

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy Chapter 1, Verse 8-18: TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke Chapter 14, Verses 16-24: The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Bake Sale-Philoptochos will be selling premade boxes of pastries after church beginning December 8th. \$25/box. No preorders.

Vasilopita Orders-Place your order for vasilopita prior to Dec 15th. Pick up date is Dec 22nd. Order forms available near the pangari or place your order after church at the Philoptochos table.

Vasilopita Breakfast-The breakfast is hosted by the Cathedral and will be catered by Stella's Catering. Come celebrate the New Year.

Crab Feed-Our annual crab feed will be held **Friday, Jan 31, 2025**. An Early Bird special price of \$90/person during the month of December 2024 is being offered. The price will jump to \$100/person beginning January 1, 2025. Pick up a flyer near the pangari or place your reservation after church at the Philoptochos table.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Today in the hall following Divine Liturgy, we will hold our Parish Council elections for 2025. All parishioners in good standing are invited to cast votes for candidates running in the election.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our Parish Council will meet today in the conference room for its final meeting of 2024. We thank our board members for all of their hard work in managing the various aspects of our Cathedral.

MATCHING DONATION OPPORTUNITY: An anonymous donor has generously contributed \$50,000.00 to the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund and challenged our community to match this amount by **December 31, 2024**. This is a unique opportunity to raise at least \$100,000.00 toward the completion of our new Cathedral. Every dollar donated will be fully restricted to the Building Fund and used exclusively to bring our shared vision to life. Contributions made during the 2024 calendar year may also provide tax benefits. Join us in meeting this challenge and help us create a lasting legacy for future generations! Donate today and double your impact.

STEWARDSHIP – As the year comes to a close, we are thankful for your support of the Cathedral. Now is the time to review your statements that arrived in the mail and finish your pledging for 2024. We will launch our 2025 Stewardship on **Sunday, January 12**.

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items). We're currently seeking hosts for the month of December (22nd, and 29th) and January (19th and 26th). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Every third Tuesday of the month, we come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. **Our next gathering will take place this Tuesday, December 17**. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-signup. You can also support this ministry by making a financial donation at <https://www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-donate>