



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday, Dec 24,
2017**

Sunday Before Nativ-
ity

Holy Bread

Enosis Touliatos

Ushers

Chris Apalodimas

John Kay

Greeters

Epistle Reader

Paul Vieron

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship hosted
by Kal Lefes and the Det-
ty Family to honor Cyndi
on receiving her MBA
from Union University

Welcome to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. We are blessed that you have come to our worship service, and hope that you will be both enlightened and inspired. Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are attending an Orthodox Church for the first time, our service may be foreign and perplexing to you. We assure you that everything we do is firmly rooted in the Scriptures. Please feel free to participate to the level that you feel comfortable.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist – the Lord's Supper – to be, among other things, the paramount expression of Christian unity. The unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox Faith. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every service of the Orthodox Church. *Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma and practices of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.* All guests are invited to receive the blessed bread at the end of the service.

First Antiphon

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us!

Verse 1: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Psalm 102:1

Verse 2: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He has done for you.

Psalm 102:2

Verse 3: The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 102:17

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead. We sing to You: Alleluia

Verse 1: Praise the Lord, O my soul; I will praise the Lord in my life; I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

Psalm 145:1-2

Verse 2: Blessed is He of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Psalm 145:5

Verse 3: The Lord shall be King unto eternity; your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

Psalm 145:10

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Third Antiphon

Apolytikion of the Sunday

Verse: This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.

Psalm 117:24; Psalm 68:34

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Sung before and after the Small Entrance in the Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spoke to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Hymn for the Eve of Nativity

Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode

Mary once, with aged Joseph, went to be taxed in Bethlehem, for they were of the lineage of David; and she bore in her womb the fruit that had not been sown. The time of the birth was at hand and there was no room at the inn; but the cave proved a fair palace for the Queen. Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was fallen.

Hymn for the Holy Fathers

Sung after the hymn above in the Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Annunciation

Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

Seasonal Kontakion

Sung after the hymn above in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

Sunday, Dec 24, 2017

St. Eugenia the Nun-
martyr of Rome

Monday, Dec 25, 2017

Nativity of Jesus Christ
Adoration fo the Magi;
Melchoir, Gaspar, &
Balthasar

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2017

Synaxis of the Theoto-
kos
St. Euthemios, Bishop of
Sardis

**Wednesday, Dec 27,
2017**

St. Stephen, First Martyr
St. Theodore the Con-
fessor

Thursday, Dec 28, 2017

20,000 Martyrs in Nico-
demia
St. Glycerios, the Martyr

Friday, Dec 29, 2017

14,000 Infants (Holy In-
nocents)
St. Marcellus the Right-
eous

Saturday, Dec 30, 2017

St. Anysia of Thessaloni-
ki
St. Gideon of Mount
Athos

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

**Prokeimenon. Fourth Tone.
Daniel 3.26,27.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

**The reading is from St. Paul's
Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40.**

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 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.

**Sunday, Dec 24,
2017**

Fast Day | (Wine
& oil are al-
lowed) Re-
frain from
meat, fish,
dairy, and
eggs.

**Monday, Dec 25,
2017**

Fast Free Day

**Tuesday, Dec 26,
2017**

Fast Free Day

**Wednesday, Dec
27, 2017**

Fast Free Day

**Thursday, Dec
28, 2017**

Fast Free Day

**Friday, Dec 29,
2017**

Fast Free Day

**Saturday, Dec
30, 2017**

Fast Free Day

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Visitation Committee

December: Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jamison

January: Nancy Tashie, Jan Futris & Tina Liollo

February: Vicki Hoover & Evangelina Panas

March: Linda Nichols, Anne Schmitt, & Debbie Bookas

April: Cary Chiungos & Mary Katherine Taras

May: Demie Bitinis, Tricia Grantham, Emily Capadalis Love, & Georgia Karris

June: Despina Karas & Angela Tobias

July: Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras

August: Stephanie Poplos & Friend

September: Susanna Peters & Cathe Skefos

October: Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner

November: Connie Cotros, Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

The following members of our parish family have requested visitation. For address and/or contact information please check your parish directory or contact the Church Office.

Alec Collis
Diana Mazas

Stella Nichols
Zoe Nickas

Kosta Taras

Please contact Kristine Wagner if you would like to volunteer to be on the 2018-2019 Visitation Committee, a ministry of the Elpis Philoptochos.

Announcements

- ◆ **Christmas Eve Special Reception** hosted by ELPIS, Sunday, December 24th at 8:00 pm in Cotros Hall following Christmas Eve Vespertal Liturgy
- ◆ **Second Day of Christmas at St. Paul Skete**, Tuesday, December 26th: Mother Nektaria invites everyone to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Tuesday, December 26th. Fr. Philip from St. John will serve Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal – bring some Christmas “overabundance” (foods that don’t need heating) – and the singing of Christmas carols. Please try to let Mother Nektaria know by Wednesday, December 20th if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day (e-mail: monektaria@gmail.com or phone: [731.764.0085](tel:731.764.0085)).
- ◆ **New Year’s Eve Party**, December 31st in Cotros Hall. 6:30 pm Cocktails & Appetizers/8:00 pm Dinner/9:30 pm Vasilopita Cutting. RSVP on Sundays in Cotros Hall or in the office during the week. Reservation Forms can be found in the Epistle -online and in print, on our Facebook page, on the website at www.goann.net or in the office. This year we are adding some extra FUN to our party! Our theme is a "MASQUERADE BALL" - so please bring a FUN mask and get dressed up to ring in the New Year 2018.
- ◆ **Feast of the Epiphany Weekend services:** Friday, January 5th: Vespertal Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm, Blessing of the Waters 7:30 pm, Saturday, January 6th: Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am, Blessing of the Waters 11:00 am, Blessing of the Mississippi Rivier 12:30 pm (watch for location details).
- ◆ **DOP hosting Karen Batshaw - Author of the book "Hidden in Plain Sight"**, Saturday, January 20th at 7:00 pm in Cotros Hall Commememorating the bravery of the Archbishop of Athens and the decency of ordinary people, Hidden in Plain Sight chronicles the SAVage Nazi Occupation of Greece through a bitersweet love story.

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

† Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am

† NO Sunday School this week or next—Classes will resume on January 7th.

† Nursery will NOT be available this week or next. We will resume on January 7th.

† Coffee Fellowship hosted by Kal Lefes and the Detty Family to honor Cyndi on receiving her MBA from Union University

† Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy 7:00 pm

† Christmas Eve Reception 8:00 pm

Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day

† Orthros 9:00 am

† Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

† Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

† Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27th Feast of Saint Stephen

† Orthros 9:00 am

† Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve

† Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am

† NO Sunday School this week. Classes will resume on January 7th.

† Nursery will NOT be available this week. We will resume on January 7th.

† New Year's Eve Dinner & Masquerade Ball 6:30 pm—1:00 am