

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's second letter to the Timothy Chapter 4, Verse 5-8: TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil 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."

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**.

MEMORIAL SERVICES TODAY: Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the souls of **Dimitri John Bardis** (75 years), **Aikaterina Bardis** (40 years), **Victor Konsantinos Nicolacakis** (40 years), **Yianni Nicolacakis** (14 years), **Manolis Nicolacakis** (3 years), **Gloria Apostolopoulos** (2 years), and **Giorgos Daskalakis** (9 months). May their memory be eternal! Αιώνια η μνήμη!

COFFEE HOUR TODAY: Today's coffee hour is being jointly hosted by **John and Kathleen Bardis** and **Dean and Maria Nicolacakis**. We honor the memory of John's parents and Dean's father (αιώνια η μνήμη!) and celebrate the name day of all the Johns and Ioannas in our Parish (χρουνιά πολλά!).

SERVICES THIS WEEK: We will celebrate the Feast of Theophany and Blessing of the Waters **tomorrow Monday, January 6th with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10am** as well as Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St John on **Tuesday, January 7th beginning at 10am**.

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 next **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 (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 on Tuesday, January 21**. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at 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 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.