

The Annunciator

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

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THE ASCENSION: AN EXCERPT FROM THE YEAR OF THE GRACE OF THE LORD BY A MONK OF THE EASTERN CHURCH PUBLISHED BY SVS PRESS

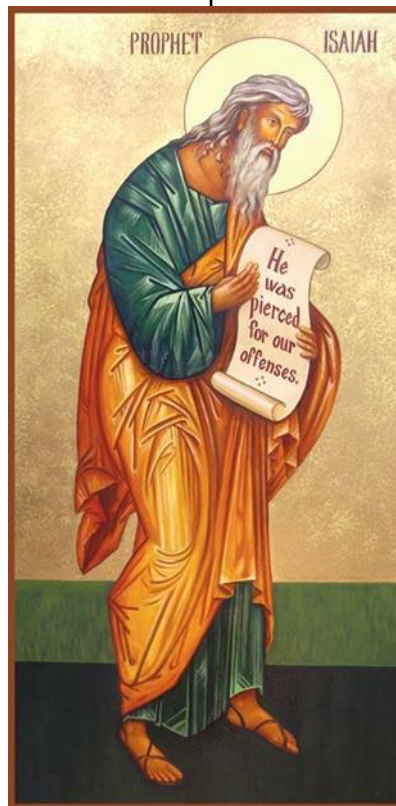
Edited by Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis

The Wednesday which follows the fifth Sunday after Easter is the day when, in liturgical terminology, we “take leave”, (we commemorate the “Απόδοσις,” Apodosiς”), of the Easter feast. We commemorate the last day of the physical presence of the risen Christ amongst his disciples; and to honor this presence, to honor the Resurrection once more, the church on this Wednesday repeats the service for Easter Sunday in its entirety. And now we have come to the fortieth day after Easter, the Thursday on which the Church celebrates the feast of the Ascension.

Three lessons from the Old Testament are read at vespers for the Ascension, on the Wednesday evening. The first lesson (Isaiah 2:2-3) speaks of a mountain: “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be estab-

lished as the highest of the mountains... and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.”

This refers to the Mount of Olives, from which Jesus ascended to his Father. The second lesson (Isaiah 62:10-63:3, 7-9) was chosen because of the following words: “Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, prepare the way of the people. In his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them...” Jesus, ascending to heaven, opens the gates to his people, He prepares a way for them, He carries them and raises them up with him. The third lesson (Zechariah 14:1, 4, 8-11), also speaks of the mountain which was the scene of Jesus’ final triumph:



“Behold the day of the Lord cometh.... And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east.... And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem.”

The chants at Matins/Orthros for the Ascension are already filled with references to the Spirit, the Comforter, whom Jesus will send. Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost.

At the liturgy, the beginning of the Book of the Acts (1:1-12) is read. Jesus, after a last meeting with His apostles, is taken up, and disappears in a cloud. The gospel for the liturgy (Luke 24:36-53) takes up the account of events from the first appearance of the risen Jesus to the assembled disciples and continues with it right up to the Ascension itself.

It is rare, if one has lived through the joy of Easter time sincerely, that one does not experience a certain constriction of the heart when the day of the Ascension comes. We know perfectly well that it is one of the very great Christian feasts, and yet, despite ourselves, it seems like a parting, a separation, and that after it, our Lord is not with us in quite the same way any longer. The disciples did not react like this. They could have been overwhelmed with grief, but, on the contrary, they ‘returned to Jerusalem with great joy’. We, too, can try and enter into this joy of the Ascension. Why does the Ascension bring joy to Christians?

First of all, the glory of our Lord must be very precious to us, and the Ascension is the crown of his earthly mission. He has accomplished on earth the whole mission, which He had received from the Father. It is to the Father that his whole being reaches out. Now He will receive

from the Father the welcome that His victory over sin and death—a victory gained so grievously—has merited for Him. Now He will be glorified in heaven. The glory and the desire of our Lord are surely more important to us than the sort of ‘perceptible consolations’ that we might receive from His presence. Let us know how to love our Lord enough to rejoice in his own joy.

Then the Ascension marks God’s acceptance of the Son’s whole work of humanity’s salvation. The Resurrection was the first dazzling sign of this acceptance, and Pentecost will be the last sign. The cloud which today envelopes Jesus and ascends with Him to heaven represents the smoke of the sacrifice rising from the altar to God. The sacrifice is accepted, and the victim is admitted to God’s presence where it will continue to be offered in an eternal and



heavenly manner. The work of our salvation has been accomplished and is blessed.

Jesus does not return to his Father in isolation. It was the incorporeal Logos, which came down among men. But today it is the Word made flesh, both true God and true man, who enters the kingdom of heaven. Jesus brings into it the human nature which He had assumed. He opens the door of the kingdom to humanity. As if by proxy, we take possession of the benefits, which are offered and made possible to us. “[God] raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). There are places destined for us in the kingdom, if we are faithful. Our presence is desired and awaited.

The Ascension makes thoughts of heaven more immediate, more actual to us. Do we think of our permanent home often enough? For most Christians, life in heaven is no more than a supplement—of which they have but a very hazy notion—to life on earth. Life in heaven is seen somewhat as a postscript, an appendix, to a book whose text is formed by earthly life. But it is the opposite which is true. Our earthly life is the preface to the book. Life in heaven will be its main text, and this text is endless. To make use of another image, our earthly life is a tunnel, narrow, dark—and very short—which opens onto a magnificent, sunlit landscape. We think too much of what our life now is. We do not think enough of what it will be. “Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him” (Isai-ah 64:4). At Orthros/Matins for this feast, we sing: “We who live in this world, let us feast like the angels...” That is to say: let us open our minds more to the angels, and try to enter into their feelings, experiencing something of

what they experienced when the Son returns to the Father; let us go ahead in spirit and be near the Blessed Virgin Mary and the glorified saints, who will be our true co-citizens: “But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:29). Our lives would be transformed if, from now on, we threw our hearts over the barrier, beyond this world, into the kingdom where is found not only our own true good, but also the good of those whom we love.

When the disciples had been separated from Jesus, they remained full of hope, for they knew that they were to receive the Spirit. “And being assembled together with *them* He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4).

The cloud surrounds Jesus, but this cloud is colored already by the fire of Pentecost. Jesus, in going away from us, leaves in us an attitude which is one not of regret, but rather of joyous and trustful awaiting.

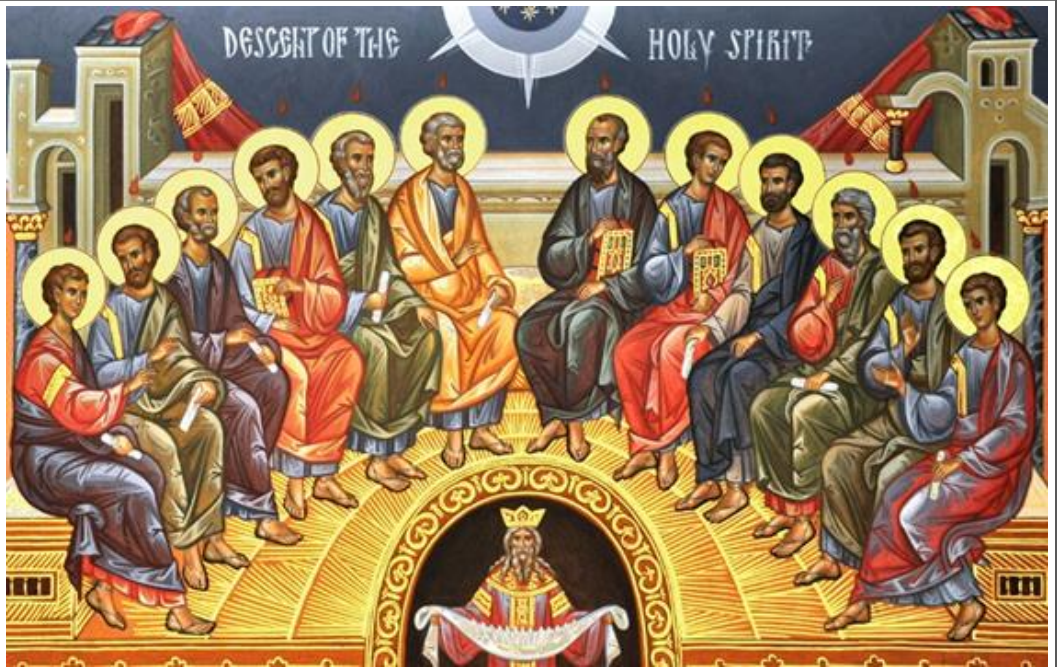
Jesus’s departure has been both an act of benediction and an act of adoration, the one corresponding to the other: “And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:51-53). This is what the feast of the Ascension should be to us. If Jesus withdraws with an act of blessing, and if we adore Jesus as he withdraws (we speak figuratively), we will get up filled with new power—which comes from this adoration, this blessing—and we, like the apostles, will return “with great joy”.



PENTECOST KNEELING VESPERS

By Rev. Father Christos P. Mars

People often say how beautiful the Lenten and Pascha services are. I've never once heard anybody say, "Oh Father, I so much enjoyed those never-ending Kneeling Prayers at the Kneeling Vespers." The "Kneeling Vespers" is a service which is celebrated immediately following the Divine Liturgy on the feast of Pentecost.



This service, popularly nicknamed "Kneeling Vespers," really ought to be celebrated on the evening of Pentecost itself, but long ago the Church learned that hardly anybody is going to come back on a summer Sunday evening, so she wisely directs us to have it after the Divine Liturgy before everybody can escape. We begin the Divine Liturgy a bit early on the feast of Pentecost so we can celebrate both services and finish at a similar time.

The feast of Pentecost concludes the great Fifty Days between Pascha and Pentecost when we do not kneel in church. Since we are risen with Christ: We stand in celebration.

We now resume kneeling with these beautiful "kneeling prayers." While the priest reads them in their entirety, it feels like they're never going to end—especially if the weather outside is beautiful and beckoning. People can hardly wait to escape. So why does the Church give us this unenjoyable service?

To make the point that the Great Feast is over. Pascha, the "feast of feasts and the festival above every festival" has concluded. We are now going back to "ordinary."

The Ecclesiastical Year, from the start of the Nativity Fast to the feast of Pentecost itself, teaches us about the life of Christ. The Ecclesiastical Year also teaches us about our life. Sometimes life is a Feast like Pascha: the great, happy times. Sometimes life is a Fast like Great Lent. It gives us trouble. Just like the half of the year from Pentecost until the start of the Nativity Fast, most of our life is ordinary. In some ways "ordinary" is the most dangerous, harder to handle than either feasting or fasting. The good times come naturally to us. Have you noticed that when we have good health, peace and prosperity, when the world is filled with kindness and decency, we quickly take it for granted? Sometimes we feel guilty about that, because we're so ungrateful. No. That's because God has made us for these

things. They are natural to us. During the hard times we usually get focused and turn to God. We summon up our inner resources, just in order to survive. It's in life's ordinary times, when nothing special is happening, that we can get lax and drift off.

Pentecost Vespers shows us how to handle the ordinary times:

1. Kneel, with humility before God.
2. Pray: much prayer, for the living, for the dead, for ourselves. Pray in the community, our lives enclosed by the continual prayers of the Church.
3. Don't expect too much. Life is never going to be a continual feast, and like the Kneeling Prayers, the ordinary times may seem to go on forever. We don't get the unending joy till we get to heaven. Life is often a quiet ordinary journey. So don't have unrealistic expectations about life. Kneeling Vespers certainly teaches us that!

The main focal point of the Kneeling Vespers at Pentecost are the three sets of prayers (seven total) which the celebrant reads as we all kneel, follow along and listen to him. Each set of prayers has a specific theme, to help guide us in our prayers.

In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our



earthly existence.

Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weaknesses, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

As we proceed through the many weeks after Pentecost, we will in fact find some beautiful feasts and also some fast periods and fasting days, the ups and downs of daily life. All these Sundays will be titled "Sundays after Pentecost." The Holy Spirit is there in the midst of it all. If we look, we will find much quiet joy in the ordinary times – so long as we don't expect it to be Pascha every day, and so long as we continue in the pattern the Church now sets forth for us: Kneel. Pray with the Church. And don't expect too much – not yet.

Get your knees ready. Here we go into the ordinary times.



THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Josh Boyd

For fifty days, from Pascha until Pentecost, one of the most ubiquitous and well-known prayers of the Church is not heard, either liturgically or in private prayer. For seven weeks the Church anticipates Christ's promise to his disciples that He will send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit (John 14:16–17, 26; 16:7). And while we wait in anticipation, re-living those days of anticipation that the apostles experienced, we refrain the opening prayer belonging to almost every liturgical service and private devotion. Until the Saturday Vespers of Pentecost, we will not hear or say the words directed in this ancient prayer:

“Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of good things and giver of life: come; take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every stain, and save our souls, O Good one.”

We wait in expectation, not only for the Apostles' receiving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, but also recalling our own reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit at our personal Pentecosts. Just as the three-day celebration of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection are an invitation for us to recall our mystical participation in his death and resurrection that occurs at our Baptism, so too is Pentecost an opportunity to remember that mystery which is so closely tied to Baptism: Chrismation. As we hear this prayer re-enter our liturgical and personal prayer life on the day of Pentecost, reminding us not only of

God's omnipresence but of His personal abode in each of us, dwelling in us, cleansing and saving us. And as we reflect on that mystical reality of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit *in us*, the question of *what*, or rather *Whom*, we receive as gift is worthy of our attention.

To answer this formidable question there is no better source in the English language than the 20th century theologian, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. In his book, *Of Water and the Spirit*, Fr. Alexander explores the Holy Mys-

tery of Baptism and through the rites and prayers of Orthodox initiation he reveals their deeper meaning. What follows is an extended excerpt from this rich text exploring something that applies to every one of us as Orthodox Christians—our entry into, and membership in, the Body of Christ effected by the Holy Spirit:

“[The] ultimate mystery of the Church consists in knowing the

Holy Spirit, in receiving Him, in being in communion with *Him*. And the fulfillment of Baptism in the holy anointment is the *personal* coming and revelation to man and the abiding in him, of the Holy Spirit Himself. But then the real question is: what does it mean to *know* the Holy Spirit, to *have* Him, and to *be in* Him?

“The best way to answer this question is to compare the knowledge of the Holy Spirit with that of Christ, it is self-evident that in order to know Christ, to love Him, to accept Him



as the ultimate meaning, content and joy of my life, I must first know something *about* Him. No one can believe in Christ without having heard about Him and His teachings, and it is this knowledge *about* Christ that we receive from apostolic preaching, from the Gospel and from the Church. But it is not an exaggeration to say that with the Holy Spirit this sequence—knowledge *about*, then knowledge *of*, and finally communion *with*—is reversed. There is nothing we can merely know *about* the Holy Spirit. Even the testimony of those who truly knew Him and were in communion with Him means nothing to us if we have not had the same experience. What indeed can be the meaning of the words in which the Eucharistic prayer of St. Basil speaks of the Holy Spirit: ‘the Gift of sonship, the pledge of future inheritance, the first fruits of eternal blessings, the life-creating power, the fountain of sanctification...’? When a friend asked St. Seraphim [of Sarov] to ‘explain’ the Holy Spirit to him, the saint gave no explanation but made him share in an experience which this friend described as that of ‘unwonted sweetness,’ ‘unwonted joy in all my heart,’ ‘unwonted warmth,’ and ‘unwonted fragrance,’ and which *is* the experience of the Holy Spirit; for, in the words of St. Seraphim, ‘when the Spirit of God descends on man and overshadows him with the fullness of His outpouring, then the human soul overflows with unspeakable joy because the Spirit of God turns to joy all that He may touch.’

“All this means that we *know* the Holy



Spirit only by His presence in us, the presence manifested above all by ineffable joy, peace and fullness. Even in ordinary human language these words—joy, peace, fullness—refer to something which is precisely *ineffable*, which by its very nature is beyond words, definitions and descriptions. They refer to those moments in life when life is *full of life*, when there is no lack of and therefore no desire for anything and thus no anxiety, no fear, no frustration. Man always speaks of happiness, and indeed life *is* a pursuit of happiness, a longing for life’s self-fulfillment. Thus one can say that the presence of the Holy Spirit in us is the fulfillment of true happiness. And since this happiness does not come from an identifiable and external ‘cause,’ as does our poor and fragile worldly happiness, which disappears with the disappearance of the cause that produced it, and since it does not come from anything in this world, yet results in a joy about everything, that happiness must be the fruit in us of the coming, the presence, the abiding of Someone Who Himself *is* Life, Joy, Peace, Beauty, Fullness, Bliss.

“This Someone is the Holy Spirit. There is no *icon*, no representation of Him, for He was not made flesh, neither has He become man. Yet when He comes and is present in us, everything becomes His icon and revelation, communion with Him, knowledge of Him. For it is He Who makes life into life, joy into joy, love into love and beauty into beauty, and Who therefore *is* the Life of life, the Joy of joy, the Love of love and the Beauty of beauty, Who

being above and beyond everything makes the entire creation the symbol, the sacrament, the experience of His presence: man's encounter with God and communion with Him. He is not 'apart' or 'outside' because He is the Sanctifier of all things, yet He reveals Himself in this 'Sanctification' as being *beyond* the world, *beyond* all that exists. Through sanctification we truly know *Him* and not an impersonal divine *It*, although no human words can define and therefore 'isolate' into an 'object' Him Whose very revelation as Person is that He reveals everyone and everything as unique and personal, as 'subject' and not 'object,' makes everything into a personal encounter with the ineffable divine *Thou*.

"As the fulfillment of His saving work Christ promised the descent, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Christ came to restore us to the life which we lost in sin, to give us again life 'more abundantly' (John 10:10). And the 'content' of this life and thus of the Kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit. When He comes 'on the last and great day' of Pentecost, it is life abundant and the Kingdom of God that are truly inaugurated, i.e. manifested and communicated to us. The Holy Spirit, Whom Christ had from all eternity as *His* Life, is given to us as *our* life. We remain in 'this world,' we continue to share in its mortal existence; yet because we have received the Holy Spirit, our true life is 'hid with Christ in God' (Col. 3:3) and we are *already* and *now* partakers of God's eternal Kingdom, which for 'this world' is still *to come*.

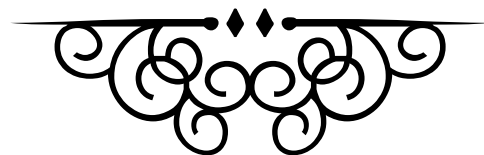
"We understand now why, when the Holy Spirit comes, He unites us with Christ, makes

us into Christ's Body, into partakers of Christ's Kingship, Priesthood and Prophecy. For the Holy Spirit, being God's Life, is truly the Life of Christ; He is in a unique way *His* Spirit. Christ, by giving us His Life, gives us the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit, by descending upon us and abiding in us, gives us Him Whose Life He is.

"Such is the gift of the Holy Spirit, the meaning of our personal Pentecost in the sacrament of the holy anointment. It *seals*, i.e. makes, reveals, confirms, us as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, as partakers of the Holy Spirit. And by this *seal* it truly makes us into ourselves, 'ordains' each one of us to be and to become that which God from all eternity wants us to be, revealing our *true personality* and thus our only self-fulfillment.

"The gift is given fully, abundantly, overwhelmingly. 'God gives not the Spirit by measure' (John 3:34), and 'of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace' (John 1:16). Now it must be appropriated, truly received, made ours. And this is the goal of Christian life."

— Alexander Schmemmann, *Of Water and the Spirit: A Liturgical Study of Baptism*, (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1974) 104–107.



PARISH REGISTRY

April 16, 2022 - May 27, 2022

BIRTHS

Baby Boy born to Constantine & Andrea Polizos

Baby Boy born to Steve & Sophia Tsiotsias

Baby Boy born to Jimmy & Leah Economos

BAPTISMS

Parents: Robert & Maria Halpin

Baby: Theo Michael

Godparent: Cynthia Georgeann Tassopoulos

Parents: Stephen & Jenny Halkos

Baby: Penelope Jean Halkos

Godparents: Anastasia & Blaine Terry

Adult: Robert Ethan Collins

Sponsors: Theodoros & Vasilia Stathakis

Parents: Peter & Claire Kostopoulos

Baby: Anna Eliza Kostopoulos

Godparent: Frank (Fotis) Kostopoulos

Parents: John & Margaret Vastakis

Baby: Emmanuel John Vastakis

Godparent: Yannis (Ioannis) Vastakis

CHRISTMATION

Nigel Anthony Vander Woude

WEDDINGS

Amanda Bianconi & Constantine Dean Spartis

Julia Marie Ash & James George Malatos

Georgea Victoria Polizos & Brett Edward Pfleuger

ASLEEP IN THE LORD

Catherine Argendeli

Ioannis Music Lessons
Piano/Guitar/Ukulele/Mandolin/Bouzouki

Ioannis Papaspyrou
Cell: 404-921-4980

Composer/Arranger/Performer/Educator/Musicologist
Website: www.ioannismusiclessons.com
E-mail: ioannismusiclessons@aol.com

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Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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please visit our YouTube channel:

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/atlgoc>)

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Golden Group News

Was it the mouth-watering promise of a savory BBQ feast with all the trimmings, the lure of foot “stompin” tunes of a bluegrass/folk/blues band led by a talented Emory physician, or the desire to spend quality time with friends? All of the above brought a record number of Golden Greek participants to the Kartos Ballroom on a beautiful spring day in May!

Pete Moraitakis, an avid supporter of Golden Group and its programs, generously hosted a delicious dinner catered by Loyal Q in memory of his parents, Costa and Aglaia (Aggie) Moraitakis, and his wife Lisa N. Moraitakis. Attendees enjoyed “smOAKed” BBQ beef brisket, hearty mac & cheese, spicy pit beans, creamy cole slaw, and tasty corn muffins.

Mrs. Jean Economy treated everyone to a luscious dessert of warm peach cobbler and vanilla ice cream in memory of her husband, John V. Economy.

Everyone appreciated Pete Moraitakis and Jean Economy's hospitality in memory of their loved ones.

Dr. Paul Parker, a retired Emory physician, directed and played in a musical performance by the Druid Hills Billys. Their entertaining concert had people smiling, clapping and even dancing!

Most important of all was the fellowship and camaraderie of old and new friends as this dinner was the last event before our summer hiatus. Please look in the Annunciator, the Weekly Bulletin and in the mail this fall for information about future events. If you have any suggestions for speakers, outings or activities or if you or an organization you belong to would like to host a luncheon next year, please share your ideas with Jean Economy (404-876-3536) or Cindy Stanton (770-925-1220).



Golden Group



Philoptochos News

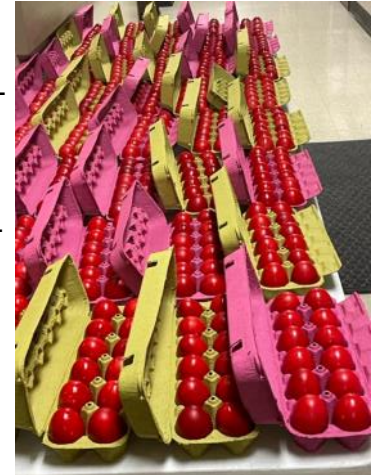
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos News



Philoptochos would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to our parishioners for their support of our recent Pascha Red Egg and Lenten Soups fundraisers. Over 100 quarts of the delicious Lentil and Bean soups were sold, along with over 100 dozen of the beautiful Red Pascha Eggs. It is very gratifying to have the opportunity to continue these two wonderful traditions in our community.

Special thanks to Toni Taggart for once again chairing the Pascha Red Egg dyeing process. We had a wonderful turnout of volunteers who helped dye, package, and polish the dyed eggs to highlight their glorious red color!

Special thanks also to Presvytera Evi Kaplanis for cooking her fantastic Lenten soups that are so nourishing to our Cathedral family during Holy Week.



Philoptochos Scholarship Recipients

Another important tradition that our Philoptochos continues to maintain at the end of every school year is the awarding of three \$2,000 college scholarships to three young Cathedral students who are either current college students or high school seniors who graduated in the class of 2022. All scholarship applicants must submit an application, which is reviewed by the Philoptochos Scholarship Committee

We are pleased to announce the three 2022 winners of these \$2,000 scholarships:

The Anna Mae Livaditis Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Platon Constantinides. Platon is a student at Oglethorpe University

The Olga Biehler Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Gabriella Pappas. Gabriella is a student at Kennesaw State University

The Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Yianni Pothoulakis who will be a freshman at Mercer University in Macon Georgia

Our sincere congratulations to these fine young Greek Orthodox students and their families. We are proud of you and your achievements! Special thanks to Claire Gilmore for her excellent leadership as the Philoptochos Scholarship Committee Chairperson

National Philoptochos Biennial Convention

In conjunction with the 2022 Biennial Clergy Laity Congress, National Philoptochos will be hosting its Biennial Convention at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, July 3-7. These Biennial meetings are attended by hundreds of Philoptochos women from chapters throughout the United States. There will be speakers on a variety of philanthropic topics, there will be small group gatherings to discuss various Philoptochos issues and presentations on what is happening in Philoptochos all across the country! It is truly a packed, inspiring, informative, and enlightening few days! In addition, National Philoptochos will be hosting an AGAPE Awards Breakfast at the Marriott Marquis for all Philoptochos delegates on July 6, 2022 and will include His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, all Metropolitans and many clergy.

This year we have four Philoptochos members from our chapter attending these Biennial meetings – Presvytera Evi Kaplanis, Effie Moraitakis, Irene Fotos, and Valine Georgeson. We will look forward to hearing their reports on these important meetings!

Philoptochos extends endless appreciation for your continued support of our philanthropic outreach!
Have a safe and happy summer!

Young Adult League



During our “Post-Pascha Picnic,” we announced our group’s new name - YAL! We hope this change will make it easier for new members to find us.

YAL serves parishioners and friends 18-35 years old (at heart). We regularly host spiritual and social events and coordinate times to attend broader church events together. We are always looking for new ideas and participants, so we look forward to having you join us!

Orthodoxy on Tap: Monthly gatherings are hosted the second Thursday of the month, either at the Kafenion or a local

restaurant. Young adults are invited to share in fellowship over food and drink, while listening to a guest speaker who facilitates discussions on contemporary topics related to Orthodoxy.

Sunday Brunch: The third Sunday of the month, we proceed to a nearby restaurant to socialize after Liturgy but before your post-liturgical nap (PLN). We coordinate the location and make reservations; individuals cover their own meal. This is a great opportunity to get to know us!

Service Days: Multiple times throughout the year, we gather to support our Cathedral and local area ministries through volunteer activities. Specific details are shared closer to the event.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday Brunch: June 26th, 12:00pm, TBD

Location will be announced in that Sunday’s bulletin and on our social media

Orthodoxy on Tap: July 14th, 7:00 pm, TBD

Location will be announced on our social media

HARRY KOULOS
Co-chair of the 2022 National YAL Conference shares his experience on finding leadership roles with church organizations
JUNE 9TH
7-9PM
Orthodoxy on Tap
Meet in person at the Kafenion or on Zoom

YAL DAY OF SERVICE
Forest Restoration in Cascade Springs Nature Preserve
June 18 | 9am - 12pm
2852 Cascade Rd SW, Atlanta
Registration Required
In partnership with
TREES ATLANTA
GROWING. PROTECTING. EDUCATING.

JUNE 30 - JULY 4, 2022
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
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NEW YORK CITY
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GO YA Basketball

Congratulations to the Jr Boys and Girls teams for winning 1st place in the Queen City Classic Tournament in Charlotte this weekend.

The girls combined with Marietta to form a team that was named A.T. ETTA. It was wonderful to watch this group of girls form a bond and play so well together. We invite all the girls from both Atlanta and Marietta to Divine Liturgy on May 15 as they are recognized for winning the championship.

Our Junior Boys Team Black also brought on a couple of players from Cumming, They all have formed special friendships that will carry on throughout GOYA. It was great to watch them play. Congratulations on winning the JR. BOYS Championship.

Congratulations to Our Senior Boys and Jr Boys Team White! They played well and played hard. It is always fun and exciting to watch these teams play. They fought hard and we are very proud of them!

We thank all the coaches, players, parents and fans for supporting the youth this weekend. We had 31 GOYANS attend and it was great weekend of fellowship, games and fun for both athletes and parents.

Girls Team A.T. ETTA

Alex Bilson
Anastasia Zaharis
Carmela Bruce
Christina Dallis
Christina Pribas
Evanthia Bilson
Jasmine Wagner
Katy Constantinides
Marina Dallis
Sophia Price
Sophia Vallianatos
Stacy Angelakos

JR BOYS TEAM BLACK

Christian Karatassos
Kosta Dallis
Matthew Simites
Michael Costopoulos
Michael Missos
Nicko Tiliakos
Nicholas Adams
Zach Ryan

JR BOYS TEAM WHITE

Colin Costopoulos
Demetre Lignos
Ian Alexander
John Pribas
Nolan Adams
Peter Soulimiotis
William Adams
Yanni Kitas

SR BOYS

Alex Simites
Alex Tzevelakos
Bobby Missos
Ignace Karatassos
Jimmy Tzevelakos
Manoli Pappas
Nicholas Price
Ted Tzavaras

Greek School News

ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΑΠΟΓΕΥΜΑΤΙΝΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΥ

Μία ακόμη σχολική χρονιά έφτασε στο τέλος της. Το σχολείο μας λειτουργεί δύο φορές την εβδομάδα, κάθε Δευτέρα ηλεκτρονικά και κάθε Τετάρτη με φυσική παρουσία. Του χρόνου ελπίζουμε να λειτουργήσει και τις δύο φορές με φυσική παρουσία. Τα παιδιά μας μαθαίνουν το ελληνικό αλφάβητο, χτίζουν ένα βασικό λεξιλόγιο στην ελληνική και παράλληλα μαθαίνουν να γράφουν, να διαβάζουν και να εκφράζονται με μικρές προτάσεις στα ελληνικά. Επιπλέον μαθαίνουν για τα ήθη και τα έθιμα της Ελλάδας, μαθαίνουν τα κάλαντα, προσευχές,



τραγούδια και παραδοσιακούς χορούς για τις σημαντικές επετείους (28^η Οκτωβρίου, Χριστούγεννα, 25^η Μαρτίου, Πάσχα, Καθαρά Δευτέρα, Πρωτομαγιά και άλλες). Το ελληνικό σχολείο χτίζει μία βάση για την εξοικείωση των μαθητών με την ελληνική γλώσσα και κουλτούρα. Είναι μία διαδικασία που απαιτεί προσπάθεια αρκετών χρόνων και συνέπεια από την πλευρά των μαθητών και των οικογένειών τους. Ευχαριστώ θερμά όλους, όσοι στηρίζουν το πρόγραμμα του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού Σχολείου. Ακολουθούν φωτογραφίες από τις εκδηλώσεις του σχολείου μας.

Καλλιόπη Τσικουρίκα

Δασκάλα του Ελληνικού Σχολείου

THE GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL OF THE CATHEDRAL

Another school year reached its end. The Greek Afternoon School is open twice weekly, every Monday virtually and every Wednesday in person. Next

year we hope that we will be able to have in person classes both days. Our students learn the Greek alphabet and build a basic vocabulary in the Greek language.

They also learn to write, read, and communicate on a basic level. They are taught about the traditions and customs of Greece, the Christmas Carols, prayers, traditional songs, and dances of the important days in Greek history, religion, and culture (28th of October, Christmas, 25th of March, Easter, Clean Monday, first of May etc.) The Greek School builds a basis for the students to start learning the Greek language and the culture. It is a process that requires effort of many years and commitment by the students and their families. I would like to thank all the students and their families for their effort, their time and their commitment to the Greek Language and the Greek Afternoon School. Below are pictures from the Programs of the Greek Afternoon

School.

Kalliopi Tsikourika

Teacher at the Greek School





“Sharing Our Daily Bread” Fifth Sunday Offering

In January, our Annunciation Cathedral introduced a new opportunity called **“Sharing Our Daily Bread”**, inspired from the Gospel of John 6:35. **“And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. All who comes to Me shall never Hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”**

“Sharing Our Daily Bread” serves a Christ-centered purpose, offering each Parish member **a way to participate and help those less fortunate** who come to our Cathedral during the week and Sundays in need of food, clothing and shelter, through the **donation of Gift Cards to Kroger, Walmart and QuikTrip.**

We call upon the faithful to **Share your Daily Bread**, by purchasing Gift Cards in \$25 increments from either Kroger, Walmart, or QuikTrip. **(Multiples of \$25 cards may be purchased and offered).**

Collection for Gift Cards will take place on the **Fifth Sunday** during the months of each year with five Sundays (in 2022, those months are January, May, July and October) by one of three methods:

- Drop Gift Cards or Checks in the Box located on a table near the Pangari, as you enter the Narthex;
- Donate On-line via our Cathedral's website for **“Sharing Our Daily Bread”**;
- Make Checks payable to Annunciation GOC and mail as follows:

Sharing Our Daily Bread
2500 Clairmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

(Note the funds from checks will be applied to the most needed Gift Card(s) at time of receipt).

While we are unable to physically maintain a pantry on our premises, we are able to assist those experiencing hardships through the donations for Food, Clothing and Gift Cards.

We greatly appreciate your generous and continued support to assist the increasing numbers of those in need. God Bless and Thank You!!

AHEPA

The following Annunciation Day School students were recognized during Bright Week (4/29/22) with Essay-awards on the occasion of the 25th of March:

Sara Billingsley - 5th Grade
Amalea Mondore - 5th Grade
Eleni Hadjisimos - 6th Grade

Essay winners received \$100 and a certificate. AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Foundation Board members, Charlie Burland and Tom Kantsios made the presentation congratulating all participating students writing on Greek Independence Day. The Foundation participates in other ADS events throughout the school year to raise Hellenic awareness and support the continued advancement of these bright, future scholars.”



Annunciation Day School

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!
Annunciation Day School is ending the school year with a bustling May!

The I Teach Maker Bus from Kennesaw State University was on campus showing our Middle School students how to create 3D planes & gliders using a technology software called Gravit Designer. The instructors also assisted our younger students to plant milkweed seed pods to attract monarch butterflies and created solar caterpillars using solar beads that change color in the sun. A fun learning day utilizing science and technology!

The annual Father/Daughter dance and Mother/Son events also took place. What an incredible and special time between our ADS fathers & mothers with their children. We loved having these events back on-campus.

May also calls for field trips! Our Preschool enjoyed an in-house visit from a petting zoo and fed animals and posed with their favorites while K-8th ventured to the Fernbank Science Museum! Our students watched the movie *Oceans of the Blue Planet* and then classes attended private instruction from Fernbank teachers on *Life Stories of Plants & Animals, Explosive Earth & Georgia Natural Regions*.

Our graduating class had a special retreat to Stone Mountain with our Head of School, Mrs. Brown and science teacher, Mrs. Smith. They visited the quarry exhibit, took part in a scavenger hunt, kayaked, fished in the lake, hiked, and ended with a hotdog cookout!

In the athletic department, our lady Spartans are shining among Atlanta schools. They reigned supreme and brought home the championship Soccer trophy for a third year! We could not be more proud of our girls and thank Coach Lee Baker for his superior soccer training and mentoring! In the arts department, we want to acknowledge one of our fourth grade students, Sunjoo Hahm, for bringing home a second place finish in the GISA state virtual art show in the 2D media category. Way to go!

We are looking forward to our annual Spring musical that will take place on May 19th in Carlos Hall at 6:00pm. Our school's fifth graduation ceremony will take place on May 26th. Our graduates will be attending St. Pius X, Paul Duke Stem, and Lakeside High School. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

We can't wait for the new school year as we are expecting 155 students to return for the fall. Several grades are on wait lists, but ADS has a few open seats in first, second, third, fourth and fifth grades. If interested in applying, please call the school office at (404) 565-2850 to set up a screening date for your child. Parishioners in good standing receive 5% off tuition.



Have a wonderful summer! See you in August!





Free Support of Annunciation Day School

PUBLIX Fundraising

Do you shop at Publix? If so, please help ADS with their fundraising efforts and enter our school name in your on-line Publix account! Follow these easy steps:

- 1) Log-in to your account at Publix.com (or create a new one)
- 2) Go to My Account, scroll down to the bottom of the page
- 3) Click on My Publix Partner and search for Annunciation Day School
- 4) Your phone number on your account will now be linked to ADS. At checkout, simply enter your phone number on the keypad. That's it!

Thank you for supporting ADS!

APOGEE State Scholarship Fund

This program uses Georgia State Tax dollars to fund private school scholarships. You can decide where your state taxes are being allocated! Here's how it works: Individual filers can contribute up to \$1,000, joint filers up to \$2,500, and C Corps up to 75% of GA tax liability. Additionally, S Corps and/or partners in an LLC can contribute up to \$10,000 each year. You will receive a dollar-for-dollar GA tax credit for the amount of your contribution. If you pay your taxes throughout the year, you can still participate. The tax credit is based on your total GA tax liability (6% of your stated adjusted gross income) and not on what you may or may not still owe the State at the end of the year.

To redirect your state tax dollars today, simply visit www.apogee123.org and choose Annunciation Day School as your recipient school.

Go to the forms page of the Apogee website

Fill out the forms online or print forms and mail them to Apogee

Write a check to Apogee Scholarship Fund* (or pay via credit card on Apogee's website)

Be sure to choose Annunciation Day School as your recipient school

If you have any questions, please visit <https://apogee123.org> or contact Apogee's Executive Director, John Panessa at 404-419-7123. You may also contact Sophia Tsitsias, at stsiotsias@adsatlanta.org Director of Communications and Development.

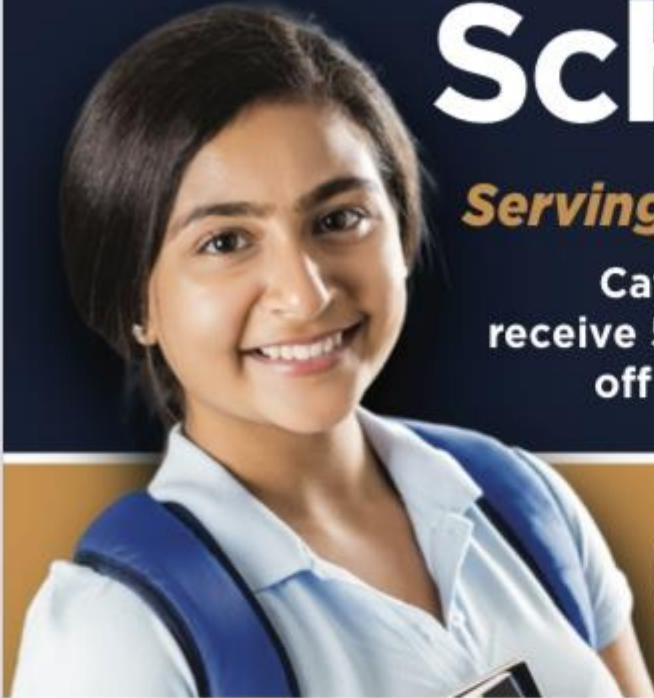
**Thank you to the following parishioners for participating in the
Apogee Scholarship Program to date:**

- Chris & Patti Arapoglou
- James & Helen Panos-Burk
- Manuel & Deidre Chaknis
- Stephen & Maria Chininis
- Drs. Greg & Christine Esper
- Nicholas Grivas
- George & Eleny Katsoudas
- Eric & Amanda Kocefias
- Jimmy & Toula Kostopoulos
- Mark & Dimitra Moraitakis
- James (Jimmy) Nakos
- Costa & Vickie Panos
- Solon & Marianne Patterson
- Justin & Christine Seymour
- Dr. Andrew & Vicky Soulimiotis
- James & Francene Tucker

Apply for 2022-2023 School Year

Serving Preschool & K-8th grades

**Cathedral Members in Good Standing
receive 5% off tuition and an additional 5%
off if tuition is paid in full by July 15th**



**ANNUNCIATION
DAY SCHOOL**

Centered in Christ, Children and Community



Accredited by COGNIA &
Member of GISA and AAAIS



State-of-the-Art Science Lab



Low student to Teacher Ratio -
Maximum 16 students per class



Community Service Projects with
Beta Club, National Junior Honor
Society & Student Leadership
Houses System



Students scored in the top 25%
nationally on Iowa standardized
testing (Spring 2021) and 70%
of teachers hold master's
degrees or higher.



Competitive sports in the Metro
Atlanta Athletic Conference
(MAAC) League in Basketball,
Soccer, Volleyball & Cross Country

Contact Us today to arrange a tour:
marketing@adsatlanta.org or call 404-565-2850

2500 Clairmont Road., N.E. Atlanta, GA. 30329
AnnunciationDaySchool.org

Scan this
code for more
information!



Saint Photini Outreach Ministry

Our St. Photini Outreach Ministry (SPOM) started the 2021-2022 Ecclesiastical year with service activities for all seasons!

We started our Fall initiative with a **Food Pantry Drive for Intown Collaborative Ministries**, whose mission is to prevent and reverse homelessness and hunger in downtown Atlanta collecting over 2,089 pounds of food, or enough to feed 104 families.



For our Winter initiative, SPOM sponsored two events on **February 6th and 13th** highlighting and benefitting the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**.



Lou Zagami, Development Director, IOCC, visited our Cathedral family to share how IOCC's humanitarian programs reach out world-wide serving those who have

experienced difficult or tragic events. Through separate check presentations presented by Father Paul on behalf of our Parish and by our Ladies Philoptochos Society, along with donations made on-line and checks collected, a total of \$2400 was collected for IOCC.

IOCC Souper Bowl Sunday of Caring - Soup Collection. Soups collected on Sundays February 6th and 13th were delivered on Tuesday, February 16th to the Toco Hills Alliance Community Pantry. The soups collected went towards feeding 250 people or a week's worth of food.



"Spread the Kindness Family Day" - Saturday of Service & Bags of Love - April 2



St. Photini's Spring initiative took place on Saturday, April 2nd, with *"Spread the Kindness Parish Family Day"*. We were blessed with a great turnout of people from all ages and organizations participating in a day of philanthropy, fellowship and fun!

As one group assembled 200 **Bags of Love** to be given out to Atlanta's homeless, a second group were making 100 sandwiches, which were delivered to

Trinity Table in downtown Atlanta. The third group worked outside helping to clear an area near the Administration Building to prepare our Cathedral for Pascha. *It was a day full of "Kefi" and joy!*



Artoclasia Honoring Our Patron Saint: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman – May 22

On Sunday, May 22, we celebrate and honor our patron Saint Photini and her family with the offering of Artoclasia. *Saint Photini was the woman from Samaria who met Jesus at the well of Jacob (John 4:5-42). The Lord gave the name "Photini" (which means the enlightened one) to the Samaritan woman. Full details on St. Photini and her family can be found on the front page of the Cathedral's Messenger on Sunday, May 22.*

The last SPOM meeting of the Ecclesiastical year will be held in person on *May 24 from 6-6:30pm in the Hellenic Center Board Room*. This meeting will be short but productive. We will continue our discussion from our March 22 meeting to decide on activities and recipients for future activities (possibly expanding to include Pan-Orthodox) and to start delegating and preparing for action the following items:

- Bags of Love
- Future Saturday of Service activities:
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Nicholas House
 - Winn Dixie Hope Lodge

Saint Photini Outreach Ministry Visitation Committee - Shut-Ins/Homebound

- ♥ In all seasons of our Ecclesiastical year, our Cathedral's SPOM Visitation Committee continues to brighten the spirits of our Shut-Ins/Homebound through phone calls, wonderful hand-painted cards with inspirational messages sent quarterly, as well as cards sent throughout the year for Birthdays, Christmas, Valentines and Pascha! To add a loved one to this list, please call the Cathedral office at 404-633-5870.
- ♥ Due to the recent Covid variant, our in-person visits to our Shut-Ins/Homebound has been placed on a temporary hold. We look forward to being able to visit in the near future!

We will take a short hiatus during the Summer months and will schedule our next St. Photini Outreach meeting for August/September, 2022.

We wish to sincerely express our appreciation to our Cathedral Parish Family for all the support given to our Saint Photini Outreach Ministry during this past year! Your participation and donations make it possible for us to continue to offer assistance, food and shelter to those in need. *Wishing all a blessed and safe Summer!*

We invite you to join and participate in the philanthropic and outreach events sponsored by our Annunciation Cathedral's Saint Photini Outreach Ministry. *We welcome new ideas and fellowship!* Please contact vickieklemis@gmail.com to be added to this growing ministry for future meetings and activities.

"Just as Christ met Saint Photini where she was in her life, our Annunciation Cathedral Saint Photini Outreach Ministry strives to follow the example of our patron saint to reach out and meet people where they are."



March 2022

Dear Friends,

100 years ago, a group of brave and visionary Hellenes in Atlanta created what has become a global organization promoting Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence. It is time to celebrate this humble beginning and century of service.

AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter #1 invites you to an amazing, inspirational, and enjoyable "**Centennial Celebration Weekend**" June 23-26, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia, where AHEPA began. Together with you, we will all celebrate the past, present, and future.

The **Centennial Celebration Weekend** begins the evening of June 23rd with inspiring and informative presentations by local author Stephen Georgeson and historian Dr. Victor Polizos. They will discuss the early years of Greek immigration and the heroic origins of AHEPA. Learn the stories of how its founding members fought against discrimination and prejudice, and for freedom and a better life for all.

Information will follow regarding golf and three-on-three basketball tournaments which will be held over the weekend. The morning of June 24th will feature gatherings of the various groups within the AHEPA Family followed by an AHEPA Family and friends luncheon. The day's activities will conclude with a casual evening of fellowship over some hearty Southern cuisine.

On Saturday, June 25th you will have a unique opportunity to leisurely visit AHEPA's **TRIBUTE to Hellenism and Olympism** Sculpture in Centennial Olympic Park, the largest aquarium in the United States, Civil Rights Museum, College Football Hall of Fame, World of Coca Cola, Martin Luther King memorial and other Atlanta landmarks.

A highlight of the weekend will occur Saturday afternoon with the dedication of the **AHEPA Founding Monument**, the first permanent tribute honoring the memory of our visionary founders that will serve to educate and encourage all future generations. Following the dedication, we will come together for a very festive **Centennial Celebration** dinner and dance.

Our **Centennial Celebration Weekend** will conclude Sunday morning with the Divine Liturgy at the Annunciation Cathedral where we will celebrate an *Artoklasia* (prayer for the living), a Memorial (prayer for the departed), and a farewell coffee hour.

To participate in this once-in-a-lifetime **Centennial Celebration Weekend**, visit our special website: <https://www.ahepa100.org>.

Join us as we honor those who bravely came before us and celebrate our past, present, and future work to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence.

Sincerely,

The 2022 AHEPA Centennial Celebration Committee

FOURTH OF JULY BBQ

Join us for the 5th annual July 4th BBQ! This free event is heavily attended. We look forward to welcoming back everyone and to enjoy Greg and Mike's BBQ! All the favorites will be served, plus plenty of fixings!



Thank you to the hosts of the events:

Sons of Pericles

AHEPA

Pontian Society

Lambros Firm

Hellenic Business Association of Georgia
Samaria Chapter of the Pan Cretan Association of America

AHEPA

Did you know?

- In 1923 National AHEPA offices moved from Atlanta to Philadelphia.
- In 1924 they moved from Philadelphia to Washington D.C. where they remain today.
- Atlanta AHEPA in the early 1980's established an **Educational Fund** awarding scholarships to local students pursuing college and post graduate degrees. Hundreds of local students (940) have received over \$1,219,000. for scholastic achievement and financial need thus far.
- On June 23 -26, 2022 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of AHEPA at the Centennial Celebration Weekend in Atlanta. Please follow updated information on our website ahepa100.org. All events are open to our church community. Come and celebrate with us.

We are asking anyone who may have archival information from the original founders or the early years of the organization to contact us at vpolizos3@hotmail.com or 404-831-6508.





Atlanta

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Join us for the 100th Anniversary of AHEPA

Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future



Save the Date!
June 23-26,
2022

Schedule and reservation
information on our website:
WWW.AHEPA100.ORG

Atlanta Centennial Celebration June 23-26, 2022

Celebrating AHEPA's 100th Anniversary

Schedule

CELEBRATING THE PAST

Thursday, June 23, 2022

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

8:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception

Atlanta Greeks, an Early History, Stephen P. Georgeson

"Where it all Began, AHEPA & its Founders", Victor G. Polizos, MD

CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

Friday, June 24, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Continental Breakfast

AHEPA/Daughters Meetings (See Addendum Schedule)

AHEPA Lunch (Ticketed Event)

AHEPA/Daughters Meetings

Southern Nights Dinner (Ticketed Event)

Young Adult Welcome Party

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Time TBD

All Day

Three on Three Basketball Tournament

Family Day See Atlanta!

See the sights of Atlanta (self-guided). Read all about what Atlanta has to offer, attractions, and more online and plan your day in advance.

CELEBRATING THE FUTURE

Saturday, June 25, 2022

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

Dedication of the AHEPA Founding Monument

Centennial Celebration Dinner (Ticketed Event includes Dance)

Centennial Celebration Dance (Ticketed Event)

Sunday, June 26, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Time TBD

Divine Liturgy/Artoclasia/Memorial Service/Coffee Hour

Three on Three Basketball Tournament

All events will take place at The Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Center 2500 Clairmont Road
(one mile from the hotel)

Hotel information

Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Center Blvd. NE, Atlanta, GA, 30345
Special rates have been negotiated for guests who will be attending the Convention

For more information please visit our website: WWW.AHEPA100.ORG

Save the Dates



RETURNING
SEPTEMBER
23-25

www.atlantagreekfestival.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Be on the lookout soon for
volunteer information!

Interested in being a Chairman?

We still are looking for:

1. Childrens Area
2. Aegean Shop
3. Hosts and Hostesses

Contact the Church Office if interested!

Cathedral Summer Camp
June 6th—June 10th
June 13th—June 17th
June 20th—June 24th

EDITOR: Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, Dean (frpaulk@atlgoc.org)

MANAGING EDITOR: Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, Presbyter
(frchristos@atlgoc.org)

DESIGN: Connie Mondore (annunciator@atlgoc.org)

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Voula Giannakopoulos
(pcpresident@atlgoc.org)

*All news can be e-mailed to office@atlgoc.org or put on a disk
and brought to the Cathedral office during office hours
(Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)*

*All Cathedral mail goes to the post office on the same day.
If you do not receive your Annunciator in a timely manner,
please call your post office and notify them.*