

The Annunciator

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

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THE FORGOTTEN FEAST DAY

By Rev. Father Paul A. Kaplanis

It always falls on Thursday of the sixth week after Pascha; it is one of the twelve major Feast Days of our Orthodox Church, forty days after the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, the chances are very high that many have never attended the commemoration of this very important celebration. It is revealed in the prophecies of the Scriptures. This great event, with which Jesus' life on earth concludes, is briefly mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Christ Himself, upon His Resurrection, said to Mary Magdalene: **"I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God"** (John 20:17). In the Acts of the Apostles, there is a complete account. Gathering His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await what had been promised by the Father, that is; the descent of the Holy Spirit. **"For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:5, 8).

On this Feast, we may not receive any tangible gift or blessing. The clues given above reveal that we

are speaking here about the **Feast of the Ascension** of our Lord into Heaven. Unlike some of the days of Holy Week and Easter Pascha on which we receive a palm cross, anointment with Holy Unction, a flower from the Lamentations Service on Holy Friday, or a red dyed Easter egg; on the Feast of the Ascension, we receive something more profound. The Feast of the

Ascension is a powerful event; for it reveals the great glory and dignity that Jesus Christ has given us. Through His Ascension, we are raised with Him literally to the heights of the heavenly Kingdom.



This may not sound as exciting as receiving something that we can hold in our hands and take home with us, but as we examine the deep meaning of this Feast, we may want to consider taking a day off from work to celebrate by attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion.

Forty days after His resurrection, our Lord ascended into heaven. In Him, humanity and divinity are united in one Person; He goes up into heaven as the God-Man. The Son shares in the glory that He had with the Father and the Holy Spirit before the creation of the world. He brings our humanity into that glory with Him.

There is perhaps no more powerful sign of our salvation than the Ascension, for it makes clear that our Lord has raised us—not only from the tomb, not only from Hades—but into the eternal life of the Holy Trinity. We truly become participants in God, as St. Peter says, **“partakers of the divine nature”** by grace, in our ascended Lord (2 Peter 1:4).

When Jesus went with His disciples to Bethany and stopped on the Mount of Olives, we read St. Luke’s account of the Lord’s Ascension in the Books of Acts, **“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you to heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”** (Acts 1:9-11)

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem to where the Theotokos and the myrrh-bearing women were in prayer. In the Gospel of Mark, it is written that upon ascending to Heaven, the Lord sat upon the right side of God the Father, that is, the human soul and body of Jesus Christ took on the same glory as His Divinity. Ascending to Heaven, Jesus Christ promised to always be invisibly on earth among those who believe in Him.

St. Augustine reflects on the Feast saying, **“Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.”**

The Ascension Feast is not just a scriptural, historical event; it is a life-changing event that is directly connected with our eternal salvation. We are reminded that Jesus Christ is not merely a great teacher or good example. He is not an angel or a wise spiritual guide. As the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea proclaimed and outlined in the Creed of our Church, **“He is light of light, true God of true God, of one essence with the Father, the only begotten Son of God.”** For He is the only One Who is truly divine and eternal; can ascend into Heaven and bring us into the divine, eternal

life of the Holy Trinity. That is why the Council of Nicaea rejected the teaching of Arius, who did not think that the Son was fully divine. That is why the Orthodox Church has always disagreed with those who deny our Lord’s full divinity or His full humanity. **For only One Who is truly both God and human can bring humans into the life of God.**

As a young priest assisting my mentor in St. Louis, I was blessed to be a part of some meaningful interfaith encounters. At one such event, a former Protestant minister, who converted to Orthodoxy and was ordained in the Holy Priesthood, spoke about his conversion before approximately thirty-five pastors of various denominations.

This priest had been a part of the Campus Crusaders for Christ movement and he, along with about twenty other men, had embarked on a research study attempting to determine if the Church written about in the scriptures was still alive in the 20th century. Their research journey eventually led them to the Orthodox Church. On the day he spoke, there were two things that made a lasting impression; 1) He described how hard it was for him to cross himself as a new convert, stating that it felt as though he had a heavy weight tied to his forearm and merely lifting up his arm to cross himself took a concerted effort. Those of us born into the Orthodox Faith take this for granted; and 2) As he spoke about his journey to Orthodoxy, one of the pastors in attendance said that he never preached on the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven because he did not believe in it.

This was utterly astounding! How could a Christian minister not believe in the Ascension? Can we as Christians pick and choose the things we believe or do not want to believe in scripture? Can we make a list of the crucial and essential elements of our Faith and then select the ones we embrace and the ones we would like to pretend do not exist? This is the danger of not relying on 2,000 years of collective Church experience. As Orthodox Christians, it is not up to any clergyman or layperson to preach their own views on the theology of our Church. It is not what Father or layperson so and so thinks it is what the voice of our Faith proclaims throughout its history.

St. Peter admonishes us and reminds us of our own frailty and the sure reliability of the Church when he tells us: **“Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpre-**

tation." (2 Peter 1:20)

Unfortunately, we are tempted to water down our Faith or attempt to draw our own conclusions without studying our Church's rich tradition and writings of the Fathers. If we want a Savior who merely teaches and models a good life or advances a political agenda, we might become a bit more moral by listening to Him. However, this will not assist us from an eschatological perspective. Human teachers and examples cannot conquer death and cannot raise us with them into eternal life. There apparently always have been, and continue to be, those who want a Lord, that they can shape into their own image. We seem to be intrigued by the philosopher of the day who speaks with wisdom. The people who make the news are not those who are faithful to a Christian understanding of our relationship with God, but with anything or anyone who is contrary. The most popular movies, documentaries and books that we see today are always hoping to discover something "new" about Jesus, which would reduce Him to anything but the God-Man Savior of the world.

It is the major feast days of our Church like the Ascension that remind us that countless martyrs, including Jesus Christ's disciples, did not go to their deaths out of loyalty to a mere human teacher. They looked death in the eye and did not blink because they knew that their Lord was God, that He had conquered death and would share His victory with them in heaven. In a matter of days, Christ's disciples went from total despair and defeat at His crucifixion to the astounding joy of Pascha, the Ascension and Pentecost. These were life-changing experiences that gave them the strength to sacrifice their own lives for the Lord. Teachers, prophets and good examples die and are ultimately forgotten; generations of martyrs do not give their lives for them. The life of the risen and ascended Son of God continues in the Church, especially in the witness of the martyrs who share in a victory that is not of this world.

The Ascension of the Lord is not the final act in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Nor is it some kind of "intermission" to be concluded - upon Christ's Bodily return - which will most certainly occur. Rather, it is about a new way of *being*, living in Christ in the here and now. The Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians in Galatia: "**No longer do I live but Christ lives in me and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God**" (Galatians 2:19, 20). That is how we are

invited to live, now.

On this Feast of the Ascension, we should ask ourselves this question, "How are we doing?" The Feast presents us with an invitation to assess the relationship between our profession of faith and its manifestation in our daily lives.

In his second letter, St. Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to take such an assessment: "**Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless, of course, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed**" (2 Cor. 13:5-6).

Unfortunately, all of us may have fallen short of the life in Christ. The truth is that we often would rather not ascend in Him to a life of holiness. We prefer to do things, which are beneath us, which are not fitting for those created in the image and likeness of God, those who are called to live the life of heaven even now. Instead of dwelling on what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely and gracious as St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippian Christians, we often dwell on what inflames our passions and our self-centered desires. Instead of recognizing that our salvation is a life together in the Body of Christ, we try to live as isolated individuals, continuing the division from one another that has plagued humanity since Adam and Eve.

The impact and meaning of our Lord's Ascension is not for a few select souls, but good news for the entire world, no matter how we have fallen short of fulfilling God's purposes in our lives. We cannot afford to overlook this crucial element of God's plan of salvation. It cannot be the forgotten Feast Day. This would be like skipping the Crucifixion and only focusing on the Resurrection. This is impossible! We are all called to ascend in Jesus Christ to a life of holiness and to the blessedness of the Kingdom of Heaven. The only question is whether we will answer that call.

Feast of the Ascension of our Lord will take place this year on Thursday, June 10, Orthros, 8:15 AM and Divine Liturgy, 9 AM.



ON MEMORIALS

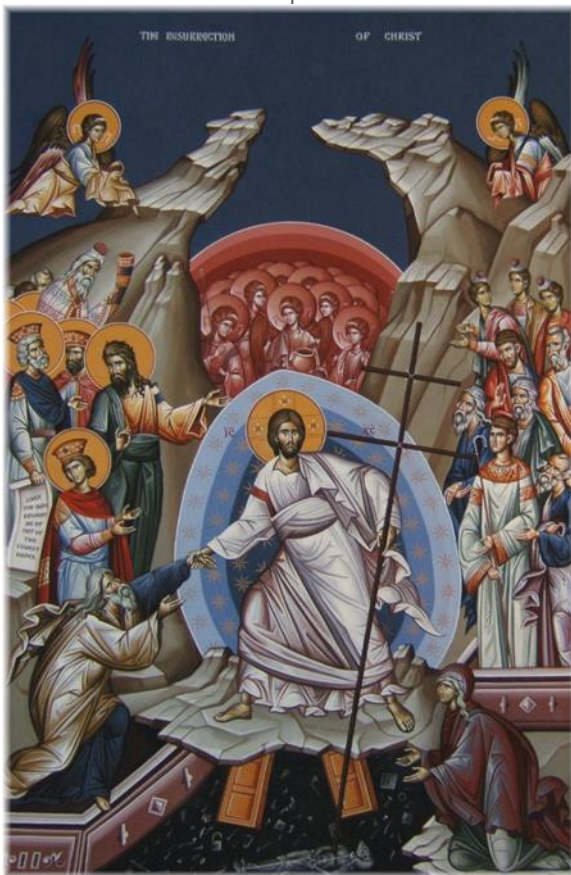
By Rev. Father Christos P. Mars

There is a story of a man who was on his way home from the office on a rainy Friday evening. At home, he faced a cluster of minor problems involving the various members of his family. As he made his way home through the city traffic, he happened to see a man who had just been hit by a car, lying in the middle of the street. This was only his second or third contact with death and it really shocked him. The conscious realization that he too was going to die one day hit him like a sledgehammer. It made a difference when he got home that night. The problems that he thought were so great, were not as big as he imagined. The thought of death had given him a new perspective.

One of the striking characteristics of our time is the absurd lengths to which we go to keep death out of sight and out of mind.

In earlier days, along with the other basic facts of life such as birth, marriage, bearing children, and raising a family, death was openly accepted as a fact of life. In early centuries, the burial ground surrounded the Church because it stood in the very center of the community. The body was not viewed in a funeral home; it was brought right into the living room of one's home. This was not only true in Orthodox countries but also here in America amongst non-orthodox Christians. One could not evade the fact of death; but rather had to accept it and learn to live with it.

During the Ecclesiastical Year our Church pro-



vides many occasions when we are asked to face up to the fact of death. Great and Holy Friday is one such occasion. So is Easter as well as every Sunday—because every Sunday is a “little Easter” celebrating Christ's victory over death. On our Church calendar every year, there are special Memorial Saturdays or “Saturdays of the Souls” which provide another opportunity for us to face up to death.

There are often two questions asked about the practice of praying for the dead that we have in the Orthodox Church:

#1. WHY do we pray for the dead?

#2. WHAT can we expect of these prayers?

The 1st Question: WHY DO WE PRAY FOR THE DEAD?

Orthodox Christianity is a faith of “love.” Praying for the dead is an expression of love. We ask God to remember our departed because we love them. Relationships that are based in love survive death and even transcend it. There is an inner need for a relationship with a loved one to continue to be expressed, even after they have died. The Church encourages us to express our love for our departed brethren through memorial services and prayers.

The anniversary of the death of a loved one is very painful. The Church helps us cope with this pain by encouraging us to have memorial prayers offered in Church for departed loved ones on those anniversaries. Furthermore, it has been cus-

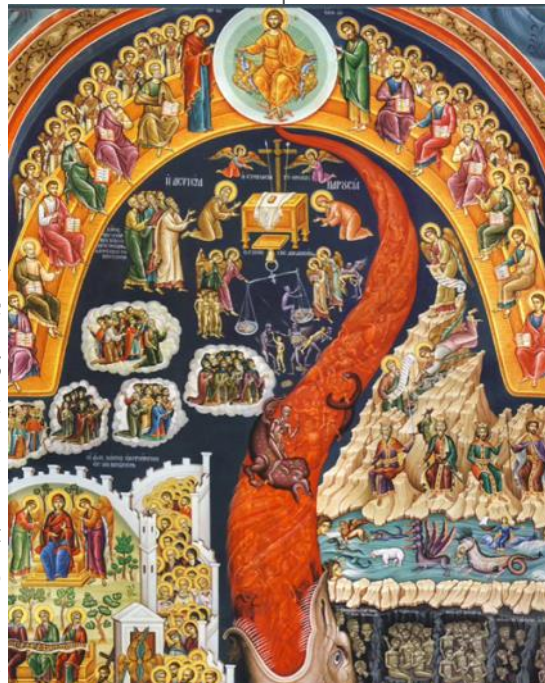


tomary from the earliest of Christian times to offer memorials after one's death on: 3rd day, 9th day, 40th day, 3rd, 6th, 9th month and one year then on the anniversaries thereafter.

Death may take loved ones out of sight but it certainly does not take them out of mind, or out of heart. We continue to love them and think of them as we

believe they continue to love us and think of us. How can a mother forget a child who has passed over to the life beyond? The same love, which led her to pray for that child when he lived, will guide her to pray for him now. For in Christ all are living. The same love makes her wish to communicate with him. Yet, all communication must take place in Christ and through Christ. No other communication with the dead is possible or lawful for the Christian. God is the God of the living. Our loved ones live in Him and it is only through Him that this is possible, for us to communicate with them. Every liturgy in the Orthodox Church contains prayers for the dead.

At the service of the Proskomidi, or preparation of the Holy Gifts, before the Divine Liturgy begins, specifically when the pieces are cut out of the Prosphoro (or Offering Bread) special pieces are cut out for the living and for the dead—and the priest reads the names from the prayer request lists that the faithful given to them. In fact, those lists are available in the Narthex (and



also on our website by clicking [HERE](#)) and it would be good practice for all of us, weekly, to offer these lists with the Baptismal names in Greek or English of the living and the dead for their commemoration. This reminds us of the passage from St. James' Universal Letter Chapter 5 verse 16b which says, *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

Prayer is the key, which brings us to our 2nd question: **WHAT CAN WE EXPECT OF OUR PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD?**

Since a person's eternal destiny is determined immediately after death (though one must wait for the General or Last Judgment to receive the full measure of one's reward), we must not expect our prayers to snatch an unbeliever from Hades to Paradise. It is our present life that determines our eternal destiny. Now is the time to repent and accept God's grace. Death puts an end to that state and commits each person to his special judgment. This is why the Lord said in the Gospel of John (9:4) that work must be done *"while it is day"* because *"the night comes when no man can work."* "Day" means the present life, "when it is still possible to believe," writes St. John Chrysostom, while "night" is the condition after death.

What happens beyond the grave belongs entirely to God. He has told us as much as we need to know; the rest is covered with a veil of mystery which man's curiosity is incapable of piercing.

The prayers for the departed also benefit those of us who are offering those prayers. They remind us that we too are going to die; they strengthen faith in the life beyond; they nourish reverence toward those who have died; they help build hope in divine mercy; they develop brotherly love among those who survive. They make us more

cautious and diligent in getting ready for that ultimate journey which will unite us with our departed loved ones and usher us into the presence of God. They remind us that now is the time for moral development and improvement, now is the time for faith, repentance and love.

There is a meaningful custom that we as Orthodox Christians have at Memorial Services. At the Memorial, we offer “kollyva” (or a tray of boiled wheat) a practice that can be traced back to the 4th century. In the early years, the offering of “kollyva” was a gift, which also served the purpose of charity, and those who partook of the gift would pray for the departed and say, “blessed be their memory.” This is why in antiquity, and even today, they were called “makariaes” (or blessings), for they had their origin at the meals or the funeral meals during early Christian times. As a continuation of that ancient custom luncheons and the coffee fellowships are offered today by the relatives of the deceased for those who prayed with them at the funeral and the memorial.

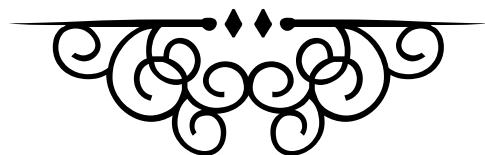
The “kollyva” also has a much greater meaning in that it symbolizes the resurrection from the dead of the bodies. The “kollyva” reminds us that humanity, too, is a seed that at death is buried in the earth, as is the seed of wheat. This seed will be resurrected again by the power of God. For this reason, as St. Symeon of Thessaloniki observes, in the “Kollyva” we add various other seeds (raisins, walnuts, almonds, sesame, etc). However, the basic element is always wheat because the Savior himself likened His All-holy Body and His Resurrection to wheat, saying: *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (Jn. 12, 24).

Thinking back to the memorial services, it becomes ever more important that we participate as a family—one family. The best way for this to happen is to open our liturgy books to the service, which can be found on page 127. This way we can participate with the chanting of these memorial hymns, because if we can set an example now, then those who come after us will also pray for us.



O God of spirits and of all flesh, You trampled upon death and abolished the power of the Devil, giving life to Your world. Give rest to the souls of Your departed servants who have fallen asleep, in a place of light, in a place of green pasture, in a place of refreshment, from where pain, sorrow and sighing have fled away. As a good and loving God, forgive every sin they have committed in word, deed or thought, for there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and Your word is truth.

For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose of Your departed servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory, with Your eternal Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.



YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE

By Rev. Dn. Andrew T. Wythe

On Sunday, March 1st, 2020, knowing when to say *καλημέρα*, or even how to access the Greek keyboard on a laptop, was about the furthest thing from my mind. I had just been ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory, and was preparing for ordination to the Holy Priesthood later that spring. So many conversations seemed to revolve around everyone's favorite game when it comes to a new candidate for ordination: "so where do you think he's going to end up?" There was no way to anticipate that in just two weeks' time, the world would come to a grinding halt because of the Coronavirus. To my knowledge, no one had correctly guessed the answer to the question "where do you think the new Deacon will end up?" with "as a Pastoral Assistant in the Metropolis of Atlanta." With an ordination date already set, and a parish assignment likely to soon follow, I'm sure I would have said that such a prediction would require an act of God to come true.

Of course, that is exactly what happened. If I were working a 9-5 office job, my ordination would be just another casualty of COVID. I'd be left to wonder how things would have turned out differently had I been put in the rotation of Priests 12 months earlier. But I do not have a 9-5 office job, and I am not left to wonder such things. The ministry is a life of discipleship, following Christ how Ruth followed Naomi when she said "*wherever you go, I will go, ... and your people shall be my people*" (Ruth 1:16). In the Book of Acts, Chapter 27, St. Paul was on his way to stand trial in Rome when his ship was struck by a fierce storm. Paul appealed to Rome specifically to have the opportunity to preach Christ and Him Crucified in the very heart of the modern world. St. Paul was shipwrecked and forced to land on the Isle of Malta. On his way to the most important urban center in the world, Malta was not on St. Paul's

itinerary. However, his services were required there. Publius, who the Book of Acts tells us was a leading citizen in Malta, was caring for his ill father. St. Paul prayed over Publius's father and healed him. Not too much else is said about what happened on Malta other than them honoring St. Paul and providing him with the needs for the rest of his journey. The natives of the island treated him with unusual hospitality, but St. Paul continued to act as their servant.

*"Wherever you go, I will go,
... and your people shall be
my people" (Ruth 1:16).*

Through my interactions with our Day School, HOPE & JOY, GOYA, YAYP, our Wednesday Nite Life, and many other ministries, I have experienced the same hospitality from the Annunciation Cathedral that St. Paul did in Malta, as so many of you treated my wife and I with the same care as if we had grown up here and been parishioners our whole lives. And through the past year this Cathedral, along with its Priests and Bishops, have provided me with the needs for the rest of my journey through instruction. While it is up to God to decide if I successfully played the part of St. Paul in my time here, by acting as servant for all of you and providing for your needs, I do not need to wonder why I remained a Deacon for another year. These last few months God has placed me exactly where He needed me.



PARISH REGISTRY

April 16, 2021– May 28, 2021

BIRTHS

Baby Boy born to Alexia Skouteris & Santiago Gallo

BAPTISMS

Parents: Amanda & Eric Russo

Baby: Aria (Aristea)

Godparents: Chrysa Dina

Parents: Nellie & Andres Benjumea

Baby: Mia (Maria)

Godparents: Helen Panos

Parents: Evie & David Merrill

Baby: Loukas Odysseas

Godparent: Eirini Kyriakou

WEDDINGS

Katherine McClure & Theodore Stathakis

Emma-Rae Pinson & Eugene Reid

ASLEEP IN THE LORD

Eugenia Poulos

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US



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Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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(Above is an example of what to look for on our Cathedral website, www.atlgoc.org)

The Cathedral now has text messaging options!
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please visit our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/atlgoc>

and Subscribe, or select the button above.



“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever...It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.”
- Aaron Siskind

There is so much going on with our Cathedral Parish Family!
Help us capture these moments by sharing your photos and videos with us!
We have created a fast and easy way to share and upload your photographs right from your mobile device. Visit <https://www.atlgoc.org/photo-gallery> to get started.

We look forward to using your photos or videos on our website or printed materials.
Thank you for sharing them with us!

Pastoral Changes



ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD OF OUR FORMER PASTORAL ASSISTANT Elias Lampropoulos, who was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in his hometown of Patras, Greece on April 18, 2021 and received the name, Dionysios, will be ordained at our Cathedral on, Sunday, May 30th by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. Deacon Dionysios served our Cathedral Parish Family from June 2014 to November 2020 and has been assigned to St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. As a gesture of our love and appreciation, a reception will follow the ordination in Carlos Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. ΑΕΙΟΣ! WORTHY! ΑΕΙΟΣ!

ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD OF OUR CURRENT PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Deacon Andrew Wythe, as you may recall, was on loan to our Metropolis from the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church. His Hierarch will ordain him to the Holy Priesthood on Sunday, June 27th, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey at the church of St. John the Baptist his Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa. His last official day with us will be Monday, May 31st. As a gesture of love and appreciation, a reception will follow the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 30th in Carlos Hall. ΑΕΙΟΣ! WORTHY! ΑΕΙΟΣ!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANT



With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios our Clergy and Parish Council, we would like to introduce our New Pastoral Assistant Joshua Boyd. He will begin his duties on Tuesday, June 1st. We welcome Joshua to our Cathedral staff.

Joshua Boyd is originally from Chandler, Arizona where he was raised in a Protestant Christian tradition by faithful parents and grandparents. As a teenager, his family began a spiritual journey which eventually led them to the Orthodox Church and after a years-long process of study, Joshua, his parents, and his younger sister were received into the Orthodox faith on Lazarus Saturday of 1999.

His discovery of Orthodoxy as a young man rekindled a love for God and the Church that had grown dormant in his teenage years and he began seeking ways to serve Christ more fully. Already a musician, he soon found an interest in learning the traditional music of the Church, Byzantine chant, and through chant he fell even more in love with the liturgical life of the Church.

That love, and a growing interest in ministry, brought Joshua to Hellenic College in Brookline, Massachusetts as a Religious Studies major in 2004. While a student, he also worked as an assistant for the newly established Office of Vocation and Ministry helping to establish exciting programs like the CrossRoad Summer Institute. He was also honored to join the HCHC Ambassadors in 2005 where he lead youth retreats around the country.

However, in 2007, separate interests led Joshua to put his seminary studies on hold to pursue what had become an accidental career in IT. Through a coworker, he met his future wife, Jennifer, and they moved to her home state of Florida where they were married on May 22, 2010. One year later, Jennifer was accepted into Emory University's Physician Assistant program which brought them to Atlanta, a city that quickly became home.

Since 2011, Joshua and his family have been active members of the Annunciation Cathedral where he has served as the left chanter (lampadarios), taught inquirer and catechumen classes, and served on the stewardship and small groups committees. Beginning in 2014, Joshua has stayed at home to care for their three beautiful children: Isabelle, Benjamin, and Zoe. Still feeling the call to ministry, he resumed his studies and in May 2021 earned his Bachelor's degree in Religion from Athens State University and a graduate-level Certificate in Orthodox Theology from the Antiochian House of Studies.

Joshua and Jennifer have always felt blessed to find a church home like Annunciation Cathedral and he is now even more excited to be working as the Pastoral Assistant.

Holy Week and Epitaphion Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Abdalla
Mrs. Catherine Alexander
Ms. Elaine Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Alexander
Ms. Janet Algiers
Ms. Georgia Andros
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Androutsopoulos
Mrs. Catherine Argendeli
Mr. Jesus Lopez & Mrs. Athina Fili
Mr. & Mrs. William Bacon
Ms. Marianne Beverly
Mr. Efthemios Biehler
Mr. & Mrs. John Boosalis
Mr. Van Botsaris
Mrs. Niki Bouras
Mr. & Mrs. Josh Boyd
Ms. Joyce Brown
Mr. Jim Burk & Mrs. Helen Panos
Ms. Christina Callesis
Mrs. Maria Caras
Mr. Ron Hilliards & Mrs. Helen Carlos
Mr. Chris G. Carlos
Mr. Theodore Carnegie & Mrs. Fotini Carnegie
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Carros
Mr & Mrs. Demetrios Constantinides
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Mrs. Irene Fotos
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Mr. & Mrs. Leslie George
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Georgeson
Ms. Vassio Giannakopoulos
Ms. Voula Giannakopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Giannakopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Giannakopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Giannakopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Gilmer
Mr. & Mrs. James Gilmore
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Grivas

Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Halkos
Mrs. Barbara Hall
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Mr. Charles Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Henderson
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Ms. Spiroulla Hudson
Ms. Mary Jones
Ms. Toula Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kantsios
Ms. Velika Kapitanof
Dr. Dorothy Karandanis
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kardaras
Mrs. Frances Katapodis
Mr. & Mrs. George Katsoudas
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kipreos
Ms. Vickie Klemis
Mrs. Metaxia Kleris
Mrs. Alexandra Kohilis
Mr. Spyros Kontoes
Dr. Niki Kosmetatos
Mr. Nikolaos Kostopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kostopoulos
Ms. Vicky Kouloumberis
Mr. Gregory Koutrelakos
Mr. & Mrs. Kosta Ladikos
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Ms. Maria Linardakis
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Mr. Joseph Mayes
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Mr. & Mrs. Scott Mondore
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Mr. Charles Nastopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Natsios
Ms. Stacie Nefos
Mr. Jerry Odenwelder & Mrs. Golfo Vastakis Odenwelder
Mrs. Faye Panos

Mr. Phil Panos
Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Panos
Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou
Mrs. Catherine Pataki
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Patellis
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Patellis
Dr. & Mrs. Spero Peppas
Dr. & Mrs. Christina Polizos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Poolos
Ms. Stasi Portulas
Mr. & Mrs. Don Pottinger
Mrs. Sophia Poulakos
Mrs. Raleigh Poulos
Mrs. Audrey Poulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Psomiadis
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Reeves
Rev. Paul & Pres. Evi Kaplanis
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Roglin
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sapp
Dr. & Mrs. William Scaljon
Ms. Mimi Scaljon
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schneider
Dr. & Mrs. Gunter Sharp
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Sigalos
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Dr. T.M. Skafidas
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Mrs. Maria Slay
Mr. & Mrs. Spyros Soteris
Mr. Pete Souloumiotis
Mrs. Karen Stamatiades
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Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stanton
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Starks
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Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Tague
Dr. & Mrs. Manuel Tissura
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The Tsismanakis Family
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Mrs. Demetra Vasilakis
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Ms. Despina Vastakis
Mrs. Georgia Vastakis
Mr. & Mrs. David Walker
Mr. Nick Way
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Winegar
Mrs. Popi Young
The Cathedral Philoptochos

Philoptochos News

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Alithos Anesti! Truly He has Risen!

Philoptochos members have had a busy few months! Our chapter purchased and donated over 900 pounds of food and baby wipes to the Toco Hills Community Alliance on Lavista Road. Philoptochos members took several cars filled with canned goods to the THCA. This fine organization was deeply appreciative of this donation.

Philoptochos members once again dyed and sold over 100 dozen beautiful Red Easter Eggs packaged in colorful cartons. The egg dyeing effort was led by Toni Taggart and Presbyteria Evi Kaplanis. A large and enthusiastic group of Philoptochos volunteers had a wonderful time polishing and packing the eggs!

In addition, members sold nearly 100 quarts of delicious homemade Lenten Soups. Many thanks to Presbyteria Evi Kaplanis for preparing these excellent soups!

In appreciation for the tireless and dedicated leadership of our priests Fr. Paul Kaplanis and Fr. Christos Mars during the endlessly challenging year-long Covid-19 Pandemic, Philoptochos made a \$1,000 donation in their honor to Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts, where each of them studied and earned their Master of Divinity degrees.

In April, May and June, our Atlanta chapter has also been the host of a series of three virtual cooking classes with famed Greek Chef Maria Loi. Chef Loi is the owner of Efstiatorio Loi in New York City.



Entitled “Greek Cooking with a Healthy Twist”, this was a fun, unique and enjoyable experience for our membership.

Chef Loi is a huge supporter of Philoptochos philanthropy and graciously donated her time and talents to sharing some of her Greek recipes and cooking techniques! She is a passionate advocate for healthy and delicious Greek cuisine.

She has a delightful, charming and engaging personality which was thoroughly enjoyed by our attendees. She advised us all to take two tablespoons of olive oil each and every morning. She and her restaurant staff follow this advice every day!

Through ZOOM technology, these cooking classes were shared with Philoptochos women from over 15 different states. These food lovers paid for their classes and all proceeds went to support our Atlanta Philoptochos outreach.

Deepest thanks to Janet Algers who chaired this event, to Fr. Christos Mars, Andrea Koulouris, Voula Giannakopoulos, Vassio Giannakopoulos and Susan Marinos for their technical expertise!

But most of all a HUGE thank you to Chef Loi for spending this time with us! This was a very successful and enjoyable fundraiser!

Daughters of Penelope

During this difficult time of Covid, our Chapter has enjoyed holding its meetings virtually. We have been able to schedule business matters, followed with interesting topics for discussion.

One of these highlight discussions followed our March 23, 2021, meeting when we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence from the oppression of the Ottoman Turks. We joined together to sing the Greek National Anthem, then introduced three Daughters whose ancestors fought in that historic war.

Beverly Botsaris Alex is a descendant of General Markos Botsaris who fought as Captain of the Souliotes during the war and is among the revered national heroes of Greece.

Nini Frangis, whose great great grandfather, Brigadier General Mitros Anastasopoulos fought and was imprisoned with General Kolokotronis, survived several battles and later served in the Greek Parliament when Greece was able to establish its own government.

The great grandfather of Christina Kliosis Polizos, Demetrios Ioannis Kliosis (1806-1907) was born in Koutsopodi, Argolida, Greece, and began fighting for freedom at the age of 15. On July 26-28, he fought under the command of General Kolokotronis alongside 2,300 Greek soldiers in the famous 3-day battle of Dervenaki, seven miles from Koutsopodi. This small army of Greeks killed 30,000 members of the army of Ottoman General Mahmu Dramali Pasha. He continued fighting in Sterea (Middle) Greece and achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel by the war's end when he returned to Koutsopodi, a heralded war hero. His brother, Angelos Ioannis Kliosis, also fought at the battle of Dervenaki where he lost his life on July 26, 1822.

Today, a beautiful memorial, with the names of all the heroes inscribed, stands on the site of the battle, along with a statue of Kolokotronis. It brought history to life learning of members of today's Atlanta families who actually fought bravely for the Freedom of the Greek people. Long live their memories! Long live Greece! Zito!!

The first live meeting of the Daughters was held May 16 at AHEPA 1 in the courtyard. It was announced that two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June in honor and loving memory of past president, Sylvia Costopoulos, and 65-year member Dena McCollum.

Tom Kantsios, Chairman of the AHEPA Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, spoke at the meeting and thanked the chapter for its support. He announced that because of Covid restrictions, there will be no awards ceremony again this year, and that recipients will be notified the first part of June by mail. He reminded everyone that the AHEPA District 1 Educational Fund Scholarship applications are due by June 15, 2021.

The Annual Wine Raffle will be held again this fall to support the Daughters' Scholarship Fund and other charities. Sherry Kliosis will serve as chairperson.

The AHEPA Family District 1 Convention will be held in person and virtually here in Atlanta at Annunciation Cathedral Hellenic Community Center on Saturday, June 26, 2021. The Daughters Grand Treasurer and Liaison, Marianthi Treppiedi, will be in attendance all the way from Spokane, Washington, and it will be exciting to have her here. A box lunch will be provided, so please notify Anthea Nichols by email anichols2018@gmail.com or by telephone 770-351-8054 if you plan to attend.

The AHEPA Family National Convention will be held in Athens, Greece, July 25-31, 2021. Many wonderful activities are planned celebrating the Greek Bicentennial, so plan now.

Election of officers was held with the newly elected as follows:

Anthea Nichols, President

Sherry Kliosis, Vice-President & Corresponding Secretary

Barbara Hall, Recording Secretary

Mary Alice George, Treasurer

PGP Karen Stamatiades, Advisor

Christina Evagoras, Sunshine Committee

Past Pres. Elaine P. Tissura, Chairman of the Board

Christina Polizos, Theo Economy, Irene Fotos, Athena Economy, Ada Hatzios – Members of the Board

Past Grand President Karen Stamatiades gave the Oath of Office and congratulated the new officers. The meeting was adjourned, followed by a wonderful dinner. It was a beautiful day, and a true pleasure to visit and enjoy fellowship once again. A big thanks to Mary Alice George for suggesting the outdoor meeting and dinner!

Thank you to all of our devoted members, you have been very supportive and loyal friends!

Elaine P. Tissura
Past President, Daughters of Penelope
Menelaos Chapter No. 53



Ahepa Mother Lodge Chapter No.1 Educational Foundation

Celebrates Thirty-Five Years

In 1986, Ahepa Mother Lodge Chapter No.1 of Atlanta, GA established the Ahepa Mother Lodge Chapter No.1 Educational Foundation, Inc., a separate independent non-profit 501 (c) (3) Public Charity to promote various educational programs on behalf of Ahepa in the Atlanta community. The Atlanta Ahepa chapter donated \$5,000 to the foundation in 1986. In 1993, the Board of Directors was expanded to include the Daughters of Penelope. In 2002, the Board of Directors was expanded to include members of Ahepa Prometheus Chapter No. 519, Marietta, GA.

The charter Board of Directors were: Chairman Thomas S. Kantsios; Vice Chairman Dr. George Patterson; Secretary George Skoufis; Treasurer Pandeli Durbetaki; Board Members Platon P. Constantinides, Pete G. George, George T. Gerakitis, John V. Pryles, George J. Simitzes, and Legal Counsel William B. Marianes. Over the years, Chris Nastopoulos, Athena Economy, Stratton Frank, Solon Patterson, Mercedes Paxton, Dr. Victor Polizos, Margaret Syribey, Tim Tassopoulos, Michael Tsurutis, and Dr. Manuel Tissura, Louis Zakas, Peter Zervakos and Sotirios Zervoulis have served on the Board of Directors.

The current Board of Directors are: Chairman Thomas S. Kantsios; Vice Chairman Charlie Burland, Secretary Becky Stamatiades, Treasurers William S. Kantsios and William F. Aicklen, Board Members Nick Grivas, Barbara Hall, Ted N. Kipreos, Zack A. Kollias, Leon Melissas, Keath Paxten, Audrey J. Marianes, Richard Sapp, Ron Sprouse, Karen B. Stamatiades and Legal Counsel William B. Marianes.

Since 1986, the Foundation has awarded \$1,073,400 to over 840 recipients for scholastic achievement and financial need.

The Educational Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit charitable organization supported primarily by individual donors. If you would like to make an individual contribution or establish a memorial fund, please [contact us](#). We hope to give periodic updates about the Educational Fund through this newsletter and our [new website](#). We'd love for you to follow along by subscribing on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#)



Charter Board of Directors 1986

Annunciation Day School

Our beloved Annunciation Day School (ADS) has just finished the last trimester of the 2020-2021 school year. Students have excelled in both academics and the arts as evidenced by recent Iowa Assessment standardized test scores placing ADS in the top quartile for composite scores nationally. In addition, ADS students shined in the Georgia Independent School Association's state art competition with four second place winners in various categories including media collage and painting! One of our eighth graders again advanced to the regional MATHCOUNTS competition. All of this was accomplished in the midst of a pandemic with in-person learning from August through May!

Even in light of COVID, fundraising efforts and goals were exceeded! ADS raised over \$173,000 through the Student Art Auction, 5K Spartan Fun Run, Annual Fund donations, Apogee State Scholarship, and the Virtual Gala. Both our church and school communities rose to the occasion and supported us with their time, talents, and treasures. We are forever grateful for their love, support, and generosity!

ADS continues to increase enrollment. Over 160 students from Preschool through Eighth Grade will return to campus in August. Among these students will be an increase in our Greek Orthodox enrollment from 19% to 30% of our student body.

There are limited openings for Fall enrollment. Come see what it is like to be a member of our Spartan Community! For a school tour please email marketing@adsatlanta.org.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer break and another record breaking year at our school Centered in Christ, Children, and Community!



Free Support of Annunciation Day School

PUBLIX Fundraising

Do you shop at Publix? If so, please help ADS with their fundraising efforts and enter our school name in your on-line Publix account! Follow these easy steps:

- 1) Log-in to your account at Publix.com (or create a new one)
- 2) Go to My Account, scroll down to the bottom of the page
- 3) Click on My Publix Partner and search for Annunciation Day School
- 4) Your phone number on your account will now be linked to ADS. At checkout, simply enter your phone number on the keypad. That's it!

Thank you for supporting ADS!

APOGEE State Scholarship Fund

This program uses Georgia State Tax dollars to fund private school scholarships. The money goes directly to ADS to fund scholarships for students in need. Here's how it works: Individual filers can contribute up to \$1,000, joint filers up to \$2,500, and C Corps up to 75% of GA tax liability. Additionally, S Corps and/or partners in an LLC can contribute up to \$10,000 each year. You will receive a dollar-for-dollar GA tax credit for the amount of your contribution. If you pay your taxes throughout the year, you can still participate. The tax credit is based on your total GA tax liability (6% of your stated adjusted gross income) and not on what you may or may not still owe the State at the end of the year.

Follow these easy steps to participate:

- Go to the forms page of the Apogee website
- Fill out the forms online or print forms and mail them to Apogee
- Write a check to Apogee Scholarship Fund* (or pay via credit card on Apogee's website)
- Be sure to choose Annunciation Day School as your recipient school

We hope you will choose to redirect your state taxes to Annunciation Day School! If you have any questions, please visit <https://apogee123.org> or contact Apogee's Executive Director, John Panessa at 404-419-7123. You may also contact Sophia Tsiotsias, at stsiotsias@adsatlanta.org Director of Communications and Development.

Danaos Society



The Danaos Society held its annual picnic on Sunday May 16, 2021. The event is held in to honor their patron Saint, Agios Petros (Peter the wonderworker). The menu of souvlaki, Greek style potatoes and Greek country salad was enjoyed by all! The only thing that surpassed the food was the wonderful fellowship that followed.

Lykion Ton Ellinidon

LYKION TON ELLINIDON
ATLANTA



After this extraordinarily difficult year, we are happy to have our first in-person gathering to welcome everyone back. We are looking forward to rekindling our connection with all of you. It is our hope that we can continue our cultural journey, bringing us closer to each other and our Hellenic heritage.

Wine and Cheese Gathering

Sunday, June 13, 4-6 p.m.

Hellenic Center Patio

There will be a Free Will offering to cover expenses and Reservations must be made by e-mail at lykionellinidonatlanta@gmail.com or phone 404-634-3581

Join us for the 4th annual July 4th BBQ! This free event is heavily attended. We look forward to welcoming back everyone and to enjoy Greg and Mike's BBQ! All the favorites will be served, plus plenty of fixings!

**JULY 4TH
BBQ**



Thank you to the hosts of the events:

- Sons of Pericles
 - AHEPA
 - Pontian Society
- Hellenic Business Association of Georgia
 - Lambros Firm

Please email questions to
Greg Vourloumis
g.vourloumissop@gmail.com
404.751.7831

There's still time to register for the June
"Greek Cooking with a Healthy Twist"
with Chef Maria Loi

April & May's classes were a BLAST! Don't miss out on the fun!

Deadline to sign up for this class only is Sunday, June 6th.

THIS IS THE LAST CLASS of the series. The raffle drawing will take place at the end of the class. You do not have to be present to win.

Purchase tickets or donate [HERE](#)

Don't miss learning from one of the most accomplished
and well-known Greek Chefs in the country!

Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos is thrilled to have the opportunity
to partner with Maria Loi for this unique and important fundraiser
to benefit the philanthropic outreach of our chapter.

Thank you for your support



Summer Day Camp 2021: Registration Open!



Camp will be the weeks of
June 7th, June 14th & June 21st

*This program is offered for children
ages 3-15 (by September 1, 2021)*

Please go to the link below to register
your children.

www.atlgoc.org/registrations/summer-camp-2021

Summer Day Camp will be held in person this year, with safety guidelines in place.
There will not be a virtual option.

How to Complete Camp Registration

'ALL steps below are required.'

1. Select if you are a Cathedral Member (Yes or No)
2. Age Group
3. Number of weeks
4. Click "Add to Cart"
5. Fill out information for one camper

To register each additional camper, repeat steps 1-5

Click the Shopping Cart button at the top right to checkout and enter credit card
information

Complete 4 parts of Checkout

Click on Purchase

We look forward to seeing our Cathedral family this summer!

Susan Marinos, Summer Camp Director

***sundayschool@atlgoc.org (please email Susan directly with any questions regarding
the Summer Camp program)***

Can't wait to see you soon!!!



Guidelines for Scheduling Meetings

Administrating a large parish takes some careful planning and so we remind our many ministries and cultural organizations to keep in mind the following when scheduling meetings at the Cathedral.

- No meetings should ever be scheduled during Church Services
- All Ministry meetings should take place on Monday or Tuesday evenings between the hours of 5 – 9 PM
- All Meetings should be scheduled on the hour, limiting each meeting to one hour when possible
- All Meetings dates and times must be approved by the Cathedral Administrator and/or Clergy
- Meetings will be placed on the Cathedral Master Calendar by the Administrative Staff
- Meeting space will be assigned by the Administrative Staff and may be changed as the need arises
- Exceptions will be considered in extenuating circumstances

We thank you for your understanding as we try to accommodate all that is happening with our Annunciation Cathedral Parish Family!

EDITOR: Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, Dean (frpaulk@atlgoc.org)

MANAGING EDITOR: Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, Presbyter (frchristos@atlgoc.org)

DESIGN: Connie Mondore (office@atlgoc.org)

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Irene Fotos (pcpresident@atlgoc.org)

All news can be e-mailed to office@atlgoc.org or put on a disk and brought to the Cathedral office during office hours (Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

All Cathedral mail goes to the post office on the same day. If you do not receive your Annunciator in a timely manner, please call your post office and notify them.