

THE ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

From the Discourse on the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos by St Gregory Palamas:

Now, when Righteous Joachim and Anna saw that they had been granted their wish, and that the divine promise to them was realized in fact, then they on their part, as true lovers of God, hastened to fulfill their vow given to God as soon as the child had been weaned from milk. They have now led this truly sanctified child of God, now the Mother of God, this Virgin into the Temple of God. And She, being filled with Divine gifts even at such a tender age, ... She, rather than others, determined what was being done over Her. In Her manner She showed that She was not so much presented into the Temple, but that She Herself entered into the service of God of her own accord, as if she had wings, striving towards this sacred and divine love. She considered it desirable and fitting that she should enter into the Temple and dwell in the Holy of Holies.

Therefore, the High Priest, seeing that this child, more than anyone else, had divine grace within Her, wished to set Her within the Holy of Holies. He convinced everyone present to welcome this, since God had advanced it and approved it. Through His angel, God assisted the Virgin and sent Her mystical food, with which She was strengthened in nature, while in body She was brought to maturity and was made purer and more exalted than the angels, having the Heavenly spirits as servants. She was led into the Holy of Holies not just once, but was accepted by God to dwell there with Him during Her youth, so that through Her, the Heavenly Abodes might be opened and given for an eternal habitation to those who believe in Her miraculous birthgiving.

So it is, and this is why She, from the beginning of time, was chosen from among the chosen. She Who is manifest as the Holy of Holies, Who has a body even purer than the spirits purified by virtue, is capable of receiving ... the Hypostatic Word of the Unoriginate Father. Today the Ever-Virgin Mary, like a Treasure of God, is stored in the Holy of Holies, so that in due time, (as it later came to pass) She would serve for the enrichment of, and an ornament for, all the world. Therefore, Christ God also glorifies His Mother, both before, and also after His birth.

We who understand the salvation begun for our sake through the Most Holy Virgin, give Her thanks and praise according to our ability. And truly, if the grateful woman (of whom the Gospel tells us), after hearing the saving words of the Lord, blessed and thanked His Mother, raising her voice above the din of the crowd and saying to Christ, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps Thou hast sucked" (Luke 11:27), then we who have the words of eternal life written out for us, and not only the words, but also the miracles and the Passion, and the raising of our nature from death, and its ascent from earth to Heaven, and the promise of immortal life and unfailing salvation, then how shall we not unceasingly hymn and bless the Mother of the Author of our Salvation and the Giver of Life, celebrating Her conception and birth, and now Her Entry into the Holy of Holies?

Therefore, in such manner our songs and prayers to Her will gain entry, and thus through her mediation, we shall be heirs of the everlasting blessings to come, through the grace and love for mankind of Him Who was born of Her for our sake, our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory, honor and worship, together with His Unoriginate Father and His Coeternal and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIBOTOS TOY KOΣMOY (ARK OF THE WORLD) FUNDRAISER

The Philoptochos will be continuing to accept donations for Project Kivotos after Liturgy today. They will be taking donations of money and clothes (boys and girls ages 12-18) for this wonderful project on *Sunday, November 18* and *Sunday, November 25*. Checks should be payable to Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos (Memo: Project Kivotos). See Anastasia Therman and Chysanthe Kondos at the Project Kivotos table at Coffee Hour for more information.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE – EXTENDED

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive has been extended through *November 18th*! What better way to clear out our cupboards and kick off this spirit of charity and giving? We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food at the Cathedral all week, and gathering as a community on *Friday, November 19th from 5pm to 6pm* to prepare food baskets for those in need. Please donate and volunteer as you are able!

ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS LENT

Thursday, November 15th begins the Christmas fast as prescribed by the church. As Orthodox Christians, we dedicate the 40 days before Christmas as a preparatory time of prayer and fasting, in joyful expectation of the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The birth of our Lord is a joyous occasion which we are preparing for and so the consumption of fish is permitted every day of the week, with the exception of Wednesday and Friday, until December 11th, at which point the fast becomes strict. Meat and dairy is not permitted on any of the days of the fast.

PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Whenever we are expecting an important visitor, we put a lot of effort into cleaning our homes, making sure everything is neat and tidy, and really put our best foot forward to make sure everything looks nice for our guest. When we receive Communion, the King of all creation comes and visits our very hearts – how much more should we work to make sure our hearts and lives are cleaned and tidied for Him! It is very important that we prepare our souls to receive our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This preparation includes giving a recent confession, observing the fasts of the church (most importantly, a complete fast from all food and drink from midnight the night before receiving communion), and saying the special Prayers of Preparation beforehand. These prayers can be found in both the large red Liturgy book and in the smaller maroon book, beginning on Page 29, and should be prayerfully recited before approaching the chalice. Many people prefer to say these prayers at home on the evening or morning before receiving communion – the full service of Preparation can be found online at <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-synekdemos-daily-prayers-for-orthodox-christians>, under “Service of Preparation for Holy Communion”. There are also Prayers of Thanksgiving to be said after we have received Communion – these can be found on Page 40 of the maroon book and on Page 48 of the red book.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We ask that all stewards in good standing join us for our Fall General Assembly downstairs in the fellowship hall following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
Loukoumades will be sold downstairs for \$5 per plate.*

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council Elections will be held after Liturgy on *Sunday, December 9th*. If you would like to be considered for election to the Cathedral Parish Council, please see Fr. Stamati for an application. In order to receive an application and to be considered for the election you must be in good standing with the church both canonically and financially as described by the Uniform Parish Regulations. All Parish council members and prospective members will be required to attend a training seminar on *Saturday, December 1st* at 10am. Applications must be submitted to Fr. Stamati before December 2nd.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED

There are many Sundays throughout November and December that we do not have anyone signed up to host Coffee Hour. If you would like to host a coffee hour in a loved one’s memory, or for a special occasion (nameday, birthday, anniversary) please contact the Cathedral office and book your day today! The beauty of sharing in fellowship with our friends and fellow stewards allows us to grow closer to one another within our parish life. Please help us continue this important ministry by booking a date for your family to host!

HOLIDAY HOME VISITS

With the Christmas season approaching, it is especially important that we remember those who are alone. If you have a loved one who is homebound and would like a visit from Fr Stamati, please contact the Cathedral Office so Father can visit them. Note that Fr Stamati will not be able to make any home visits during Christmas week.

GREEKTOWN CHRISTMAS CEREMONY

Join us at Halsted & Van Buren in Greektown on *Saturday, December 8th* for tree lighting, traditional Greek Christmas carols, and a Καραβάκια display! The opening address will be given at 5pm, followed by caroling and the tree lighting.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR CATHEDRAL

As the Cathedral of the Metropolis, Annunciation provides spiritually for the needs of the entire Metropolis – not only our regular parishioners. Whether you are here with us every week or primarily attend another parish, you are always welcome at your Cathedral. Stewardship in the Orthodox Church is holistic – it is an offering of our time, talent, and treasure made to the glory of God. However you choose to support the Annunciation Cathedral with your tithes, offerings, and services, please do so whole-heartedly, prayerfully, and generously. If you submit to Christ and pay attention to His desires; His glory will surely shine through you. Come grow with us! Also, you can now donate online! Visit www.annunciationcathedralchicago.org/donate to set up one-time or recurring donations!

Sunday, November 18th, 2018
9th Sunday of Luke

A WORD FROM THE FATHERS

We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation.
+St. Ambrose of Optina

THIS WEEK AT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Food Drive Baskets
6:00 p.m. – Philoptochos Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

The Office is Closed

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

The Office is Closed
9:00 a.m. – Orthros & Divine Liturgy
+The Entrance of the Theotokos

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

The Office is Closed
11:30 a.m. – Feed the Hungry
Thanksgiving Day

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Office is Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

At Assumption Church – Central Ave
7:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

A NOTE TO VISITORS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome to this celebration those Christians who are not united with us. It is a sad consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we *cannot* extend a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. We thank you, though, for joining us in prayer and invite you to partake of the blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We also invite you to join us for fellowship in the church hall after Liturgy.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS

Please note that our valet service on Sundays begins at **9am**. If you arrive before 9 and park yourself, make sure that you do not park in the clergy or handicapped spots, or in front of the side door, as this is a fire hazard.

MEMORIALS

1 year for the late John E. Drinis
5 years for the late Fotini Anastasiou
8 years for the late Catherine Drinis
35 years for the late Michael Anastasiou
May their memory be eternal!

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 19 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

6:00 μ.μ. – Συνάντηση Φιλοπτώχου

ΤΡΙΤΗ 20 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Το γραφείο είναι κλειστό

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 21 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Το γραφείο είναι κλειστό
9:00 π.μ. – Όρθρος κ. Θεία Λειτουργία
+**Ἡ ἐν τῷ Ναῶ Εἰσοδος τῆς Θεοτόκου**

ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 22 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Το γραφείο είναι κλειστό
11:30 π.μ. – Προγραμμα για Φτωχούς

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 23 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Το γραφείο είναι κλειστό

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 24 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Στον Ἱερό Ναό της Κοιμήσεως – Central
7:00 μ.μ. – Εσπερινός Μέγας



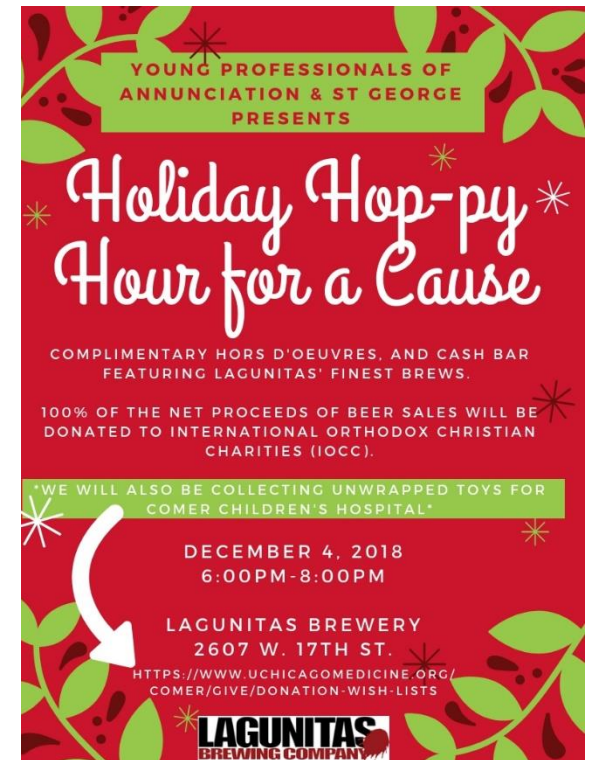
\$5

LOUKOUMADES

sale

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF ANNUNCIATION & ST GEORGE PRESENTS

Holiday Hop-py Hour for a Cause

COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES, AND CASH BAR FEATURING LAGUNITAS' FINEST BREWS.

100% OF THE NET PROCEEDS OF BEER SALES WILL BE DONATED TO INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC).

WE WILL ALSO BE COLLECTING UNWRAPPED TOYS FOR COMER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

DECEMBER 4, 2018
6:00PM-8:00PM

LAGUNITAS BREWERY
2607 W. 17TH ST.
[HTTPS://WWW.UCHICAGOMEDICINE.ORG/COMER/GIVE/DONATION-WISH-LISTS](https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/comer/give/donation-wish-lists)

LAGUNITAS BREWING COMPANY



Annunciation Cathedral

Thanksgiving

FOOD DRIVE

SHOW THANKFULNESS BY FEEDING THOSE IN NEEDS

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD WILL BE COLLECTED FROM

DROP-OFF LOCATION: Cathedral Lobby

NOVEMBER 1 - 18

We will gather as a community to prepare the food baskets on Monday, November 19th from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.
All ministry teams and ages are encouraged to participate!

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago Ladies Philoptochos Society



PROJECT: ΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ (ARK OF THE WORLD)

"Over 500 children of all ages come to the Ark".
"Our door will always be open for them".

Father Antonios Papanikolaou

Clothing and Donations greatly appreciated!!!
Boys and Girls (ages 12 - 18years old).
"New" stockings, underwear, shirts(long and short sleeve), sweat pants, shorts, sweat jackets.

Donations can be made during the Coffee Hour at the Project ΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ Table, Sunday: November 18th,25th

Checks Payable To:
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos (Memo:Project Kivotos)
100% of your Donation will benefit ΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ!!
Coordinators: Anastasia Therman and Chrysanthé Kondos
For more information: atherman173@gmail.com (773-818-9041)

SAINT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS 4:1-7

BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE 12:16-21

THE LORD SAID THIS PARABLE: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN THE PLAGAL OF THE FOURTH TONE

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν καταδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃς τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

SEASONAL KONTAKION IN THE FOURTH TONE

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ο καθαρῶτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτήρος, ἡ πολυτίμητος παστάς καὶ Παρθένος, τὸ Ἱερόν θησαυρίσμα τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ, σήμερον εἰσάγεται, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ Κυρίου, τὴν χάριν συνεισάγουσα, τὴν ἐν Πνεύματι θείῳ, ἢν ἀνυμνοῦσιν Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ, Αὐτὴ ὑπάρχει σκηνὴ ἐπουράνιος.

THANKSGIVING DAY FEED THE HUNGRY

Every year the Cathedral along with our sister parish of St. George, Chicago host a Thanksgiving event for those in need. We are seeking the help of all our stewards to come and serve Thanksgiving Day at 11:00 a.m. What better way to offer our love to those less fortunate than us!

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago

**ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ**



Celebrating 126 Years of Continuous Ministry

Rev. Fr. Stamatios G. Sfikas – Cathedral Dean
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Nikokavouras – Dean Emeritus

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Priest's Email: FrStamati@annunciationcathedralchicago.org

AnnunciationCathedralChicago.org

FREE VALET PARKING AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY!

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to Annunciation Cathedral! We are glad you came, and we hope your visit was memorable and meaningful in every way. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Please join us for fellowship following the liturgy and visit with our Clergy and with members of our parish council. They will answer questions you may have and provide you with information regarding the programs we offer.