

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's second letter to the Galatians Chapter 1, Verse 11-19: Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 2, Verses 13-23: When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**NEXT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Our next men's fellowship gathering will be on **Thursday, January 23, 2025**. Our Social Hour will begin at 6pm followed by our Program at 7pm. All men of the community are invited to come enjoy a wonderful meal and hear a great presentation from our Resident Speaker **George Papageorge**.

**40 DAY BLESSING:** Today we welcome twin sisters Hana Ioanna Tsikoudis and Nami Evangelia Tsikoudis for their 40 Day Blessing. Να ζήσουν τα παιδιά! Long life to the children!

**THEOPHANY SERVICES:** We will celebrate the Feast of Theophany and blessing of the waters on Monday, January 6th with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10am.

**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 January (19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>). Please reach out to Irene Melitas ([irene.melitas@annunciation.org](mailto: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 on Tuesday, January 21**. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at [www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-signup](http://www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-signup). If you are unable to volunteer but would like to support this important ministry, please consider making a financial donation at <https://www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-donate>

#### PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Christmas Bake Sale-**Philoptochos will be selling premade boxes of pastries after church. \$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.