

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy Chapter 4, Verses 5-8: TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill 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 righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark Chapter 1, Verses 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."

Apolytikion of Christmas, 4th Mode:

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ἀπέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἀστροῖς λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, Σε προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ Σε γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: The Annunciation Cathedral extends its warm New Year greetings to you and your loved ones. Have a blessed 2024. Καλή Χρονιά!

PARISH COUNCIL RESULTS: We would like to congratulate our newly elected Parish Council members who will begin their terms in 2024. They are: **Nick Rally, Chris Kyriacou, Mike Spachis, George Ambus, Dean Nicolacakis, Philippos Athanasiades, and Jim Vorrises.** These 7 elected members will join the existing 8 members to create our Board of 15. We wish them well as they prepare for another year of serving our Cathedral. Αξιοί! They are worthy!

FDF 2024: The 47th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF) is happening February 15-18, 2024 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel! We have many dancers, directors, and family members going down to represent our Annunciation Cathedral in Anaheim this year. We pray everyone has a wonderful experience and we know our dancers will make the Cathedral proud. Καλή Επιτυχία!

FDF PREVIEW LUNCHEON: On Sunday, February 4, 2024 our Dance Program will be hosting a Preview Luncheon in our hall following Divine Liturgy for our parishioners who will not be able to go down to FDF. All are invited to the luncheon, come support our dancers!

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES:

Annual Crab Feed Friday, January 26, 2024

The Annunciation Philoptochos Crab Feed is being held on Friday, January 26, 2024! Tickets are \$100 per person. Please contact Maria at crabfeed@annunciation.org or visit <https://www.annunciation.org/crabfeed2024> to make a reservation

Vasilopita Coffee Hour January 14, 2024

Please join Philoptochos in this annual event that recognizes Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea and the wonderful tradition of cutting the vasilopita to see who will "win the coin".

