



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis Church of
New Jersey



Ascension Greek
Orthodox Church
Fairview, NJ

ASCENSION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY



The LIGHT of the ASCENSION Το Φως της Θείας Αναλήψεως



May 5, 2024

Today we Commemorate

- [Epistle Reading \(click here\)](#)
- [Gospel Reading \(click here\)](#)

ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ
ΕΠΙ ΤΩΙ ΑΓΙΩΙ ΠΑΣΧΑ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 244

†ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΣ
ΕΛΕΩΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ - ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩΙ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΧΑΡΙΝ, ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΟΣ
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΝΔΟΞΩΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΝΤΟΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Τιμιώτατοι ἀδελφοί Τεράρχαι καί τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητά,

Εὐδοκία καί χάριτι τοῦ πανδῶρου Θεοῦ διατρέξαντες τόν δόλιχον τῆς Ἀγίας καί Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς καί διελθόντες ἐν κατανύξει τήν ἑβδομάδα τῶν Παθῶν τοῦ Κυρίου, ἰδοὺ, εὐφραινόμεθα τῇ πανηγύρει τῆς λαμπροφύρου Ἀναστάσεως Αὐτοῦ, δι' ἧς ἐλυτρώθημεν ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Ἄδου τυραννίδος.

Ἡ ἐνδοξος ἐκ νεκρῶν Ἑγερσις τοῦ Σωτῆρος Χριστοῦ εἶναι συνανάστασις σύμπαντος τοῦ γένους τῶν βροτῶν καί πρόγευσις τῆς τελειώσεως τῶν πάντων καί τῆς πληρώσεως τῆς Θείας Οἰκονομίας ἐν τῇ ἐπουρανίῳ Βασιλείᾳ. Μετέχομεν εἰς τό ἄφραστον μυστήριον τῆς Ἀναστάσεως ἐν τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ, ἀγιαζόμενοι ἐν τοῖς ἱεροῖς αὐτῆς μυστηρίοις καί βιούντες τό Πάσχα, «τό πύλας ἡμῖν τοῦ Παραδείσου ἀνοίξαν», ὄχι ὡς ἀνάμνησιν ἑνός γεγονότος τοῦ παρελθόντος, ἀλλά ὡς πεμπτουσίαν τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς ζωῆς, ὡς παρουσίαν τοῦ Χριστοῦ αἰεὶ ἐν τῷ μέσῳ ἡμῶν, ἐγγύτερον εἰς ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ ὅσον ἡμεῖς οἱ ἴδιοι εἰς τόν ἑαυτὸν μας. Τό Πάσχα, οἱ ὀρθόδοξοι πιστοὶ ἀνακαλύπτουν τόν ἀληθινόν των ἑαυτὸν ὡς ἐν Χριστῷ εἶναι, ἐντάσσονται εἰς τήν κίνησιν τῶν πάντων πρὸς τὰ Ἑσχάτα, «ἐν χαρᾷ ἀνεκλαλήτῳ καί δεδοξασμένῳ» (Α' Πέτρ. α', 8), ὡς «υἱοὶ φωτός... καί υἱοὶ ἡμέρας» (Α' Θεσσ. ε', 5).

Κεντρικόν χαρακτηριστικόν τῆς ὀρθοδόξου ζωῆς εἶναι ὁ ἀναστάσιμος παλμός της. Ἀστόχως ἀπεκάλεσεν ὁ φιλόσοφος τήν ὀρθόδοξον πνευματικότητα «σκυθρωπήν» καί «φθινοπωρινήν». Εὐστόχως ἐπαινεῖται ὑπὸ τῶν Δυτικῶν τό ἀνεπτυγμένον αἰσθητήριον τῶν Ὀρθοδόξων διὰ τό νόημα καί τό βιωματικόν βάθος τῆς πασχαλίου ἐμπειρίας, χωρὶς ὅμως ἡ πίστις αὐτῇ νά λησμονῇ, ὅτι ἡ πορεία πρὸς τήν Ἀνάστασιν διέρχεται διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ. Δέν γνωρίζει ἡ ὀρθόδοξος πνευματικότης τόν οὐτοπισμόν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως χωρὶς Σταυρόν, οὔτε τήν ἀπαισιοδοξίαν τοῦ Σταυροῦ χωρὶς τήν Ἀνάστασιν. Διὰ τόν λόγον αὐτόν, εἰς τό ὀρθόδοξον βίωμα τό κακόν δέν ἔχει τόν τελευταῖον λόγον ἐν τῇ ἱστορίᾳ, ἐνῶ ἡ πίστις εἰς τήν Ἀνάστασιν λειτουργεῖ ὡς κίνητρον διὰ τόν ἀγῶνα ἐναντίον τῆς παρουσίας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ καί τῶν συνεπειῶν του, ὁρᾷ ὡς ἰσχυρά μεταμορφωτικῇ δύναμις. Εἰς τήν ὀρθόδοξον αὐτοσυνειδησίαν δέν ὑπάρχει χώρος διὰ συνθηκολόγησιν ἀπέναντι εἰς τό κακόν, δι' ἀδιαφορίαν περὶ τῆς πορείας τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων πραγμάτων. Ἀντιθέτως, ἡ συμβολὴ εἰς τήν μεταμόρφωσιν

τῆς ἱστορίας ἔχει θεολογικὴν βάσιν καὶ ὑπαρξιακὸν ἔρεισμα καὶ ἐκτυλίσσεται χωρὶς τὸν κίνδυνον ταυτίσεως τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μετὰ τὸν κόσμον. Ὁ Ὁρθόδοξος πιστὸς ἔχει συνείδησιν τῆς ἀντιθέσεως μεταξὺ τῆς ἐγκοσμίου πραγματικότητος καὶ τῆς ἐσχατολογικῆς τελειότητος καὶ δὲν εἶναι δυνατόν νά παραμείνῃ ἀδρανὴς ἀπέναντι εἰς τὰς ἀρνητικότητας. Διὰ τὸν λόγον αὐτόν, ἡ Ὁρθόδοξος Ἐκκλησία δὲν εἶδε ποτέ τὸν ἀγῶνα διὰ μεταμόρφωσιν τοῦ κόσμου ὡς ἀσήμαντον ὑπόθεσιν. Ἡ πασχάλιος πίστις ἔσωζε τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν τόσον ἀπὸ τὴν ἐσωστρέφειαν καὶ τὴν κλειστότητα, ὅσον καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν ἐκκοσμίκευσιν.

Εἰς τὸ Πάσχα τῶν ὀρθοδόξων συμπυκνοῦται ὁλόκληρον τὸ μυστήριον καὶ ὁ ὑπαρξιακὸς πλοῦτος τῆς εὐσεβείας μας. Τὸ «ἐξεθαμβήθησαν» τῶν Μυροφόρων, ὅταν, «εἰσελθούσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον... περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν» (Μάρκ. ιστ', 5), χαρακτηρίζει τὸ μέγεθος καὶ τὴν οὐσίαν τῆς ἐμπειρίας τῆς πίστεως ὡς βιώσεως ὑπαρξιακοῦ συγκλονισμοῦ. Τὸ «ἐκθαμβεῖσθαι» δηλώνει ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος εὐρίσκεται ἐνώπιον ἐνὸς μυστηρίου, τὸ ὁποῖον βαθαίνει, ὅσον τὸ προσεγγίζει, κατὰ τὸ λεχθέν, ὅτι ἡ πίστις μας «δὲν εἶναι πορεία ἀπὸ τὸ μυστήριον στὴ γνώση, ἀλλὰ ἀπὸ τῆς γνώσεως στό μυστήριον».

Ἐνῷ ἡ ἄρνησις τοῦ μυστηρίου συρρικνώνει ὑπαρκτικῶς τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ὁ σεβασμὸς ἀνοίγει εἰς αὐτόν τὴν πύλην τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Ἡ πίστις εἰς τὴν Ἀνάστασιν εἶναι ἡ βαθυτάτη καὶ ἀκραιφνεστάτη ἔκφρασις τῆς ἐλευθερίας μας ἢ μᾶλλον ἡ γέννησις αὐτῆς ὡς ἐκουσίας ἀποδοχῆς τῆς ὑψίστης θείας δωρεᾶς τῆς κατὰ χάριν θεώσεως. Ἡ Ὁρθόδοξος Ἐκκλησία, ὡς «βιωμένη Ἀνάστασις», εἶναι ὁ χώρος τῆς «ἀληθεστάτης ἐλευθερίας», ἡ ὁποία εἰς τὴν χριστιανικὴν ζωὴν εἶναι θεμέλιον, ὁδὸς καὶ προορισμός. Ἡ Ἀνάστασις τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶναι εὐαγγέλιον ἐλευθερίας, δωρεὰ ἐλευθερίας καὶ ἐχέγγυον τῆς «κοινῆς ἐλευθερίας» εἰς τὴν «αἰώνιον βιοτήν» τῆς Βασιλείας τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος.

Μὲ αὐτὰ τὰ αἰσθήματα, τιμώτατοι ἀδελφοί καὶ πεφιλημένα τέκνα, ἐμπλεοὶ τῆς πεπληρωμένης χαρᾶς τῆς μετοχῆς εἰς τὴν «κοινὴν τῶν ὅλων πανήγυριν», λαβόντες φῶς ἐκ τοῦ ἀνεσπέρου φωτός καὶ δοξάζοντες Χριστὸν τὸν ἀναστάντα ἐκ νεκρῶν καὶ ἀνατείλαντα πᾶσι τὴν ζωὴν, μεμνημένοι δὲ κατὰ τὴν πανέορτον ταύτην «κλητὴν καὶ ἁγίαν ἡμέραν», πάντων τῶν ἐν περιστάσεσιν ἀδελφῶν, δεόμεθα τοῦ «πατήσαντος θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον» Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ τῆς εἰρήνης, ὅπως εἰρηνεύῃ τὸν κόσμον, καταυγάξῃ τὰ διαβήματα ἡμῶν πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν καὶ Αὐτῷ εὐάρεστον, ἀναφωνοῦντες τὸν πανευφρόδουνον ὕμνον «Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη»!

Φανάριον, Ἅγιον Πάσχα ,βκδ'
† Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
διάπυρος πρὸς Χριστὸν Ἀναστάντα
εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν.

Β

Ἀναγνωσθήτω ἐπ' ἐκκλησίας κατὰ τὴν Θεϊάν Λειτουργίαν τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ Ἁγίου Πάσχα, μετὰ τὸ Ἱερὸν Εὐαγγέλιον.

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL
FOR HOLY PASCHA

Prot. No. 244

+ BARTHOLOMEW
BY GOD'S MERCY
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH:
MAY THE GRACE, PEACE AND MERCY OF CHRIST RISEN IN GLORY
BE WITH YOU ALL

* * *

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

By the pleasure and grace of God, the giver of all gifts, having run the race of Holy and Great Lent and spent with compunction the Week of our Lord's Passion, behold we delight in the celebration of His splendid Resurrection, through which we were redeemed from the tyranny of Hades.

The glorious Resurrection of the Lord Christ from the dead is a shared resurrection of the entire race of mortals and a foretaste of the perfection of all, as well as of the fulfilment of the Divine *Oikonomia* in the heavenly Kingdom. We participate in the ineffable mystery of the Resurrection in the Church, being sanctified in its sacraments and experiencing Pascha, "which has opened to us the gates of Paradise," not as a recollection of an event in the past, but as the quintessence of ecclesiastical life, as the presence of Christ ever among us, closer to us than we to ourselves. On Pascha, the Orthodox faithful discover their true selves as being in Christ; they are integrated into the movement of all things to the End Times, "with inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1.8), as "children of light . . . and children of day" (1 Thess. 5.5).

The central feature of Orthodox life is its Resurrectional pulse. Philosophers have wrongly described Orthodox spirituality as "sullen" and "autumnal." By contrast, Westerners rightly praise the refined perceptiveness of the Orthodox in relation to the meaning and depth of the paschal experience. Yet this faith never forgets that the way to the Resurrection passes through the Cross. Orthodox spirituality does not recognize the utopianism of a Resurrection without Crucifixion, nor the pessimism of the Cross without the Resurrection. For this reason, in the Orthodox experience, evil does not have the final word in history, while faith in the Resurrection serves as the motivation for the struggle against the presence of evil and its consequences in the world, acting as a powerful transformative force. In the Orthodox self-consciousness, there is no place for surrender

to evil or for indifference toward the development of human affairs. On the contrary, its contribution to the transformation of history has theological basis and existential grounding and it unfolds without running the risk of identifying the Church with the world. The Orthodox believer is conscious of the antithesis between worldly reality and eschatological perfection. And so he or she cannot remain idle before any negative dimensions of the world. For this reason, the Orthodox Church has never considered the struggle for transforming the world as a meaningless matter. Our faith in the Resurrection has preserved the Church both from introversion and indifference for the world, as well as from secularization.

For us Orthodox, the entire mystery and existential treasure of our piety is condensed into Pascha. When we hear that the Myrrh-bearers “were astonished” upon “entering the tomb and seeing a young man dressed in bright clothes” (Mark 16.5), this characterizes the vastness and essence of our experience of faith as the experience of existential wonder. When we hear that “they were astonished,” this means that we find ourselves before a mystery that becomes deeper the more we approach it, in accordance with what has been said, that our faith “is not a journey from mystery to knowledge, but from knowledge to mystery.”

While the denial of mystery existentially reduces human nature, the respect of mystery opens to us the gates of heaven. Faith in the Resurrection is the deepest and clearest expression of our freedom; or rather, it is the birth of freedom as a voluntary acceptance of the supreme divine gift, namely of deification by grace. As “experienced Resurrection,” the Orthodox Church is the space of “authentic freedom” that for the Christian life is the foundation, way, and destiny. The Resurrection of Christ is the good news of freedom, the gift of freedom, and the guarantee of “shared freedom” in the “eternal life” of the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With these sentiments, most precious brothers and beloved children, filled with the complete joy of participating in “the feast that is shared by all,” having received light from the unwaning light and given glory to Christ risen from the dead and brought life to all – even as we remember during this all-festal “chosen and holy day” all of our brothers and sisters in difficult circumstances – we pray to our Lord “who trampled down death by death,” the God of peace, that He might bring peace to the world and guide our steps toward every deed that is good and pleasing to Him, proclaiming the all-joyous hymn “Christ is Risen!”

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2024
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant for you all
to the Risen Lord

To be read after the Holy Gospel during the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Pascha.



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 104/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκυκλιος για γιά τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα.

5 Μαΐου 2024

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Εντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Απογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώννυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Νηστεύσαντες καὶ μὴ νηστεύσαντες, εὐφράνθητε σήμερον.

Ἡ τράπεζα γέμει, τρυνήσατε πάντες.»

(Λόγος κατηχητικός ἀγίου Ἰωάννου Χρυσόστομου).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!

Τὴ νύχτα τοῦ Πάσχα, ἡ χρυσὴ φωνὴ τοῦ μεγάλου Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ἀκούγεται σὲ κάθε ναὸ σὲ ὅλο τὸν ὀρθόδοξο κόσμο. Ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος μᾶς προσκαλεῖ ὅλους μὲ τὸ πιὸ ὁμορφο κήρυγμα ποὺ εἰπώθηκε ποτὲ κατὰ «τὴν μίαν τῶν σαββάτων», τὴν «ἐορτὴν τῶν ἐορτῶν», νὰ μετᾶσχουμε σὲ αὐτὸ «τὸ συμπόσιον τῆς πίστεως».

Τὸ μεγαλειώδες αὐτὸ κάλεσμα πρὸς ὅλους νὰ μοιραστοῦμε τὴ χαρὰ τῆς ἀναστάσεως γίνεται χωρὶς ἀντίτιμο, ὅπως στὴν πρόσκληση τοῦ προφήτη ποὺ λέει «οἱ διψῶντες πορεύεσθε ἐφ' ὕδαρ καὶ ὅσοι μὴ ἔχετε ἀργύριον, βαδίσαντες ἀγοράσατε καὶ πῖετε ἀνεὺ ἀργυρίου καὶ τιμῆς οἴνου καὶ στέαρ» (Ἠσαΐα 55:1). Διότι ὅπως ψάλλουμε κατὰ τὴν ἁγία αὐτὴ νύχτα, «συχωρήσωμεν πάντα τῇ Ἀναστάσει», καθὼς ἡ συγχώρηση ἀπὸ τὶς μικρότερες μέχρι τὶς μεγαλύτερες ἁμαρτίες γίνεται χωρὶς ἀντίτιμο



καὶ ἡ χάρις τοῦ Θεοῦ παρέχεται δωρεάν ἐν ἀφθονίᾳ, ὅπως μᾶς λέει ὁ εὐαγγελιστής:
«χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος» (Κατὰ Ἰωάννου 1:16).

Ίσως νὰ μὴν ἐπιτύχαμε στὴ νηστεία τόσα ὅσα θὰ ἐπιθυμούσαμε, ἴσως καὶ
κάποιοι νὰ μὴ νήστευσαν καθόλου. Ὅμως ἡ μετοχή μας στὴν πασχαλινὴ τράπεζα
δὲν καθορίζεται ἀπὸ τὴν ποσότητα ἢ τὴν ποιότητα τῶν τροφῶν ποὺ καταναλώσαμε. Τὸ
εἰσιτήριο τῆς μετοχῆς στὴν «τράπεζα τῆς πίστεως» τιμᾶται μᾶλλον ἀπὸ τὴν ποιότητα
τῆς φιλανθρωπίας καὶ τὴν ποσότητα τῆς ἀγάπης πρὸς κάθε συνάνθρωπο.

Ἐτσι, ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος μᾶς προσκαλεῖ ὅλους στὴν πασχαλινὴ τράπεζα χωρὶς
νὰ μᾶς ἐλέγχει γιὰ τὸ ἀν τηρήσαμε τοὺς περὶ νηστείας κανόνες. Γιατὶ τὴ νύχτα τῆς
ἀναστάσεως ὁ νόμος τῆς ἀγάπης ὑπερέχει παντὸς ἄλλου νόμου, ὅταν ἀγαπᾶμε καὶ
συγχωροῦμε, ὅπως μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ καὶ μᾶς συγχωρεῖ ὁ Θεός.

Αγαπητοὶ μου χριστιανοί, ἂς μὴ ἀπορρίψουμε τὴν πρόσκληση ποὺ μᾶς
ἀπευθύνει ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος! Ἄς τὴν ἀποδεχθούμε, χωρὶς νὰ
ὑπερηφανευόμαστε γιὰ ὅλα ὅσα νομίζουμε ὅτι κατορθώσαμε, ἀλλὰ καὶ χωρὶς ντροπὴ
ἢ ἀπόγνωση γιὰ τὴν ἀποτυχία στοὺς στόχους μας! Ἡ τράπεζα γέμει! «Τρυνήσατε
πάντες» ἀπὸ τὸ ἔλεος καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη,

† ὁ Ἀμερικὴς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

Σημείωση: Νὰ ἀναγνωσθεῖ σὲ ὅλες τὶς ἐνορίες τῆς Ἱ. Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς κατὰ τὸν
Ἑσπερινὸ τῆς Ἀγάπης, τὸ πρωὶ τῆς Κυριακῆ τοῦ Πάσχα, 5 Μαΐου 2024.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 104/2024

Archepiscopal Encyclical on Great and Holy Pascha, 2024

May 5, 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:

*You who fast, and you who fast not, rejoice today!
The table is laden; let all fare sumptuously.*
(Catechetical Oration of the Holy Chrysostom)¹

My beloved sisters and brothers in the Risen Lord,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

On Pascha night, the gilded voice of the legendary Archbishop of Constantinople cries out in every church throughout the Orthodox Christian world. In this only sermon ever preached on this “first of Sabbaths” (*μία τῶν Σαββάτων*) and “feast of feasts” (*ἑορτῶν ἑορτή*), the Holy Chrysostom invites one and all to partake of “the banquet of faith” (*τὸ συμπόσιον τῆς πίστεως*).

His grand call to everyone to share in the joy of the Resurrection comes without price, like the call of the Prophet who said, *Let everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and those who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price* (Isaiah 55:1).² For as we chant on this Holy Night, “let us all forgive all things in the Resurrection,”³ from the smallest to the greatest of failings, no price is exacted for the abundance of God’s grace, *even grace upon grace* (John 1:16).



Indeed, we may not have kept the Fast as we first intended. And some do not keep the Fast at all. However, our invitation to “the banquet of faith” isn’t simply contingent upon the quality or quantity of the foodstuffs from which we partake or abstain. Instead, our participation in the Table as co-banqueters presupposes a high measure of philanthropy and compassion for our fellow neighbor.

Thus, the saintly Golden-Mouth calls all to the Table, the Holy Table, without regard for our fulfillment of the laws around fasting. For on the night of Pascha, the law of love transcends every shortcoming — if only we will extend the same love and forgiveness that God grants to us to others.

My beloved Christians, do not pass by the invitation of Saint John Chrysostom! Accept it without pride in whatever you think you have attained, and without shame or regret for how you may have fallen short of your intentions. The Table is laden! Let all fare sumptuously of God’s eternal mercy and love!

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

†Ελπίδοφορος

†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Note: To be read in every parish of the Archdiocese during Agape Vespers on Pascha Sunday, May 5, 2024.

*Greek: Ἀναστήσαντες καὶ μὴ νεκρῶμεντες, συμπόρευτε σήμερον. Ἦν ὁρίσθη γάρ, γραφόμεν πάντες (ὁ Καθηγητὸς Ἀδύας καὶ Ἅγιος Χρυσόστομος)

*Greek: οἱ ἐκπνέοντες παρῶντες ἐπ’ ὁδῶν καὶ ὅπου μὴ ἔχον ἀγγέλιον βαδίζοντες ἀγαπάμεν καὶ ζήτοι ἀνταγγέλιον καὶ ἐπιβίῃ οὐνοῦ καὶ οὐράς.

*Greek: Συμπόρευμεν πάντα εἰς Ἀναστάσιον.

Additional Parking

We will provide
FREE Bus Shuttle
from Macagna Parking lot

495 Anderson Ave.
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010

to the church and back

for the following days:

Holy Friday, May 3, 2024
from 6:00 p.m. ~ 12:00 midnight

&

Holy Saturday, May 4, 2024
from 9:30 p.m. ~ 2:30 a.m.

Καλή Ανάσταση!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

PASCHA SUNDAY

MAY 5, 2024

[\(click here\)](#)

Irene the Great Martyr

[\(click here\)](#)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Vespers of Love

2nd DAY OF

PASCHA MONDAY

MAY 6, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Orthros, Divine Liturgy

George the Great Martyr

[\(click here\)](#)

3rd DAY OF

PASCHA TUESDAY

MAY 7, 2024

9a.m. - 11a.m.

Orthros, Divine Liturgy

(Holy Communion)

Saints Raphael, Nikolaos & Irene

[\(click here\)](#)

WEDNESDAY

MAY 8, 2024

9a.m. - 11a.m. Orthros

Divine Liturgy

(Holy Communion)

Synaxis of John the Apostle,

[\(click here\)](#)

Arsenios the Great

[\(click here\)](#)
4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Greek School

THURSDAY
MAY 9, 2024
9a.m. - Orthros
Divine Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
Isaiah the Prophet,
[\(click here\)](#)
Christopher the Martyr of Lycea
[\(click here\)](#)

FRIDAY
MAY 10, 2024
9a.m.-11.30a.m.
Orthros, Divine Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
THEOTOKOS OF THE
LIFEGIVING FONT
[\(click here\)](#)
AGIASMOS

4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Greek School

SATURDAY
MAY 11, 2024
9a.m. - Orthros,
Divine Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
Renewal of Constantinople
[\(click here\)](#)

SUNDAY OF
SAINT THOMAS
[\(click here\)](#)
MAY 12, 2024
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Orthros, Divine Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
Mother's Day Program ~ Catechism School
Coffee is served by the PTO

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
[\(click here\)](#)
5 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024
Αγία Ειρήνη

[\(click here\)](#)

11:00 π.μ. – 12:00 μ.μ.

Εσπερινός της Αγάπης

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ

6 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

[Αγ. Γεωργίου](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

ΤΡΙΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ

7 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

[Ραφαήλ, Νικολάου & Ειρήνης](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ

8 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. – Όρθρος,

Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

[Σύναξις Ιωάννου του Θεολόγου](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

[Αρσένιος ο Μέγας](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

4:30 μ.μ. – 6:30 μ.μ.

Ελληνικό Σχολείο

ΠΕΜΠΤΗ

9 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

[Ησαΐας Προφήτης](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

[Χριστόφορος Μάρτυς](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ

10 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.

Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία,

Αγιασμός

[ΖΩΟΔΟΧΟΥ ΠΗΓΗΣ](#)

[\(click here\)](#)

4:30 μ.μ. – 6:30 μ.μ.

Ελληνικό Σχολείο

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

11 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος

Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

Εγκαίνια της Κων.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ

[\(click here\)](#)

12 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 2024

8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 μ.μ.

Όρθρος Θεία Λειτουργία

(Θεία Κοινωνία)

Ο καφές σερβίρεται από το ΠΤΟ

LIVE STREAM [click here](#)

DONATE to the ASCENSION CHURCH [click here](#)

LIGHT a CANDLE and SAY a PRAYER [click here](#)



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

**Administrative
Professional Day** 🌸💖



**THANK
You!**

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Parish Council
Peter Frangiskou
President



Palm Sunday is beginning of Holy Week and the commemoration of our Lord entering Jerusalem following his miracle in raising Lazarus from the dead. It was a pleasure watching Philoptochos, Students and Volunteers make the Palms on Saturday. Palm Sunday's service was filled with families, friends and guests that followed by a successful Bakaliaro Fund Raiser in our church auditorium. Parish joined together to organize and prepare this feast that served our entire Community. I am proud and thankful in witnessing all the families that attended in making our fund raiser a great success.

I wish all of you a Happy Easter!
Kali Anastasi!

Philoptochos

Lea Drivas
President

The ladies of the Ascension Philoptochos make many contributions to our beloved Church during Holy Week, beginning with the Saturday of Lazarus where they gather after Liturgy to make hundreds of palm crosses for distribution to the church community on Palm Sunday. Some of our Philoptochos members also assist with decorating the icons for Holy Week services as well as making of the Stefana. On Good Friday, you will find the ladies at church very early in the morning decorating the Epitafio with the beautiful flowers for which funds were donated by many parishioners. Also one of the ongoing projects of Philoptochos during this season are the dying of the red eggs Father Christos distributes. Lastly, we never forget those in need and provide social service assistance during this time in hopes that we are making someone else's life better. Philoptochos has been carrying on these traditions and their philanthropic endeavors for many years as it is our way of showing our love and support not only for our community, but also for others.

We wish all of you a Kali Anastasi with God's blessings.





Δημοσθένης Τριανταφύλλου Διευθυντής

Ο Διευθυντής, οι Δασκάλες και οι μαθητές του Γυμνασίου και του Δημοτικού σχολείου της Θείας Αναλήψεως εύχονται σε όλους τους γονείς και φίλους του Ελληνικού σχολείου μας. Όπως περάσουν τις Άγιες ημέρες του Πάσχα με υγεία, χαρά και ευτυχία! Η ευτυχία του κάθε ανθρώπου προέρχεται από τις καλές πράξεις απέναντι όλων των συνανθρώπων του. Χριστός σημαίνει αγάπη και αλληλεγγύη με όλους! Το ανέσπερο φως της Ανάστασης να μας φωτίζει όλους!

« Χριστός Ανέστη! » « Αληθώς Ανέστη! »

Να γράψετε τα παιδιά σας στο ελληνικό μας σχολείο, το καλύτερο σχολείο με Γυμνάσιο!

Catechism School Evelyn Tsugranis Director

We have nearly arrived at our Lord's Glorious Resurrection. It has been such a pleasure to journey through Lent with our children and learn about our faith and Christ's unconditional love for us all. Kali Anastasi! Have a blessed Pascha with all of your loved ones!



GOYA Mike Tsugranis Head Advisor

Warm greetings, fellow parishioners. This is the week that changed the world, and has forever changed our lives. As we journey through this most sacred week, we wish God grants us all a grateful heart for the salvation of our souls through Christ our Lord. May God's abundant blessings shine on you and all of your loved ones during this Holiest of Weeks.

Καλό Πάσχα!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 5, 2024
Holy Resurrection
Easter Egg Hunt**

**May 12, 2024
Catechism School
Mother's Day Program**

**May 19, 2024
Catechism Graduation
GOYA & College
Recognition Day**

**June 2, 2024
Greek School
Graduation**

**June 6 - June 9, 2024
Festival**

ATTENTION
ASCENSION FAMILIES



**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2024**

On May 19, 2024, Father Christos and our community will recognize the accomplishments of the youth of our Ascension family graduating from an accredited college/graduate/law/medical schools in 2024.

If your child, grandchild, nephew/niece, cousin has successfully completed a degree, we need your help by completing the info in the link below by May 10, 2024. If you have any questions, contact Evelyn Tsugranis, Catechism Director, at 201-658-1801 or Anastasia, Office Administrator, at 201-945-6448.

[GRADUATE INFO](#)

Our high school/GOYA and Catechism graduates will also be recognized on this date.

Greek School graduation will be celebrated on June 2, 2024.

CATECHISM SCHOOL

Ascension Greek Orthodox Church
Fairview, NJ

SUNDAY MAY 5

EASTER

Egg Hunt

VESPERS OF LOVE

12 NOON TO 1:00 PM

Immediately following services



Make giving easy by enrolling in the HCHC Advocate monthly donor program!

We are facing unprecedented challenges today. Our society is rapidly changing and increasingly secular. We need a strong Orthodox school of higher learning to prepare leaders to meet the evolving needs of our faithful.



“ **90% of priests serving Greek Orthodox parishes in America are HCHC graduates.** ”

By supporting HCHC, you are supporting our mission of educating and equipping those who strengthen Orthodox communities and transform lives — now and forever!

It only takes a few minutes to become an Advocate and your monthly donation can be automatically withdrawn from your bank or credit card account.

Donations can be given at any level and updating your payment information is quick and easy if changes ever need to be made. HCHC has been providing exemplary clergy and lay leaders to communities across America and throughout the world for over 85 years with the support of our generous donors!

Hellenic College Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox School of Theology
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445
617-731-3500
www.hchc.edu

MONTHLY GIVING AMOUNTS

ANNUAL BENEFITS	\$10-19	\$20-49	\$50-99	\$100-249	\$250-499	\$500-999	\$1,000+
Advocate Honor Roll listing (electronic)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Advocate lapel pin		+	+	+	+	+	+
Invitation to HCHC events in your area			+	+	+	+	+
Christmas ornament				+	+	+	+
Invitation to on campus events					+	+	+
2 tickets to President's Luncheon					+	+	
Advocate plaque							+

Sign up for Advocate recurring payment by visiting
<https://www.hchc.edu/give/advocate/>

Be sure to select "recurring payment" next to your chosen donation amount to allow for automatic monthly transactions. Alternately, you may fill out the form to the right and return it to HCHC Advocates for processing.

Student Referral Form

As an alum of Hellenic College Holy Cross, you know better than anyone else what qualities are needed for students to thrive here. Our best students tell us that talking with someone who knows HCHC made them want to apply.



Below you'll be asked to provide information about yourself as well as the student you're referring. Providing your information allows Admissions to note that the potential student was referred by you, and providing their information allows us to connect with them about considering Hellenic College Holy Cross.

Students referred to us by any alumni/ae of Hellenic College Holy Cross qualify for a HCHC Recognition Award—a **\$2,000 merit scholarship** to be added on top of any institutional aid awarded to the student upon admission. NOTE: students who are already enrolled are not eligible for this award.

Your Information

An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

I am a (select all that apply): *

☐ Hellenic College graduate ☐ Year of graduation _____ ☐ Degree _____

☐ Holy Cross graduate ☐ Year of graduation _____ ☐ Degree _____

Your name * _____

Your email address * _____ Your mobile phone: * _____

Your home address: * _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your parish (name and city) * _____

Student Information

Student first name * _____ Middle name _____

Student last name * _____

Student preferred first name* _____ Student date of birth * ____/____/____

Home Parish (name and city) *: _____

Student interested in which school*:

This student would apply as a:

Intended entry term:

☐ Hellenic College

☐ First Year

☐ Fall 2024

☐ Holy Cross

☐ Non-Degree

☐ Spring 2025

☐ Transfer

☐ Fall 2025

Student email address * _____ Mobile phone* _____

Mailing address* _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Most recent school attended: _____

Tell us a bit about this student: on the back of this form*



APPLY NOW

FAITH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

DEADLINE: JUNE 28TH, 2024

This merit-based scholarship program aims to support the best and brightest graduating high school seniors in the Hellenic-American Greek Orthodox community who are enrolling in a 4-year accredited U.S. university this fall. Scholarships are awarded on a merit basis with applicants given the option to be considered for additional financial need-based allocations.

For full application details and to apply now, visit thefaithendowment.org/scholarships or scan:



[THEFAITHENDOWMENT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://thefaithendowment.org/scholarships)

Founded in 2004 by a group of visionary Greek American leaders and philanthropists, *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism* is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that supports the development of innovative educational, cultural, and scholarship programs that promote Hellenism, an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith, and the relationship of the two to America's history and multicultural landscape for young people. FAITH has proudly awarded over 2,000 grants and scholarships to our community's brightest young leaders.

For questions, contact: info@thefaithendowment.org • (212) 803-9363 • facebook.com/faithendowment

COMMUNITY NEWS

JOURNAL PRESENTATION

On Palm Sunday, April 28, 2024 at our Church's Bakaliaro Luncheon the 71st Commemorative Journal for years 2022 and 2023 was presented to the Community. Aside from the members of the Journal committee, Father Christos Pappas, Lea Drivas, Ioanna Georgiadis, Christos Kanakis, Despina Kolokithas and Anastasia Perdikos we wish to extend additional thanks for contributions made by Maria Bournias, the late Chrystalla Kanakis and our graphic designer Gene Tsiknis of Graphic Titans and to Evelyn Tsugranis for beautiful cover design. Last but not least, a big thank you to our contributors

for their continued support!

Pictured from left to right, Gene Tsiknis, Father Christos. Lea Drivas, Ioanna Georgiadis and Peter Frangiskou.



BAKALIARO LUNCHEON

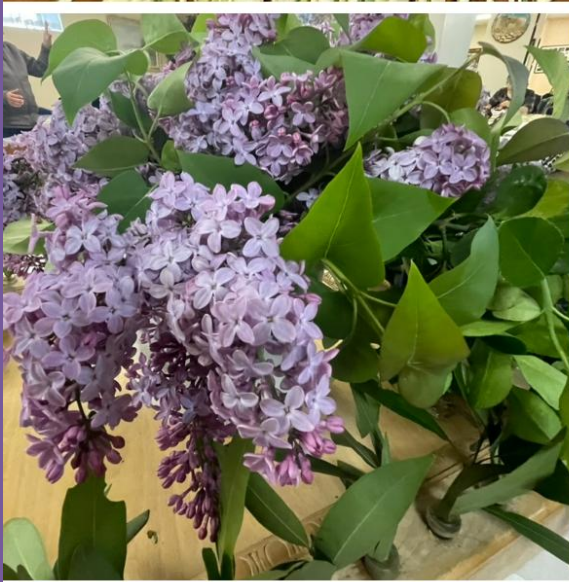








LAZARUS SATURDAY







GREEK SCHOOL PRE-SANCTIFIED LENTEN RETREAT

On Friday, April 26, 2024, our Ascension Greek School had a great night preparing for Easter. Father Christos had a Pre-Sanctified Liturgy for the Greek School students and teachers and then we all enjoyed dinner together. Fr. Christos spoke to the children about Holy Week and Easter. Then the children made Easter crafts.





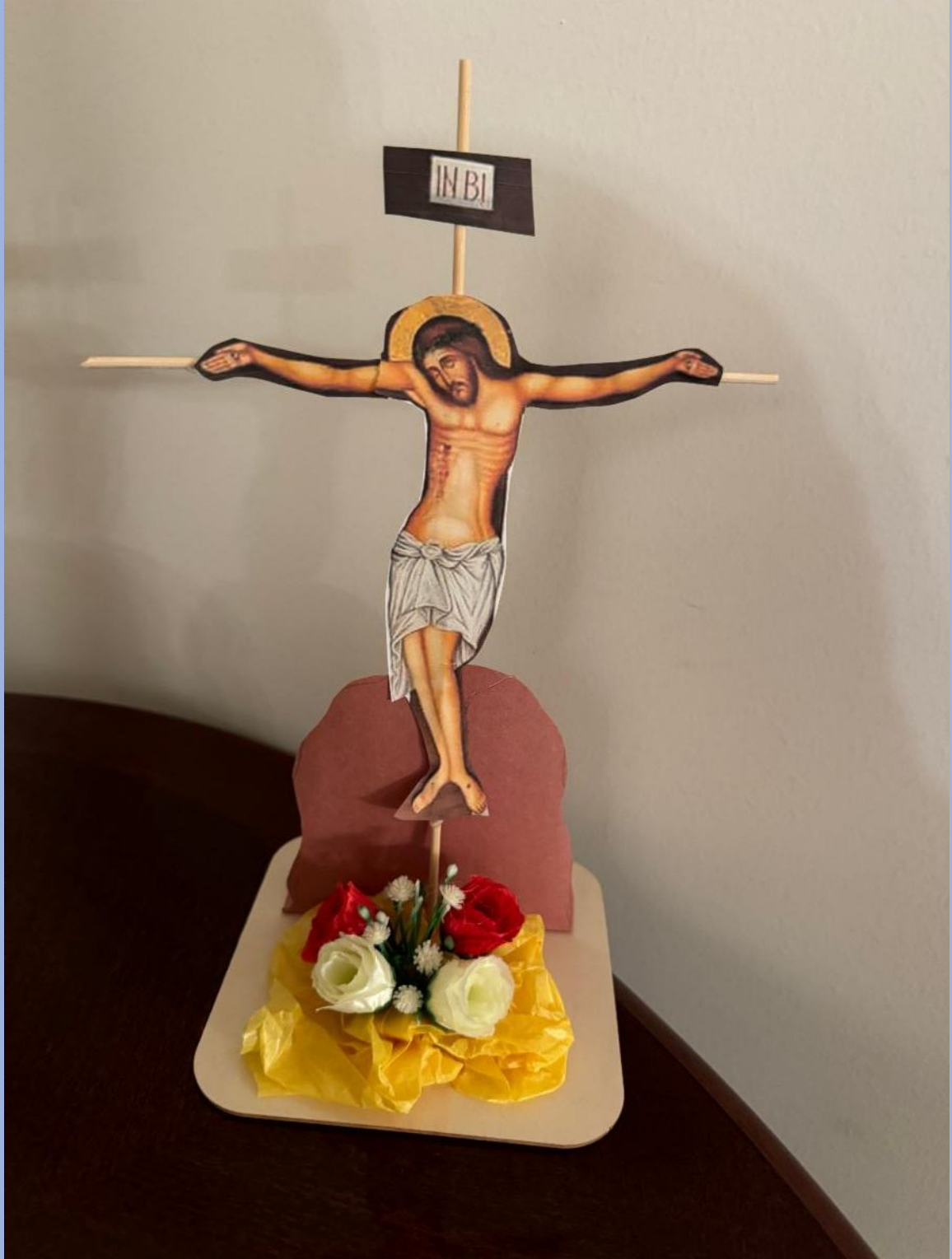
















CATECHISM EASTER RETREAT

On April 21, 2024, our Catechism School held their annual Easter Retreat. This year's theme was Holy Communion and the children watched the video **"How is Communion Prepared?"** Father Christos explained key details and the children listened carefully. The children took home a puzzle they put together during the retreat. The customized picture on the puzzle was taken by Father Christos of the Table of Preparation where Holy Communion is prepared in the Holy Altar.



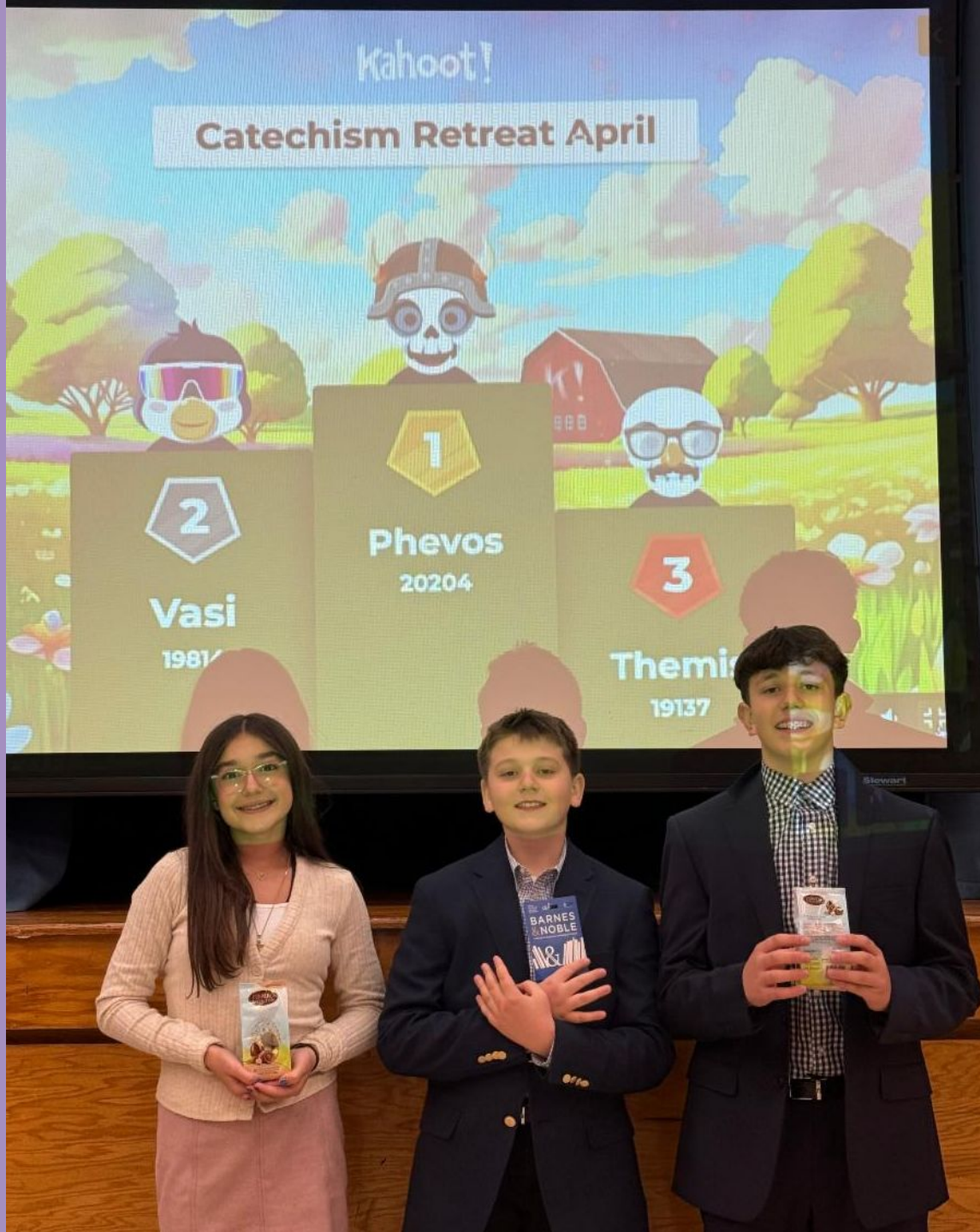












4th SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS

We were honored to have His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey to officiate the 4th Salutations to the Theotokos. His Eminence was greeted by the children of the Ascension Greek School and they chanted the hymn to the Panagia.







VISIT our WEBSITE



Ascension Greek Orthodox Church | 101 Anderson Avenue, Fairview, NJ 07022

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