

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's second letter to the Ephesians Chapter 4, Verse 7-13:** BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 4, Verses 12-17:** At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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**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**.

**PARISH COUNCIL SWEARING- IN AND OFFICER ELECTIONS:** Today at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy our Parish Council members for 2025 will be sworn-in to begin their new year serving our community. After the swearing-in, the members will go up to the conference room for a meeting led by Fr. Angelo to elect our officers for 2025. God bless, guide, and protect our board members! Αξιου! They are worthy!

**VASILOPITA BREAKFAST TODAY:** All are invited to a Vasilopita Breakfast today following Divine Liturgy in the hall. **Fr Angelo** will cut the Vasilopita and there will be refreshments. Come celebrate the New Year!

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** Today we are launching our 2025 Stewardship campaign. We will feature a speaker in the chapel following Divine Liturgy who will highlight the meaning of stewardship on a personal and community level. We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge. If you would like to make your contribution and have any questions, please contact **Denise Yeilding** at [denise.yeilding@annunciation.org](mailto:denise.yeilding@annunciation.org)

**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 months of January (19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) and February (9<sup>th</sup> and 16<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 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.

