



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis Church of  
New Jersey



Ascension Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Fairview, NJ

**ASCENSION**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY



## The LIGHT of the ASCENSION Το Φως της Θείας Αναλήψεως

**Welcome to The LIGHT of the ASCENSION! We are excited to launch this weekly newsletter which will inform and hopefully, inspire you with all things and activities having to do with our church and community. We hope you enjoy the content!**



**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**Today we commemorate**

### **Sunday Before Nativity**

- **[Sunday Before Nativity click here](#)**
- **[Boniface of Tarsus, Gregentius, click here](#)**
  
- **[Epistle Reading click here](#)**
- **[Gospel Reading click here](#)**

# GOSPEL and EPISTLE READINGS

## EPISTLE READING

**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.

## GOSPEL READING

**The Gospel According to 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 Amminadab, 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.

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **Sunday, December 19, 2021**

#### **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Nativity**

8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Orthros, Divine Liturgy

*Catechism Annual Nativity Program*

*GOYA Sunday - Breakfast with Santa*

#### **Monday, December 20th, 2021**

*Forefeast of the Nativity*

*Ignatius the God-Bearer*

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

**6:00 p.m. Holy Unction**

#### **Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

*Forefeast of the Nativity*

*Juliana & 630 Companions*

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

**6:00 p.m. Christmas Youth Event**

**with the Archbishop**

**(St. Athanasios Church, Paramus)**

#### **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

*Anastasia the Great Martyr*

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

**4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. ~ Greek School**

**5:00 p.m. Holy Unction**

**for the Greek School**

#### **Thursday, December 23, 2021**

*Ten Martyrs of Crete*

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

#### **Friday, December 24, 2021**

**9:00am-11:00am**

**Orthros, Royal Hours, NO Liturgy**

**6pm-8:30pm, Vespers, Divine Liturgy**

#### **Saturday, December 25, 2021**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD,**

**9am-11:30am Orthros Divine Liturgy**

**\* Merry Christmas \***

# ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

**Κυριακή, 19 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Προ της Χριστού Γεννήσεως**

8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

**Κατηχητικό Σχολείο**

**Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πρόγραμμα**

**Κυριακή της Γογυ**

**Πρόγευμα με τον Αη Βασίλη**

**Δευτέρα, 20 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Προεόρτια Γεννήσεως του Χριστού**

**Ιγνάτιος ο Θεοφόρος**

9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

**6:00 μ.μ. Ιερόν Ευχέλαιον**

**Τρίτη, 21 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Προεόρτια Γεννήσεως του Χριστού**

**Ιουλιανή και οι 630 συν αυτή**

9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

**6:00 μ.μ. Χριστουγεννιάτικη Εκδήλωση**

**Νέων με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο**

**(Ιερός Ναός Αγίου Αθανασίου Παράμους)**

**Τετάρτη, 22 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Αναστασία Μεγαλομάρτυς**

9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

5:00 μ.μ. Ιερόν Ευχέλαιον για τους μαθητές

του Ελληνικού Σχολείου

**Πέμπτη, 23 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Οι Εν Κρήτη 10 Μάρτυρες**

9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

**Παρασκευή, 24 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων**

**Ευγενία Οσιομάρτυς**

**9πμ-11πμ Όρθρος**

**Μεγάλοι Ώροι Άνευ Θ. Λειτουργίας**

**6μμ-8:00μμ**

**Εσπερινός Χριστουγέννων, Θεία Λειτουργία**

**Σάββατο, 25 Δεκεμβρίου, 2021**

**Χριστούγεννα**

**9πμ-11:30πμ Όρθρος Θεία Λειτουργία**

**των Χριστουγέννων**

### **Anastasia the Great Martyr**

This Saint, who was from Rome, was a most comely, wealthy, and virtuous maiden, the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta. It was her mother who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. The Saint was joined to a man named Publius Patricius, who was prodigal in life and impious in disposition, but she was widowed after a short time. Henceforth, she went about secretly to the dwellings of the poor and the prisons where the Martyrs of Christ were, and brought them whatever was needed for their daily subsistence. She washed their wounds and loosed them from their fetters, and consoled them in their anguish. Also, because the Saint, through her intercessions, has healed many from the ill effects of spells, potions, poisons, and other harmful substances, she has received the name "Deliverer from Potions." Since the fame of her deeds had spread about, she was arrested by Diocletian's minions, and after enduring many torments she was put to death by fire in the year 290.

### **Αγία Αναστασία η Φαρμακολύτρια (†22 Δεκεμβρίου)**

Η αγία και γενναιότατη μάρτυς Αναστασία ζούσε στη Ρώμη κατά την εποχή του αυτοκράτορα Διοκλητιανού (284-305 μ.Χ.). Ήταν θυγατέρα ενός ειδωολάτρη, ονόματι Πραιτεξτάτου. Η μητέρα της όμως, ονόματι Φάυστα, ήταν χριστιανή, και, έτσι, η Αγία διδάχτηκε από αυτήν την πίστη στο Χριστό. Και όχι μόνο αυτό· η μητέρα της, επιπλέον, την παρέδωσε στο Χρυσόγονο, άνδρα θεόπνευστο και ευσεβή, και εκπαιδεύτηκε από αυτόν στα ιερά γράμματα.

Η Αναστασία παντρεύτηκε έναν ειδωολάτρη, ονόματι Πούπλιο. Όμως η Αγία δεν ένιωθε αγάπη συζυγική προς αυτόν, για το λόγο ότι αυτός δεν πίστευε στο Χριστό. Έτσι λοιπόν δεν καταδεχόταν να έχει σαρκική συνάφεια μαζί του προφασισζόμενη συνεχώς ότι ήταν άρρωστη. Χωρίς δε να την παίρνει εκείνος είδηση, η Αγία επιτελούσε έργα κατ' εξοχήν θεάρεστα: Φορώντας μια στολή απλή και φτηνή, συναστρεφόταν με γυναίκες που είχαν διάφορες ανάγκες και παρείχε σ' αυτές κάθε δυνατή βοήθεια. Επίσης, ακολουθούμενη από μια και μόνο θεραπαινίδα, έμπαινε κρυφά στις φυλακές, στις οποίες ήταν κλεισμένοι χριστιανοί αθλούντες για το Χριστό, και πρόσφερε σ' αυτούς μεγάλη ανακούφιση. Δηλαδή τους έλυνε από τα δεσμά, με τα οποία αυτοί ήταν δεμένοι· άλειφε με λάδι τις πληγές τους και σπόγγιζε απαλά τα αίματα· παρείχε σ' αυτούς τις κατάλληλες και αναγκαίες τροφές.

Αλλά μια ημέρα όλα αυτά τα πληροφορήθηκε ο Πούπλιος, ο άνδρας της, και την έκλεισε στη φυλακή. Το γεγονός αυτό προκάλεσε μεγάλη θλίψη στην Αγία, διότι της ανέκοψε το θεάρεστο έργο. Τελικά όμως ο Πούπλιος, ταξιδεύοντας κάποτε με πλοίο, καταποντίστηκε και πνίγηκε, επειδή το πλοίο ναυάγησε εξαιτίας μεγάλης θαλασσοταραχής. Έτσι λοιπόν η αγία Αναστασία, όντας πλέον ελεύθερη από κάθε εμπόδιο, διένειμε πρώτα-πρώτα όλα τα υπάρχοντά της στους φτωχούς. Έπειτα, περισσότερο αφόβως, υπηρετούσε και πρόσφερε τις υπηρεσίες στους αθλούντες για το Χριστό· περισυνέλεγε τα ιερά λείψανα των τελειωθέντων και τα ενταφίαζε σεμνοπρεπώς· στήριζε στην πίστη πολλούς και τους προετοίμαζε για το μαρτύριο υπέρ του Χριστού.

Η αγία Αναστασία, για τη δραστηριότητά της αυτή και την πίστη της στο Χριστό, συνελήφθη από τους ειδωολάτρες και, αφού ανακρίθηκε και βασανίστηκε από διάφορους ηγεμόνες, ρίχτηκε μαζί με άλλες γυναίκες στη θάλασσα. Όμως, με τη θαυματουργική επέμβαση του Θεού, διασώθηκε και βγήκε στην παραλία. Ο ηγεμόνας που έδωσε την προσταγή για τον καταποντισμό της εξαгриώθηκε, όταν πληροφορήθηκε ότι η Αγία δεν

έπαθε τίποτε. Για το λόγο αυτό πρόσταξε τους δημίους να τη δέσουν σε πασσάλους και να ανάψουν ολόγυρά της φωτιά να την κάψουν. Οι δήμιοι εκτέλεσαν κατά γράμμα την προσταγή του τυράννου. Έτσι λοιπόν, η αγία μάρτυς Αναστασία ετελειώθη και στεφανώθηκε από τον Κύριο με τον αμάραντο στέφανο του μαρτυρίου. Η Σύναξη δε αυτής τελείται στο Μαρτύρειό της, που βρίσκεται πλησίον των κιονοστοιχιών του Δομνίνου.

### **Eugenia the Righteous Nun-martyr of Rome and those with her**

This Martyr was the daughter of most distinguished and noble parents named Philip and Claudia. Philip, a Prefect of Rome, moved to Alexandria with his family. In Alexandria, Eugenia had the occasion to learn the Christian Faith, in particular when she encountered the Epistles of Saint Paul, the reading of which filled her with compunction and showed her clearly the vanity of the world. Secretly taking two of her servants, Protas and Hyacinth, she departed from Alexandria by night. Disguised as a man, she called herself Eugene while pretending to be a eunuch, and departed with her servants and took up the monastic life in a monastery of men. Her parents mourned for her, but could not find her. After Saint Eugenia had laboured for some time in the monastic life, a certain woman named Melanthia, thinking Eugenia to be a monk, conceived lust and constrained Eugenia to comply with her desire; when Eugenia refused, Melanthia slandered Eugenia to the Prefect as having done insult to her honour. Eugenia was brought before the Prefect, her own father Philip, and revealed to him both that she was innocent of the accusations, and that she was his own daughter. Through this, Philip became a Christian; he was afterwards beheaded at Alexandria. Eugenia was taken back to Rome with Protas and Hyacinth. All three of them ended their life in martyrdom in the years of Commodus, who reigned from 180 to 192.

### **Αγία Ευγενία η Οσιομάρτυς**

Η Αγία Ευγενία η Οσιοπαρθενομάρτυς έζησε στο δεύτερο μισό του 3ου αιώνα μ.Χ. Καταγόταν από τη Ρώμη και οι γονείς της ονομάζονταν Φίλιππος και Κλαυδία. Επίσης, είχε και δύο άλλα αδέρφια, τον Αβίτα και το Σέργιο. Ο πατέρας της διορίστηκε έπαρχος στην Αλεξάνδρεια και πήγε εκεί με όλη του την οικογένεια. Εκεί η Ευγενία σπούδασε κατά τον καλύτερο δυνατό τρόπο και έμαθε άριστα την ελληνική και ρωμαϊκή φιλολογία. Όταν τελείωσε τις σπουδές της, ψάχνοντας για περισσότερη γνώση πήρε στα χέρια της από μια χριστιανή κόρη τις επιστολές του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Όταν τις διάβασε, εντυπωσιάστηκε πολύ. Εκεί μέσα δεν υπήρχαν θεωρίες και φιλοσοφικές δοξασίες. Οι γραμμές τους ενέπνεαν ζωή και ελπίδα. Εκείνη την περίοδο, οι γονείς της ήθελαν να τη δώσουν σύζυγο σε κάποιο Ρωμαίο αξιωματούχο, τον Ακυλίνα. Τότε η Ευγενία, αρνούμενη να δεχθεί αυτή την πρόταση των γονέων της, κάποια νύχτα ντύθηκε ανδρικά και έφυγε σε άλλη πόλη. Εκεί κατηχήθηκε, βαπτίστηκε χριστιανή και έλαβε συγχρόνως το μοναχικό σχήμα. Μετά από χρόνια, επέστρεψε στο σπίτι της και η αναγνώριση από τους γονείς της έγινε μέσα σε δάκρυα και ανέκφραστη χαρά. Δεν πέρασε πολύς καιρός και όλοι στο σπίτι της Ευγενίας δέχθηκαν το χριστιανισμό. Από μίσος τότε οι ειδωλολάτρες τραυμάτισαν θανάσιμα τον πατέρα της. Και όταν η Ευγενία επέστρεψε στη Ρώμη, επειδή δε θυσίαζε στα είδωλα, την αποκεφάλισαν, τερματίζοντας έτσι ένδοξα «τῶν καλῶν ἡγῶνα τῆς πίστεως» (Α' προς Τιμόθεον, στ' 12), μαζί με την επίγεια ζωή της.

### **The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his fathers's side and an Idumean on

his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1: 3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14).

## MEMORIAL SERVICES ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

40 days: Stylianos Fasolas  
40 μέρες: Στυλιανός Φασόλας

1 year: George Agelis  
1 χρόνο: Γεώργιος Αγγελής

1 year: Kalliope Lakardis  
1 χρόνο: Καλλιόπη Λακαρδή

4 years: Andreas Aresti  
4 χρόνια: Ανδρέας Αρέστη

**Ο καφές προσφέρεται από  
την οικογένεια Αγγελή  
που τελεί το μνημόσυνο  
εις μνήμη του κεκοιμημένου**

*The coffee is offered by  
the Agelis Family*

## OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER



**Rev. Christos L. Pappas**

**Protopresbyter**

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**LIGHT a VIRTUAL CANDLE & SAY a PRAYER** [click here](#)

**DONATE** [click here](#)

Make an online donation  
to our church ministries

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Ascension Church Catechism Program

## CHRISTMAS SHOP



\$10



\$20



Sale on December 5, 8, 12, 15, & 19  
*after Divine Liturgy on Sundays*  
*after Greek School on Wednesdays*

All proceeds will benefit Saint Basil Academy, Garrison, NY &  
St. Tabitha School & Orphanage, Kenya, Africa

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
*Christmas Benefit*

Your support is essential to make our dream of creating an Orthodox-centered adult retirement community come to life.

Sunday, December 19, 2021  
5:30 PM Cocktail Hour  
6:30 PM Dinner & Ceremonies

Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ  
Live Music & Entertainment  
Tickets are \$125 per person

*Please RSVP by December 17th.*

Please support the Saint Demetrios Housing for Active Adults project on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ. Your support is essential to make dream of creating an Orthodox-centered adult retirement community come to life. HONORING His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as the special guest. For more information and to make a reservation, please visit the following link:

[INFORMATION & TICKETS](#)



## **Christmas Youth Celebration with our Archbishop"**

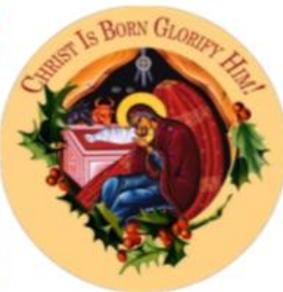
*His Eminence*

*Archbishop Elpidophoros of America*

**Invites all the Northern New Jersey Youth and families  
to a Joyous Christmas Celebration!**

**Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

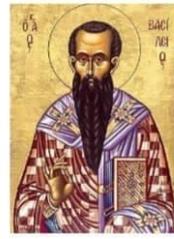
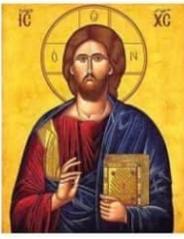
**St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church,  
51 Paramus Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652**



Enjoy an evening of  
fellowship featuring  
**Carols – Kalanda of Greece,  
Christmas Songs, Tree  
Lighting Celebration and  
much more!!**



**Come and meet our Archbishop!**



## 2022 Vasilopita Celebration

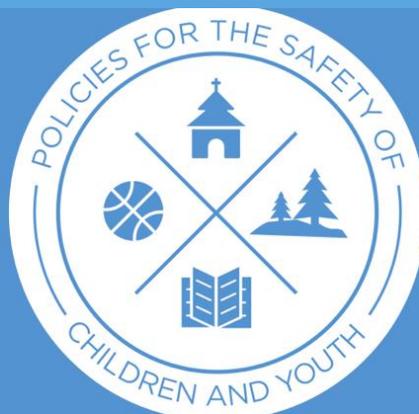


***His Eminence,  
Archbishop Elpidophoros of America***

***Cordially invites the Reverend Clergy and their families,  
the Members of the Metropolis Council,  
the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,  
the Members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Society,  
the Presidents of the Parish Councils and Parish Philoptochos  
Societies, and all heads of the Parish Organizations to the  
Metropolis Headquarters (215 E. Grove Street, Westfield, NJ)  
to celebrate the New Year with the Cutting of the Vasilopita on***

***Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:00pm***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**



If you would like to volunteer in one of our youth ministries, you must comply

with the  
**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**  
**Policies for the**  
**Safety of Children and Youth**

For more information and to  
register to be a youth worker,  
contact:

Evelyn Tsugranis  
Parish Youth Safety Administrator  
youthsafetyascension@gmail.com  
201-658-1801

## COMMUNITY NEWS



Congratulations to Mr. Triantafillou, Principal, teachers, students and Santa for a beautiful Christmas Program to the Ascension community on Friday, December 17, 2021. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous 2022!

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Meet the new Greek School PTO of the Ascension Afternoon Greek School. Standing (left to right) Kathy Coyle; Christina Arapidis, Treasurer; Lena Kontolios; Ria Antista; Sara Yannakogeorgos; Corresponding Secretary; Lavon Detsikas; Maria Karantonis, Assistant Treasurer; Sofia Petrakis, Recording Secretary; Alexandra Louridas. Seated (left to right) Sophia Mihalakis, Vice President; Demosthenes Triantafillou, Principal; and Sonia Skounaki-Garbidakis, President. Not pictured: Smrita Sinha. Congratulations and good luck!

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Congratulations to the ladies of the Philoptochos for their FOOD DRIVE for Thanksgiving. Pictured Standing (left to right) Athena Giannaros, Niki Kaousias, Demetra Delaportas, Martha Liossatos, Vicky Diamantopoulos, Maria Papadatos, and Cathe Lekkas. Center seated Georgia Stamatias.

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**FINAL DAY TO SHOP: Sunday, December 19.**

The Ascension Catechism Program is sponsoring a Christmas Shop. Please support their first FUNDRAISER. All proceeds will go to two Orthodox organizations, St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY and St. Tabitha School & Orphanage, Kenya, Africa. The Christmas Shop will be available on December 5, 8, 12, 15, & 19 so you may purchase gifts for the holidays!



A great time was enjoyed by all at the Catechism Christmas Retreat on December 12, 2021. Thank you to Father Christo, Mrs. Addie Toumazou, the Catechism teachers, Parents, Community Service Volunteers, Santa, Donors, and all our students for a very meaningful Christmas celebration!



The Ascension GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) serve our church on Sunday, November 28, 2021.



Congratulations to the Girls Junior Volleyball team for winning the Championship District 1! Great job girls and coaches! Good luck at the Championship game against the Southern District on January 8 & 9, 2022! Please support our volleyball team to another win!

First row (left to right): Vicky Georgiou, Anthia Psofakis, Callie Fantis, and Meni Drossos. Standing (left to right): Coach Jordan Nicholas, Nina Vratsanos, Kiki Bardatsos, Themelina Petrakis, Irena Avalos, Mariana Rakkou, Katerina Arapidis, and Costas Rakkou, Coach/Advisor. (Juniors Not in photo: Sophia Lekkas and Dionysia Diakomihalis)

(Senior Team not in photo: Maria Baltzis, Irini Stathis, & Sophia Vergara)



Congratulations to the boys Senior Basketball team for a great season and for representing our church and community in the best possible light. (Left to right) Costas Rakkou, Coach/Advisor, Theo Nannas, Stasi Kostogiannis, Andrew Avalos, Chris Kersul, Andreas Socratous, Jonathon Magalias, Dimitri Bardatsos, and Mike Tsugranis, Coach/Advisor.



### **NEW COVID SAFETY MEASURES**

You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or face covering in church for the protection of those who cannot wear a mask, have a weakened immune system, or cannot receive the vaccine. Try to physically distance yourself as best as possible while in church. If you have the symptoms of COVID-19, or suspect you might have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, please stay home.

The Divine Liturgy is live streamed on our church website. You can watch from home or in our Church Hall downstairs and come up for Holy Communion at the appropriate time OR at the end of the Liturgy. Please let Fr. Christos know in advance what you decide to do.

VISIT our WEBSITE



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