



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday, December
31, 2017**

Sunday Before Theophany

Holy Bread

Enosis Touliatos

Ushers

Endy Carter
Vasili Semos

Greeters

Epistle Reader

Scott McKee

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee will be available in Cotros Hall

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: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, always telling of Your wonders.
Psalm 9:1

Verse 2: In the company of the upright, and in the congregation. Psalm 110:1-2

Verse 3: The works of the Lord are great, adapted to all His purposes. Psalm 110:2

Verse 4: Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever and ever. Psalm 110:3

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 were born of the Virgin. We sing to You: Alleluia

Verse 1: Blessed is he who fears the Lord; he will delight greatly in His commandments.
Psalm 111:1

Verse 2: His seed shall be might in the earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Psalm 111:2

Verse 3: Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endures forever and ever. Psalm 111:3

Verse 4: To the upright light has sprung up in darkness. Psalm 111:4

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

Your birth, O Christ our God, brought to the world the light of Knowledge. For through it those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as the Dawn from Heaven. O Lord, glory to You.

Verse 1: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit on My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool. Psalm 109:1

Verse 2: The Lord shall send out a rod of power for you out of Zion: rule in the midst of your enemies. Psalm 109:2

Verse 3: With You is dominion in the day of Your power, in the splendour of You saints. Psalm 109:3

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Sung before and after the Small Entrance in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O you faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Hymn of the Nativity

Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship YOU, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to You.

Hymn for Sunday after Nativity

Sung after the hymn above in the Second Mode

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. You have seen a Virgin great with child; you have given glory with the shepherds; you have worshipped with the Magi; and you have been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to 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 bears the Transcendent in essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth does offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He that existed * before the ages as God.

Sunday, Dec 31, 2017

Apodosis of the
Nativity

St. Melania, Nun of
Rome

Monday, Jan 1, 2018

St. Basil the Great
Circumcision of Christ

Tuesday, Jan 2, 2018

St. Sylvester, Pope of
Rome
St. Kosmas, Patriarch of
Constantinople

**Wednesday, Jan 3,
2018**

Prophet Malachi
St. Gordios of Caesa-
rea

Thursday, Jan 4, 2018

Synaxis of the 70 Apos-
tles
St. Theoctistos the
Righteous

Friday, Jan 5, 2018

Eve of Theophany
Sts. Theopemptos &
Theonas

Saturday, Jan 6, 2018

Holy Theophany

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Tone. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inher-
itance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to
Timothy 4:5-8.**

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffer-
ing, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.
For I am already on the point of being sacrificed;
the time of my departure has come. I have fought
the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept
the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the
crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the right-
eous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not
only to me but also to all who have loved his ap-
pearing.

Sunday, Dec 31, 2017

Fast Free Day

Monday, Jan 1, 2018

Fast Free Day

Tuesday, Jan 2, 2018

Fast Free Day

**Wednesday, Jan 3,
2018**

Fast Free Day

Thursday, Jan 4, 2018

Fast Free Day

Friday, Jan 5, 2018

Strict Fast Day | Refrain
from meat, fish, oil,
wine, dairy, and eggs.

Saturday, Jan 6, 2018

Fast Free Day

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Visitation Committee

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: Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

December: Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jamison

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
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

- ◆ **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 at the boat launch of the Greenbelt Park at Harbortown. Barbeque lunch & fellowship will be held at St. John Orthodox Church afterwards.
- ◆ **Please join Father Simon & Presvytera Stephanie as they celebrate the baptism of their son Christos Panayiotis Thomas**, Saturday, January 13th, at 11:00 am, here at Annunciation. A Reception will follow here in Cotros Hall. Regrets only to 209-640-1301 The Godparents will be Christopher & Christine Ronson.
- ◆ **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 bit-tersweet love story.
- ◆ **JOY Event— Ice Skating at MidSouth Icehouse in Olive Branch**—January 27th, 1:30 pm—4:00 pm. Cost is \$10, ages 3 and under \$4. There is an additional \$3 for skate rental. We may be able to secure a group discount once we have a headcount. Those not skating are free. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4caba62ea64-iceskating>.

Weekly Schedule

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

Monday, January 1st, Feast of Saint Basil the Great New Years Day

- † Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- † Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2nd

- † Library Open 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday, January 5th

- † Royal Hours 9:00 am
- † Vespersal Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm
- † Blessing of the Waters 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 6th, Feast of Epiphany

- † Orthros 9:00 am
- † Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- † Blessing of the Waters 11:00 am
- † Blessing of the Mississippi River 12:30 pm

Sunday, January 7th, Feast of Saint John the Baptist Vasilopita Sunday

- † Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am
- † Swearing in of Parish Council Members immediately following Divine Liturgy
- † Nursery available 10:00 am—12:00 Noon
- † Sunday School 11:00 am
- † Coffee Fellowship hosted by ELPIS 12:00 Noon
- † DOP Board Meeting 12:00 Noon