Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Welcome to Fr. Timothy Cremeens who is serving with us this evening, Maggie.

Sunday, December 27th 
St Stephen, First Martyr

8:15 AM  Orthros  
9:30 AM  Divine Liturgy  
6:00 PM  GOYA Christmas Discussion

Monday, December 28th
7:00 PM  OCF & YoPro Dinner

Wednesday, December 30th
7:00 PM  Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Thursday, December 31st
8:00 PM  Vigil for St. Basil the Great
Order: Compilne, Communion Prayers, Vespers, Orthros, Liturgy to begin at mid night.

Friday, January 1st  St. Basil the Great
12:00 AM  Liturgy

Saturday, January 2nd
7:00 PM  Vespers

Thank You
Fr. Hector’s new set of red Christmas vestments were donated by his parents, Christos and Andriana Firoglanis, in memory of Christos’s brother, Ektoras (Hector) Firoglanis, and sister, Panayiota (Firoglanis) Karagiannis. May their memory be eternal!

BAZAAR TICKETS
Please remember to return all your unsold Bazaar tickets & money for sold tickets to Steve Marinios.

2021 Stewardship Pledges
Please remember to turn in your Stewardship pledges for 2021!
Pledges received: 172
Total dollars pledged: $354,086
Our Pledge Goal is: $600,000

A reminder that masks must be worn in the church before, during, and after the services; and please don’t congregate in the Narthex.

Upcoming Liturgies/Services
† St. Basil— Dec. 31-Jan. 1 Vigil
† Theophany Royal Hours—Jan. 5 (9:00AM)
† Eve of Theophany—Jan. 5
† Feast of Holy Theophany—Jan. 6
† St. John the Baptist—Jan. 7
† St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch—Jan. 11
† St. Anthony the Great—Jan. 17
† St. Athanasios the Great—Jan. 18
† St. Gregory the Theologian—Jan. 25
† The Three Hierarchs—Jan. 30

Theophany House Blessings on Hold
Due to the coronavirus pandemic and increasing number of cases during the holiday season, the clergy will not be making the customary house blessing rounds this January. It is our prayer and hope that we will be able to offer house blessings later in the year when conditions improve.

Service & Outreach
The coat drive continues through January, any new/ slightly used coats & blankets for the families in need. Please drop off your donation in the blue bin located in the breezeway.

Donors needed for:
Altar Flowers, Altar Candles, & Candelabra Candles
January 3 & 31, Feb. 28, March 14, 21 & 28
Please call the Church
Office 717-394-1735 to make your donation.

Centennial Spiritwear
There are Centennial Aprons available for sale: $20 each
Please contact Tina Georges if you are interested in purchasing one at 717-314-4678 or email at tinell79@gmail.com

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, LANCASTER, PA
SUNDAY, December 27th, 2020 — Sunday after Nativity
Stephen, First Martyr; Theodore, the Confessor

Orthros Mode: Fourth
Liturgy Epistle: Acts 6:8; 7:1-5, 47-60
Liturgy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Stories of the Divine Child by Saint Nikolai Velimirovich
When the holy family fled before Herod’s sword to Egypt, robbers leapt out on the road with the intention of stealing something. The righteous Joseph was leading the donkey, on which were some belongings and on which the Most-holy Theotokos was riding with her Son at her breast. The robbers seized the donkey to lead it away. At that moment, one of the robbers approached the Mother of God to see what she was holding next to her breast. The robber, seeing the Christ-child, was astonished at His unusual beauty and said in his astonishment: “If God were to take upon Himself the flesh of man, He would not be more beautiful than this Child!” This robber then ordered his companions to take nothing from these travelers. Filled with gratitude toward this generous robber, the Most-holy Virgin said to him: “Know that this Child will repay you with a good reward because you protected Him today.” Thirty-three years later, this same thief hung on the Cross for his crimes, crucified on the right side of Christ’s Cross. His name was Dismas, and the name of the thief on the left side was Gestas. Beholding Christ the Lord innocently crucified, Dismas repented for all the evil of his life. While Gestas reviled the Lord, Dismas defended Him, saying: This man hath done nothing amiss. (Luke 23:41). Dismas, therefore, was the wise thief to whom our Lord said: Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Thus the Lord granted Paradise to him who spared Him in childhood. Both great prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophesied that the Lord would come to Egypt and that His presence would shake the pagan temples and destroy the idols. Isaiah wrote: Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence (Isaiah 19:1, cf. Jeremiah 43:12-13). When the divine refugees came to the city of Hermopolis (Cairo), they approached a pagan temple, and all the idols in that temple suddenly fell down and were shattered. St. Palladius writes of this in his Lausiac History: “We saw the pagan temple there, in which all the carved idols fell to the ground at the coming of the Savior.” In a certain place called Sirin there were 365 idols. When the Most-holy Virgin entered that temple with the Divine Child in her arms, all these idols fell down and were shattered. All the idols throughout Egypt fell in the same manner. The Holy Prophet Jeremiah, living in Egypt in old age, had prophesied to the pagan priests of Egypt that all the idols would fall and all the graven images would be destroyed at the time when a Virgin Mother with a Child, born in a manger, would come to Egypt. The pagan priests remembered well this prophecy. In accordance with it, they carved out a representation of a Virgin as she lay on a bed and, next to her in a manger, her young Child wrapped in swaddling clothes; and they venerated this representation. King Ptolemy asked the pagan priests what this representation meant, and they replied that it was a mystery, foretold by a prophet to their fathers, and that they were awaiting the fulfillment of this mystery. And, indeed, this mystery was fulfilled, and revealed not only in Egypt but also in the entire world.

Prologue of Orhid, Volume 2, Dec. 26th & 27th

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
We welcome our non-Orthodox friends and neighbors at all the liturgical services with a reminder that Holy Communion may be received only by prepared Orthodox Christians. Please sign the Visitor’s Registry in the Narthex if you wish to be contacted by the priest.

Father Hector Firoglanis, Pastor
Father Theodosios Pallis, Assistant Pastor; Father Alexander Veronis, Pastor Emeritus
www.annunciationorthodox.org
Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all the land of Judah, down to two years old, according to the word that had been spoken by the angel to Joseph in a dream. Then he rose and took the child and his mother and came to the land of Egypt, and was there until I told you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and went to Egypt. And he stayed in Egypt until the death of Herod, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah might be fulfilled, “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother and come to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then he resolved to go to Galilee, and while he was on his way, the Spirit of the Lord put him on the road. And going up to Nazareth, he went and dwelt in a house called Mary, and his mother put him into her care.”

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1. RESURRECTIONAL APOLOGY

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancient coronation, the women disciples said to the Apostles triumphantly: “Death is dispelled and the Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.”

2. APOLOGY OF THE FEAST (FOURTH MODE)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world: for there by they who worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Son of God springing from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

3. FOR THE ANCESTORS OF GOD (Second Mode)

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And when you had said: “Let us worship and bow down before Thee, the Son of God, O Christ God, who art risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.”

4. FOR THE PRO-PRAYER MARTYR (FOURTH MODE)

O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head for contests you courageously endured for Christ our God, as many first martyrs. Say to us, “I have said to God and to Christ the words I spoke.” And when you had said: “Let us worship and bow down before Thee, the Son of God, O Christ God, who art risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.”

5. HYMN OF OUR CHURCH (Fourth Mode)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery of ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel is his herald, and having cast off the ancient coronation, the women disciples said to the Apostles triumphantly: “Death is dispelled and the Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.”

6. PRE-NAIVITY KONTAKION (Third Mode)

Today the Virgin gives birth, to the Transcendent One and the earth presents a cave to the unapproachable One. Angels with the shepherds, give them glory. Wise virgins, let us all kindle with the light of faith a journey to him who is God, from all ages, yet for our sake is born as a little child.