



10748 E. 116th Street • Fishers, Indiana 46037
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A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America • Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo

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(317) 919-0841 • pastor@stgindy.org

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TONE 4

DECEMBER 24, 2017

EOTHINON 7

PRE-FEAST OF AND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (KNOWN AS “SUNDAY OF THE GENEALOGY”)

*ALL THOSE WHO OF OLD HAVE BEEN WELL-PLEASING TO GOD,
FROM ADAM DOWN TO JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, THE PROPHETS AND PROPHETESSES,
ESPECIALLY OF DANIEL THE PROPHET AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS
VENERABLE MARTYR EUGENIA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER • MARTYR ACHAIKOS
VENERABLE ANTIOCHUS OF MAR SABBAS MONASTERY
NEW-MARTYR AHMED OF CONSTANTINOPLE*



Make ready, O Bethlehem: let the manger be prepared, let the cave show its welcome. The truth has come, the shadow has passed away. Born of a Virgin, God has appeared to men, formed as we are and making godlike the garment He has put on. Therefore Adam is renewed with Eve, and they call out: “Thy good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our kind.”

by Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem

LITURGY VARIATIONS

3RD ANTIPHON: TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke

the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKIA AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message....

Schedule of Regular Weekly Services

Sundays: **Matins, 8:50 AM**
 Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Wednesdays: **Vespers, 6:30 PM**

Saturdays: **Great Vespers, 5 PM**

Confession: **After Saturday Vespers**
 During Sunday Matins
 Or by Appointment

See Calendar for Feast Days and Other Weekday Services Scheduled



*Remember to turn
cell phones off!*

Order for Holy Communion

Members of the Orthodox Church age seven and above must prepare for Holy Communion with a recent confession, prayer, fasting from all food and drink from midnight (unless medical condition preclude it), being in church *before* the Epistle and Gospel readings, and being at peace with everyone.

As there are **NO CHURCH SCHOOL** classes today, children should sit with their parents and come to Communion with them. An usher will dismiss your row from the center aisle. Then return to your place by a side aisle for the prayers of thanksgiving and the final blessing and dismissal. Please let choir members pass when they come down for Communion.

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in **Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church** in good standing, who have prepared with prayer, fasting and confession.

For all others: though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread (from the large bowls). Please also sign our guest book, and introduce yourself to Fr. Nabil during the coffee hour. You may inquire with him how you can become a member.

Troparion for the Sunday before The Nativity (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the

lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion for the Pre-feast of the Nativity (Tone 4)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her

Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Troparion for St. Ignatius (Tone 4)

By choosing the Apostle's way of life, you succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God you found the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching, the word of truth without error,

you defended the Faith through the very shedding of your blood. O holy martyr among bishops, Ignatius, entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

Troparion for St. George (Tone 4, Russian)

As Deliverer of captives and Defender of the poor, Healer of the infirm, Champion of kings, victorious Great-Martyr George,

intercede with Christ, our God, for our souls' salvation.

Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Tone 3)

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message.

With the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26-27 LXX; Tone 8)

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are just in all you have done.

Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11.9-10; 17-23, 32-40; Sunday before the Nativity)

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1.1-25; Sunday before the Nativity)

THE BOOK OF THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the

father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the King.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the

father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ.

So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, Son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a Son; and he called his Name Jesus.

HOLY OBLATIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- By Kameel and Rula Najjar, for the health of Jad, Celine, Anthony, Yara, Aya and Alene, and the Najjar, El-khoury, Sabga and Zabad families, and in memory of Kaisar and Angèle Najjar.
- By Doug Fadel, in memory of Iyad Bannourah.
- By Samir and Selena Kanazeh, in memory of Iyad Bannourah, Ragheda Rabie and Zakiya Sharaya.
- By Norma Johns, for the health of David George and George Nimri, and in memory of Karl Means and Iyad Bannourah.

A sign-up sheet for baking and offering the prosphora (altar bread) is posted on the bulletin board, next to the elevator. You can also contact Thelma Hoover at (317) 782-1633.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE LITURGY

Refreshments are hosted today by the members of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

*Sign-up sheets for **2018** coffee hour as well as for the Church School snack are posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator. (Something simple is all that's expected, though you may do more, if you want, for a special occasion.)*

IN HONOR OF ST. IGNATIUS



In the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America the third Sunday in December is celebrated as St. Ignatius Sunday. The Order supports a multitude of vital programs for our parish and Archdiocese. One of these, for example, is the camping program. If you have any questions about the order or how to join, please see Fr. Nabil or any member (wearing a red ribbon and cross).

Christmas Schedule:

Sunday, December 24

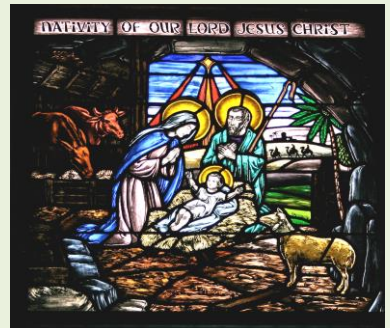
8:50 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy** (Sunday *before* Christmas)

7:30 p.m. Chrismations

8:30 p.m. **Christmas Matins**

10:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY *In celebration of the Feast and as a token of our love and appreciation of you, Fr. Nabil and Khouriyah Elaine will host dinner in the church hall immediately following Liturgy, assisted by our parish council.*



Monday, December 25

NO Services

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS EARMARKED FOR SOUND SYSTEM

So that we might join the wise men in offering gifts to the newborn King, please fill in the “Christmas Gift to My Church” card THIS MORNING! Extra copies are available at the candle stand.

Include the names of the living and departed whom you wish to have commemorated at the preparation of the Holy Gifts. We will also print the names of those offering and those being remembered in the bulletin for the Christmas Liturgy.

Our Christmas offerings—*separate from our tithes*—are dedicated this year to upgrading our church sound system, which we need badly. We are aware of the frustrations that many have expressed with not being able to hear the service, especially sermons and announcements.

St. GEORGE		Special Christmas Gift to My Church	
<small>10748 East 140th Street Eden Prairie, MN 55347 (952) 862-2725 www.stgeorge.org</small>		<small>With the angels, shepherds and Magi, we come to the manger in awe to worship and offer our gifts to the newborn King. O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!</small>	
<small>We will remember all those whom you list below at the <i>prothesis</i> of the Christmas Liturgy and print in the bulletin. You do not need to copy names on the “Given by” line to the “For the health of” line; we will remember you automatically.</small>		<small>Your Christmas Gift will help build up the St. George Development Fund, which is set aside solely for our building completion and future growth.</small>	
Given by	Address	Phone	
	City	State	Zip
			Email
For the health of			
In memory of			
<small>Use the back of this card for additional space. Please return to church office at least three days before Christmas.</small>			



We conducted a professional sound study and computer-modeled the church building for acoustics. We have identified a solution and actually tested it in our own building. We know you will notice a huge improvement. *We already have nearly \$20k pledged of the \$42k needed to replace our speakers and microphones!* Your generous gift will allow us to install the new sound system early next year.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP

Camp is one of the most important aspects of our youth ministry. The programs at the Antiochian Village Camp fill up fast, and we don't want anyone left out. **For Summer Camp our parish will be going to Session II, July 1-13, 2018.**

- Winter Family Camp registration is now open
- Winter Camp registration is now open
- **Summer Camp registration is now open at www.avcamp.org**
- September Family Camp registration opens the week of January 8-12

Please register your kids right away, as spaces fill up fast! Our parish will help with \$600 of each child's camp tuition, which comes with a commitment on the part of the child/parents to help with fundraising to offset this expense. In the past, the church provided transportation. Note that it will now be up to the parents to carpool/vanpool their children to camp, since we have increased the camp scholarship amount, instead.

Please let our office know when you have successfully registered your children, and to what session they are going, so that we include them in the scholarship funds we send to the AV Camp.

Email office@stgindy.org



IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW TAX LAWS

With the passage of the income tax reform bill it may be advisable to verify if you might lose the benefit of itemized deductions due to the doubling of the standard deduction (approx. \$12,000 for single taxpayers, \$24,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return).

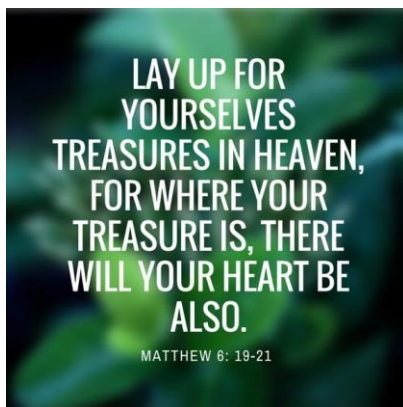
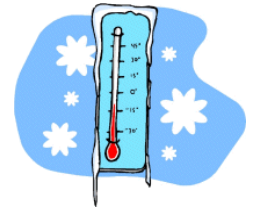
As charitable contributions are an itemized deduction and IF you currently itemize deductions and find that it is no longer to your advantage to do so, you might consider paying your 2018 pledge before December 31 this year, so that it could be deducted on your 2017 tax return. If you and your tax adviser determine it is to your advantage to make an early contribution, please mark the check memo as a 2018 pledge contribution.

We emphasize: you need to consult with your own tax professional. This will not apply to everyone, as the final draft of the tax bill includes deductions for medical, state and local taxes, charitable contributions, and mortgage interest. When you take all of these into consideration one might exceed the standard deduction and continue to be able to itemize going forward.

IN CASE OF SNOW

When it's cold or wet/snowy, kindly enter via the glass lobby doors instead of the big church doors (so we don't let in a big blast of cold air or track in water).

Note: since we have the nice covered drop-off (porte cochère), we will NOT shovel or salt the plaza in front of the big doors.



STEWARDSHIP

Thanks and blessings on all who stepped up last week and made their stewardship commitments for 2018. This is the pledge we make to continue the operational support of our new church for the coming year and is separate from the building fund pledge.

If you haven't done so yet, please place your pledge card in the offering box at the

candle stand, or return it by mail. You will find extra pledge cards in the narthex, or you can enter your pledge as a recurring donation online yourself at www.stgindy.org/donate

CHRISTMAS CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES REMAINING

Canned and Non-perishable Food for Our Food Pantry

From now until Christmas, as part of our parish participation in the Archdiocese-wide World Food Day program, we ask you to bring in canned goods and other non-perishable items. You can place them on the table in the main Lobby.

Please check the expiration date on the items you purchase and try to bring items whose expiration date is in late 2018 or after. PLEASE DO NOT BRING EXPIRED ITEMS.

In order to keep the food pantry manageable, please bring only the following items:

- December 24 Small boxes of cold cereal, oatmeal, non-fat dried milk
- December 31 Any of the above and we can use canned vegetables, esp. canned beans, tomatoes and tomato sauce.



We report the total poundage received to the Archdiocese, but we keep the items for our own food pantry to help those in need (including parishioners), and if we have excess, will donate to other local food pantries.

BOOK DRIVE!

We are hosting a new & gently used children's book drive for **Brightwood Community Center**, located in our old church neighborhood. *Brightwood* services kids, ages 5-14, in after-school programing, tutoring, summer camps, & more.



Drop off your donations at St. George Church (look for our donation boxes), or contact Gabriella Nahas via email: missgan05@gmail.com; Liza Nahas: lizanahas@yahoo.com, 317-797-2966. Donations accepted now thru 1/14.

Charity Tic Tac Toe

To help families remember our Christmas charity programs, those who wish to participate (completely voluntarily & just for fun) would get a game board (at the candle stand) and try to get "tic tac toe" or three in a row. Once they've achieved their tic tac toe, they may bring their completed game board to church and we would post it to a Holiday Giving Board.

Coats Were Delivered in Time for Christmas to Wheeler Mission, Eskenazi Health and Brightwood Community Center

First let me say THANK YOU SO MUCH. St George has helped make it possible for our families to have an exciting Christmas. They are so grateful for the support that you have shown, and we feel truly blessed to have this wonderful relationship reestablished.

*LeRae Troutman, Executive Director, Brightwood Community Center
3130 E. 30th St, Indianapolis, IN 46218*

Thank you so much for partnering with me and Philoptochos to collect coats for the Embrace Program at Eskenazi Health. Wow! St. George was so generous. Thank you to Fr. Nabil and your parishioners. The lady we met is Dori Sparks-Unsworth the Exec. Dir of the Pink Ribbon Connection. She will deliver the coats and toiletries to the cancer patients.

Thanks again. Merry Christmas!

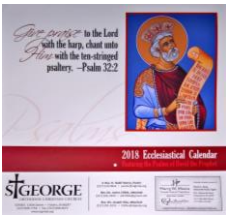
Cheryl Andros, Holy Trinity Philoptochos



STARTING THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT

Every good work begins with prayer. On January 1, our holy Church commemorates the Circumcision of Christ on the Eighth Day, in fulfillment of the Mosaic Law. We also commemorate St. Basil the Great with the blessing and cutting of the Vasilopeta. Because it is Fr. Bill's nameday, he has invited us to join in Liturgy there on New Year's Day:

Matins 8:15 am • Liturgy 9:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity (3500 W. 106th Street, Carmel)



2018 CHURCH CALENDARS

New church calendars are available in the Narthex.

One per household, please. You may take additional copies after every family has had a chance to get one.

For planning ahead: mark the following on your calendars:

Bishop Anthony will be visiting the Indiana Deanery parishes over Holy Week and Bright Week. We are excited to announce that he will be with us

- Palm Sunday Bridegroom Service, 7 pm, April 1
- Holy Monday Presanctified Liturgy, 10 am, April 2
- All services from Holy Thursday night through Bright Monday morning Liturgy, including Pascha, April 8

THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND ORTHODOX TRADITION

By Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos of Nafpaktos

I suspect that the custom of decorating a tree at Christmas time is not simply a custom which came to us from the West and which we should replace with other more Orthodox customs. To be sure, I have not gone into the history of the Christmas tree and where it originated, but I think that it is connected with the Christmas feast and its true meaning.

First, it is not unrelated to the prophecy of the Prophet Isaiah: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (Is. 11:1). St. Cosmas the Poet had this prophecy in mind when he wrote of Christ as the blossom which rose up out of the Virgin stem from the stump of Jesse. The root is Jesse, David's father, the rod is King David, the flower which came from the root and the rod is the Theotokos. And the fruit which came forth from the flower of the *Panagia* is Christ. (*Panagia* means "All-Holy" and is another name for the Theotokos). Holy Scripture presents this wonderfully. Thus the Christmas tree can remind us of the genealogical tree of Christ as Man, the love of

God, but also the successive purifications of the Forefathers of Christ. At the top is the star which is the God-Man (*Theanthropos*) Christ.

Then, the Christmas tree reminds us of the tree of knowledge as well as the tree of life, but especially the latter. It underlines clearly the truth that Christ is the tree of life and that we cannot live or fulfill the purpose of our existence unless we taste of this tree, "the producer of life".

Christmas cannot be conceived without Holy Communion. And of course, as for Holy Communion, it is not possible to partake of deification in Christ without having conquered the devil when we found ourselves faced with temptation relative to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, where our freedom is tried. We rejoice and celebrate, because "the Tree of Life blossomed from the Virgin in the cave".

Excerpt from the book entitled The Feasts of the Lord: An Introduction to the 12 Feasts and Orthodox Christology, 1993.



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please include in your daily prayers the following—those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request of the patient/family.)

LIVING

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John

Fr. Andrew and the community of St.

Matthew, church burned in Ohio

Amal Khazal, 1/25

George Corey, 1/16

Nicholas Rick Gann, 1/16

George Nimri, Rehab. Hospital of Indiana, 1/14

Anthony Khal, 1/14

Elias Al Tawil, St. Vincent Hosp., 1/7

Robert Abraham, Carmel Care Rehab., 1/6

Cade Freije, cousin of George Freije and Elaine Eckhart, 1/3

Donna Byers, friend of Kathleen Everhart, 1/1

James Pendleton, 12/23

Anne-Marie McCormick, friend of the Kiritis family, 12/22

Those in danger from wildfires in California
All those suffering from illness, violence or want throughout the world

DEPARTED

David Mouck, our construction project manager, 2/1

Iyad Bannourah, brother of Riyadh, Imad and Nihad, 1/15

Ragheda Rabie, former parishioner, 1/14

Zakiya Sharaya, mother of Hani and Rami, 1/13

Georgy Butenko, husband of Domnikya Butenko in Ukraine, 1/10

Karl Means, 12/27

Elizabeth Schubmehl, cousin of Doug Fadel, 12/25

All victims of violence throughout the world

ST. GEORGE PARISH CALENDAR

December 2017

Sun. 24

Christmas Eve

Matins, 8:50 am

Choir practice, 9 am

Divine Liturgy, 10 am

Christmas Matins, 8:30 pm

Choir practice, 9 pm

CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY, 10 PM

• **Christmas Dinner/Reception**

Wed. 27

Vespers, 6:30 pm

Sat. 30

Great Vespers and confessions, 5 pm

Sun. 31

Matins, 8:50 am

Choir practice, 9 am

Divine Liturgy, 10 am

January 2018

Mon. 1

Matins, 8:15 am at Holy Trinity

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am at Holy Trinity

Wed. 3

Vespers, 6:30 pm

Fri. 5

Paramon of the Epiphany

Royal Hours and Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am

Sat. 6

Great Feast of the Epiphany

Matins, 8 am

Chrismations, 9:30 am

Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water, 10 am

Great Vespers and confessions, 5 pm

Sun. 7

Matins, 8:50 am

Choir practice, 9 am

Divine Liturgy, 10 am

• **Ladies of St. George** meeting

See the full calendar and the latest additions and updates at www.stgindy.org/calendar