



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΩΝ  
TAXIARCHAE/ARCHANGELS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

25 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472

**Phone:** 617.924.8182 Phone

**Website:** www.goarchangels.org

**Office:** Office@goarchangels.com

**Rev. Fr. Athanasios Nenes, Parish Priest**

**Cell Phone:** 914.479.8096 **Email:** anenes@goarchangels.com

**December 31, 2023**

**Sunday Before Epiphany**

**Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.**

**Epistle Reading**

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

**Gospel Reading**

**The Reading is from Mark 1:1-8.**

**Memorial**

**40 day - Alyce Savvas**

**Trisagion**

**3 year - Jean Yiokarinins**

**May their memory be eternal. Αιώνια η Μνήμη!**



**WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:**

**Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - canceled for 1/4/24**

**St. Basil - Mon., Jan. 1st, Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:30AM.**

**Eve of Epiphany - Fri., Jan. 5, Vesperal Liturgy, Blessing of the Waters 6PM.**

**Epiphany - Sat., Jan. 6, Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St Basil: Agiasmos 8:30AM.**

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### *Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode*

O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελεῖν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείρει τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

### *Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Nativity in the Fourth Mode*

Your birth O Christ our God did shine upon the world and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe and to those who held the stars in worship did through a star learn to worship You Worship You the sun of righteousness and came to know You the Light from on high. Glory to You O Lord.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀπέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως, ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἀστροῖς λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σέ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σέ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοί.

### *Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode*

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι. δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

**Receiving Holy Communion** - We welcome to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy those Christians who are from other Christian Denominations and who are not fully united with us. Sadly, it is a consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to you an invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is the work or action of the celebrating Community signifying a oneness of faith, life, and worship of the believing Community. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray. **However, all present** are welcome to partake of the Antidoro (blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the Liturgy.

## **Epistle Reading**

### **Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

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

### **The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8.**

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.

## **Epistle Reading**

### **Προκείμενον. Πλαγάλ Second Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1.**

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

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

### **τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8.**

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

## ***GOSPEL***

### **The Reading is from 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 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."

## ***GOSPEL***

### **Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8**

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

## Saints and Feasts

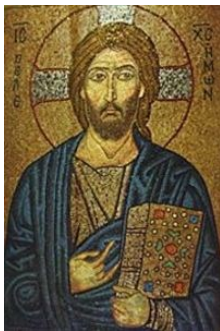


***December 31***

***Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome***

Saint Melania the Younger, who was born in 388, was the granddaughter of Saint Melania the Elder (see June 8). Her father Publicola was an Eparch of Rome. She was joined in wedlock to a husband and became the mother of two children, both of which she lost shortly thereafter. Thus, having agreed with her husband to pass the rest of their lives in abstinence and chastity, and taking her mother Albina with her, she went off to Africa. They ransomed 8,000 captives; furthermore, they built two monasteries - one for men and one for women - in the city of Tagaste, which was in the district of Tunis. After seven years they moved to Jerusalem. Thereafter Melania shut herself up in a small and narrow hermitage by the Mount of Olives, and wearing away her body with fasting and vigil, she reposed in 434.

*Because of the Apodosis of the Feast of the Nativity on the 31st of this month, the hymns of Saint Melania the Younger are transferred to December 30th along with the Martyr Anysia.*



***January 01***

***Circumcision of our Lord***

Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means "Savior" (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31 and 2:21).

# Sermon

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us gather with grateful hearts and open minds to reflect upon the past and welcome the future with renewed faith and unwavering hope. The new year provides us with an opportunity to grow spiritually, to deepen our relationship with God, and to embrace the beauty of Orthodox teachings. Today, let us focus on four essential steps to approach the new year with a firm foundation in our Orthodox faith.

## I. Reflection: Gratitude for God's Guidance

As we embark on a new year, it is crucial to reflect upon the previous year and express gratitude for God's guidance and protection throughout our journey. Despite the challenges, God has been faithful and unchanging. Take a moment to ponder, contemplate, and acknowledge His blessings, both seen and unseen. Let us remember that our gratitude further strengthens our connection with God and instills confidence in His continuous care and provision.

## II. Repentance: Seeking Forgiveness and New Beginnings

The new year serves as a reminder for us to actively seek repentance and forgiveness. It is an opportunity to turn away from our shortcomings, acknowledge our sins, and make a conscious effort towards spiritual growth. In the spirit of humility, let us engage in sincere self-reflection, confess our transgressions to God, and seek the sacrament of confession from our spiritual fathers. Through repentance, we can start the new year with purified hearts, experiencing the transformative power of God's forgiveness and embracing a fresh start.

## III. Renewal: Cultivating Spiritual Disciplines

The new year calls us to renew our commitment to spiritual disciplines. Let us prioritize regular prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, and partaking in the Holy Mysteries. Through disciplined practice, we can deepen our connection with God, nurture our spiritual lives, and acquire the virtues that bring us closer to Christ's likeness. As we make a conscious effort to develop these disciplines, let us remember that it is not about legalism, but about allowing these practices to transform and mold us into true followers of Christ.

## IV. Hope: Trusting in God's Providence

Finally, as we enter the new year, let us embrace it with unwavering hope. In a world full of uncertainties, we find solace in God's promises and providence. We trust that He has a Divine plan for each of us, both individually and collectively. Regardless of the challenges that lie ahead, we can face them with courage, knowing that God is present, guiding us with His loving hand. Let us place our hope in His eternal wisdom and providence, confident that He works all things for the good of those who love Him.

Beloved brothers and sisters, as we step into this new year, may we do so with hearts filled with gratitude, seeking repentance and renewal, and trusting in the unfailing providence of our Heavenly Father. Let us remember that the journey towards spiritual growth is a continuous one, and the new year provides us with an opportunity to reorient our lives towards Christ. May the blessings of this new year be abundant, drawing us closer to God and to one another. Amen.

*Happy New Year!*

*“Glory to God in the highest, & on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”*

**Father Nenes and the members of the Parish Council  
wish you all a blessed New Year!**

**Ο Ιερέας σας, και τα μέλη του Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου, σας εύχονται  
ευλογημένο το Νέον Έτος με υγεία και κάθε καλό! Καλή Χρονιά!**

**Memorial**

40 day - *Alyce Savvas*

**Trisagion**

3 year - *Jean Yiokarinis*

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η Μνήμη!

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by the *Savvas family* in memory of their loved one.

***Welcome and Happy New to all who worship with us today.***

*The Taxiarchae Family extends its greetings for a very blessed New Year.*

*No Sunday School today.*

*The new Parish Council will be sworn in Sunday, January 7, 2024.*





## 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Campaign Fund

— \$150,000

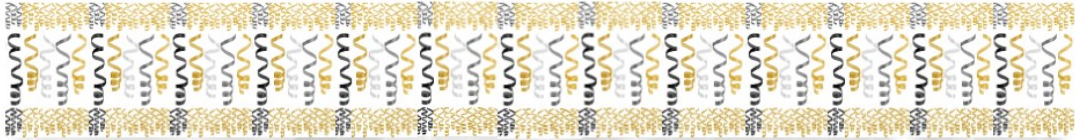
— \$75,000

— \$0



Church Capital Improvement Campaign update. To date we have raised \$29,000 of the \$150,000 we need to raise for much needed improvements to our Church. We used approved monies from the operations account for the parking lot improvement but need to repay the operations account once we have raised the money. Thank you to those that have donated! If you would like to donate please visit the Church website, click on Donate, then Capital Improvement Campaign.





# Celebrate 2024 New Year's Eve Party



Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 7pm Mezedakia  
8:30pm to 1am Dinner & Dancing



Live Music featuring  
**Georgios Karatzas & Athenian Entertainment**

Meze, Dinner, Dessert, Vasilopita & Champagne Toast at Midnight  
(Dinner includes Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, Greek-Style Green Beans, Pastry)

#### TICKET PRICES

Adult Tickets \$80  
Ages 10 to 14 \$40  
Ages Under 10 Free



George Karalis 781-241-5035  
Jeannie Soukatos 401-474-1833  
Sophia Augoustakis 508-570-1720  
Church Office 401-725-3127



**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church • 97 Walcott Street • Pawtucket • Rhode Island

**HELLENIC BOSTON BUSINESSES UNITE**

*invites you to our first Annual*

# **WINTER WHITE** *Gala*

**Saturday February 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

Oakley Country Club  
410 Belmont St. Watertown, MA

Silent Auction proceeds to benefit  
Metropolis Camp of Boston & The Sotir Center Thessaloniki, GR

Dinner & Dancing  
Music by Salonica Boys

RSVP by January 27, 2024  
Early bird pricing available until January 15, 2024

---

To order tickets scan the QR code

Cocktail attire - Optional Black/Winter White







METROPOLIS of BOSTON CAMP

# WINTER CAMP 2024

SO CHILL, WE NEEDED TWO  
**Grades 6-12 | Register on November 27th**

Winter Camp Session 1      Winter Camp Session 2  
 ARRIVE: Friday, January 19      ARRIVE: Saturday, February 17  
 DEPART: Sunday, January 21      DEPART: Monday, February 19

**FALL CAMP SOLD OUT IN LESS THAN 60 SECONDS!  
 DON'T DELAY IN REGISTERING!**



## WINTER CAMP FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

TOUR DE TOOKY	PAT'S PEAK SKI MOUNTAIN
Maple Syrup Factory	Skiing
Cow Milking Farm	Snowboarding
Ice Skating / Ice Fishing	Tubing

[metropolisofbostoncamp.org](http://metropolisofbostoncamp.org)



CROSSROAD

Are you a high school **junior** or **senior**?

Fill your  
**summer**  
 with what **counts**

Join one of our **four sessions:**

- SESSION 1** | Boston June 8-18
- SESSION 2** | Northern California June 18-28
- SESSION 3** | Boston June 22-July 2
- SESSION 4** | Chicago July 6-16

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**  
 Priority: January 16, 2024  
 Regular: February 20, 2024



## Youth Ministry

### Ongoing FOOD DRIVE - Collecting for the Watertown Food Pantry

Your donation of food items can be put on the table, located in the Lobby.

We will deliver them to the Watertown Food Pantry every Tuesday.

Thank you for helping your local community!

***ESPECIALLY NEEDED - CANS OF TUNA & BREAKFAST CEREAL.***  
**As always, the Food Pantry is still in need of school snacks.**

# LOVE DOES NOT HURT.

INCREASED STATISTICS ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE  
[HTTPS://WWW.NEJM.ORG/DOI/FULL/10.1056/NEJMP2024046](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMP2024046)

A pandemic within a pandemic: There are more cases of violence in the home than ever before. This means more families living in crisis.

We are collecting for monthly drop-offs each second Monday of the month, beginning with December 14th.

#### Items requested are:

Sanitary napkins  
Shampoo  
Vaseline  
Cocoa butter  
Baby shampoo  
Baby lotion  
Deodorant  
Tooth brushes  
Tooth paste

With any questions, please contact

Christina Kourkoulis at [CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org](mailto:CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org)

**RECOGNIZE.  
REPORT.  
PREVENT.**

## FINEX HOUSE

+Finex House  
PO Box 300670  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
<https://www.finexhouse.org>

## Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center

Planning a party or reception? Our beautiful venues are now updated and ready for any & all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future event, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: [functionmanager@goarchangels.com](mailto:functionmanager@goarchangels.com)



DREAM IT AND IT  
CAN COME TRUE!  
YOUR EVENT CAN BE  
EVERYTHING  
YOU WISHED.

