

Nativity of our Lord, we are called to prepare ourselves for this joyous celebration by prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The proper time for celebration is from Christmas day until Jan. 4, as the Church relaxes the fasting rules. Let us not allow this season to pass by us without making an effort for our spiritual life. Certainly, it is an excellent time to intensify our prayer life at home and at church. Let us also cleanse ourselves from the heavy weight of our sins with the Mystery of Holy Confession. *May our Lord give us strength and faith to accomplish the course of the fast!*

## 2025 Church Calendars

The 2025 Church calendars are available on the candle stand. Please cross your name off the directory. If it is not on it, kindly right it on the last page.

## Saints of the Day

**The Venerable Patapius:** Patapius was born and brought up in the Faith and in the fear of God by pious parents in the Egyptian city of Thebes. At an early age he perceived and abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts, for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they began to come to him and to seek solace from him in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapius fled this wilderness to Constantinople, for this wonderful saint thought that he could hide himself more easily from people in the city than in the wilderness. Patapius built a hut for himself in the proximity of the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople. There, immured and unknown, he continued his interrupted life of eremitic asceticism. However, a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to St. Patapius. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight and be able to look upon God's creation—thus allowing him to praise God all the more. Patapius having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one throughout the entire city, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapius healed an eminent man of dropsy by tracing the sign of the Cross over him and anointing him with oil. By making the sign of the Cross in the air with his hand, he freed a youth from an unclean spirit that had cruelly tormented him. The evil spirit, with a loud shriek, came out from God's creature like smoke. He made the sign of the Cross over a woman who had a sore on her breast all filled with worms, and made her healthy. Many other miracles did St. Patapius perform, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. He entered into rest peacefully in great old age and took up his habitation in the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century.

## Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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## December 8, 2024

### Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

**Apostolic Reading:** Ephesians 2:4 – 10

**Gospel:** St. Luke 13:10 – 17

**Services:** *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

**Saints of the Day: 10th Sunday of Luke:** Venerable Patapios of Thebes; Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Crispos, Caesar and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; Martyr Parthenios.

### Hymns of the Day

#### Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 7

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy.

#### Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

#### Kontakion for Pre-Nativity Tone 3

On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

### Divine Services

**Mon. Dec. 9:** Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna.

**Wed. Dec. 11:** Great Vesper St. Spyridon 5pm

**Thurs. Dec. 12:** Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for St. Spyridon.

**Sat. Nov. 14:** Great Vespers 5pm

## Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

## Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

**Dec. 8:** MacDonald Family

**Dec. 15:** Topakas Family

**Dec. 22:** Nathan Pesch

**Dec. 29:** Rose Timora

## Coffee Hour Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

For those who would like to volunteer in helping in the church hall, we now have a sign up sheet for assisting in cleaning up after coffee hour. The sheet is posted downstairs in the kitchen next to coffee hour sign up sheet. *Also, parents please make sure you cleanup after your children during coffee hour.*

## Bookstore and Library

The *2025 Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting Calendar* is available for sale in our bookstore. We have quite a few copies in stock; however, when they're gone, they're gone! So hurry and purchase your copy soon. We also have many new items in our bookstore as well. The only way to know what's available is to come by and have a look. And, Christmas is right around the corner! We have plenty of beautiful gifts for the ones you love. If you can't find that perfect gift in our bookstore, I can help with special orders. Gift certificates are available for purchase too! *All that are careful in this life, procure books that will be medicine for the soul. -St. John Chrysostom*

## Capital Campaign

**King Soopers Cards** has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

## Archangel Michael Community Christmas Outreach

The Christmas Outreach to Queen Palmer Elementary School was an overwhelming success! Every gift was sponsored! Over 250 gifts were delivered to the school last week! Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone that participated in the Christmas Community Outreach!

## AMGOC Philoptochos

The women of our parish are invited to participate in the newly forming Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor). The Women's Fellowship will now be

known as the Philoptochos. Congratulations to the following board members: Courtney Parmer—*President*, Lisa Harr—*Vice-president*, Elizabeth Nissen—*Treasurer*, Sarah LaBrie—*Secretary*, Penny Johnson—*Director*, Maria Rainford—*Director*, Rose Timora—*Director*. Next meeting is Jan. 25, 10am at the church.

## Church School

Classes meet following Holy Communion. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first. See Sara LaBrie for more information.

## Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet TBA following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

## Metropolis Open House

His Eminence, Met. Constantine is pleased to invite you to the Metropolis of Denver annual Christmas Celebration and Open House and will be held at the Metropolis Center on **Friday, December 13, 2024 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.** There is no cost to attend.

## Stewardship 2024

The 2024 year is coming to a close. Please make sure your stewardship is up to date. The 2025 Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, December 22. Please see Ruxandra Georgescu for more information.

## AMGOC Online Giving

Our parish is now offering online giving as a means to make offering for stewardship, Capital Campaign, memorial donations and more. Please use the scan the QR code with your smart phone or <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/AMGOC>



## Annual General Assembly

Following services on today, we gather for our Annual General Assembly. Please make sure you are current with your stewardship.

## Greek School

Alex Ellis offering Greek language classes free of charge. Classes began on September 7, 2024. For more information call him at 719.471.015.7

## Church School Christmas Caroling

Our Church School children will sing Christmas Carols following services on Sunday, December 15.

## Nativity Fast

On Nov. 15, we begin one of the **four major fast seasons** in the Orthodox Church. For this forty-day period we are called to abstain from meat and dairy products. While many in America have Christmas parties before the