

# Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church



**December 25, 2022  
Holy Nativity**

## **Mission Statement**

To Engage, Serve, and Enrich the lives of Orthodox Christians, through Word, Worship, and Outreach, and to Welcome all people to live the Orthodox Christian way of life.

### **Our Clergy:**

Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, Pastor  
Fr. Philip Armstrong, Priest Emeritus  
Fr. Demetrios Kavouras, Priest Emeritus

### **Contact Us:**

480-899-3330 • office@st-katherine.org • [www.stkatherineaz.org](http://www.stkatherineaz.org)

### **Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Closed 12:00-1:00 p.m. for lunch  
Fr. Timothy is off on Thursdays.

*Metropolis of San Francisco / Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

## Hymns at the Small Entrance

### Apolytikion for the Feast

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise up on the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Η Γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σέ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σέ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### Kontakion

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκει, 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.

## Epistle Reading

### Galatians 4:4-7

BRETHREN, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

### Γαλάτας 4:4-7

Ἀδελφοί, ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δέ ἐστε υἱοί, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, κρᾶζον, Ἀββᾶ, ὁ πατήρ. Ὡστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος, ἀλλ' υἱός· εἰ δὲ υἱός, καὶ κληρονόμος θεοῦ διὰ Χριστοῦ.

## . Gospel Reading

### Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. 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. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### Ματθαῖον 2:1-12

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἐν ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ἰδοὺ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα λέγοντες· ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἤλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ. Ἀκούσας δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐταράχθη καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ' αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ ἐπυνθάνετο παρ' αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται. οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτω γὰρ γέγραπται διὰ τοῦ προφήτου· καὶ σὺ Βηθλεὲμ, γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν Ἰούδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ. Τότε Ἡρώδης λάθρα καλέσας τοὺς μάγους ἠκρίβωσε παρ' αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος, καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλεὲμ εἶπε· πορευθέντες ἀκριβῶς ἐξετάσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου, ἐπὶ δὲ εὗρητε, ἀπαγγεῖλάτε μοι, ὅπως κἀγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ. οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστὴρ ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ προῆγεν αὐτούς, ἕως ἐλθὼν ἔστη ἐπάνω οὗ ἧν τὸ παιδίον· ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαρὰν μεγάλην σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν· καὶ χρηματισθέντες κατ' ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι πρὸς Ἡρώδη, δι' ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἀνεχώρησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.

## Today we Commemorate:

- The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar
- The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his fathers's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1: 3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14).

## Service Schedule—Week of December 25th

**Sun., December 25th: 12:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy Holy Nativity  
**Sat., December 31st: 6:00 p.m.** Great Vespers

### Stewardship Cards Available Now!

Please be sure to pick up your 2023 Stewardship Commitment Card at the candle stand this morning and prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year.

At the Nativity Liturgy (Sunday, Dec. 25th, 12 **am**) Fr. Timothy will place all the cards that have been returned on the altar and bless them.



### 2023 Calendars

Available at the candle stand

**One per household please**

Compliments of:  
**Bueler Mortuary**  
14 W. Hulet Drive, Chandler, AZ  
85224  
480-963-6351



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
8 EAST 29TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10003-0006  
TELEPHONE: (212) 510-3000 • FAX: (212) 510-3466  
Web: www.goarch.org • E-Mail: archdiocese@goarch.org

## Helpful Information:

**Sunday School:** Parents, after your children receive Communion, please bring them to class.

- Grades PreK-2, in Community Center
- Grades 3-5, Choir Loft
- Grades 6-12, 5th Acre

After class students will be dismissed and instructed to return to their parents in the Community Center.

**Fellowship Hour:** Fellowship Hour will resume on Sunday, January 1st, 2023.

**Dean Pappas Memorial Bookstore:** Will reopen after the new year.

**Please make every effort to arrive for services a little early.** If you happen to arrive late, please observe the following moments in the Divine Liturgy when you should not enter the Nave but wait quietly in the Narthex. You may enter after these moments:

- The Priest censing
- The Small Entrance
- The Great Entrance
- Epistle Reading
- Gospel Reading
- The Homily
- Consecration of the Gifts
- The Lord's Prayer

### Confession Times:

- Saturdays from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- During Great Vespers immediately following the Great Censing. Please wait in the front pews closest to the Bishop's Throne.
- By appointment (Please contact the church office)

### Resources:

\*Sunday Homilies: <https://stkatherineaz.org/homilies>

\*For Orthros (Matins) Text visit: [AGES Digital Chant Stand](#)

\*Saints, Feasts, Epistle & Gospel readings: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar>

**Please silence cell phones when in church.**



## St. Irene Philoptochos

### St. Irene Philoptochos – HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Friday, December 30 - 3:00PM – 6:00PM

Pre-order your baked goods online @ [orders.ATasteofGreeceAZ.com](http://orders.ATasteofGreeceAZ.com)  
and pick-up at sale so you have them for Christmas + New Years  
or contact: Marjie Thorpe @ Church Office – 480 899-3330  
or email Kathy Connell @ [madgreekkathy@aol.com](mailto:madgreekkathy@aol.com)

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#### Holiday Bake Sale Order Form

# of Packages Amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Koulourakia – 1 Dozen - \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Kourabiedes – ½ Dozen - \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Melomakarona – ½ Dozen - \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Baklava – 12 Petite Pieces - \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sweet Bread - 1 Loaf - \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Variety Pack – \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(3 Melo; 3 Kourabiethes; 6 Koulourakia, 8 Petite Baklava)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hostess Tray - Wrapped - \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(6 Melo; 6 Kourabiethes; 12 Petite Baklava)

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_





## Prayer Requests

Prayers for the living will be retained on the list for 40 days.



*Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

### Living:

- Laura, for right employment
- Constantine, health and healing
- Presvytera Vicki, health
- Fr. Dimitrios, for relief from suffering
- Andrew, comfort from grieving
- Jamie, for relief from suffering
- John, Anna, Bridgid, Steven, Mary, and Peter, health and healing
- Metropolitan Gerasimos, recovery from surgery
- Peace in Ukraine, consolation for the suffering and bereaved.
- For our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Workers.
- For our Catechumens and Inquirers.
- For our parishioners serving in armed services: Scott Fagerberg (at Davis-Monthon AFB)

For our Seminarians: Emmanuel (Manoli) Aspiotis & Nikolas Makarios



## Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome you with open arms and joy in our Lord and hope your experience at St. Katherine's is a blessing for you.

Only those who are Baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox faith may receive Holy Communion. If you are not Orthodox, you may approach the Chalice for a blessing. To do this, come to the chalice and simply say, "a blessing please."

Orthodox Christians desiring to receive the Body of Blood of Christ must ensure proper preparation through confession (minimum 4 times a year), reconciliation in your heart with all, and observation of the fasting guidelines set forth by the Church.

## Our Parish Family

If you are new to our parish and would like to become a member and begin receiving News & Updates, please contact our Church office:

[office@st-katherineaz.org](mailto:office@st-katherineaz.org) or call 480-899-3330.

If you are visiting and/or inquiring about the Orthodox faith and are interested in learning more, please contact Fr. Timothy: [frtimskchurch@gmail.com](mailto:frtimskchurch@gmail.com)

## Orthodox Catechism Classes

Tuesdays 7:00-8:15 p.m.  
Meets inside the Church.

**December 27th**  
Orthodox Spirituality III  
**January 3rd**  
Icons & Architecture



Arizona Hellenic Foundation Presents

# Apokries 2023

Saturday, February 25

Cash Bar 6 PM | Dinner at 7 PM

Greek Mardi Gras | Costumes Optional |

Live Music | Dance | 50/50 Raffle |

Best Costume Prizes for Male, Female and Child



TICKETS: Adults - \$85 | Age 12 and Under - \$20

Call Telis Evripidou at 480-332-6957

Proceeds benefit Arizona Hellenic Foundation's scholarship fund.



Mesa Country Club  
660 W. Fairway Drive | Mesa, AZ 85201

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



## 8 Dates Series Returns!

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco **Family Wellness Ministry** and the Office of **Youth and Young Adult Ministries** invites all married/engaged couples to participate in the upcoming **Eight Dates** Marriage program. This powerful relationship series presented for the third time is based on the book *Eight Dates* by Drs. John and Julie Gottman. Topics addressed including Conflict; Work and Money, Intimacy, Family, Spirituality, and much more. Any couple wanting to improve their communication and connection can benefit from this lively and evidence based program. **The next session is Jan. 12th at 6:30 pm**



To register: <http://www.familywellnessministry.org/eight-dates>

## Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry at St. Katherine serves to beautify our Church at different times throughout the year by decorating icons for Major Feast days of Christ and the Theotokos, the Feast day of St. Katherine, Great Lent, and Holy Week. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry please contact Despina:: [deslaloudakis@yahoo.com](mailto:deslaloudakis@yahoo.com)



## Welcome Ministry

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Yiota for more information:

[yiotasoublis@hotmail.com](mailto:yiotasoublis@hotmail.com)



## Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry meets on the 3rd Saturday, every other month for food, fellowship and fun.



## Men's Ministry!

As we continue to grow our St. Katherine ministries, we are now working toward beginning a Men's Ministry. A volunteer is needed to lead the team, and others are needed to work with him in developing this ministry's goals, mission, and vision, etc.

If you would like to be involved in starting our men's ministry, and/or would like to participate in it, please email or call the Church Office to give us your contact information.

Fr. Timothy will be working directly with this ministry and will be instrumental in its development.

## MILESTONES & MANY YEARS !



Are you celebrating a birth, baptism, birthday/nameday, anniversary or other special occasion that you would like to share with our community? To have your special occasion included in our Weekly Update, please complete the "Milestones & Many Years" form (available at the candle stand) and return it to the church office or a Parish Council member.

## New Convenient Ways to Give!

Hover your phone camera over the QR code, which will take you to our website. From the menu, click on the Stewardship tab.

Digital payment platforms allow the church to accept stewardship, general or specific donations for any ministry. To ensure your donation is

allocated properly, please make a note in the memo indicating your wishes.



## RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GIVING

PERCENT OF INCOME	5%		8%		10%	
	Annual Giving	Weekly	Annual Giving	Weekly	Annual Giving	Weekly
\$20,000	\$1,000	\$19.23	\$1,600	\$30.77	\$2,000	\$38.46
\$40,000	\$2,000	\$38.46	\$3,200	\$61.54	\$4,000	\$76.92
\$60,000	\$3,000	\$57.69	\$4,800	\$92.31	\$6,000	\$115.38
\$80,000	\$4,000	\$76.92	\$6,400	\$123.08	\$8,000	\$153.85
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$96.15	\$8,000	\$153.85	\$10,000	\$192.31
\$125,000	\$6,250	\$120.19	\$10,000	\$192.31	\$12,500	\$240.38
\$150,000	\$7,500	\$144.23	\$12,000	\$230.77	\$15,000	\$288.46
\$200,000	\$10,000	\$192.31	\$16,000	\$307.69	\$20,000	\$384.62



*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Matthew 6:21

***Thank you for your commitment.***