



# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

573 North Highland Street, Memphis, TN 38122

Phone: (901) 327-8177 † FAX: (901) 327-4440

www.goann.net † annunciationmemphis@gmail.com

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

Sunday after Holy Cross

**Holy Bread**

Enosis Touliatos

**Ushers**

Madeleine Donnelly

Bill Joyner

**Epistle Reader**

Cathe Skefos

**Coffee Fellowship**

Open—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

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*By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us!*

Verse 1: O God, my God, attend to me; why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 21:1

Verse 2: Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions.

Psalm 21:1

Verse 3: O my God, I will cry to You by day but You will not hear.

Psalm 21:2

Verse 4: But You, the praise of Israel, dwell in a sanctuary.

Psalm 21:3

*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

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*Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh. We sing to You: Alleluia*

Verse 1: Why, O God, have you rejected us forever?

Psalm 73:1

Verse 2: Remember Your congregation which You have acquired from the beginning.

Psalm 73:2

Verse 3: This is Mount Zion where You have dwelled.

Psalm 73:2

Verse 4. God is our eternal King; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Psalm 73:12

*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

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*Save, O Lord, your people and bless your inheritance. Give victory to Your leaders against their adversaries, and protect Your commonwealth by Your cross.*

Verse: The Lord reigns; let the people rage. The Lord is great in Zion, and is high over all the people. Let them give thanks to Your great name, for it is terrible and holy.

Psalm 98:1-3

# Resurrectional Apolytikion

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*Sung before and after the Small Entrance in the Seventh Mode*

You did abolish death by Your Cross; You did open Paradise to the thief; You did transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and did bid Your Apostles to preach that You are risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

## Hymn for Holy Cross

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*Sung after the hymn above in the First Mode*

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance; grant You unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Your Cross do You preserve Your commonwealth.

## Hymn for Great Martyr Euphemia

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*Sung after the hymn above in the Third Mode*

O Euphemia, Christ's comely virgin, you did fill the Orthodox with gladness and did cover with shame all the heretics; for at the holy Fourth Council in Chalcedon, you did confirm what the Fathers decreed aright. O all-glorious Great Martyr, do you entreat Christ God that His great mercy may be granted unto us.

## Hymn of the Annunciation

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*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."

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

## Seasonal Kontakion

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*Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode*

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

**Sunday, September 16,  
2018**

St. Euphemia the Great  
Martyr  
St. Melitina the Martyr

**Monday, September 17,  
2018**

Sts. Sophia, Faith, Hope, &  
Love  
Sts. Herakleides & Myron

**Tuesday, September 18,  
2018**

St. Eumenios, Bishop of  
Gortyna  
St. Ariadne the Martyr

**Wednesday, September  
19, 2018**

Sts. Trophimos, Sabbatios,  
& Dorymedon

**Thursday, September 20,  
2018**

St. Eustathios & family  
St. Eustathios, Archbishop  
of Thessalonica

**Friday, September 21,  
2018**

St. Quadratus the Apostle

**Saturday, September 22,  
2018**

St. Phocas, Bishop of Si-  
nope  
St. Phocas the Gardener

## **Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20**

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**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.  
Psalm 27.9,1**

O Lord, save your people  
and bless your inheritance.

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

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the  
Galatians 2:16-20**

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

**Today is Fast Free** | No fasting restrictions.

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

**Today is Fast Free** | No fasting restrictions.

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

**Today is Fast Free** | No fasting restrictions.

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

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

**Thursday, September 20, 2018**

**Today is Fast Free** | No fasting restrictions.

**Friday, September 21, 2018**

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

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**Today is Fast Free** | No fasting restrictions.

## **Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

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The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

# Visitation Committee

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**September:** Susanna Peters & Cathe Skefos

**October:** Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner

**November:** Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

**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:** Elaine Daniels & Maria Wasserman

**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  
Maria Hetos  
Stella Nichols

Georgia Smith  
Jimmy Smith  
Kosta Taras

Sophie Theodore

***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

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- ◆ **Elpis Philoptochos Membership Luncheon, Sunday, September 16th 12:00 Noon** at Chickasaw Country Club
- ◆ **Father Simon's Weekly Bible Study**  
We meet **every Wednesday at 6:30 pm in Cotros Hall**. You are welcome to bring meatless pot-luck to share with the group.
- ◆ **Young at Heart Fall Kick-Off Luncheon, Thursday, September 20th, at 11:30 am** in Cotros Hall
- ◆ **Community Picnic & Softball Game sponsored by AHEPA & Daughters of Penelope, Sunday September 23rd 4:00 pm** at Houston Levee Park.  
Thank you to the Vergos Family (aka—Rendezvous) for donating the barbeque dinner! All Free!
- ◆ **Daughters of Penelope Sisterhood Luncheon, Sunday, September 30th at 1:00 pm** at the home of President Phani Mitchell.  
All ladies of our Community, ages 18 and over, are invited. Please feel free to bring a friend. For more information, please contact Anastasia Terranova at 901-361-4382.
- ◆ **Greek School Registration is Open.**  
See Despina in Cotros Hall on Sundays after Divine Liturgy.

## Stewardship Update

We've all seen numerous definitions of stewardship. The below definition however uses words like "call", "willingly", "devotion", "active" and "acknowledgement". Words that indicate a personal action / effort.

***Stewardship is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as a Parish, as a Metropolis, as a National Church, and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our active commitment to use ALL our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.***

### ***Williams and McKibben in Oriented Leadership***

September brings several "news". A new school year, a new Ecclesiastical year, a new fall season, a new football season. It's a good time to refocus and evaluate our efforts and goals for the balance of this year and 2019.

As we finish 2018 and begin our planning for 2019, we'll be sharing some information on our financial Church needs and the impact on our stewardship dollars. 2019 stewardship cards will be sent out in October, we ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship commitment for 2019.

Our church family has always been a wonderful steward of time, talent and money. When a need exists, our Church family always meets it, we are truly blessed. Thank you for all that you do!

# Weekly Schedule

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## **Sunday, September 16th, Sunday after Holy Cross**

- † Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am
- † Nursery Available 10:00 am
- † Sunday School 11:00 am
- † GOYA Meeting 12:00 Noon in the GOYA Room
- † Elpis Philoptochos Membership Luncheon 12:00 Noon at Chickasaw CC
- † More Than a Meal—Cooking Team 12:00 Noon in the Kitchen
- † More Than a Meal—Serving Team 3:00 pm at Grace-St. Luke's Church

## **Monday, September 17th, St. Sophia & Her Daughters**

- † Orthros 9:00 am
- † Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- † Parish Council Meeting 6:15 pm in the Library

## **Tuesday, September 18th**

- † Library Open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## **Wednesday, September 19th**

- † Bible Study 6:30 pm in Cotros Hall

## **Thursday, September 20th**

- † Young at Heart Luncheon 11:30 am in Cotros Hall

## **Sunday, September 23rd, First Sunday of Luke**

- † Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am
- † Nursery Available 10:00 am
- † Sunday School 11:00 am
- † Coffee Fellowship—OPEN
- † Community Picnic & Softball Game at Houston Levee Park 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm