



Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

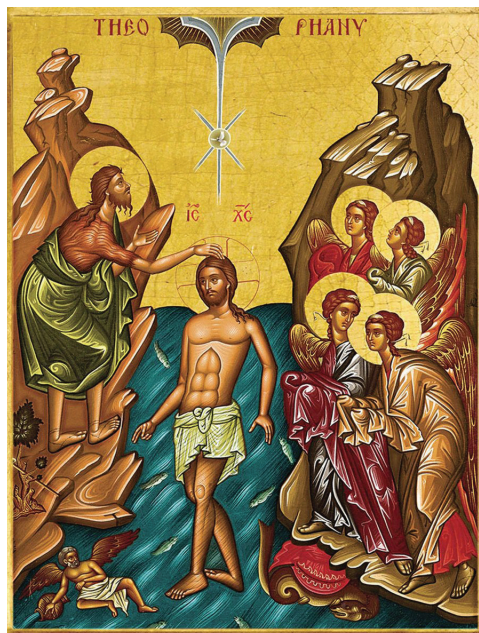
John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in



Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

SOURCE: [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](#)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

Saturday, January 6

Epiphany
Divine Liturgy 10am, Blessing of Waters

Sunday, January 7

Saint John the Baptist
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, January 14

Holy Fathers Slain In Sinai
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, January 21

Confessor Maximos
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, January 28

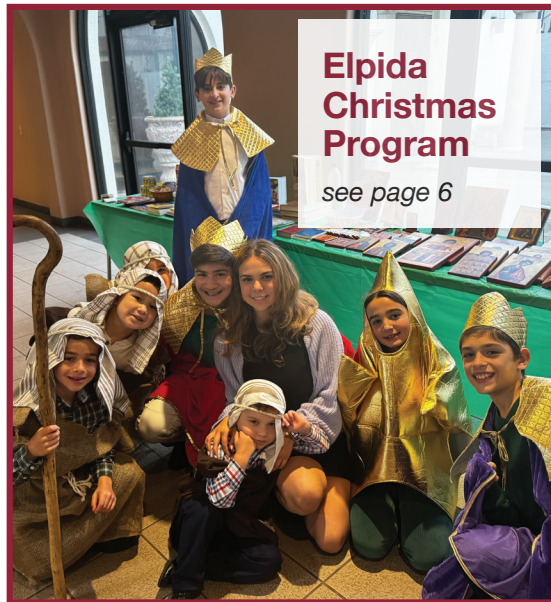
Ephraim the Syrian
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Tuesday, January 30

Three Hierarchs
Divine Liturgy 10am

Elpida Christmas Program

see page 6





Well done
good & faithful
servant

Matthew 25:23



STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

There was a man who took a shovel into his backyard each day to dig up a box containing money that he had buried in the ground. Every day he would look at it, count it, and then bury it again.

One day he dug in the usual spot and found that his box and the money were gone. He let out a cry, which brought his neighbor to ask what was the matter. Upon hearing what had happened, the neighbor asked, “What’s all the fuss? You weren’t using it anyway. Maybe the person who has it now will use it to do something good!”

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Parable of the Talents, in which a man leaving on a long journey called three of his servants and entrusted to each a certain sum of money measured in talents. To one he gave five, to another he gave two and to the third, he gave one talent. Upon his return, the man called his servants to give account for the money with which he had entrusted them. The first two, by wise use of the money had doubled the amount they had received. To these he praised with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

The third servant, who had received one talent, out of fear, had buried the talent in the ground. Upon the man’s return, this servant returned to him only the one talent. In anger,

the man called him a “wicked and lazy servant,” and taking away the one talent, he gave it to the servant who had ten.

Jesus gave us this parable for us to consider the gifts that God has given us. Although we all receive different gifts, there is no difference in God’s reward for what we accomplish with them. If you want to be a faithful servant, then take whatever you have and offer it faithfully to the Lord. It is not about how much ability you have, it is what you do with it.

The gifts we receive are to be multiplied. They are not to be buried in the ground. About this, Saint Gregory the Great wrote that hiding our talent in the earth, is to use our gifts only for earthly things.

In the time of Jesus, a talent referred to substantial amount of money. The message to us today is that God gives each of us something of considerable value and expects good stewardship and a return on what He has given. Although Jesus speaks to us about money in the Parable of the Talents, He is really talking about something far more important.

Whatever blessings we receive, we are to multiply them. We were given our church – our local parish – built by our ancestors and all who have gone before us. We are to grow it – to multiply it – by adding to the number of faithful

and growing her ministries. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy (16:17), we read, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."

When we cling tightly to our wealth, we are like the man, when forced to swim from a sinking ship, couldn't bear to leave his money behind. He strapped his gold to his body, but as he swam toward shore, the weight of the gold pulled him under and he drowned. Do we own our money or does our money own us?

God gave us his love – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

God gave us the Gospel – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

God gave us the Church – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

Our gift to God and His Church is a sacred act, a form of worship, and a response to all his blessings in our life -- our bodies, our family, the environment, our time, our faith, our neighbor,

Stewardship is our spirituality in action, our faith in action, our theology in action.

Stewardship is personal – between Jesus and us – an expression of love and commitment. A response to all that he has given us.

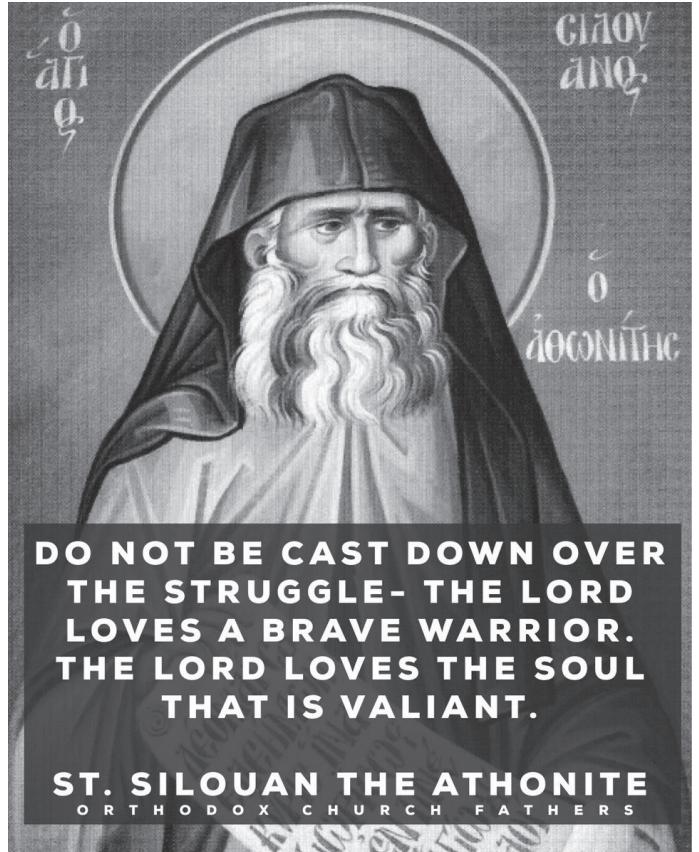
Some day we will stand before God and show Him what we did with all that He entrusted to us. If we have been faithful

stewards of our gifts, He will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

This Article was written by Fr Jim Kordaris

Please take a moment to fill out the Stewardship card and return to the Church office or go to Annunciation.org/donate and hit the stewardship button.

Thank you for your support!!



PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES, CUT HERE AND RETURN TO CHURCH.

**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

Name _____ Preferred Number () _____
 Spouse Name _____ Cell Number () _____
 Address _____ Email _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ I prefer receiving communications via:
 Email Mail Both
 Names/ages of dependents _____

COMMITMENT	2024 STEP UP COMMITMENT	2025 STEP UP COMMITMENT
\$ _____ per week, month, year (circle one)	Committing to an annual increase of _____% until such time as you change your designation	Committing to an annual increase of _____% until such time as you change your designation

Please bill my Mastercard Visa Amex (Circle card.) Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____

Name as appears on card _____ Signature _____

time & talent

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (✓).

EDUCATION

- Bible Study
- Religious Education:
 - Adult
 - Youth
- Greek School Teacher
- Speakers
- Bookstore

YOUTH

- Athletic Program
- YAL, GOYA, JOY, HOPE
- Dance Group

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Garden & Landscape
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Interior Repairs
- Exterior Repairs
- Hall Rentals

ADMINISTRATION

- Audit Committee
- Fiscal Mgt / Review
- By-Laws
- Development / Fundraising
- Office help
- Computer / IT
- Data Entry
- Legal
- Security
- Bookkeeping / Accounting

LITURGICAL

- Sanctuary & Altar Care
- Altar boys / Acolytes
- Baking Prosfora
- Choir
- Greeter/Usher

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

- Welcome Team
- Stewardship
- Sunday Fellowship / Coffee
- Visitation - Hospital
- Visitation - Shut-ins
- Community Kitchen
- Food Festival Team
- Philoptochos
- Grief Bereavement Group
- Disaster Relief Projects
- Seniors Ministry
- Men's Fellowship
- Women's Fellowship

COMMUNICATIONS

- Web site & E-mail
- Bulletin & Newsletter
- Social Media

Any other talents or information on items listed above:

New Agiologo set for Veneration

We are happy to announce that we have recently acquired a new Agiologo (Αγιολόγο) set, or yearly set of icons, for veneration in our Narthex. This Agiologo set features a saint or feast day for every single day of the year. From now on, every time you come to church, you will find an icon for veneration directly related to that day. This is a wonderful way to connect the Liturgical cycle to our personal worship, as we now will venerate the saint or feast of the day every time we enter our chapel.

We would like to thank the **Mavroudis Family** for donating this Agiologo set in memory of **Bill Mavroudis**, who used to chant for our Cathedral.

May this Agiologo set enrich our spiritual lives and may the memory of Bill Mavroudis be eternal!





FDF Diakonia Project – Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

Located in the heart of the Mission District in San Francisco, we are in a very culturally and financially diverse area. We want to help those struggling during these difficult times, especially with the downturn of the economy and the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. We are still trying to rebuild our Cathedral that was destroyed in the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 and understand the challenges of persevering and rebuilding one's life and home. We feel it is very important to help our surrounding community that is also struggling.

This year for our Diakonia project, our dance groups and their families, Rizes, To Mellon, Revmata, and Spithes,

adopted families from the Sanchez school, several blocks from our Cathedral, to provide them with several wish list items ranging from gift cards to toys to clothing to warm bedding. 10% of the families at The Sanchez School are classified as homeless or housing insecure, while over 90% of their families qualify for food assistance. With the high cost of living, food and gasoline, many struggle with the basic living needs. We pray we can continue helping more of these families to make their holiday season brighter. It's important to give back to our local community, especially those less fortunate, and we are humbled by the opportunity to do so.

Hail, O Theotokos Virgin full of grace: for from thee has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, giving light to those in darkness. Be glad also, thou righteous Elder, for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who bestows upon us resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Feast



Philoptochos News

January Calendar 2024

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos invites you to note its meeting dates and activities in January



January 14	Vasilopita coffee hour
January 26	Crab Feed

Light the Path

On Sunday, November 19th the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos hosted “Light the Path-A Christmas Luncheon” at the Olympic Club. Proceeds from this annual event support The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund. Established over 25 years ago this fund provides vital financial assistance for seminarians and students pursuing education at the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The luncheon drew over 200 guests. The festive ambiance was enhanced by Christmas melodies sung by members of the premier choir ‘I Cantori di Carmel’ and by beautifully decorated holiday trees. Our own Philoptochos members Vivian Curd, Maria Ramos and Tina Misthos were all winners in the drawing, each receiving a tree trimmed with ornaments, gift cards and lots of surprises.

Christmas Luncheon

On December 14th we celebrated the season with a Christmas luncheon at Nick’s Seafood Restaurant near Rockaway Beach in Pacifica. Philoptochos members, family, friends plus our clergy joined together for good food and fellowship. Our sincerest thank you to co-chairs Joanne Glafkides and Kathy Dermitzakis who did a remarkable job at organizing this event.

Vasilopita Coffee Hour January 14th

Please join us 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”.



Dance Programs at Annunciation Cathedral

Thank you to everyone that supported our See’s Candy Drive Fundraiser! A Wonderful Success!!

A Special thank you for those coming out to the Holiday Bazaar and supporting our Dance Groups by purchasing a Gyro!! Another Success and so yummy!!

Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 17th our Dance groups and Elpida hosted a Christmas Program and Luncheon. It was a huge success and a good time was had by all! We are so appreciative to all the parent volunteers that put in countless hours to make this event the success that it was. Also to all our dancers and Elpida participants; they were the real stars of the day!! Their singing and nativity scene set the stage for the beginning of a wonderful and blessed Christmas season! Lastly, thank you to our wonderful community for coming together and supporting all our groups once again!

All donations and funds received from this event go towards purchasing costumes and paying for musicians and workshops for our annual Folk Dance Festival in February.

Speaking of the Folk Dance Festival, we are gearing up towards this annual event for our dance groups. Save the date for **February 4th** when the dance groups will be holding a luncheon to showcase our suites for the upcoming FDF competition. We are looking forward to you all being there!

Please support our groups.

Orama (4-6 years old) directors: Evgenia Fkiaras, Taia Konstantinidis, Alexis Rakos, and Anastasia Rakos

Rizes (7-9 years old) directors: Penny Vardakastanis and Kallie Lyberopoulos

To Mellon (10-12 years old) directors: Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata (13-15 years old) directors: Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, Stelios Kyriacou, and Kosta Lyberopoulos

Spithes (16 years old- college age) directors: Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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**Annunciation Cathedral
Philoptochos**

Crab Feed

**Friday, January 26, 2024
245 Valencia Street, SF**

Dinner includes salad, pasta, crab,
dessert and wine.

**More information coming soon at
annunciation.org**

