The LIGHT of the ASCENSION
Το Φως της Θείας Αναλήψεως

March 24, 2024
**Today we commemorate**
**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

- Epistle Reading (click here)
- Gospel Reading (click here)

### 2024 Archiepiscopal Encyclical for Greek Independence Day

![Image](image-url)

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 64/2024

**Archeepiscopal Encyclical on Greek Independence Day**

March 25, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Onward, children of Greece … now is the fight for everything!
(The Persians, Aeschylus)

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

The battle cry of the ancient Greeks as they charged the forces of Xerxes at Salamis, more than four hundred years before the gentle reply of the Virgin to the Archangel, is an inspiring testament to the resilience and courage of our People, our Genos. Although they were severely outnumbered, they never gave up their hope for their freedom and fought their way to victory. The same is true of the Immortal Heroes of 1821, whose memory we invoke on the Great Feast of the Annunciation, which is the most perfect story of humanity’s aspiration for true and compete liberty.

Although tender was the answer to the mighty Gabriel, “Be it unto me according to you word,” the response of the Virgin actually carries the same force and intensity of the Greeks who repelled the Persians, as well as their descendants who freed Greece from over four hundred years of Ottoman occupation. For truly, the salvation of the human race – initialized and empowered by the asent of the Theotokos to the Incarnation of God – is and has always been “the fight for everything.”
Human liberty – the ability to live our lives in a climate of opportunity and with freedom of choice – is always a struggle. The miracle of the Annunciation is that through a young girl, chosen by God, our ultimate freedom has been guaranteed in Christ. Whether repelling invaders, or expelling occupiers, the Greek People have always risen to the challenge. And with the faith of the Gospel, we behold our decisions to “fight for everything” under the aspect of eternity, sub specie aeternitatis. For the contest of the human spirit is not only against the oppressors of this world, but also, as the Apostle says: “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Therefore, beloved brethren in the Lord, let us magnify the Virgin Theotokos, who embodies with her mildness a strength worthy of her title as our “Champion Leader” (Τσέρμαχος Στρατηγός). And let us give thanks to God for the courage of our ancestors – both those of the ancient world and those of 1821 – who gave of their lives in the fight for everything. Because of their sacrifices, we possess as a precious treasure the glory of Greece and the glory of our Holy Greek Orthodox Faith.

Long live Greece!

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America
ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 64/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκυκλιος για την ημέρα της Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας.

25 Μαρτίου 2024

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους και Θεοφιλεστάτους Αρχιερείς, τούς Ευλαβεστάτους Ιερείς και Διακόνους, τους Μοναχούς και τις Μοναχές, τούς Προεδρούς και τα Μέλη των Κοινοτικών Συμβουλίων, τούς Εντιμολογιωτάτους Άρχοντες του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, τα μέλη της Ηγεσίας των 100, τα Ημερήσια και Απογευματινά Σχολεία, τις Φιλοπτώχους Αδελφότητες, τη Νεολαία, τις Ελληνορθόδοξες Οργανώσεις και ολόκληρο το Χριστιανόν πλήθος της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

«Ω παίδες Έλληνων ήτο ... νόν υπέρ πάντων αγών» (Αισχύλος, Πέρσαι 402-405).

Προσφυλείς αδελφοί και αδελφές εν Χριστῷ,

Η πολεμική ισχί των αρχιαίων ελλήνων στη ναυμαχία της Σαλαμίνος εναντίον των πλοίων του Ξέρδη, τετρακύκλια χρόνια πριν από την καταφατική απάντηση της Παρθένου Μαρίας στόν αρχάγγελο, είναι ακόμη μια επιμενομένη απόδειξη του θάρρους και της ανθηκτικότητος του γένους μας. Αν και οι Πέρσες υπερέφαναν σε αμιθό και δύναμη, οι Έλληνες δεν έγκατελείφαν ποτέ την έλπιδα τους για την ελευθερία, πολεμώντας για την τελική νίκη. Ακόμα και το ίδιο ισχυρες και για τους αδιάντιους ήρωες του 1821, τους οποίους μνημονεύουμε σήμερα κατά την μεγάλη έρημη του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου, του γεγονότος που οδήγησε όλη την ανθρωπότητα στήν αληθινή και πλήρη ελευθερία!

Αλήθεια, τόσο θρησκευτικακιε ται τηπεινη ήταν η απάντηση της άιτηραθένου Μαρίας στον πανίσχυρο αρχάγγελο Γαβριήλ: «Ιδού η δουλή Κυρίων γένοιτο μου κατά το φημί σου!» Όμως η απάντηση της, η οποία ελευθερώνει το ανθρώπινο γένος από την άμαρτία, έχει την ίδια δυναμική με την αρχή των Ελλήνων, που απόκτησαν τους Πέρσες, αλλά και τών απογόνων τους που απελευθέρωσαν την Ελλάδα μετά από τετρακύκλια χρόνια ονομασίας κατοχής. Δεν πρέπει να συνηθίζουμε τον ανθρώπινο γένους, έκινσε με τη συγκαταθήκη της Θεοτόκου στην ενανθρωπίση του Θεού, και αυτό, έν τέλει, αποτελεί τόν «υπέρ πάντων αγών». 


SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
March 24, 2024
Sunday of Orthodoxy
(click here)
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
Catechism School
Coffee is served by
the Parish Council

Monday
March 25, 2024
9:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy
Tuesday
March 26, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Presanctified Liturgy

Wednesday
March 27, 2024
4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Greek School
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Presanctified Liturgy & Great Compline
Bible Study

Thursday
March 28, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday
March 29, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
Presanctified Liturgy
4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Greek School
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
2nd Salutations

Saturday
March 30, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
John Climacus
(clicl here)

Sunday, March 31, 2024
Sunday of
St. Gregory Palamas
(clicl here)
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
Catechism School
Coffee is served by
the Philoptochos
6:00 p.m.

Κυριακή
24 Μαρτίου, 2024
Της Ορθοδοξίας
(Α’ Νηστειών)
(click here)
8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.
Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία
Κατηχητικό Σχολείο
O καφές σερβίρεται από το Συμβούλιο
6:00 μ.μ. Εσπερινός
(Naό Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου - Τζέρσοι Σίτλο)

Δευτέρα, 25 Μαρτίου, 2024
9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία
Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου
(click here)

Τρίτη, 26 Μαρτίου, 2024
9:00 π.μ. – 10:30 π.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία

Τετάρτη
27 Μαρτίου, 2024
4:30 μ.μ. – 6:30 μ.μ.
Ελληνικό Σχολείο
5:00 μ.μ. – 8:00 μ.μ.
Προηγιασμένη & Απόδειπνο
(click here)
Μελέτη Αγ. Γραφής

Πέμπτη
28 Μαρτίου, 2024
9:30 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή
29 Μαρτίου, 2024
9:00 π.μ. – 10:30 π.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία
4:30 μ.μ. – 6:30 μ.μ.
Ελληνικό Σχολείο
7:00 μ.μ. – 8:30 μ.μ.
B’ Χαιρετισμοί

Τετάρτη
30 Μαρτίου, 2024
9:00 π.μ. - 11:00
Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία
Όσιος Ιωάννης της Κλίμακος
Κυριακή
31 Μαρτίου, 2024
Γρηγορίου Παλαμά
(Β’ Νηστείων)
8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.
Θεία Λειτουργία
Κατηχητικό Σχολείο
Ο καφές σερβίρεται από
την Φιλόπτωχο

LIVE STREAM click here
LIGHT a CANDLE and SAY a PRAYER click here

MEMORIAL SERVICES
SUNDAY
March 24, 2024

40 days:
John Diamantopoulos

6 months:
Chrystalla Kanakis

Coffee is offered by
the Diamantopoulos & Kanakis Families
that have the Memorial Services
SATURDAY OF THE SOULS
ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

March 9, 2024
March 16, 2024
March 23, 2024

Orthros: 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

The tradition of our church is to always remember our departed loved ones. Although they are gone, they are not forgotten. We, as the members of the church, offer prayers that end up being beneficial to both us and to the deceased.

You may offer your list of the Names for the Repose of the Souls by completing the form below and submitting it by email to Anastasia, Office Administrator, at info@ascensionfairview.org or by dropping off during office hours.

If you would like to order koliva, please notify the office one week in advance.
Rev. Christos L. Pappas
Protopresbyter
office: 201-945-6448
cell: 201-707-4737
fatherchristos@yahoo.com

Anastasia Perdikos
Office Administrator
office: 201-945-6448

Office hours:
Monday, Wednesday
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

info@ascensionfairview.org

DONATE to the ASCENSION CHURCH click here

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS
April 7, 2024
Greek School
Greek Independence Day
& Annunciation of the Theotokos Program

April 14, 2024
Greek Parade

GREEK PARADE
Celebrating the 203rd Anniversary of Hellenic Independence

50 Years Illegal Occupation of Cyprus
July 20, 1974 - July 20, 2024
The Dream of a Free Cyprus will never die!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 @ 1:30 PM
5TH AVENUE | NEW YORK CITY | 64TH TO 79TH STREET

FEDERATION OF HELLENIC SOCIETIES OF GREATER NEW YORK
22-51 29th Street, Astoria NY 11105 • 718.204.6500
nyhellenicsocieties@gmail.com
© FederationNY © NYGreekParade
ASCENSION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Greek Independence Day Parade information & Guidelines

Dear parishioners, members of all church organizations and Greek School,

Our community will participate in the Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, April 14 @ 1:00 PM in New York City. We will also have a float with participation of all organizations and Greek School.

The church will provide a bus for the parade. If you are planning on taking the bus please reserve and pay for your seat(s) by calling or visiting the church office, tel. # 201-945-6448, by Friday, 4/12. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee you a seat. This will also help us determine if we need a second bus.

The bus will leave from the front of the Church at 12:00 noon sharp, immediately following church services. Teachers, students and Goyans are free. All others will be charged $25.00.

Dress code: Business attire preferably blue and white, our flag colors.

Greek School students and GOYA dress code
Ethnic costumes are recommended. Or, white shirts for boys, white tops for girls, with navy blue or black bottoms (slacks, knee length skirt, or sports uniform.) Black shoes (weather permitting). Please follow dress code directions from Mr. Triantafillou for Greek School students and GOYA advisors for GOYA.

• T-shirts, shirts with advertising are not permitted. No jeans, leggings or cut-off tops.
• Leaders of organizations shall not delay the parade by leaving their places for any purpose and should line up their groups evenly as they prepare to march.
• Once our unit gets on 5th Avenue, no stragglers will be allowed to join. Families with strollers may march with the community after the last group of Ascension Organizations.
• All Organizations should check their banners, sashes and flags ahead of time.

It is our obligation as a parish to march in the parade with our community. We expect all organizations to be present in marking our 72nd year. Together we stand strong. We should march with pride of our culture & heritage.

For additional info: contact the church office at 201-945-6448 or visit the Hellenic Federation website at www.hellenicsocieties.org.

SEE YOU ALL ON FIFTH AVENUE!!!!!!
HELLENIC CIVIC CLUB

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
ANNUAL CELEBRATION EVENTS

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 4PM
Fort Lee Borough Hall
309 Main Street, Fort Lee
Coffee and Dessert to follow at the
Fort Lee Senior Center, 319 Main Street

LUNCHEON CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2PM
Intermediate School Cafetorium
467 Stillwell Avenue, Fort Lee
Special Dance Group Performances
Lunch ~ Coffee and Dessert ~ Raffle

GOYA
ASCENSION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FAIRVIEW, NJ

TSOUREKI SALE

PRE-ORDER

BAKED BY THE SISTERS AT AGIA SKEPI
PLACE ORDER BY APRIL 7, 2024
PICK-UP DATE APRIL 27, 28, 2024

NAME ____________________________________________
EMAIL ____________________________________________
PHONE NUMBER ___________________________________

small (braid) tsoureki (#) ___ x $20 = _____
large (round) tsoureki (#) ___ x $25 = _____
Total amount due = _____

Return.Mail Order Form with payment to Ascension Church
Check payable to Ascension GOYA or Venmo (@Ascensiongoya)
Any questions contact Christina Papas (201) 658-2766

Place ONLINE ORDER here

GREEK SCHOOL
ANNOUNCEMENT
Our School Program for
Greek Independence & Annunciation of the Theotokos
on Sunday, April 7, at 12:00 noon sharp!
Right after the Divine Liturgy

ANΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ
Το εορταστικό πρόγραμμα για την
25η Μαρτίου & τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτόκου
θα γίνει την Κυριακή, 7 Απριλίου στις 12:00 μ.μ.
ακριβώς, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία!
Plan to attend and support our students,
your grandchildren, the future of our Society!
SAVE THE DATE

2024 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The Waterfall
3416 Philadelphia Pike
Claymont, DE 19703

More information will be forthcoming.
CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD
JOIN OUR STAFF!

STAFF APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN!

Chesapeake
15–22 JUNE 2024

New Jersey
22–29 JUNE 2024

Virginia
6–20 JULY 2024

Are You...
✓ Looking to grow your Faith?
✓ Hoping to make meaningful relationships?
✓ Seeking to boost your resume?

Registration Link: Scan or Click Below

More Information: https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd
Ionian Village will once again offer three programs, catering to high school students and young adults. Registration is available online at www.ionianvillage.org. Need-based scholarships may be offered by contacting the IV office. Spots are limited and are
offered on a first-come first-served basis. The dates for each session are as follows:

**Summer 2024**

**IV Next:** June 6 - June 17

- Young adults who have completed one year of college or vocational school until 25 years of age

  **Session One:** June 25 - July 14

- Students who are currently in grades 9 - 12

  **Session Two:** July 23 - August 11

- Students who are currently in grades 9 - 12

For more information or to read about our programs, visit [www.ionianvillage.org](http://www.ionianvillage.org), or the Frequently Asked Questions page at [www.ionianvillage.org/faq](http://www.ionianvillage.org/faq).
IONIAN VILLAGE is the Summer Camping Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of Ionian Village is to enrich the lives of its participants by bringing campers and staff into close contact with their Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage.

Two SUMMER CAMP sessions offer Greek American high schoolers an incredible summer experience spent exploring Greece through a variety of excursions, participating in exciting Ionian Village activities across the beautiful seaside campgrounds, and forming lifelong bonds with other Greek Orthodox young people.

Ionian Village SUMMER STAFF Members are chosen via a selective application process from young adults ages 21 and up. IV Staff demonstrate a passion for Greek Orthodoxy and Hellenism, high energy, creativity, and a willingness to love our campers unconditionally as they bring to life our programs each summer.

IV NEXT is for young adults, ages 19-24, and presents a unique opportunity for participants to experience the IV Campus, travel to the traditional IV destinations, and connect to Greek Orthodox peers from across the country.
Thank you to Mrs. Demetra Delaportes for graciously helping GOYA with alterations for the new "stoles"
Try email marketing for free today!