

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church



**January 1st, 2023
Circumcision of Christ**

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

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

Resurrectional Apolytikion - Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion

In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, * You assumed human nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will * You accepted circumcision in the flesh, * to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

Μορφὴν ἀναλλοιώτως ἀνθρωπίνην προσέλαβες, Θεὸς ὢν κατ' οὐσίαν, πολυεύσπλαγχνε Κύριε· καὶ Νόμον ἐκπληρῶν, περιτομήν, θελήσει καταδέχη σαρκικὴν, ὅπως παύσης τὰ σκιώδη, καὶ περιέλης τὸ κάλυμμα τῶν παθῶν ἡμῶν. Δόξα τῇ ἀγαθότητι τῇ σῆ, δόξα τῇ εὐσπλαγχνίᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ ἀνεκφράστῳ Λόγε συγκαταβάσει σου.

Apolytikion

Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξήλθεν ὁ φθόγγος σου, ὡς δεξαμένην τὸν λόγον σου, δι' οὗ θεοπρεπῶς ἐδογματίσας, τὴν φύσιν τῶν ὄντων ἐτράνωσας, τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἦθη κατεκόσμησας, Βασιλεῖον ἱεράτευμα, Πάτερ Ὅσιε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἰκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of St. Katherine

Let us sing the praise of the Bride of Christ renown, the Patroness of Sinai, Katherine Divine. Our assistance and protection, for she has brilliantly subdued, the impious refined, by the power of the Spirit. She was crowned as a martyr of the Lord, and for all, she entreats His great mercy.

Τὴν πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ ὑμνήσωμεν, Αἰκατερίναν τὴν θεῖαν καὶ πολιοῦχον Σινᾶ, τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀντίληψιν, ὅτι ἐφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ μαχαίρᾳ, καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πᾶσι τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion

As the Master over all * has undergone circumcision, * so He cuts away the sins * of humankind in His goodness. * On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. * And on high * does the Creator's hierarch Basil * now rejoice, for he is known as * a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

Ὁ τῶν ὄλων Κύριος, περιτομὴν ὑπομένει, καὶ βροτῶν τὰ πταίσματα, ὡς ἀγαθὸς περιτέμνει δίδωσι τὴν σωτηρίαν σήμερον κόσμῳ χαίρει δὲ ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις καὶ ὁ τοῦ Κτίστου, ἱεράρχης καὶ φωσφόρος, ὁ θεῖος μύστης Χριστοῦ Βασίλειος.

Epistle Reading Colossians 2:8-12

BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Κολοσσαεῖς 2:8-12

Ἀδελφοί, βλέπετε μή τις ὑμᾶς ἔσται ὁ συλαγωγῶν διὰ τῆς φιλοσοφίας καὶ κενῆς ἀπάτης, κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ οὐ κατὰ Χριστόν· ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ κατοικεῖ πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς θεότητος σωματικῶς, καὶ ἐστε ἐν αὐτῷ πεπληρωμένοι, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ πάσης ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐξουσίας· ἐν ᾧ καὶ περιετμήθητε περιτομῇ ἀχειροποιήτῳ, ἐν τῇ ἀπεκδύσει τοῦ σώματος τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν τῆς σαρκός, ἐν τῇ περιτομῇ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, συνταφέντες αὐτῷ ἐν τῷ βαπτίσματι, ἐν ᾧ καὶ συνηγέρθητε διὰ τῆς πίστεως τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἐγειράντος αὐτὸν ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Today we Commemorate:

- **Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
- **Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**
- **Emmelia, Mother of Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Makrina, and Peter of Sebaste**
- **Gregory, Bishop of Nanzianzos, Father of Gregory the Theologian**

Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. 10), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucratius. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at nought, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

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His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

Saint Basil is also celebrated on January 30th with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom.

2023 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.

Orthodox Catechism Classes

Last class will be Tuesday Jan. 3rd from 7:00-8:15 p.m.
Topic: Icons & Architecture
Meets inside the Church.

Service Schedule Week of January 1st

Sun., Jan. 1st

8:15 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy,

Memorials: 1 year-Lucy (Loukia) Ntatsos, Annual-Angelo (Evangelos) Ntatsos, Litsa (Mary) Ntatsos, George Vakanas, Bill (Vasilios) St. Armour, Sarah (Sara) Ntatsos, Helen (Eleni) Ntatsos, Presvytera Alva Mahalares

Thursday Jan. 5th

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

5:30 p.m. Vespereal Liturgy

Friday Jan. 6th (Theophany)

8:00 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Blessing of the Waters

Saturday: Jan. 7th (Synaxis of John the Baptist)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Helpful Information:

Sunday School: Sunday School: Will resume on January 8th.

Fellowship Hour: Hosted by Presvytera Vicki Pavlatos, Marta & Dimitri Ntatsos

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.



REQUEST FOR BLESSING OF HOME OR BUSINESS

Please complete this form and return it to the Church Office or place it in the Narthex tray. You will be contacted by the Church office to schedule your house blessing based on the days and times best for you. When Fr. Timothy comes to bless your home, he will have what he needs, so it's not necessary to have a bowl of water or basil. It typically takes 10 - 15 minutes for the service. He will have many homes to bless, so he will only be able to be in your home for this amount of time. A blessed New Year!

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please Circle the best day(s) and put an X for best time(s)

Mon. Tue. Wed. Fri. Sat.

Mornings (9 – 12 noon) _____ Afternoons (12 – 5) _____ Evenings (5 – 8) _____

Journeys to Orthodoxy

For those who have converted to Orthodoxy, I kindly request you share the account of your personal journey to Orthodoxy (b/t 500 – 800 words). Please submit a recent picture of yourself along with your narrative. We will feature one convert's story a month in an individually sent out MailChimp to the parish for others in our community to benefit from the story of your journey. We will also have a category on our website titled "Journeys to Orthodoxy" under the "Our Faith" tab and post your story there as well. Hearing about one's journey is extremely beneficial to all, both to Orthodox Christians (cradle and convert) as well as to



those who are searching. If you would like to see some examples, please visit the following website, at St. John's, the parish I last served: <http://stjohnnoc.org/category/journeys-to-orthodoxy/>

Once you have written a brief story of your journey please submit it to our church Administrator Marjie Thorpe at: office@st-katherine.org as well as to our webmaster, Jerry Vasilatos at: retiredjerry@cox.net

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:

- Diana, for health and healing
- 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

Departed:

Lucy Ntatsos, Angelo Ntatsos, Litsa Ntatsos, George Vakanas, Bill St. Armour, Sarah Ntatsos, Helen Ntatsos, Alva Prez

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



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 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

St. Irene Philoptochos News

General Meeting: January 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunday School House.

Vasilopita Sale: January 8th during Fellowship Hour.

All proceeds to benefit Saint Basil Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need.

The Academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood. The proceeds from each Philoptochos chapter's Vasilopita sale provides funding for the Academy's operating expenses.



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



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



Welcome Ministry

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

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.