



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

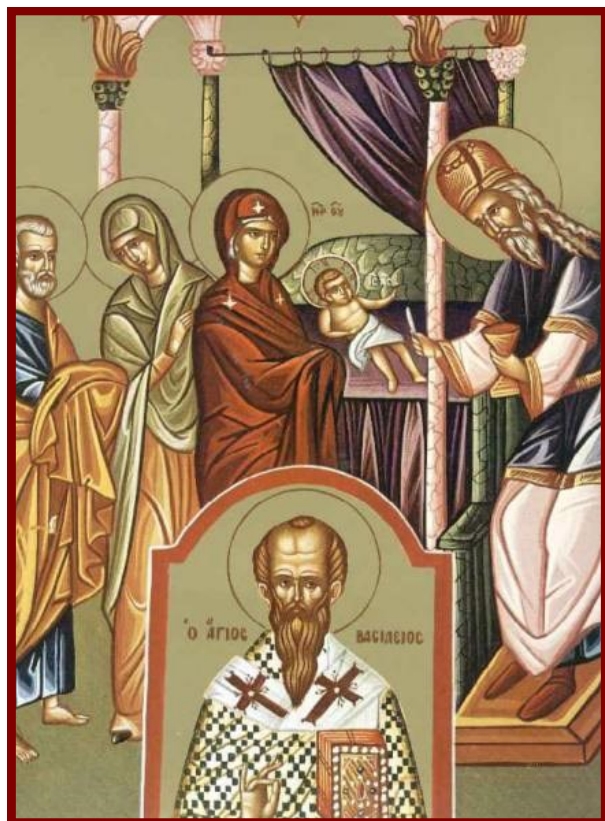


Email: info@holycrossgreekchurch.com
www.holycrossgreekchurch.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Κυριακή μετά της Χριστού Γεννήσεως



**ΕΚ ΜΕΡΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ
ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ,
WHITESTONE, NY
ΕΥΧΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΣΕ ΟΛΟΥΣ
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΟ
ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2024**

**ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY OF
HOLY CROSS
WHITESTONE, NY
WE WISH EVERYONE
A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR
2024**



Saint Nikephoros the Leper (January 4th)

Father Nikephoros (Nikēphōros - Nicholas Tzanakakis in the world) was born in 1890 in a mountainous village in Khania, in Sikari, Kastanohori to the west of the prefecture with a healthy climate, with beautiful forests, rich waters, gorges and caves. This village has a peculiarity that we do not often encounter: it is divided into eleven neighborhoods, which have also been named after the families who first settled there. So Saint Nikephoros was born in the neighborhood of Kostoyianides.

His parents were simple and pious villagers, who died when he was still a young child, leaving him as an orphan. So, at the age of thirteen, he left his home. His grandfather, who had undertaken to raise him, went to Khania to work there in a barber shop in order to learn the job. Then he showed the first signs of Hansen's disease, i.e. leprosy. The lepers were isolated on the island of Spinalonga because leprosy was a contagious disease and it was treated with fear and dismay. Nicholas was sixteen years old when signs of the disease began to become more conspicuous, so he left on a boat to Egypt in order to avoid being confined to Spinalonga. He remained in Alexandria, working in a barber shop again, but the signs of the disease became more and more apparent, especially on his hands and face. That is why, through the intervention of a cleric, he went to Chios, where there was a church for lepers at that time, and the priest was Father Anthimos Vagianos, later Saint Anthimos (February 15). Nicholas arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. In the leper hospital of Chios, which was a complex with many homesteads, there was a chapel of Saint Lazarus, where the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoei (Feb. 2) was kept. In this space, the course of virtues was opened for Nicholas. Within two years Saint Anthimos considered him ready for the angelic Schema and tonsured him with the name Nikephoros. The disease progressed and evolved in the absence of suitable drugs, causing many large lesions (a drug was found in 1947).

Father Nikephoros lived with unquestioning, genuine obedience to his Spiritual Father, and with austere fasting, working in the gardens. He also recorded the miracles of Saint Anthimos, which he had witnessed with his own eyes (many of these were related to the deliverance of those possessed by demons). There was a special spiritual relationship between Saint Anthimos and the monk Nikephoros, who always remained close to him, as Father Theoklitos Dionysiatis writes in his book Saint Anthimos of Chios. Father Nikephoros prayed at night for hours on end making countless metanias, he did not quarrel with anyone, nor injure anyone's heart, and he was the master chanter of the temple. Because of his illness, however, he slowly lost his sight, and so he chanted the troparia and the Epistles from memory.

The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, together with Father Nikephoros, were sent to Saint Barbara's home for lepers in Athens, in Aigaleo. At that time, Father Nikephoros was about 67 years old. His members and his eyes were completely altered and distorted by the disease. There, Father Eumenios also lived there at the home for lepers. He also suffered from Hansen's disease, but with the medication he received, he was completely cured. However, he decided to remain in the home for lepers for the rest of his life near his fellow sufferers, caring for them with much love. Thus he submitted to Father Nikephoros, to whom the Lord had given many gifts as a reward for his patience. A crowd of people gathered in the humble cell of the leper Nikephoros, in Saint Barbara in Aigaleo to obtain his prayers. Here are some testimonies of those who met him: "While he was prostrate with wounds and pains, he did not complain, but he showed great patience." "He had the charisma of consoling those who were sad. His eyes were permanently irritated, and he had limited sight. He also had stiffness in his hands and paralysis in his lower limbs. Nonetheless, he endured all of this in the sweetest, meek, smiling, delightful way, and he was also pleasant and lovable." "His face, which was eaten away by the marks of his illness, and his wounds, shone. It was a joy for those who saw this destitute and seemingly feeble man saying, May His holy name be glorified." Father Nikephoros reposed on January 4, 1964 at the age of 74. After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Father Eumenios and other believers reported many cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

The life of Saint Nikephoros was a brilliant example and model for everyone. He was pleasing to God because he had endured so much. For this reason, we have many testimonies that our saint received from the Holy Spirit the gift of discernment as and a host of other charisms. We should note that most of the miracles are recorded, and today the saint gives generous help to anyone in need. Surely there will be many more miracles which not have not yet been made manifest.

Σώσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν
κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι
ὁ Θεός μου.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν,
κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ,
τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ
ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς
ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν
καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν
πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς
δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ
κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής·
οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσιν τοῖς
ἡγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ
τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις,
ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ
προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν
σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ
ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου,
εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο
Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ
κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν
ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν
πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται,
καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ
ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς
ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης
ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην
δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ
ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ
ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου
ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι
τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν
ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει
ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inher-
itance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, en-
dure suffering, do the work of an evange-
list, 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.

The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

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 wilder-
ness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his
paths straight.' John was baptizing in the
wilderness, preaching a baptism of repent-
ance 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 wor-
thy to stoop down and untie. I have bap-
tized you with water; but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit."



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Tel: (718) 767-2955 – www.holycrossgreekchurch.com



ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΝΕΟΥ ΕΤΟΥΣ και ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ 2024

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR NEW YEAR and THEOPHANY 2024

Κυριακή, 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2023- Sunday, December 31, 2023 ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ - SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST			
Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία	8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:00-11:00 a.m.
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			
Ορθρος και Πανηγυρική Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου	8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Ορθρος και Πανηγυρική Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου	8:00-11:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη, 4 Ιανουαρίου 2024-Thursday, January 4th, 2024 <i>Νικηφόρου του Λεπρού-Nikēphoros the Leper</i>			
Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία	8:00-10:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:00-10:00 a.m.
Παρασκευή, 5 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Friday, January 5, 2024			
Μεγάλοι Ώραι των Θεοφανείων Εσπερινός Θεία Λειτουργία του Μ. Βασιλείου & Μεγάλος 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.
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			
Ορθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία & Ακολουθία του Μ. Αγιασμού	8:00-11:30 π.μ.	Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters	8:00-11:30 a.m.
Τελετή Κατάδυσις του Τιμίου Σταυρού στο ποτάμι (The Pier on Boulevard in Malba)	12:00μ.μ.	Blessing of the Waters at the Pier on Boulevard in Malba	12:00 p.m.
Κυριακή, 7 Ιανουαρίου 2024- Sunday, January 7, 2024 <i>Σύναξις Αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου - Synaxis Of Saint John The Baptist</i>			
Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία	8:00-11:00 π.μ.	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:00-11:00 a.m.



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.

MEMORIALS—ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ

31 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ, 2023



- + Παναγιώτης Μίχας, 40ήμερο
- + Αρτεμισία Γεωργίου, 40ήμερο
- + Σοφία Γιαννίκου, ένας χρόνος

**Please inform the church office at least one week
in advance for memorial services and koliva.**

Σας παρακαλούμε να κάνετε έγκαιρα τις παραγγελίες σας για τα κόλλυβα τουλάχιστον μία εβδομάδα νωρίτερα για να μπορούμε να σας εξυπηρετούμε με τον καλύτερο δυνατό τρόπο.



Ο Άγιος Νικηφόρος ο Λεπρός (4 Ιανουαρίου)

Όσιος Πατήρ ἡμῶν Νικηφόρος, κατά κόσμον Νικόλαος Τζανακάκης, ἐγεννήθη στό χωριό Σηρικάρι τοῦ Νομοῦ Χανίων Κρήτης. Σέ πολύ μικρή ἡλικία στερήθηκε καί τούς δύο γονεῖς του. Ὅταν ἔγινε

δεκατριῶν ἐτῶν, ὁ παπποῦς του τόν ἔστειλε νά ἐργαστῇ σ' ἓνα κουρεῖο στά Χανιά. Ὅσοι τόν γνώριζαν, τόν ἀγαποῦσαν, ἐπειδή ἦταν ταπεινός καί πρᾶος, πρόθυμος καί ἐργατικός, εὐγενικός καί γλυκομίλητος.

Ὁ Ὅσιος Πατήρ ἡμῶν Νικηφόρος, ὁ Ἅγιος τῶν Λεπρῶν. Ὅμως ὁ Θεός τοῦ εἶχε ὀρίσει ἓνα πολύ δύσκολο καί ὀδυνηρό ἄθλημα, πού ἄρχισε τότε, μέ τήν ἐμφάνιση τῶν πρώτων σημαδιῶν τῆς νόσου τοῦ Χάνσεν, τῆς γνωστῆς λέπρας. Γιά νά μήν τόν ἀντιληφθοῦν οἱ Ἀρχές καί τόν κλείσουν στό ἄνυδρο νησί τῆς Σπιναλόγκας, σέ ἡλικία μόλις δεκαἑξί ἐτῶν ἔφυγε γιά τήν Ἀλεξάνδρεια τῆς Αἰγύπτου.

Ἐκεῖ γνωρίστηκε μέ τήν ἀνθοῦσα τότε Ἑλληνική παροικία καί μέ Ἀρχιερεῖς τοῦ Πατριαρχικοῦ Θρόνου καί ἔγινε πολύ γρήγορα ἀγαπητός σέ ὅλους. Μετά ἀπό λίγα χρόνια, πού τά σημάδια τῆς νόσου ἔγιναν πολύ ἐμφανῆ, ἔπρεπε καί ἀπό ἐκεῖ νά φύγῃ. Νά πάῃ, ὅμως, ποῦ; Κανέναν δέν γνώριζε καί πούθενά. Τότε ἓνας Ἐπίσκοπος, πού ὁ Νικόλαος τοῦ ἐμπιστεύθηκε τό πρόβλημά του, τόν ἔστειλε στόν Γέροντα Ἀνθιμο, ἰδρυτή καί πνευματικό τῆς Ἱ. Μ. Παναγίας Βοηθείας στήν Χίο καί ἐφημέριο τοῦ ἐκεῖ λωβοκομεῖου. Μετά τρία χρόνια ὁ Νικόλαος ἐκάρη μοναχός καί ἔλαβε τό ὄνομα Νικηφόρος. Ὁ εὐλογημένος Νικηφόρος ζοῦσε τήν μοναχική ζωή μέ αὐστηρή ἄσκηση καί τελεία ὑπακοή.

Κοντά στόν πατέρα Ἀνθιμο, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀργότερα ἀνεκηρύχθη Ἅγιος, ὁ Πατήρ Νικηφόρος ἔφθασε σέ μεγάλα μέτρα ἀρετῆς. Ὅταν ἔκλεισε τό λωβοκομεῖο τῆς Χίου, ὁ ἅγιος Ἀνθιμος τόν ἔστειλε στόν Ἀντιλεπρικό Σταθμό τῶν Ἀθηνῶν μέ συστατική ἐπιστολή, στήν ὁποία ἔγραφε στόν πατέρα Εὐμένιο, νά προσέξῃ «τόν θησαυρό πού τοῦ στέλνει ἡ Παναγία», διότι ἔχει πολλά νά ὠφεληθῇ ἀπό αὐτόν. Ἐκεῖ ὁ ὅσιος Νικηφόρος πέρασε ὅλο τό υπόλοιπο τῆς ζωῆς του. Ὁ πατήρ Εὐμένιος τόν φρόντισε μέ πολλή ἀγάπη καί τόν εἶχε ὡς πνευματικό του πατέρα. Ἐνα βράδυ, ἀφοῦ ἐτοίμασε τόν ὅσιο Νικηφόρο, πῆγε νά κοιμηθῇ.

Εἶχε ὅμως μιά ἀνησυχία μήπως δέν ἔκλεισε τήν σόμπα. Ἐπιστρέφει στό κελλάκι, ἀνοίγει τήν πόρτα σιγά-σιγά γιά νά μήν τόν ξυπνήσῃ. Τότε βλέπει μπροστά του τόν Ἅγιο νά αἰωρῆται ἕως ἓνα μέτρο ἀπό τό ἔδαφος μέ τά χέρια ὑψωμένα καί νά προσεύχεται. Τό πρόσωπό του δέ ἔλαμπε ὑπέρ τόν ἥλιον.

Ὁ Ὅσιος Πατήρ ἡμῶν Νικηφόρος ἐκοιμήθη στίς 4 Ἰανουαρίου 1964, προ-παραμονή τῶν Θεοφανείων. Θαύματα ἐπετέλεσε ἤδη κατά τήν διάρκεια τῆς ζωῆς του, καί ἐπιτελεῖ πολύ περισσότερα μετά θάνατον, ὅπως τό ὁμολογοῦν πολλοί ἄνθρωποι, οἱ ὁποῖοι εὐεργετήθηκαν ἀπό αὐτόν. Τό Οἰκουμενικό Πατριαρχεῖο, μέ Συνοδική Πράξη τῆς 3ης Δεκεμβρίου τοῦ 2012, κατέταξε τόν Ὅσιο Νικηφόρο τόν Λεπρό τόν Θαυματουργό στό Ἀγιολόγιο τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας μας.



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

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



You're Invited!



The Ladies' Philoptochos of Holy Cross Whitestone

Annual
Vasilopita
Brunch

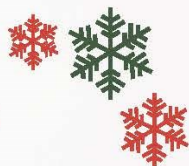


January 14, 2024
after Liturgy

Admission

Regular
\$30.00

Children
\$15.00



RSVP

Patty Lampropoulos
Dina Laskaris
Voula Paxinos

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