.

The Virgin Birth
Orthodox theology places great importance on the Virgin Birth. The Holy Fathers interpret Mary’s divine conception by the Holy Spirit as a testimony to the extraordinary nature of Christ’s incarnation. They affirm that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Christ, signifying the purity and sanctity of the Incarnation.

The Theotokos
The title Theotokos, meaning “Mother of God,” is central to Orthodox Christology. The Holy Fathers used this title to emphasize that Mary, as the Mother of Jesus, gave birth not merely to a human person but to the divine Son of God. The title defends the true nature of Christ against early heresies and affirms the unity of His divinity and humanity.

The Role of Prophecy and Fulfillment
Orthodoxy places great emphasis on the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the birth of Christ. The Holy Fathers saw the Nativity as the culmination of God’s salvific plan, as predicted in numerous prophecies. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, His lineage traced back to David, and His humble surroundings all reflect the fulfillment of ancient prophetic words.

The Theophany of the Nativity
The Nativity is seen as a theophany, a divine revelation of God’s glory and love for humankind. The celebration of the Divine Liturgy during the Nativity services serves as a spiritual encounter between heaven and earth. The Holy Fathers teach that through the Nativity, God condescended to humanity, offering the possibility of experiencing divine communion and salvation.

The Incarnational Economy-Providence
Orthodox theology emphasizes the concept of the Incarnational Economy-Providence, whereby the Incarnation of Christ encompasses a broad, cosmic plan of salvation. The Holy Fathers teach that through Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection, the effects of the fall are reversed, and humanity is reconciled with God. The Nativity event is the foundation of this redeeming work.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ represents a profound mystery in Orthodox theology. The insights of the Holy Fathers provide valuable guidance in understanding the significance of Christ’s birth in the Orthodox perspective. The Nativity, as the beginning of the Incarnation and the fulfillment of divine prophecies, holds the promise of redemption and offers a pathway for humanity’s reconciliation with God. Through contemplation and celebration of the Nativity, Orthodox Christians are invited to deepen their faith and embrace the transformative love of God.
The Archangel’s Call

is the monthly newsletter of the
Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church
25 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617.924.8182 Fax: 617.924.4124
Email: office@goarchangels.com

The Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Mission of the Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Archangel’s Call is published on the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the tenth of the prior month.

Layout and production by Cynthia Mitaras Alex
Cover Design by Alexandra Roll
Published by the
Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, MA

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Sunday School Director: Costas Karageorgis

Visit Our Taxiarchae Website
www.goarchangels.com
Our site is updated every week!

Father Athanasi, George Faggas, and the members of the Parish Council wish to all parishioners a most blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Ο Ιερεύς σας, ο Πρόεδρος και τα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου εύχονται εις όλα τα μέλη της Κοινότητος μας Χρόνια Πολλά, Καλά Χριστούγεννα και το Νέο ‘Ετος χαρούμενο και ευτυχισμένο!

The Archangel’s Call

Please let us know if you prefer to receive your monthly bulletin through email, rather than hard copy. Please email Cynthia Alex at cindialex1@gmail.com to let us know your preference. Thank you!
Our Choir is thrilled to once again offer our Christmas Concert “A Concert of Christmas Joy” on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM. Our Christmas Choir is made up of the members of our own choir, as well as members of other choirs in the Boston area. Come and enjoy the beautiful sounds of this holy season, which will include traditional carols, Greek hymns, and even some Gospel music. Our guest conductor Monty Hill will direct us in the Hallelujah Chorus. This will be a fabulous concert, and I look forward to seeing you all there. Please come and support our beautiful Choir. I am so proud of all of our members who have worked so hard for this.

A reception will follow in the church hall, presented by the ladies of our Philoptochos.

Cynthia Mitaras Alex, Choir Director

---

**A Concert of Christmas Joy**

Two performances:

**Saturday, December 9 at 4 PM**

**Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM**

**Hosted by St. George Greek Orthodox Church Choir**

**Hosted by Taxiarchoe Greek Orthodox Church Choir**

54 South Common Street, Lynn, MA

25 Digelow Avenue, Watertown, MA

Cynthia Mitaras Alex

Sophia Argeros

Director

Accompanist, Director

Monty Hill, Guest Director

Jim Speros, Accompanist

Donations to our Choirs will be graciously accepted.

A reception will follow each performance, co-hosted by members of the Chorus and the Philoptochos Society

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**Schedule of Services**

**Christmas through Epiphany 2023-2024**

**Sunday, Dec. 10:** Choir Christmas Concert, 4 PM

**Sunday, Dec. 17:** Children’s Christmas Pageant

**Sunday, Dec. 24:** Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8.30 AM

**Sunday, Dec. 24:** CHRISTMAS EVE DIVINE LITURGY, 6:30 PM

**Monday, Dec. 25:** THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Festal Matins (Orthros only) of Christmas, 9 AM

**Monday, Jan. 1:** ST. BASIL, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:30 AM

**Friday, Jan. 5:** EVE OF EPIPHANY

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, Great Blessing of the Waters, 6 PM

**Saturday, Jan. 6:** EPIPHANY

Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil; Agiasmos (Holy Water), 8:30 AM

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**Πρόγραμμα Εορτών Χριστουγέννων και Νέου Έτους 2023-2024**

KYRIAKI, 10 DEK. Χριστουγεννιάτικη Συναυλία της Χωρωδίας

KYRIAKI, 17 DEK. Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πρόγραμμα

KYRIAKI, 24 DEK. Ορθρός και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8.30 π.μ.

KYRIAKI, 24 DEK. ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Θεία Λειτουργία, 6.30 μ.μ.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 25 DEK. ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Πανηγυρικός Ορθρός Χριστουγέννων, 9 π.m.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 1 ΙΑΝ. ΤΟΥ ΑΓ. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ

Ορθρός και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8.30 π.μ.

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ, 5 ΙΑΝ. ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ

Εσπερινός και Θεία Λειτουργία, ΜΕΓΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ, 6 μ.μ.

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ, 6 ΙΑΝ. ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ

Ορθρός, Θ. Λειτουργία, ΜΕΓΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ, 8.30 π.μ.
All are warmly invited to join the Bible Study Group which meets via zoom every week on Monday evening at 8 PM. With the participation of Father Nenes, and facilitated by Dr. Nicholas S. Racheotes, we engage in lively, thoughtful, and uplifting discussions of Holy Scripture in what always proves to be a fast-moving hour. We are continuing our current focus on the Birth of Christ. As we traverse the season of Advent, we shall be looking at the prophesies of the Savior’s coming, the scriptural narratives of the Nativity, and the ways in which this most important event was treated by the Eastern Fathers. This is a precious opportunity for us to add to the devotion of the season. On behalf of the group, we would like to wish everyone in the Archangels family the blessings of Christmas and happiness in the New Year.

To become part of our welcoming group, you need only contact Frank Catrickes at fdcatrickes@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Bible Study on December 25 and January 1. Meetings will resume on January 8.
Dear Parish family,

THANK YOU to all our wonderful ladies who baked for the Feast Day of our beloved Church! You always come through whenever you are asked.

As usual, December is a busy month. Please look at the dates below. We hope to see you at these events so that we may celebrate the Christmas season together as a family.

On Sunday, December 10, we will be co-hosting with the AHEPA our Senior Christmas Luncheon. We are so happy to work with the Ahepans and celebrate together. Please make your reservations with the church office. Don’t miss this wonderful event as we gather as a church family to begin celebrating the Christmas season. (See page 4.)

The Choir Christmas Concert is at 4 pm on December 10 as well. We hope that you will attend and will also help the Philoptochos with the reception after the concert. Many hands make light work. (See page 3.)

Everyone is welcome to join Philoptochos. Please consider becoming a member of Philoptochos. We will be planning events. Looking forward to working with all of you to further the mission of Philoptochos.

As we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior, please remember all the blessings that have been given to you and please remember that every one of you is a blessing to this parish. Let us put our differences aside and remember that in this crazy society we need each other. Let us help those who are less fortunate than us. Let us pray for peace in the world that we live in.

On behalf of the Philoptochos, I pray that the birth of our Lord will fill your lives and homes with faith, hope, joy and love.

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas shared with family and friends and a happy, healthy, peaceful, and joyous New Year filled with good health, happiness, respect, kindness and love for one another.

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένος Καινούργιος Χρόνος 2024!

With sisterly love, Fotoula Kopellas

Important dates to remember:
December 10- Senior Christmas Luncheon co-hosted with AHEPA
December 10- Choir Christmas Concert
January 2024- Vasilopita Sunday TBA

2023 Taxiarchae Community Christmas Card
It’s that time of year again to send your Christmas greetings to our parish family!

All Christmas card donations will go towards the Philoptochos Agape Fund which was established to assist those members in our community who are in need of a little extra help financially due to tragedy or illness.

Preparation of this project requires a great deal of planning, so please make your donation now before the busy holiday season approaches.

May God bless you as we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Καλά Χριστούγεννα! Καλά Χριστούγεννα! Thank you for your support!

(Complete the form and return to the church office. Any questions, please call 617.924.8182.)

Community Christmas Card Order Form
Send to: Taxiarchae/Archangels
Attn: Philoptochos — Fran Levas
Greek Orthodox Church
25 Bigelow Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472

Deadline:
Sunday, December 3, 2023

Make checks payable to:
Taxiarchae Ladies Philoptochos

Clearly print the name(s) you wish to appear on the card.

Name(s):_________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Telephone___________________

Your donation: $____________
Christmas 2023 is almost here. Our Greek School along with the Sunday School will once again have the Christmas Pageant. Afterwards the children will sing traditional Kalanta.

The Greek School will have a Bake Sale on December 17th soon after the Pageant. Please stop to buy Christmas delicacies.

Christmas Wishes Alphabet

Lately in the news we have been bombarded by news of war, violence, crime, poverty, oppression and death. In a school in Greece, the teacher and students wanted to send a message of hope to counter act these horrible messages that inundate us daily. The students decorated their school Christmas tree with the “Alphabet of Wishes”, every letter one wish.

The Teachers and I wish you all,
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Greek School Classes for the Christmas Break from December 21, 2023 through January 3, 2024. Classes resume on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

A – ΑΓΑΠΗ
B – ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑ
Γ – ΓΑΛΗΝΗ
Δ – ΔΥΝΑΜΗ
Ε – ΕΙΡΗΝΗ
Ζ – ΖΩΗ

Η – ΗΡΕΜΙΑ
Θ – ΘΑΡΡΟΣ
Ι – ΙΣΟΤΙΜΙΑ
Κ – ΚΑΛΟΣΥΝΗ
Λ – ΛΟΓΙΚΗ
Μ – ΜΑΚΡΟΖΩΙΑ

Ν – ΝΟΙΑΣΙΜΟ
Ξ – ΞΕΓΝΟΙΑΣΙΑ
Ο – ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ
Π – ΠΙΣΤΗ
Ρ – ΡΩΜΗ
Σ – ΣΥΜΠΟΝΙΑ

Τ – ΤΥΧΗ
Υ – ΥΓΕΙΑ
Ω – ΩΡΙΜΟΤΗΤΑ

Οι Δάσκαλες και εγώ σας ευχόμαστε,
ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΤΥΧΕΣ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2024

Agni Charalambous Thurner, Director
Phone: 617/610-9369
Email: athurner@goarchangels.com
Sunday School
This month, we will continue to display “The Giving Tree” in the main lobby of the cultural center. Please select a paper ornament or two from the tree. Place the wrapped gifts with the ornament attached under the tree by Sunday, December 17. These gifts will be delivered to the Dimock Center in Boston and other nearby organizations. Please support our Christmas Pageant which will be on December 17 and sign up your children to participate, if you haven’t done so already. Children from Sunday School and Greek School grades K through 5 may participate. Thank you for your help and God Bless you!

Costas Karageorgis,
Sunday School Director

Upcoming Important Dates through December 2023:
December 10: Christmas Pageant rehearsal Grades K-5 after class
Up to December 17: Giving Tree Collections
December 17: Christmas Pageant right after Liturgy
December 24 and 31: Vacation—No Sunday School

Welcome to the newest member of our church family!

November 18—Vittoria Vincenza Girginis
Parents: Alexandros & Amanda
Godparents: George & Joanna Zafiropoulos

The Giving Tree
The Christmas season is almost here, it's time for Taxiarchae to spread some cheer. The tree in the hall is decked with gifts, not to receive but for you to give. Each ornament represents a special life, for whom we will make Christmas day bright. An age, a name and wish are provided, may a Christmas spirit help you be guided. A wish could be a coat, a game, a book or a toy, but what's most important is the joy. It might be a warm scarf and some gloves, always remember in giving there is love. When you pick an ornament off the tree, hopefully you'll be delighted by what you see. Feel free to take an ornament or two, you may even want to take a few. The gifts will be given to people in need. I think you'll agree, it's a good idea indeed!

The Christmas Giving Tree is located in the lobby of the Cultural Center. Please select a paper ornament or two, from the tree. Place the wrapped gifts with the paper ornament attached under the tree by Sunday, December 17. These gifts will be delivered to the Dimock Center in Boston to help less fortunate children. Thank you for your help!

Decorate our Church for Christmas
Donations are being accepted for decorating our church for the Christmas Season. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Goya Christmas Youth of America
See you then!

Demetri Dogias,
Goya Advisor

Join us at our next GOYA gathering
Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM

Welcome to the newest member of our church family!
The helping hands ministry’s sole purpose is to make the lives of our parishioners easier in view of the restrictions many are facing today. The services we offer are:

- RX pickup/drug store
- Postal needs
- Grocery shopping

If you know someone from our church who may need these services, please contact Georgia (Jody) Bitsikas by email gbitsikas@aol.com or by calling 617-653-2461.

We are grateful for your generosity with the non-perishable food donations! Please be sure to check the expiration date. The health dept. will not allow the food pantry to accept any expired items. Shown here is a wish list for the food pantry and for finex house. God bless you for your support!

My sincerest thanks in helping our Outreach Program be so successful. For more info, please contact me at CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org

The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it the needs of the watertown food pantry continue. In addition to the staples listed below, please consider donating some typical holiday foods:

- Stovetop Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Gravy
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Sweet potatoes
- Pumpkin
- French’s Onions for Green Bean Casserole
- Canned vegetables

Desserts are especially needed as well:

- Pie crusts (not the refrigerated kind)
- Pie fillings
- Pudding mixes
- Flour
- Sugar
- Brown Sugar
- Vanilla extract
- Marshmallows

Items requested are:

- Sanitary napkins
- Shampoo
- Vaseline
- Cocoa butter
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Deodorant
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste

JOY/YOUTH MINISTRIES

We are helping the watertown food pantry succeed in their mission of a one-day toy shopping opportunity for local families in need.

Help make this Christmas brighter for local children!

COAT DRIVE

November 11 - December 3

Joy/Youth Ministries are collecting warm winter coats for children & adults

Nov. 11 - Dec. 3

Please, place them in the box located in our lobby

Coats only please! All sizes welcomed.

The helping hands ministry’s sole purpose is to make the lives of our parishioners easier in view of the restrictions many are facing today. The services we offer are:

- RX pickup/drug store
- Postal needs
- Grocery shopping

If you know someone from our church who may need these services, please contact Georgia (Jody) Bitsikas by email gbitsikas@aol.com or by calling 617-653-2461.
Costa Magimbi, our chanter, is available to assist and guide parishioners who are having problems navigating the Massachusetts Social Services system. You can meet with Costa on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy to set up an appointment.

Joshua Marriott and Dimitris Analitis placed first in the AHEPA Hellenic History tournament held on November 18 at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT! They won $1000 each and have been invited to the national tournament to be held next spring. There will be a large trophy sent to Taxiarchai to be on display for the year.

The young men were sponsored in this tournament by the Harris J. Booras Chapter #406 of Watertown, which provided all the required registration and study materials.

Congratulations Joshua and Dimitri!

We are very proud of you!

Please let us know if a brother is sick or in need.

President: John Abate  617.797.9499/617.484.5946
Secretary: Charles Pentikis  781.893.1264
Treasurer: Demetri Tsatsarones  781.893.5988/781.266.8001

TOPIC:

SHARE YOUR LIFE-TIME STORIES

Please join us—men and women. Bring a friend!

Our group is growing! We hope to see you there.

Blessed is the way wherein you walk today; for there is prepared for you a place of rest.

Remember in your prayers our brother and sisters who passed from this life...

...on November 8, Nicholas Markantonis
...on November 7, Athena Fillios

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη.
Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center
Planning a party or reception?

Our beautiful function rooms are now updated and ready for any and all of your event needs, up to 500 people. For information and assistance in planning your future events, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: functionmanager@goarchangels.com

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**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and ONLINE**

For information, please email: office@goarchangels.com

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[Advertise Business Details]

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Phone: 617-797-9499 • Fax: 617-484-0895

Email: john.abate2@verizon.net

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**In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church**

$_________ each week/month/annually

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**PLANNED GIVING**

☐ I wish to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan.

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**Communications**

May we add you to our Parish Email list?
☐ YES ☐ NO

How would you prefer to receive the Archangels Call Monthly Newsletter:
☐ Email  ☐ hard copy/postal mail

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**Information**

Name ________________________________
Name of Spouse (if married) ________________________________
Street Address ________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________
Home Phone ________________________________
Mobile Phone ________________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS ________________________________
Email Address of Spouse (if married) ________________________________
If any names have been mistakenly omitted from this list, please notify the church office and we will make corrections in our next bulletin.

Et έχει γίνει παράλληλα ονομάτων, παρακαλούμε αμέσως όπου απαντήσετε στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας να κάνετε διορθώσεις στο επόμενο τεύχος.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>14th Sunday of Luke</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom 8 PM p.4</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Greek School p.6 Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td>JOY p.6</td>
<td>Greek School p.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>10th Sunday of Luke</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom 8 PM p.4</td>
<td>St. Spyridion Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy 8:30 AM</td>
<td>GOYA 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Parotimo Chat 10 AM p.9 Greek School p.6 Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td>Family Ministries Gingerbread Houses p.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Elections p.4</td>
<td>Senior Luncheon p.4</td>
<td>Christmas Concert 4 PM p.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>11th Sunday of Luke</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom 8 PM p.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO Greek School Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Christmas Pageant p.7</td>
<td>Greek School Bake Sale p.6</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday before Nativity</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 11:19-10: 32-40</td>
<td>Nativity of our Lord Festal Matins of Christmas 9 AM (Orthros only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO Greek School NO Paraklesis</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25</td>
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<td>also Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM</td>
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<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday after Nativity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8</td>
<td>Circumcision of our Lord Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy 8:30 AM</td>
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<td>Eve of EPIPHANY Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Great Blessing of the Waters 6 PM</td>
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<td>Greek School p.6 NO Paraklesis</td>
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<td>Eve of EPIPHANY Orthros/Div. Liturgy of St. Basil 8:30 AM AGIASMOS Holy Water Greek School p.6</td>
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