

The Annunciator



SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

The commandments of God and communion
with God Metropolitan of Pergamon
(John D. Zizoulas) from his book entitled,
“Receive One Another”

By: Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis

“And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect” (Heb 11:39-40).

Recently, I traveled to Phoenix Arizona for the Archdiocese Presbyters Council National Clergy Retreat. There were over 220 Clergy and Hierarchs in attendance. As the president of the Council, I was responsible for making sure everything ran smoothly in order to provide the respite that our clergy need to rejuvenate and refresh themselves in their priestly ministry. Our guest speaker was His Grace Bishop Maxim (Vasiljevic), Bishop of Los Angeles and the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church. He was one of the editors of the book mentioned above and I was able to purchase this book at the retreat. The author, John D. Zizoulas, Metropolitan John of Pergamon, who recently fell asleep in the Lord on February 2, 2023, was a modern world-renown Orthodox Theologian and his ecclesiastical see was located in the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. His Eminence’s educational training was incredible. He earned several degrees, two from the University of Athens, a Master’s and Doctorate in Theology, an MTS degree from Harvard under the Easter Orthodox Theologian Father Georges Florovsky, and he was a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies. He was also a professor at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Geneva, King’s College London, Thessaloniki and the Gregorian University in Rome. He has written numerous books and articles.

I pray that you will enjoy his sermon below. (Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis)



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Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, Dean
Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, Protopresbyter.
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Today, the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord, is dedicated, to my beloved brothers and sisters, to the memory of all those who pleased God, from Adam to Joseph. Let us devote a few thoughts to this feast of our Church today.

When Adam, in his freedom, decided to break communion with God and to declare himself god, something tragic happened in the history of humanity. "No to God" came into man's consciousness.

The idea entered man's consciousness that he is free when he says "no." And this freedom, this negative freedom, had already been introduced by the angels, many of whom chose to say "no" to God. Since then,

Satan, the demons, and all the fallen angels have exercised their freedom to "deny the will of God." This, however, now entered through Adam into the whole of humanity, and into the psychology of man. This general denial of God's will by man that captured almost all of humanity, had a few

exceptions. These exceptions, who consented to say "yes" to God, were the people of Israel, to whom, through the call of Abraham, He entrusted his Law and His commandments. This people accepted the Law and the commandments for God for only one purpose - for man to keep the Law, thereby providing him the opportunity, after Adam's Fall, to say "yes" to the will of God, because the Law and the commandments of God were precisely God's will.

Many people in the Old Testament observed the Law and God's commandments, and these people are called "Righteous." They kept God's commandments throughout history, ever since Abraham first obeyed God's command to

sacrifice his child-a difficult and even impossible commandment for man, which Abraham nevertheless accepted. Since then, the ability to say "yes" to God instead of "no" entered into humanity. And the Righteous of the Old Testament proved this.

The "yes" of the Righteous of the Old Testament, my beloved brothers and sisters, overturned Adam's "no" as regards God's commandments, but it could not overturn the consequences of Adam's "no." These consequences were not, as we say, moral that is, consequences that man could correct. They were deep, ontological consequences in human existence. Because when

man cut off his communion with God and turned to nature, then death entered man's life. Death could not be overturned with the "yes" of the Righteous. Man cannot be redeemed by saying "yes" to God's commandments.

Something more radical was needed to overturn the terrible consequence of man's Fall, which is death,

separation from God. Man could not be saved from death by his own power; man needed to be re-united with God in order to restore communion, man's union with God, and this is precisely why Christ came.

Christ did not bring a new teaching or an example of keeping God's commandments; He brought us salvation from death. He brought us reunion with God, communion, human nature's union with God. That is, He accomplished God's will for man when He created him: for man to unite with God, and with him all of creation, so that we could be saved from the destruction that Adam's "no" brought. And the Righteous, therefore, of the Old Testament needed to be saved by Christ. Even though they kept God's



commandments, they could only be saved if they too were incorporated into Christ, in the union, that is, of man with God, which Christ accomplished by becoming man. Therefore, the purpose of the Incarnation of God's Word was to unite man with God, as was God's original plan when He created man, and from which man deviated by saying "no" to God's will. And for this reason, only by looking forward to the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God, the Righteous of the Old Testament were saved.

This, my dear brothers and sisters, is surprising, and it teaches us many things. *The first thing it teaches us is that we who live after Christ have a huge privilege that the saints of the Old Testament did not have.* They believed in Christ and

kept God's commandments with the hope that one day they would be united with God, when the Messiah, the Christ, whom they were expecting, would come. For them, it was only a hope, which they could not prove. *For us, who live after Christ, it is a proven reality.*

We are called to keep God's commandments, not simply hoping, and waiting to enjoy the fruits of this observance of the commandments, but now knowing that these fruits exist and that we can enjoy them.

We know that many have enjoyed them and that we can rely on the experience of the saints, who not only kept the commandments, as in the Old Testament, but also enjoyed the fruits of this keeping of the commandments that is, union with God. Therefore, we have this enormous privilege, which the Righteous of the Old Testament did not have. However, this also creates a huge responsibility for us. If they kept God's commandments simply by looking to the future

and hoping, how will we justify ourselves who have behind us all this experience of the saints and our Church? How can we be justified when we do not keep God's commandments? It is a great responsibility for all of us who have the privilege of living in the age of the Church, in the age of the saints after the Incarnation of the Lord.

The other lesson we can take from today is that the observance of God's commandments is absolutely necessary; it is the gate through which one passes to reach God-as the Righteous of the Old Testament passed, *but it is not enough.* If keeping the commandments were enough, the Righteous of the Old Testament would have saved themselves and there would have been no need for Christ to come to save them. If keeping the commandments were enough, then the Jews who kept the Law, those of them who kept the Law, would have been saved even without Christ. If keeping the commandments were enough, then the Pharisee, who said that he kept all the Law, which was true, he too would have been saved.

The fact that the Righteous of the Old Testament could not be saved only by observing the Law of God, but needed their incorporation into Christ,

means that simply observing the commandments is not enough for us either.

What saves us is our union with God, within the body of Christ.

We are saved by our communion with God in the sacraments or mysteries of the Church and especially in the mystery of the Eucharist.

What the Righteous of the Old Testament longed for became a reality for us, because we can now in this mystery transcend death, and live



eternally. It is a medicine of immortality, as Saint Ignatius the God-bearer says. The Eucharist, therefore, is offered to us in the Church and this is the final gift that God gives us for our salvation. And so, it proves that our salvation can never be our own achievement, it cannot be the achievement of our efforts, it cannot be the result of our virtues. **Our salvation, after all, is grace, it is a gift from God, He does not owe it to us, He gives it to us.**

What He seeks from us is this attitude of "yes." He asks us to expel from ourselves this attitude of Adam, who said "no" to God. Of course, this "yes" implies many sacrifices and is not easy, as we heard in the apostolic passage. All these saints of the Old Testament suffered because they wanted to say "yes" to God. And if we are unable to say "yes" to God, which may even be true, we are failing because of our self-love, which has at its root this "no" to God. This is why our every effort to keep the commandments impinges on our self-love, is difficult, and requires sacrifice.

God asks us for this "yes" in order to attract His grace, and for Him to come with His gift to give us salvation. How? By incorporating us into the body of His Son, into this new creation, the new humanity that Christ brought about by becoming man and offering us His body in the Church, with the mysteries and especially with the Divine Eucharist.

My brothers and sisters, as we approach Christmas, many of us are justifiably depressed because they see man whirling around in a tumult whose meaning he does not understand. You only have to look at what is happening in the cities with this consumption of goods. And if we ask people, "What is the meaning of all this? What does all this have to do with Christmas?", they will find it difficult to give us an answer. We tend to lose the meaning of Christmas. The Church humbly, because the Church can only change the world with its own example, with its own humble and modest word comes

today to tell us, "The meaning of Christmas," which is nothing other than what Athanasios the Great wrote: **God became man so that we might become god-like. This is why Christ came into the world, and this is why we celebrate.** We celebrate the possibility that God gives us with His grace, by offering Him our good will with a "yes" to His commandments, uniting with Him, in the body of Christ, and becoming partakers of God's life, becoming gods too.

This great message is brought to us by Christmas. Wisely, the Church today presents us with the Righteous of the Old Testament as a model, so that we can see that **the gate through which one passes into Christmas is the observance of God's commandments, but we also need our union with God, which was brought about by the birth of the God-man Christ.**

I pray, my beloved brothers and sisters, that we all spend the Christmas holidays with this spirit, which the celebrated Righteous of the Old Testament give us today. This is the spirit that I pray God accounts us worthy of, to taste His salvation and His gift that the Righteous of the Old Testament were waiting for, which we have at our disposal. Amen.



Our Father Among the Saints, John Chrysostom

Compiled, shortened, and expanded upon from the "Cornerstone, November 1998 issue"

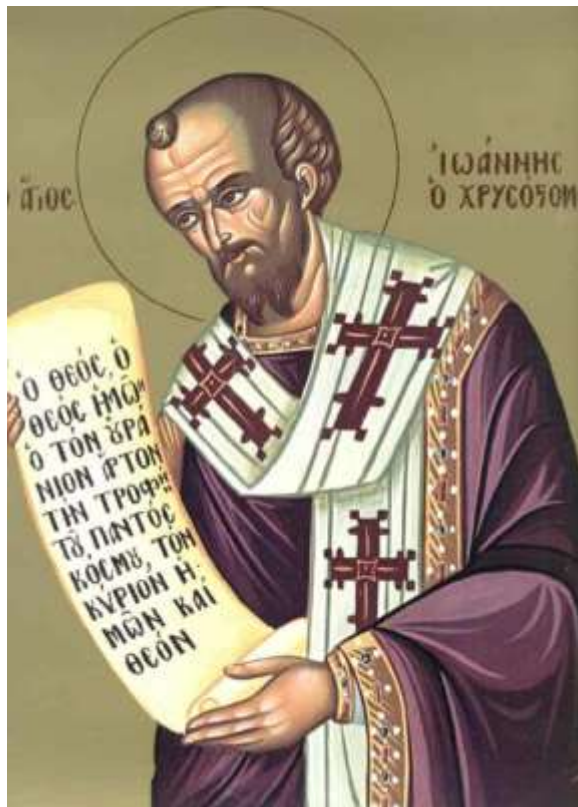
By Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars

The legion of saints of the Church is comprised of men and women of extraordinary ability whose talents may not be similar but many of whom seem to have shared a common ability to preach. Yet out of this vast assembly of eloquent speakers, whose reputation might have rested on their gift of expression alone, the one for whom the title "Chrysostom," or "golden-mouthed" was reserved, was John of Antioch, known as Saint John Chrysostom, a great distinction in view of the qualifications of so many others.

Endeared as one of the great hierarches and ecumenical teachers of the Church, Saint John Chrysostom was born in 347 AD in Antioch, Syria and was prepared for a career in law under the renowned Libanius, who marveled at his pupil's eloquence and foresaw a brilliant career for his pupil as a statesman and lawgiver. But John decided, after he had been baptized at the age of 23, to abandon the law in favor of service to the Savior. He entered a monastery which served to educate him in preparation for his ordination as a priest in 386 AD. From the pulpit there emerged John, a preacher whose oratorical excellence gained him a reputation

throughout the Christian world, a recognition which spurred him to even greater expression that found favor with everyone, but the Empress Eudoxia, whom he saw fit to examine in some of his sermons.

When Saint John was forty-nine years old, his immense popularity earned him election to the Patriarchate of Constantinople, a prestigious post from which he launched a crusade against excessiveness and extreme wealth, which the Empress construed as a personal affront to her and her royal court. This also gave rise to sinister forces that envied his tremendous influence. His enemies found an instrument for his indictment when they discovered that he had harbored some pious monks who had been excommunicated by his archrival Theophilus, Bishop of Alexandria, who falsely accused John of treason and surreptitiously plotted his exile.



When it was discovered that the great Saint John had been exiled by the puppets of the state, there arose such a clamor of protest, promising a real threat of civil disobedience, that not even the royal court dared to confront the angry multitudes and Saint John was restored to his post. At about this time he put a stop to a practice which was offensive to him, although none of his predecessors

outwardly considered it disrespectful; this practice was applauding in church, which would be considered extremely vulgar today, and the absence of which has added to the solemnity of Church services.



Saint John delivered a sermon in which he deplored the adulation of a frenzied crowd at the unveiling of a public statue of the Empress Eudoxia. His sermon was grossly exaggerated by his enemies,

and by the time it reached the ears of the Empress it resulted in his permanent exile from his beloved city of Constantinople. The humiliation of banishment did not deter the gallant, golden-mouthed Saint John, who continued to communicate with the Church and wrote his precious prose until he died in the lonely reaches of Pontus in 407 AD.

The treasure of treatises and letters which Saint John left behind, included the moving sermon, known as the Catechetical Homily, that is heard at Easter Sunday services based on the fifteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians. The loss of some of his sermons which were not set down on paper is incalculable. Nevertheless, the immense store of his excellent literature reveals his insight, straightforwardness, and rhetorical splendor, and commands a position of the greatest respect and influence in Christian thought, rivaling that of other Fathers of the Church. His liturgy, which we respectfully chant on Sundays, is a living testimony of his greatness.

The slight, five-foot Saint John stood tall in his defiance of state authority, bowing only to God and never yielding the high principles of Christianity to expediency or personal welfare.

In the words of his pupil, Cassia of Marseilles, "It would be a great thing to attain his stature, but it would be difficult. Nevertheless, following him is lovely and magnificent."

It is impossible to cover the entire life of Saint John Chrysostom in a few pages. However apart from providing a very brief outline of his life, we have included a little more information about his life as a monk and as Patriarch of Constantinople.

Chrysostom as a Monk (AD 374-381)



After the death of his mother, Anthusa (November 13) Chrysostom fled from the seductions and tumults of city life to the monastic solitude of the mountains south of Antioch, and there spent six

happy years in theological study and sacred meditation and prayer. Monasticism was to him (as to many other great teachers of the Church) a profitable school of spiritual experience and self-government. He embraced this mode of life as "the true philosophy" from the purest motives and brought into it intellect and cultivation enough to make the seclusion available for moral and spiritual growth.

He gives us a lively description of the bright side of this monastic life. The monks lived in separate cells or huts, but according to a common rule and under the authority of an abbot. They wore coarse garments of camel's hair or goat's hair over their linen tunics. They rose before sunrise

and began the day by singing a hymn of praise and communal prayer under the leadership of the abbot. Then they went to their allotted task, some to read, others to write, others to manual labor for the support of the poor. Four hours each day were devoted to prayer and singing. Their only food was bread and water, except in case of sickness. They slept on straw couches, free from care and anxiety. There was no need for bolts and bars. They held all things in common, and the words of "mine and thine," which cause innumerable strife's in the world, were unknown among the brethren. If one died, he caused no lamentation, but thanksgiving, and was carried to the grave amidst hymns of praise; for he was not dead, but "perfected," and permitted to behold the face of Christ. For them to live was Christ, and to die was gain.

Chrysostom was an admirer of active and useful monasticism and warns against the dangers of idle contemplation. He shows that the words of our Lord, "One thing is needful;" "Take no anxious thought for the morrow;" "Labor not for the meat that perishes," do not inculcate total abstinence from work, but only undue anxiety about worldly things, and must be harmonized with the apostolic exhortation to labor and to do good. He defends monastic seclusion on account of the prevailing immorality in the cities, which made it almost impossible to cultivate there a higher Christian life.

Chrysostom as Patriarch of Constantinople (AD 398-404)

After the death of Patriarch Nectarius towards the end of the year 397 AD, Chrysostom was chosen, entirely without his own agency and even against his remonstrance, Archbishop of Constantinople. He was hurried away from Antioch by a military escort, to avoid a commotion in the congregation and to make resistance useless. He was consecrated February 26, 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria,

who reluctantly yielded to the command of the Emperor Arcadius.

Constantinople, built by Constantine the Great in 330, on the site of Byzantium, assumed as the Eastern capital of the Roman empire the first position among the Episcopal sees of the East, and became the center of court theology, court intrigues, and theological controversies.



Chrysostom soon gained by his eloquent sermons the admiration of the people, of the weak Emperor Arcadius, and, at first, even of his wife Eudoxia, with whom he afterwards waged a deadly war. He extended his pastoral care to the Goths who were becoming numerous in Constantinople, had a part of the Bible translated for them, often preached to them himself through an interpreter, and sent missionaries to the Gothic and Scythian tribes on the Danube. He continued to direct by correspondence those missionary operations even during his exile. For a short time, he enjoyed the height of power and popularity.

But he also made enemies by his denunciations



against it, and the Council of Nicaea forbade unmarried priests to live with any females except close relations.

Chrysostom's unpopularity was increased by his irritability and persistence. The Empress Eudoxia was jealous of his influence over Arcadius and angry at his uncompromising severity against sin and vice. She became the chief instrument of his downfall.

The occasion was furnished by an unauthorized use of his Episcopal power beyond the lines of his diocese, which was confined to the city. At the request of the clergy of Ephesus and the neighboring bishops, he visited that city in January, 401, held a synod and deposed six bishops convicted of shameful simony. During his absence of several months, he left the Episcopate of Constantinople in the hands of Severian, bishop of Gabala, an unworthy and adroit flatterer, who basely betrayed his trust and formed a cabal headed by the empress and her licentious court ladies, for the ruin of Chrysostom.

On his return to Constantinople, he used unguarded language in the pulpit, and spoke on Elijah's relation to Jezebel in such a manner that Eudoxia understood it as a personal insult. The

of the vices and follies of the clergy and aristocracy. He emptied the Episcopal palace of its costly plate and furniture and sold it for the benefit of the poor and the hospitals. He introduced his strict ascetic habits and reduced the luxurious household of his predecessors to the strictest simplicity. He devoted his large income to benevolence. He refused invitations to banquets, gave no dinner parties, and ate the simplest fare in his solitary chamber. He denounced unsparingly luxurious habits in eating and dressing and enjoined upon the rich the duty of almsgiving to an extent that tended to increase rather than diminish the number of beggars who swarmed in the streets and around the churches and public baths. He disciplined the vicious clergy and opposed the perilous and immoral habit of unmarried priests of living under the same roof with "spiritual sisters." This habit dated from an earlier age and was a reaction against celibacy. Saint Cyprian of Carthage (August 31) had raised his protest



clergy were anxious to get rid of a bishop who was too severe for their lax morals.

The Repose of Saint John and the Transfer of His Relics

The saint died in the city of Komani, Helenopontus (modern day Georgia) on September 14, 407 AD on his way to a place of exile, having been condemned by the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia because of his daring denunciation of the vices ruling over Constantinople. The last words on his lips were, "Glory be to God for all things!" The transfer of his venerable relics was made in the year 438 AD: after 30 years following the death of the saint during the reign of Eudoxia's son emperor Theodosius II (408-450).

Saint John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. Saint John's student, Saint Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-447) (November 20), doing Divine-services in the Church of Hagia Sophia, preached a sermon which in glorifying Saint John he said: "O John! Your life was filled with difficulties, but your death was glorious, your grave is blessed and reward abundant through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love has conquered space, unforgetting memory has annihilated the limits, and place does not hinder the miracles of the saint." Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of Saint Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of Saint John might be transferred to Constantinople. The emperor, overwhelmed by Saint Proclus, gave his consent and made the order to transfer the relics of Saint John. But the people dispatched by him were by no means able to lift up the holy relics—not until

that moment when the emperor realizing his oversight that he had not sent the message to Saint John, humbly beseeching of him forgiveness for himself and for his mother Eudoxia. The message was read at the grave of Saint John and after this they easily lifted up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople. The reliquary coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of the holy Martyr Irene. The Patriarch opened the coffin: the body of Saint John had remained without decay. The emperor, having approached the coffin with tears, asked forgiveness. All day and night people did not leave the coffin. In the morning the reliquary coffin with its relics was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out: "Receive back your throne, father!" Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing at the relics saw Saint John open his mouth and pronounce: "Peace be to all."

In the IX Century the feastday in honor of the transfer of the relics of Saint John Chrysostom was written into church and is celebrated on January 27.



HOPE & JOY

Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education & Junior Orthodox Youth

2023-2024 SCHEDULE

THEME: LITURGICAL ITEMS

August 13 "I love the smell of prayer in the morning"...The censor



September 10 "Setting the table for a very special meal"...The Chalice and Paten (Outdoor Picnic)



September 22-24



October 1 "I'm sick"...Visitation of the sick



November 12 "The staff of power and other cool things"...What the Bishop holds



November 25 Sandwich Making for Soup Kitchen



December 2 Breakfast with St. Nicholas with Christmas Party hosted by GOYA



January 14 "Bath time for all Orthodox"...the Baptismal Font



February 11 "What to wear today?...Orthodox Vestments



March 10 "Not Heinz 57, but the same number of ingredients"...Holy Chrism



April 14 "It's three clothes in one!"...The Antimension



May 5 Easter



May 19 "The Priest plays with water"...Rosewater Sprinkler



GOYA EVENTS

November 25
Soup Kitchen Prep
10:00 am
Ballroom Kitchen

November 26
Soup Kitchen
10:30 am
Meet in Carlos Hall

November 26
GOYA Friendsgiving with Bonfire
5:30 pm
Gym

December 2
GOYA Christmas Gift Exchange

December 9
Rehearsal for Cathedral Sunday School Nativity
Pageant
HOPE & JOY Breakfast with Santa

December 10
Cathedral Sunday School Nativity Pageant

YAL WINTER CALENDAR

November



College Student Luncheon

Immediately following Diving Liturgy for college and university students

Burgers & Brews

Prep for the Nativity Fast together at Inner Voice Brewery, gathering around 7pm
Meals purchased individually



Brunch After Liturgy

Join us for Ethiopian food at Desta on Briarcliff Rd at approximately 12:15pm
Meals purchased individually

December

College Student Luncheon

Immediately following Diving Liturgy for college and university students



Holiday Potlucks & Games

Celebrate the Advent season together! Bring a fast-friendly appetizer or dessert to share.
Meet in Carlos Hall starting around 6pm.

Orthodoxy on Tap

Speaker and dinner in the Kafenion, 7-9pm
Topic forthcoming



YAL

Nov
14
7pm

BURGERS & BREWS

Last hurrah before the Nativity Fast Begins

Inner Voice Brewery

308 W Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030

Meals and beverages purchased by individual.



YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE

*Holiday Potluck
& Games*

9 DECEMBER 2023 | 6PM
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL



Wednesday “NITE” Life



Wednesday “NITE” Life classes will take place via Zoom . This course is designed to explore the various Saints of North America, and to have a better understanding of these local Saints who help shaped the Orthodox Church in North America. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis & Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars

Classes are on Wednesday, from 6:00–7:00PM

- **November 15**
- **NO CLASS on November 22nd (Thanksgiving Preparation)**
- **November 29**
- **December 6**
- **December 13, Bishop Alexi of Alaska**
 - 6:00 Paraklisis**
 - 7:00 Light Lenten Dinner and Talk by Bishop Alexi**
- **December 20, The Sacrament of Holy Unction in the Cathedral. This is the last day that all classes meet for the semester**



2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Our Community Christmas card can include listings of individuals, families and businesses who make a donation to Philoptochos. You are invited to participate with a donation of **\$25.00** or more for individuals and families, or with a donation of **\$35.00** for businesses and organizations.

Philoptochos members will have a table in Carlos Hall on the upcoming Sundays: November 12th, 19th & 26th. *Forms will be available at the table.*

You can bring your donations one of the dates listed above. You can mail in a check by enclosing the bottom of this flyer with your check. You can also go online and make a donation using a credit card by clicking [HERE](#).

Donations must be received on or before **November 26, 2023**.

Name: _____
*(Please **PRINT** your name as it should appear on card)*

Donation: \$ _____

Please Mail to : PHILOPTOCHOS
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
2500 Clairmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Make checks payable to:
ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS 5017

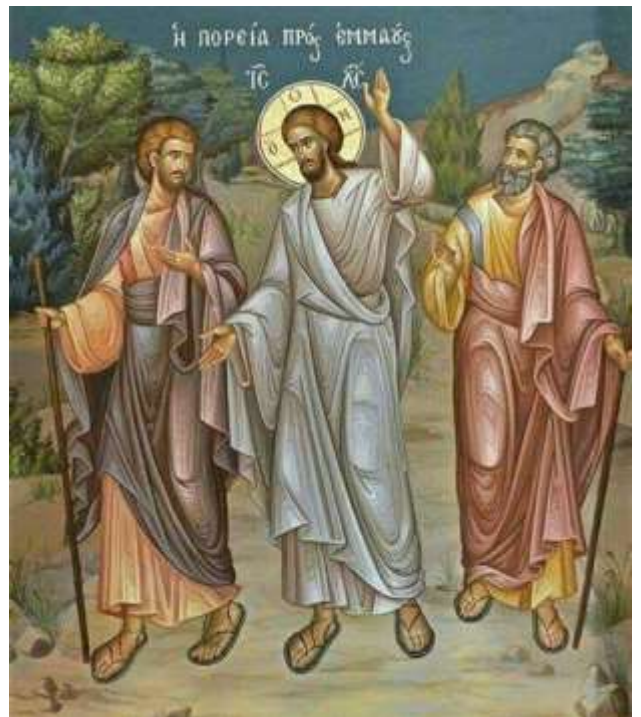


Road to Orthodoxy

Road to Orthodoxy is designed for those who are interested in embracing the Orthodox Faith as well as for those who would like to “brush up” on their rudimentary knowledge of the Orthodox faith. Classes are facilitated by Mr. Scott Davenport

Classes are virtual on Wednesday, from 7:00–8:00PM

- **NO CLASS on November 1st (National Clergy Retreat)**
- **November 8**
- **November 15**
- **NO CLASS on November 22nd (Thanksgiving Preparation)**
- **November 29**
- **December 6**
- **December 13**
- **December 20, The Sacrament of Holy Unction in the Cathedral. This is the last day that all classes meet for the semester**



Philoptochos

Who doesn't love the glorious weather of Fall?

Health Kits for IOCC Update

On Tuesday, October 24th at our monthly meeting, dozens of Philoptochos members, joined by Father Paul and Father Christos, packaged over 500 health kits. The HCC Atrium was filled with energy and enthusiasm as these kits were being put together. Many thanks to all our volunteers!

All health kits were shipped to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and will be distributed around the world to victims of natural disasters and other traumas.

**Be sure to follow our Philoptochos chapter on Instagram
Coming in December 2023 - Sunday, December 10th
Annual Philoptochos Christmas Charity Coffee
Hellenic Center Atrium 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. - Invitations to follow**

**Be sure to follow our Annunciation Philoptochos on Instagram!
[@atlphiloptochos](#)**





TOYS *For* TOTS

Join us in making a child's Christmas dreams
come true by participating in our Christmas
Toy Drive!

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Carlos Hall on Sundays

&

Church and Day School Offices

Monday - Friday






Let our lives
be full of
Thanks & Giving

Your Stewardship
Matters!

Join Philoptochos and
make a difference in the
lives of others.



Golden Group

Our first Golden Group luncheon of the new ecclesiastical year was held on October 12th. Fr. Paul presented an overview of the new Holy Icon of the Melismos that will be installed over the altar. He went into detail on the work of the Liturgical Saints to be depicted in the icon and their significance to the different Divine Liturgies we celebrate throughout the church year. The luncheon was hosted by Mary Anne Chanos, Elaine Tissura, and Christine Mannas. They spoke lovingly of their parents, James and Violet Petrakos, in whose memory the luncheon was given.



On October 17th Golden Group participants filled the two church vans on our trip to the Savoy Automobile Museum in Cartersville. They had a wonderful time seeing the various classic cars on display. They stopped at Yeero Village for lunch and had a great time spending the day together.

Our November luncheon will take place on Thursday, November 9, at 10:30 in Kartos Ballroom. Ed Nash, our honored speaker, is a Marine Combat veteran of the Vietnam War. You don't want to miss our speaker's presentation and our annual tribute to the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. AHEPA is our host for this special luncheon.



Buckle up for our trip on Tuesday, November 14, to Buc-ee's in Adairsville. There is still time to sign up for this fun-filled excursion. Have you heard people talk about Buc-ee's and wondered what makes this 24/7 travel center a bustling tourist destination? Join us and find out! Since there is no seating available for dining, bring a small cooler if you want to take a BBQ sandwich home. We'll stop at the Marietta Diner for lunch on the drive back. The cost of the trip is \$10 (not including lunch) and is payable by cash or check to Golden Group by November 9 at the Luncheon. On the day of the outing please park in the lower parking lot and meet by the atrium doors by 9:15 am. Please call Mary Alice George (678-521-4147) to reserve your place.



Enjoy the magic of the holiday season at the Georgia Governor's Mansion Christmas tour on Thursday, December 7. Please contact Ethel Winegar (770-262-1015) by Nov. 30 to reserve your place. The transportation fee is \$5 and lunch will be on our own at a local restaurant.

Please mark your calendar with the following dates of our upcoming luncheons:

December 14, 2023	Annunciation Day School performance Luncheon Sponsor: Annunciation Cathedral
January 11, 2024	Ring in the New Year with some fun games Luncheon Sponsor: Evrytanians
February 8, 2024	Valentine Luncheon and Annual Bingo Marathon Luncheon Sponsor: Daughters of Penelope
March 7, 2024	Speaker Sponsor: Philoptochos
March 18, 2024	First Day of Lent, Holy Unction and Lenten Pot Luck Speaker: Fr. Christos
April 11, 2024	Speaker: Stephen Georgeson Luncheon Sponsor: A.S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home
May 16, 2024	Speaker Luncheon Sponsor: Chick-fil-A

Be sure to check the Weekly Bulletin for news of additional day trips planned for the coming year. Our participants enjoy traveling with the group around the metro area to tour sites they might not visit on their own. Please consider joining us on a future trip so you can enjoy the fun and fellowship, too!

Congratulations

Honoring Nicodemos and MaryAnn Economos

We honor Nicodemos Economos for over fifty years of dedicated service as our Protospalti (Lead Chanter). Our Cathedral Parish Family is blessed with many talented parishioners with various gifts and talents. Nicodemos is one of those parishioners who has offered his God-given talent as a skilled Byzantine chanter. He has served as Protospalti at our Annunciation Cathedral for decades demonstrating excellence, dedication, unwavering endurance, reliability, not to mention an extraordinary, powerful, and very inspiring voice. He will now become our Protospalti Emeritus handing the reins over to Grigorios Karakostas from Volos, Greece. Of course, we hope to have Nicodemos at the chant stand whenever he and MaryAnn are not traveling the world or enjoying their three beautiful grandchildren. We also thank and honor Nicodemos' loving wife MaryAnn who has supported and shared him with our parish.

AXIOS! WORTHY! AXIOS!



SAINT PHOTINI OUTREACH MINISTRY *Annunciator- September, 2023*

Our Saint Photini Outreach Ministry (SPOM) started the Ecclesiastical year in full throttle!

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS" - PANTRY DRIVE FOR INTOWN CARES

Immediate needed food items for **INTOWN CARES** were collected on three consecutive Sundays from August 27 to September 10. Items collected included canned vegetables, soups and fruit, pasta and sauce, and shelf-stable milk. A total of **283 pounds** of food was delivered on September 12, as well as a tray of sandwiches donated by our Cathedral for the Staff at the Food Pantry. **Thank You Annunciation Cathedral Family for your continued support for INTOWN CARES!**

FOOD DONATIONS TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Our Cathedral is blessed to be able to share remaining food from Cathedral and organizations events to various agencies and organizations in our local area. Recently we were able to deliver remaining food to the following non-profit agencies and organizations:

- Hope Atlanta – Cascade Women's Community Kitchen (Downtown)
- Loaves and Fishes – St. John the Wonderworker in Grant Park
- Toco Hills Alliance – St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
- Dekalb County Fire Station #8 (near the Cathedral)



SATURDAY OF SERVICE – VOLUNTEER EVENT (OCTOBER 14)

Our Parish family has the opportunity to volunteer at six agencies in the local area. Registration can be made each week in September through our Cathedral's Weekly Bulletin. The agencies are: Helping Mamas, The Farm at Good Samaritan Health Center, Hope House, Nicholas House, FODAC & FODAC Thrift Store, and ReStore – Habitat for Humanity.

DAILY BREAD – OCTOBER

Look out for the next "Daily Bread" collection in the Cathedral's Weekly Bulletin. Our Parish family was graciously generous in July! The need for assistance is increasing! Through your continued gift cards and monetary donations, we are able to continue to bring relief, hope and support to those entering our Cathedral in need of immediate comfort and assistance.



VISITATION

- Cards were sent out to our Shut-Ins/Homebound during the month of September; Visitations will be made in October and November.
- Our list of Shut-Ins/Homebound is always being updated. If you would like to add a loved-one to the list, please call the Cathedral Office at 404-633-7358.

ST. PHOTINI CALENDAR - OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2023

- SPOM In-Person Meetings: Tuesday, October 24 at 6pm in HCC Boardroom

EVENTS (All Are Welcome)

- Saturday of Service (Saturday, October 14)
- Bags of Love (Saturday, November 25)

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

SAINT PHOTINI OUTREACH MINISTRY *Annunciator – October, 2023*

Our Saint Photini Outreach Ministry continues to serve our Cathedral and local community!

FOOD DONATIONS TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Recently we were able share the remaining sweets from our Festival with the following non-profit agencies and organizations:

- Hope Atlanta – Cascade Women's Community Kitchen (Downtown)
- FODAC – Friends of the Disabled Adults and Children



FALL SATURDAY OF SERVICE – VOLUNTEER EVENT (OCTOBER 14)

AMAZING is the word for our Fall Saturday of Service. It's evident our Parish family *welcomes the opportunity to VOLUNTEER!* Volunteers were able to choose from six local non-profit agencies. *Our Parish Volunteers filled 57 out of 65 openings* at the following agencies: Helping Mamas, The Farm at Good Samaritan Health Center, Hope Lodge, Nicholas House, FODAC & FODAC Thrift Store, and ReStore – Habitat for Humanity. **THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS**

for making our Fall Saturday of Service success!

SHARING OUR DAILY BREAD – OCTOBER

October is one of the months of 2023 with five Sundays and “thus we call upon our faithful to “Share their Daily Bread” with the purchase of Gift Cards in \$25 increments from Kroger, Walmart or QuickTrip.

A BIG Thank You to our Parish family for your charitable donations, which totaled \$4,000 in October. The requests for assistance are growing with each day! Through your continued gift cards and monetary donations, we are able to continue to bring relief, hope and support to those entering our Cathedral in need of immediate comfort and assistance.



VISITATION

- Visitations to our Shut-Ins/Homebound have made in October and will continue in November. Visitations from our Team has been well-received and welcomed! It's truly a great pleasure to share time with our Parish Shut-Ins/Homebound and experience the joy and smiles it brings to them!
- In December, hand-painted Christmas cards will be sent to our Parish Shut-Ins/Homebound.
- Our list of Shut-Ins/Homebound is always being updated. If you would like to add a loved-one to the list, please call the Cathedral Office at 404-633-7358.

EVENTS / CALENDAR (All Are Welcome)

- Bags of Love (November 25)
 - 8:15am - St. Katherine (Metropolis Chapel)
 - 10:00am – Assemble Bags of Love (Hellenic Center Ballroom)
- Sharing Our Daily Bread (December)

FALL SATURDAY OF SERVICE – OCTOBER, 14, 2023

HELPING MAMAS



FARM HOUSE



NICHOLAS

THE



HOPE LODGE



FODAC (FRIENDS OF DISABLED ADULTS & CHILDREN) ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL GOYANS & ADULTS



ANNUNCIATION DAY SCHOOL

Centered in Christ, Children and Community

Our Annunciation Day School had another successful fall in the MAAC sports league winning their fourth consecutive boys soccer championship and their Lady Spartans placed 2nd in volleyball! Switching things up a bit, their Middle School planned an early fall dance this year sporting flannels and all things fall!

Our parochial school is also getting ready for their first Open House of the school year on November 14th with over 40 new families expected to attend including several families from our Cathedral Parish. Their new Open House format will take place in the evening at 5:30pm allowing for prospective families to attend after work. ADS will have 30 parent volunteers and over 50 student ambassadors to welcome new families & provide tours of the campus and Cathedral grounds.

In addition to the Open House, ADS will be wrapping up the end of the year with a flurry of events. We hope our parishioners will join us for a few to see and learn more about our amazing & growing parochial school!

- Nov. 6 -10: Book Fair (upstairs hallway leading to the Cathedral)
- Nov. 14, 5:30pm: OPEN HOUSE! (register at www.adsatlanta.org/open-house-dates)
- Nov. 15, 12:30pm: Kindergarten "Get to Know" (for all Rising Kind. students)
- Nov. 16, 9:00am: Turkey Trot (Lower parking lot)
- Nov. 17, 10:00am: Preschool Grandparent's Day & Thanksgiving program (Carlos Hall)
- Nov. 29, 4:00 & 5:00pm: Kick-off to Spartan Boys & Girls Basketball Season (first home game)
- Dec. 7: 4th- 8th Spelling Bee
- Dec. 9: 5K Fun Run: Jingle Jog (register: www.adsatlanta.org/jingle-jog)
- Dec. 14: K-8 Christmas Programs at 10:00am for Grandparents and 6:00pm for Parents

We pray our Cathedral Parish family has a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday with loved ones near and far! For any questions or to schedule a private tour, please email marketing@adsatlanta.org or call (404) 565-2850.

Follow ADS on Facebook and Instagram, @adsspartansatl!



5k
Fun
Run



**Race Bib
Numbers**
included with your
registration!

Jingle 2023 Jog

**HOT
CHOCOLATE
BAR &
Chick-fil-A
CHICKEN
BISCUITS**

...included with registration!



DECEMBER 9th, 2023 Register today at adsatlanta.org

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: November 28th • Check-in at 7:45am • Race Start at 8:30am
Register at adsatlanta.org • Adults: \$30 | Children (10 and under): \$15 | Strollers Free

Thank you to our sponsors:

<p>PLATINUM:</p>   <p>North Druid Hills</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>MANUEL J. CHAKNIS, M.D. "YOUR PERSONAL ATLANTA LARGE SURGERY SINCE 1991" 678-381-2020</p> </div>	<p>Gold:</p>        
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Please email marketing@adsatlanta.org for Sponsorships.



BUILDING A LEGACY **GALA 2024**

Proceeds to benefit Cathedral & School Renovations
& Construction of an Additional School Building

Friday, March 8, 2024

Kartos Ballroom | 7:00pm

HONOREES:

St. Kosmas of Aetolia Award: Ron & Vicki Canakaris

ADS Volunteer Award: Connie Mondore

Purchase your tickets & Sponsorships Today!

www.adsatlanta.org



ANNUNCIATION DAY SCHOOL
Centered in Christ, Children and Community

DUALLY ACCREDITED:

Internationally
DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Small
CLASS SIZES
16-18 STUDENTS

STATE-OF-THE-ART
Science Lab

AFTER SCHOOL Clubs
Including: Ballet, Robotics, Word Play, Lego Club, Chess

Our Mission:
Centered in Christ, Children and Community

162 STUDENTS **25 COUNTRIES**

Preschool & K-8

IOWA STANDARDIZED Test Scores

IN THE TOP 14% NATIONALLY (2023)

House System
mixing K-8 students in community, mentorship & competition

LOWEST Tuition in ATLANTA

\$4,000 for Preschool;
\$9,150 for K-5;
\$11,450 for 6th-8th

Competitive
SPORTS

MAAC LEAGUE: BASKETBALL, SOCCER & VOLLEYBALL
(Spartan Soccer teams reign champions for 3rd consecutive year)

IN-HOUSE & EXTERNAL Field Trips

STEM Bus; Fembank & Tellus Science Museum

AnnunciationDaySchool.org

Daughters of Penelope

Fall is in full swing for the Daughters of the Penelope with several events underway, including the presale orders for our annual Daughters of Penelope Bake Sale! Please consider purchasing our beautifully packaged sweet treats for your friends, family members, teachers and neighbors – check out our order form and complete the form and email it to dopmene-laos53@gmail.com. A portion of the proceeds are donated to local and national charities. You can choose from koulourakia, kourabiedes, melomakarona, or baklava -- or buy a sampler with all of the above! The deadline for presale orders is Saturday, Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. The bake sale will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 in Carlos Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We had a wonderful time celebrating Ryan Marinos and meeting with several distinguished guests from the AHEPA Grand Lodge during Ryan's testimonial dinner at the Hellenic Center Thalia N. Carlos Ballroom on Saturday, Oct. 14. Ryan, son of Sister Susan Marinos, gave a wonderful speech and celebrated with family and friends as he concluded his term as the Supreme Grand President of the Sons of Pericles.



We also had a fun and festive time celebrating our sisterhood, honoring milestone members and past presidents at our Founders' Day Friendsgiving event held at the AHEPA One House on Nov. 4. The Daughters also enjoyed a recent social outing to see Fiddler on the Roof at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center and had a wonderful time. Stay tuned for more social events to come! A joint Christmas party with AHEPA is also in the works and we'll share details on the date and location soon.

This month we continue to collect items for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection, and sponsoring the annual turkey drive for St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church to help families in need during the holidays – with the goal of donating 40 turkeys. If you



would like to assist with this fundraiser, each turkey is \$30 and checks can be made payable to Daughters of Penelope and mailed to Sister Sherry Kliossis at 2105 Briarwillow Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30345, or credit card payments via Square by calling Sister Mary Alice George at (678) 521-4147 or PayPal to [@Daughters53](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?business=dopmene-laos53@gmail.com).



Congratulations

Congratulations to Jimmy Frangis, CEO of PDI Technologies, who was recently recognized as Most Admired CEO in the technology industry in Georgia by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Congratulations to James Tsismanakis who was recently awarded the Georgia State University Leaders in Travel & Tourism Award.

Thank you to Mrs. Chanos for your direction and dedication to Seniors at Play. Mrs. Chanos has worked so hard with this group for the past seven years and we appreciate all of your hard work.

OVERCOME THE DAILY PRESSURES OF LIFE

From time to time, the daily pressures of Life can make us feel that we are powerless. By focusing only on our problems, it can even weaken our faith. But we are reminded by St. Paul in his Epistle to the Philippians "Be anxious for nothing." (Phil 4:6) But how can we achieve this important goal?

We must learn to **TRUST** instead of **TREMBLE**. Be aware that anxiety prevents achievement. Focused thinking is what we need, so we may accomplish God's plan for us. It has been said that faith and fear are opposites. While faith brings peace and salvation, fear harbors sadness and discouragement. With faith, fear is driven away, placing anything within our reach.

We must learn to **FORGIVE** instead of **FUME**. After all, anger is a roadblock to accomplishment; forgiveness is the antidote to anger. We have been instructed by our Lord to give up resentment and be kind to one another.

We must learn to **RELEASE** instead of **RETAIN**. We faithful have proof of God's caring love for us. Christ died on the cross, so we may live in peace. We have been instructed to cast our cares and worries to Jesus so we may be free of them.

By trusting, forgiving and releasing, we turn on the power of God. Allow it to flow through you and you will find the secret to contentment. A carefree mind will be the positive result.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Yezai, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

Be the change.

Help change a life. Give blood.



**Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Hellenic Community Center
BLOOD DRIVE**

Monday, November 20, 2023

10am – 3pm

Kartos Ballroom

To schedule your appointment to donate, please visit
www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code **GOCATL**.

Walk-ins are welcome and appointments are encouraged.
Please eat a good meal, drink plenty of fluids prior to your donation.
Please bring a valid photo ID!



Scan for an appointment

Come 11/10 to 11/30 for an exclusive pair of Elf & Red Cross socks ltd qty. Make giving a tradition!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



Daughters of Penelope Pastry Pre-Sale Order Form

Deadline: Friday, November 24th at 3:00 pm

Dear Friends,

Our pastries are made just for you. Each package is beautifully wrapped with a festive bow for you to present to your guest, host, teacher, friend or co-worker! You may freeze the pastries if you wish by wrapping the entire outside box in plastic wrap to save until Christmas.

Checks can be mailed to Sherry Kliossis 2105 Briarwillow Drive, NE Atlanta, GA 30345.

For credit card payments, call Mary Alice George at 678-521-4147.

PayPal payments to @Daughters53

Cash is welcome at the time of pick-up on Sunday December 3, 2023 in Carlos Hall following Divine Liturgy unless other arrangements are made.

Please send completed order form to dopmenelaos53@gmail.com or text to Anthea Nichols at 770-351-8054.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Person who will pick-up order: _____

# of Boxes/Bags	\$ Sub-Total	
_____ x \$26.00	_____	Baklava
_____ x \$8.00	_____	Koulourakia
_____ x \$14.00	_____	Melomakarona
_____ x \$14.00	_____	Kourabiedes
_____ x \$26.00	_____	Sampler/all of the above
# _____ Total Items	\$ _____ Total Amount	

Parish Registry

Births

Baby Girl born to Nick & Kiersten Kipreos
Baby Boy born to Taylor & Christina Fulton
Baby Girl born to Danae & Noel Moya
Baby Boy born to Robert & Lia Hooff
Baby Girl born to Stephen & Jenny Halkos
Baby Girl born to Bess & Theo Stathakis

Weddings

Noah White & Anna Sophia Davis
Ryan Grizzard & Ariana Nasoulis
Mark Hall & Becky Stamatiades
David Hall & Zoe Kafkes

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

Constantine Harris
Lula (Despina) Alexander
Maria Chandler
Doris (Dorthea) Malaspina
Nancy Anastasia Charalampakis
Dino (Constantine) Dorris (Gainesville, GA)
(Father of Gina Vasilakis)
Victor Andrew Panagos
(Brother of Martha Poulos)

Chrismation

Adult: Sarron Hagos
Godparent: Sandy Riley

Baptisms

Parents: Theodore & Annalisa Skarvelis
Baby: Mikaila
Godparents: John Skarvelis & Melissa Strong

Parents: Constantine & Lauren Daniels
Baby: Constantine
Godparent: Marina Daniels

Parents: James & Leah Economos
Baby: Michael
Godparents: Kari Carlos Dunn & Michael Abdalla

Baptisms (continued)

Parents: Georges & Valerie Tene
Baby: Marina
Godparents: William & Donna Bacon

Parents: James & Crystal Vlahos
Baby: Iakovos
Godparent: Giovanni Ray

Parents: William & Angela Reid
Baby: Andrew
Godparent: Eugene Reid

Parents: Benjamin & Marie Stewart
Baby: Calliope
Godparent: Eleni Motz

Parents: Elias & Alyssa Chininis
Baby: Constantine Alexander
Godparents: Gregory Chininis & Alexis Chininis

Parents: Michael & Michelle Hoon
Baby: Michael
Godparent: Margot Zirger

Parents: Nicholas & Fernanda DeMaria
Baby: Sophia
Godparents: Lucio & Christina Benzor

Parents: Nicholas & Fernanda DeMaria
Baby: Sophia
Godparents: Carl DeMaria & Nicole DeMaria

Parents: Lucio & Christina Benzor
Baby: Elinor
Godparents: Nicholas & Fernanda DeMaria

Parents: Thanasi & Yianna Pappas
Baby: Athanasios
Godparents: Heather Copsis & Candace Pistoris

Parents: John & Margaret Vastakis
Baby: Paraskevi
Godparents: Anthony & Despina Georgiafandis

Stay in touch



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/atlgoc

Visit our website atlgoc.org



Subscribe

To stay up to date with our live streams and Church services, please visit our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/c/atlgoc



Donate



Text "ATLGOC"
to 73256



Scan this QR Code



Send Photos

There is so much going on with our Cathedral Parish Family! Help us capture these moments by sharing your photos and videos with us!

Share directly from your mobile device:
<https://www.atlgoc.org/photo-gallery>

Thank you for sharing them with us!