



# HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

11-05 150th STREET, WHITESTONE, NY 11357 - Tel. (718) 767-2955, 767-2943

Rev. Presbyter Nicolaos Paros, Proistamenos



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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**Sunday Before Christmas**

**Κυριακή πρό της του Χριστού Γεννήσεως**



**ΕΚ ΜΕΡΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ  
ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ,  
WHITESTONE, NY  
ΕΥΧΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΣΕ ΟΛΟΥΣ  
ΚΑΛΑ & ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΑ  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ**

**ΚΑΙ  
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΟ  
ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2024**

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**ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY OF  
HOLY CROSS  
WHITESTONE, NY  
WE WISH EVERYONE  
A MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR**

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς  
τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν,  
οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

**Πρὸς Εβραίους 11:9-10; 32-40**  
**τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαρὰκ τε καὶ Σαμψὼν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυῖδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God  
of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you  
have done.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter  
to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40**

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the

land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαίου 1:1-25**  
**Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Βίβλος γενέσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυῖδ υἱοῦ Ἀβραάμ. Ἀβραὰμ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰσαὰκ, Ἰσαὰκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Φαρὲς καὶ τὸν Ζαρὰ ἐκ τῆς Θάμαρ, Φαρὲς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἑσρῶμ, Ἑσρῶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀράμ, Ἀράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμιναδάβ, Ἀμιναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ναασσών, Ναασσών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Βοὸζ ἐκ τῆς Ῥαχάβ, Βοὸζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὠβὴδ ἐκ τῆς Ῥούθ, Ὠβὴδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεσσαί, Ἰεσσαί δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Δαυῖδ τὸν βασιλέα. Δαυῖδ δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐγέννησε τὸν

Σολομῶνα ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Οὐρίου, Σολομών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ῥοβοάμ, Ῥοβοάμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιά, Ἀβιά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀσά, Ἀσά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσαφάτ, Ἰωσαφάτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωράμ, Ἰωράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὀζίαν, Ὀζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωάθαμ, Ἰωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχαζ, Ἀχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐζεκίαν, Ἐζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμών, Ἀμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσίαν, Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος. Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιήλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακείμ, Ἐλιακείμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀζώρ, Ἀζώρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχείμ, Ἀχείμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιούδ, Ἐλιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθάν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραάμ ἕως Δαυῖδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυῖδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες. Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν. μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὐρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐτήν. ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων· Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυῖδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματος ἑστὶν Ἁγίου. τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν

γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὃ ἔστι μεθερμηνευόμενον μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος Κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτὴν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

### **The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25**

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan



the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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### Children's Word: Rejoice with great joy!

Have you ever been so excited or happy about something you didn't even know what to do? Did you celebrate your birthday or a holiday? Did your team win a big game? Did you get a new brother or sister? Maybe you laughed. Maybe you danced. Maybe you hugged somebody. Sometimes we might be so happy that we don't know what to do! Tomorrow is Christmas, and we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! In the Gospel reading tomorrow, we hear about how the wise men searched for the baby. They followed a star for a long time, and they finally found it. The Gospel says, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him." Those words in the Bible are almost funny. "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." These wise men were so happy, so overjoyed, so overwhelmed to see the star, because they knew they would find Jesus there. On Christmas today, and on every day if we can, let's remember that our Lord came to give us joy! He came to save us and to let us be with Him in peace forever. So, we can be like the wise men. We can "rejoice with great joy" because we have found Jesus Christ too. Christ is born! Glorify Him!



### The New Testament in the Nativity Icon

The child-Christ and His mother are shown in a cave, surrounded by impossibly sharp, inhospitable, rocks which reflect the cruel world into which Jesus was born. The Gospels record that Joseph and Mary could not find a room at any inn when they came to take part in the census at Bethlehem, and so Jesus was laid in a manger, an animal's feeding trough. Common to the time, animals were not sheltered in wooden barns, but in caves and recesses in the hills, and so this

"stable" is shown in the Icon. High in the skies is a star which sends down a single shaft towards the baby Jesus. This star is being followed by the Magi, the wise Persians from the East, who are bearing gifts to the Christ. But they are shown in the distance, still on their journey. They are not there. Thronged in the skies are a host of angels bringing the glad tidings of the birth of the world's Saviour. On the right, the shepherds - people not regarded by anyone else - are the first to be given the Good News of Jesus' birth. But they are also shown outside of the cave, still by their flocks. They too are not at Christ's side yet. Besides His mother, the only company Jesus Christ has in the first few hours of His earthly life are a lowly ox and donkey. This is the humility of God's incarnation on earth.



# HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Tel: (718) 767-2955 – [www.holycrossgreekchurch.com](http://www.holycrossgreekchurch.com)

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ 2023,  
ΝΕΟΥ ΕΤΟΥΣ και ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ 2024

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS 2023,  
NEW YEAR and THEOPHANY 2024

## Παρασκευή, 22 Δεκεμβρίου 2023-Friday, December 22, 2023

<b>ΠΡΩΪ:</b> Όρθρος & Μεγάλοι Ώραι 8:00-10:00 π.μ.	<b>MORNING:</b> Orthros & Great Hours 8:00-10:00 a.m.
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## Κυριακή, 24 Δεκεμβρίου, 2023-Sunday, December 24, 2023

ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ - SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

<b>ΠΡΩΪ:</b> Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	<b>MORNING:</b> Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.
<b>Βραδυ:</b> Μέγας Εσπερινός των Χριστουγέννων 6-7μμ	<b>Evening:</b> Great Vespers of Christmas 6:00-7:00 p.m.

## Δευτέρα, 25 Δεκεμβρίου 2023-Monday, December 25, 2023

Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Όρθρος & Αρχιερατική Θεία Λειτουργία προεξάρχοντος του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Ελπιδοφόρου 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidoforos of America 8:00-11:00 a.m.
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## Τετάρτη, 27 Δεκεμβρίου 2023-Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Στεφάνου Πρωτομάρτυρος Αρχidiaκόνου- Stephen The First Martyr and Archdeacon

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00-10:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.
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## Κυριακή, 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2023- Sunday, December 31, 2023

ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ - SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-11:00 a.m.
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## Δευτέρα, 1 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Monday, January 1, 2024

Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΕΝ ΑΓΙΟΙΣ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ  
THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Όρθρος και Πανηγυρική Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Όρθρος και Πανηγυρική Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου 8:00-11:00 π.μ.
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## Παρασκευή, 5 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Friday, January 5, 2024

Μεγάλοι Ώραι των Θεοφανείων Εσπερινός Θεία Λειτουργία του Μ. Βασιλείου & Μέγας Αγιασμός 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Great Hours of Theophany Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil & Great Blessing of the Waters 8:00-11:00 a.m.
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## Σάββατο, 6 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Saturday, January 6, 2024

ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία & Ακολουθία του Μ. Αγιασμού 8:00-11:30 π.μ. Τελετή Κατάδυσις του Τιμίου Σταυρού στο ποτάμι (The Pier on Boulevard in Malba) 12:00μ.μ.	Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters 8:00-11:30 a.m. Blessing of the Waters at the Pier on Boulevard in Malba 12:00 p.m.
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## Κυριακή, 7 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Sunday, January 7, 2024

Σύναξις Αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου - Synaxis Of Saint John The Baptist

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-11:00 a.m.
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# Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Δευτέρα, 25 Δεκεμβρίου, 2023

Όρθρος καί Πανηγυρική Αρχιερατική  
Θεία Λειτουργία

8:00π.μ.

Προεξάρχοντος του  
Σεβασμιότατου Αρχιεπισκόπου  
Αμερικής κ. κ. Ελπιδοφόρου

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Monday, December 25th, 2023

Orthros & Hierarchichal Divine Liturgy

8:00 -11:00 a.m.

Officiated by His Eminence  
Archbishop Elpidophoros



### ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ

Κάθε χρόνο στην εορτή των Θεοφανείων τελείται στους Ορθόδοξους Ιερούς Ναούς η Ακολουθία του Μεγάλου Αγιασμού των Θεοφανείων και στη συνέχεια οι Ιερείς κατά την Ιερά παράδοση της Εκκλησίας μας, αγιάζουν τα σπίτια όσων χριστιανών το επιθυμούν και το ζητήσουν. Παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με το γραφείο της κοινότητάς μας στο (718)767-2955.

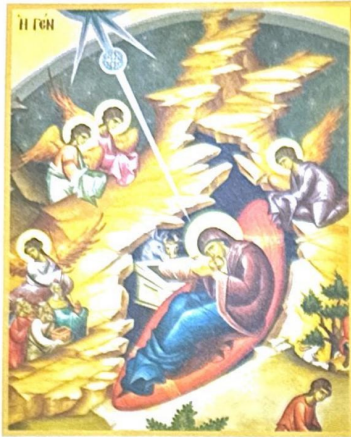
### HOUSE BLESSINGS

Every year on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord the service of the Great Blessing of the waters takes place in our Orthodox Churches. Following the feast of Epiphany it is customary for the priest to visit and bless the homes of the faithful that request it. If you would like for your home to be blessed after January 6th with the Holy Water from the feast of Epiphany, please contact the church office 718-767-2955.



# Christ is Born!

December 2023



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)*

Beloved Parishioners,

We are once again preparing to receive our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our hearts this Blessed Christmas Season. The birth of our Lord and Savior changed human history forever. When he took flesh 2000 years ago in order to save the human race, "He remained what He was, true God; and He took up what he was not, becoming human in His love for humanity." (Hymn from Great Vespers of Christmas)

In most icons of Christmas, we notice our Lord swaddled in white clothes in a dark cave. The manger in the Nativity icon deliberately resembles a stone coffin, the white swaddling clothes resemble a burial shroud, and the cave itself, Christ's tomb. Through this we notice a powerful connection between the birth and the resurrection of Christ. It reminds us that He came to this earth to die for us. He accepted to die on the cross for the life of the world. The Nativity icon not only prepares us to celebrate his birth but, on Christmas, we celebrate the fullness of Christ's redemptive work: His crucifixion, His Death, His descent into Hades, and His glorious resurrection.

Christ suffered for each and every one of us in order to bring us closer to Him. This Christmas season, it is important for all of us to practice this same selfless and perfect love for each one of our brothers and sisters. We must be faithful, we must trust, believe, and follow Christ in how we treat others. As we celebrate the miracle of His Birth, I pray we prepare our hearts with prayer and humility to accept the joy, peace and love of this Christmas season. We must remember to show those around us the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation. We must pray for each other and truly treat our neighbor as ourselves.

Let us worship the One who came to dwell with us on this earth. The birth of Jesus is about the presence of God's healing mercy in human history. This year, the Lord's mercy enters a world of conflict. In the midst of this Nativity season, let us not forget that His birth signals a new hope that violence and conflict can be overcome. I promise you, you will not find a better place for peace, true joy and strength than participating in the Divine Liturgy to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. In your love and generosity, during this Nativity season of giving, I ask you to remember your parish. It is with your love and support that our amazing community can continue to grow and cultivate the spiritual lives of our faithful. I pray you and your family have the most blessed Christmas and our Lord offers back your gift a hundredfold!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

With Paternal Love,

Rev. Presbyter Nicolaos Paros

Proistamenos

*"...And the Whole of Creation Rejoices."*





HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
WHITESTONE, NY

**BIBLE STUDIES  
& FELLOWSHIP  
BEGINNING  
JANUARY 9, 2024**

Κάθε Τρίτη στον Ιερό Ναό του Τιμίου Σταυρού  
Μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής στα Αγγλικά 7μμ

Κάθε Πέμπτη στον Ιερό Ναό του Τιμίου Σταυρού  
Παράκληση της Παναγίας 11πμ & καφέ με τον π.  
Νικόλαο στη αίθουσα του Ναού αμέσως μετά

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Every Tuesday at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
Bible Study in English 6pm

Every Thursday at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
Paraklesis of the Panagia for health 11am  
followed by coffee with Fr. Nicholas in our church hall



## **ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ, Η ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΟΡΤΩΝ**

«Εἶδομεν γάρ αὐτοῦ τόν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ»! Ὁ ὁλόφωτος ἀστέρας τῶν «Χριστοῦ Γεννῶν» πλημμυρίζει καί πάλι μέ φῶς ὁλόκληρη τήν οἰκουμένη. «Ἄσατε τῷ Κυρίῳ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ», παραγγέλλει μέ ψαλμικό τρόπο ὁ Θεολόγος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας πατέρας, ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως. Τό τραγούδι τῆς εὐχαριστίας, τῆς εὐγνωμοσύνης, τῆς χαρᾶς, ἅς γεμίσει τίς καρδιές καί ἅς ξεχυθεῖ ἀπό τά χεῖλη ὅλων μας. Ἄς μεταλάβουμε φῶς ἀπό τό πάμφωτο σπήλαιο τῆς Βηθλεέμ, διώχνοντας τά σκότη ἀπό τή ζωή μας. Κυριακή σήμερα, 25 Δεκεμβρίου τοῦ ἔτους 2022, καί τό Εὐαγγέλιο τῆς σημερινῆς πανευφρόσυνης ἡμέρας, τῆς μητροπόλεως τῶν ἐορτῶν, διηγεῖται μέ τή μεγαλοπρεπή λιτότητα τῆς γραφίδας τοῦ ἁγίου ἀποστόλου καί εὐαγγελιστοῦ Ματθαίου τήν ὑπόθεση τῆς ἐορτῆς, κατά τήν ὁποία τό σχέδιο τῆς σωτηρίας μας τίθεται σέ πλήρη ἐφαρμογή. Ἡ ὑπακοή καί ἡ ἐνσυνείδητη συμμετοχή τῆς Παναγίας μας, ὡς ἐκπρὸς ὄψους τοῦ ἀνθρώπινου γένους στήν πραγματοποίηση αὐτοῦ τοῦ σχεδίου, ἀνοιξαν στόν αὐτοεξορισθέντα ἄνθρωπο τόν δρόμο πρός τήν πατρική ἀγκαλιά τοῦ Τριαδικοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀνοιξαν στό πλανηθέν πλάσμα τόν δρόμο τῆς ἐπιστροφῆς πρός τή θερμή τῆς πατρικῆς οἰκίας. Στόν μικρό ἀλλά φιλόξενο χῶρο πού μᾶς παρέχεται ἐδῶ ἅς προσπαθήσουμε νά φωτιστοῦμε ἀπό ἓνα θαυμαστό γεγονός ἀνάμεσα σέ πάμπολλα ἄλλα, πού εἶναι συνυφασμένο ἀπό τά μικρά μας χρόνια μέ τήν ἁγία εἰκόνα τῶν Χριστουγέννων σύμφωνα μέ τήν τέχνη τῆς καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἀνατολῆς, ἀλλά καί μέ τό ἴδιο τό γεγονός τῆς Γεννήσεως τοῦ Κυρίου.

### **Ὁ ἀστέρας τῆς Βηθλεέμ**

«Εἶδομεν γάρ αὐτοῦ τόν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ», διαβάζουμε στό σημερινό ἱερό Εὐαγγέλιο. Δίνοντας τόν λόγο στόν ἱερό Χρυσόστομο, ἅς ὠφεληθοῦμε ἀπό τήν ἐρμηνευτική του σοφία: «Ὁ ἀστέρας δέν ἦταν ἓνα ἀστέρι ὅπως τά ἄλλα. Ἦταν μία ἀόρατη δύναμη πού ἔλαβε αὐτή τήν ὄψη, ὅπως φαίνεται ἀπό τήν πορεία του. Δέν ὑπάρχει ἀστέρας πού νά ἀκολουθεῖ τή διαδρομή πού ἀκολούθησε ὁ ἀστέρας τῆς Βηθλεέμ. Ἀκόμη καί ἡλιο νά τό ὀνομάσεις καί σελήνη νά τό ὀνομάσεις καί μέ ὅλα τά ὀνόματα τῶν ἀστεριῶν νά τό ὀνομάσεις, ὅλα κινοῦνται ἀπό τήν Ἀνατολή πρός τή Δύση καί ὄχι ἀπό τόν Βορρᾶ πρός τόν Νότο. Ὅμως, αὐτό τό ἀστέρι δέν εἶχε τή δική του πορεία, ἀλλά ἀκολουθοῦσε τήν πορεία τῶν Μάγων, καί ὅταν τοὺς ἔβλεπε νά προχωροῦν, προχωροῦσε, καί ὅταν τοὺς ἔβλεπε νά σταματοῦν, σταματοῦσε». Ἀλλά καί ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ὁ Θεολόγος καί ὁ ὁσιος Ρωμανός ὁ Μελωδός συμφωνοῦν μέ τόν Χρυσόστομο πῶς ὁ ἀστέρας τῆς Βηθλεέμ ἦταν ἄγγελος Κυρίου. Ἀσφαλῶς μετέδιδε ὡς ἐτερόφωτο ὃν τό ἄκτιστο φῶς πού συνόδευσε τό μοναδικό θαῦμα τῆς σαρκώσεως καί ἐνανθρωπήσεως τοῦ Υἱοῦ καί Λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀναμφισβήτητα, πάντως, τό φαινόμενο τοῦ ἀστέρος διακόνησε καί αὐτό ἀπό πλευρᾶς τῆς κτιστῆς φύσεως τό μεγάλο γεγονός τῆς Γεννήσεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ. «Καί ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ προῆγεν αὐτοὺς ἕως ἐλθῶν ἐστάθη ἐπάνω οὗ ἦν τό παιδίον· ἰδόντες δέ τόν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαράν μεγάλην σφόδρα». Ἡ χαρά τῶν Μάγων, φωτισμένη ἀπό τό ἀστέρι τῆς Βηθλεέμ, εἶναι ἡ χαρά τῆς Παναγίας, πού κατέστη ἔκτοτε καί χαρά τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Χαρά δηλαδή δική μας, ἀδελφοί μου, χαρά τῶν μελῶν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Εἶναι ἡ χαρά πού ὁ διάβολος δύο χιλιάδες χρόνια τώρα, ἀπό τή στιγμή τῆς Σταυρώσεως καί ἐπέκεινα, ἐπιθυμεῖ νά καταργήσει μάταια, εἶναι ὁ θησαυρός μας πού πλουτίζει καί φωτίζει τή ζωή μας καί μᾶς ὁδηγεῖ στή σωτηρία.

### **Δεκτικοί τοῦ θείου φωτισμοῦ**

Ἡ πορεία αὐτή τοῦ ἀστέρα σχηματικά καί διδακτικά μᾶς βεβαιώνει ὅτι «ὅπου βούλεται Θεός, νικᾶται φύσεως τάξις». Ἡ ἐπιθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ πάντοτε εἶναι νά στεφανώνει μέ ἓνα φωτεινό ἀστέρι τήν προσπάθεια πού γεννᾷ ἡ ἀγαθή πρόθεση τῆς καρδιάς. Οἱ Μάγοι ἀπό τήν Ἀνατολή φάνηκαν μέν ἀσυνεπεῖς πρός τήν ἐπιστημονική τους γνώση, ἀκολουθώντας ἓνα ἀστέρι σέ παράδοξη πορεία, ἔγιναν ὅμως ἔτσι δεκτικοί τοῦ φωτισμοῦ του, ἐνθυμούμενοι βεβαίως καί τήν οἰκεία σέ αὐτοὺς προφητεία τοῦ Βαλαάμ. Ἄς ἀκολουθήσουμε λοιπόν καί ἐμεῖς, ἀδελφοί, τή δική μας πορεία. Ἀμήν.

*-Φωνή Κυρίου (Αποστολική Διακονία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Ἑλλάδος)*



*You're Invited!*



The Ladies' Philoptochos of Holy Cross Whitestone

# *Annual* **Vasilopita**



**January 14, 2024**  
*after Liturgy*

*Brunch*

Admission

Regular  
\$30.00

Children  
\$15.00

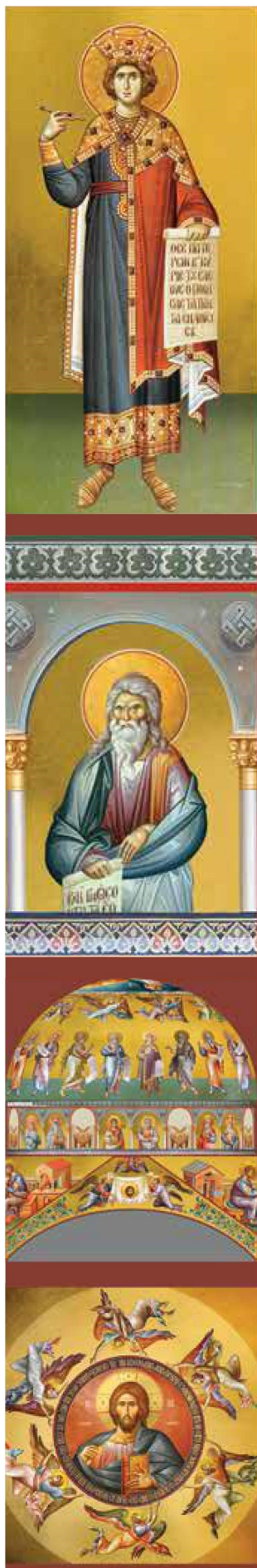


RSVP

Patty Lampropoulos  
Dina Laskaris  
Voula Paxinos

(718) 908-9398  
(917) 309-0884  
(347) 368-9156





## ICONOGRAPHY | PHASE 2

### ΤΟΙΧΟΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ | MURALS

Η ΠΛΑΤΥΤΕΡΑ ΜΕΤΑ ΔΥΟ ΑΓΓΕΛΩΝ	PLATYTERA WITH THE TWO ANGELS	50,000
ΜΠΟΥΣΤΟ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ	BUST of ST. IOAKIM	INCLUDED
ΜΠΟΥΣΤΟ ΑΓΙΑ ΑΝΝΑ	BUST of ST. ANNA	INCLUDED
Η ΑΝΑΛΗΨΙΣ ΜΕΡΟΣ Α' (ΣΕ ΧΡΥΣΟ)	ASCENSION PART A	GIFTED
Η ΑΝΑΛΗΨΙΣ ΜΕΡΟΣ Β' (ΣΕ ΧΡΥΣΟ)	ASCENSION PART B	40,000
Η ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗ	THE PENTECOST	35,000
Η ΚΛΙΜΑΚΑ ΤΟΥ ΙΑΚΩΒ	JACOB'S LADDER	30,000
Η ΘΥΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΒΡΑΑΜ	THE SACRIFICE OF ABRAHAM	30,000
Ο ΑΜΝΟΣ	THE LAMB	10,000
Η ΑΚΡΑ ΤΑΠΕΙΝΩΣΙΣ	THE EXTREME HUMBLENESS	GIFTED
Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ Ο ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΣ	ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER	GIFTED
ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟ ΜΑΝΔΗΛΙΟ	THE HOLY HANDKERCHIEF	15,000
ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟ ΚΕΡΑΜΙΟ	THE HOLY CERAMIC	15,000
Η ΕΤΟΙΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΘΡΟΝΟΥ	THE PREPARATION OF THE THRONE	15,000
ΤΕΤΡΑΜΟΡΦΟ ΕΞΑΠΤΕΡΥΓΟ	TETRAMORPHE HEXAPTERYGO	15,000

### ΟΛΟΣΩΜΟΙ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΕΣ | FULL LENGTH HIERARCHS

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ	St. VASILIOS	GIFTED
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ Ο ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ	St. JOHN THE CHRYSOSTOM	GIFTED
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ	St. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN	9,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΣ	St. ATHANASIOS	GIFTED
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΣ	St. KYRILLOS	9,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΣ Ο ΑΔΕΛΦΟΘΕΟΣ	St. JACOB O ADELFOTHEOS	9,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ	St. NICHOLAOS	9,000

### ΜΠΟΥΣΤΑ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ | BUSTS OF SAINTS

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ	St. ELEFThERIOS	8,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΙΟΣ	St. EPIPHANIOS	8,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΣ Ο ΑΡΕΟΠΑΓΙΤΗΣ	St. DIONYSIUS THE AEROPAGITES	8,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ	St. STEFANOS	9,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΠΡΟΧΟΡΟΣ	St. PROHOROS	5,000

### ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΕΣ | EVANGELISTS

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΣ	St. MATHEW	15,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΜΑΡΚΟΣ MARK	St. MARK	15,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΛΟΥΚΑΣ LUKE	St. LUKE	15,000
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ JOHN	St. JOHN	GIFTED



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

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