

ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΖΩΗ • ORTHODOX LIFE

A Publication of

SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5 Paleologos Street, Peabody, MA 01960-4496 Tel: (978) 531-0777 Fax: (978) 538-9522

December 2025/January 2026

Christ is Born, Glorify Him



by St. Gregory of Nazianzus (AD 380)

Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him. Christ on earth, be exalted. Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy

because of your hope.

Again, the darkness is past; again, Light is made; again, Egypt is punished with darkness; again, Israel is enlightened by a pillar. The people who sat in the darkness of ignorance, let them see the great Light full of knowledge. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. The letter gives way, the Spirit comes to the front. The shadows flee away, the truth comes in on them. Melchizedek is concluded. He who was without Mother becomes without Father (without mother of His former state, without father of His second).

The laws of nature are upset; the world above must be filled. Christ commands it, let us not set ourselves against Him. O, clap your hands together, all you people, because unto us a Child is born, and a Son given unto us,

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CHRIST IS BORN
Glorfy Him!

Celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our Advent & Nativity Resources

CHURCH SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNERALS

The following members of St. Vasilios has fallen asleep into the hands of our Lord over the past months.



Antonios V. Tsimounis
Konstantinos Hasiotis
Valerie Batsinelas
George Tsouvalas
Ziso Qirjazi
Nicholas D. Raftopoulos
Syrmatia (Karamenas) Skouras

May their memory be eternal





(Continued on page 1)

Christ is Born, Glorify Him

whose government is upon His shoulder (for with the cross, it is raised up), and His name is called The Angel of the Great Counsel of the Father.

Let John cry, prepare the way of the Lord; I, too, will cry the power of this Day. He who is not carnal is Incarnate; the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Let the Jews be offended, let the Greeks deride; let heretics talk until their tongues ache. Then shall they believe, when they see Him ascending into heaven; and if not then, yet when they see Him coming out of heaven and sitting as Judge.

This is our present Festival; it is this which we are celebrating today, the Coming of God to Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this is the more proper expression) that we might go back to God—that putting off of the old man, we might put on the new; and that as we died in Adam, so we might live in Christ, being born with Christ and crucified with Him and buried with Him and rising with Him. For I must undergo the beautiful conversion, and as the painful succeeded the more blissful, so must the more blissful come out of the painful.

For where sin abounded, grace did much more abound; and if a taste condemned us, how much more does the passion of Christ justify us? Therefore, let us keep the Feast, not after the manner of a heathen festival, but after a godly sort; not after the way of the world, but in a fashion above the world; not as our own, but as belonging to Him who is ours, or rather as our master's; not as of weakness, but as of healing; not as of creation, but of re-creation.

New Year's Resolutions



New Year's is one of those times to pause and reflect on who we are and what we are doing. It's a time to sharpen our metaphorical blades and be deliberate. What do I need to do to better "walk the talk" and be what God created me to be? I was created by God in His image and likeness, bought and freed by Jesus Christ, and sent out to preach, teach, and baptize. How do I do this even more deliberately?

The past few years have been full of challenges, struggles and losses, 2025 in particular I would say. I myself have not always transcended my challenges. I have not always been successful in remaining impartial to political or philosophical ideologies that work hard to divide and weaken our common Orthodox witness to Christ. I have judged and accused those who have judged me of all kinds of worldly and spiritual sins, I have tried to hide and disguise myself, or openly displayed characteristics of the political divides. I have been harsh in judging others for not following what I think is best at any given moment, I have failed to love and cherish everyone.

For all these things I need to repent.

Repentance is a change of mind, a change of heart. This mindset that we all must cultivate is a way of seeing the world, experiencing God, and being with each other. The first Christians lived and were called "The Way". Christ is the Way, the Truth, the Law, the Gift, the Savior. He shows us the way to correct life, real freedom, joy, peace, and happiness. I have not always acted in this "way" that reflects God's joy, peace, mercy, kindness and forgiveness. How can I claim to be God's own and not follow His way? For me, 2025 has been a year worth of reasons to pause, rethink, reprioritize, recommit, and repent.

What does such repentance look like? My spiritual father often reminds me it's about thankfulness. He has opened my eyes and my heart to being grateful to God in and for all things. I'm thankful that He is merciful, and I'm thankful that we have this option to be one in Christ and one with each other every time we gather together. I'm learning to be thankful even when we disagree about politics, philosophy, academics, and everything else in between. Most importantly I am thankful that he constantly reminds me that as Orthodox Christians we agree on God's love, and for this we transcend all earthly cares to be together in the Kingdom of God, which is of course at hand.

So when I fall or fail, I commit to trying again and again to get up and move forward. To try better to redirect others to God as Christ has shown us in the Gospel accounts. And I resolve and commit again to try and show everyone God's mercy even when others are anxious or frightened. These are some of my reflections and resolutions for the New Year. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With love and respect,

Fr. Yanni

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Wednesday, December 24 Divine Liturgy 6pm

Christmas Day Liturgy Thursday, December 25 Orthros 8 am Liturgy 9 am

Feast of St. VasiliosThe Great Thursday, January 1 Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10 am

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων Τεταρτη, 24^η Δεκεμβρίου Θεία Λειτουργία 6.00 μ.μ.

Γέννησις του Ιησού Χρηστού Πεμπτη, 25^{η} Δεκεμβρίου 8.00 π.μ. "Ορθρος 9.00 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

Μέγας Βασίλειος Πεμπτη, 1^{η} Ιανουαρίου 2026 9.00 π.μ. "Όρθρος 10.00 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Parish Council News

John Maihos, President

As we enter a new year, most of us challenge ourselves to be better. Perhaps that means being a better parent, child, student, employee, or maybe it's even most specialized. Some might want to be a better free-throw shooter, a better driver, or a better artist. For each of us, the goals are personal, and hopefully attainable.



I will ask myself to be a better steward of St. Vasilios and the Orthodox faith. Honestly, I'm not sure how to do that, but I'll give it a try.

You might immediately think that I mean give more money to the church. Well, of course, that would be great, but it's not the only aspect that constitutes being a better steward. Being a steward of the church is more wholistic than that.

I can start by attending services as often as I can attend. To fast when I'm supposed to fast. To participate in the sacraments whenever possible. I can also be a better listener. Be more diplomatic. Bite my tongue so I don't always try to say something before others have shared their thoughts.

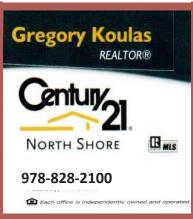
Along the way, I'll need help, and I am confident that the St. Vasilios family will keep me heading in the right direction. And yes, I will be as generous with my time, talent and treasure. I hope you will consider the same.

On other fronts, we had a great year at our church in 2025. We finished our Parish Advancement Campaign. We already have benefitted by the installation of the elevator and the connector from the church to the center. This was a big task and there were many people to thank. It is amazing how much time some people invested in this project. Words cannot express my thanks and sincere gratitude for the things we see, and even more so for the things we don't see.

Financially, the 2026 budget will be a challenge. I truly hope we see a year when festivals are not the bridge we need to get from stewardship receipts to covering our expenses of all the programs that we love at St. Vasilios.

Finally, if you want to get more involved with the running of the operational side of the church, we need you. We have seats on the Parish Council. Our building committee is always looking for planners and contractors who can make or fix things. Our other organizations will always welcome a new member to their group. Get involved. You'll feel even more a part of our church community.







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Parish Council News

Over the last few years, our budget has been running large deficits and we only can get whole by unexpected donations or bequests or from festivals and other fund raisers. That is essentially what we have to rely on because stewardship alone has not been able to keep up with church bills and obligations.

While festivals are not a bad thing, in fact I love them and they are part of my church experience, one bad festival, or another COVID-type year puts us in a difficult position and scrambling to pay the bills at the end of the year.

As the finance committee projected expenses, they also noticed the reality of declining stewards. On the positive side, we have seen slightly higher donations per steward. Although not sustainable, it has been getting us most of the funding we've needed to run our operation.

With the retirement of Fr. Chris, we can anticipate a reduction in payroll. There is also a shortage of priests so counting on a reduction in payroll may not be the panacea we expect and it is generally understood that we need 2 full time priests to administer to the needs of our stewards. Aside from payroll, we also support the ministries both locally and through the Metropolis.

Our building will need attention this year. We have an issue with the main cross on the dome, and will work toward repairing that in 2026 or 2027. Another major undertaking is the replacement of windows in the lower-level classrooms and possibly the multi-colored windows in the educational center. Window technology has changed dramatically since those were originally installed. Although we have made many improvements over the last few years, there are always unexpected and often costly repairs that come about several times per year.

Growing our number of parishioners should a top priority in the mind of every Orthodox Christian. We offer so much in our teachings and traditions. Our values are strong, and we are a welcoming community. Clearly, if more people join our church, that should translate to more financial support through our stewardship ministry.

Your continued support of St. Vasilios is appreciated and loved. We don't have a mega-church budget, but we deliver when it comes to services and support in Orthodox Christianity.

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STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

OCTOBER 3 THROUGH DECEMBER 12

Mrs. Esther Anton

Mr. Peter G. Apostolides

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanouil & Dorothy Ason-

itis

Mr. & Mrs. John Athanasopoulos

Mr. Theodore P. Christopher

Mrs. Michelle Conroy

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Dewsnap

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Diamantopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Efstathopoulos

Mr. Peter N. George

Mr. Steven Georgion

Mr. Jonathan Gioulis

Mr. Evan Gioulis Mrs. Vasilliki Hasiotis Mrs. Felitsa Kareklas

Mr. Sotirios Korisianos

Mrs. Eleni Lima

Mrs. Athena Malekakis

Mr. George T. Mandragouras

Mr. George Martwichuck

Mrs. Eva Melanson

Mrs. Vasso Meniates

Mrs. Gianoula Nanis

Mr & Mrs. Mike & Sophia Pappas

Mr. & Mrs. Stavros Pissios

Mr. Anastasios Psihogios

Mrs. Frances Ridge

Mr. & Mrs. George & Evelyn Rockas

Ms. Mary Rockas

Mr. James Rockas

Mr. Peter Routses

Mr. & Mrs. Alkibiades Rozopoulos

Mr. Roy Santos

Ms. Anastasia Santos

Mrs. Georgia Solomos

Ms. Joanne Tilas

Mr. Spiros Tourkakis

Mr. Vasilios Tsimounis

Mrs. Dora Tsimounis

Mr. & Mrs. Aristidis Tzavaras

Mr. John Tzortzis

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Tzortzis

Mr. & Mrs. George Tzortzis

Ms. Kristina Santos

St. Vasilios Scholarships

St. Vasilios is blessed to have such a robust scholarship program, which has been made possible through the generosity of individuals, families, and organizations who recognize the value of education.

As a steward of these funds, St. Vasilios must assure that the scholarship aligns with Church practice and the wishes of the donors. Therefore, those young adults receiving benefits through our parish should be knowledgeable of the Orthodox Faith and involved in the life of the Church. These criteria have always been clear, since applicants have always been required to be of the Greek Orthodox faith, actively involved in their faith, and at least one parent in good standing for a minimum of the previous five consecutive years.

Recently, parishioners asked the Parish Council to better explain what "actively involved" meant, and last year, a committee was formed to undertake that project. After consultation with church members ranging from ministry heads to our parish priests, we have clarified some of the scholarship application criteria and added new ones. The changes were presented to the Parish Council and approved. The new points will be phased in over the coming years, and it is the expectation that this will help families, especially students, engage more fully in the Orthodox Faith.

We will now require that all scholarship applicants meet with one of the parish priests. They can schedule this on their own with either Fr. Chris or Fr. Yanni. This will be an opportunity for our young adults to have a more personal relationship with our clergy.

Second, all scholarship applicants must have volunteer hours that directly serve our parish. For high school students, this will be 20 hours per year of volunteering in church activities like assisting with festivals, coffee hours, or our community dinner programs, and other approved programs. For college students, 15 hours per year will be expected. This can be with any community or church program where they are attending school, in addition to here at St Vasilios

To receive multiple scholarships there will be added requirements.

To receive more than one scholarship from the church, an applicant will be expected to meet the same requirements as noted above. Additionally, the applicant, during their High School years must be an Acolyte (altar boy), Myrofora, Choir member, or a graduate of Church School.

We anticipate that our scholarship program will continue to be strong, and that our scholarship recipients will have a better experience in the life of our church.

DONATIONS

\$50 Olga Kouris in memory of parents; Haralampos G. & Maria Kokaliaris Kouris

\$300 Giannias & Noe families in memory of parents; Sotirios & Irene and brother; George

\$100 Mrs. Helen George in memory of Marlene Glynos

\$1,120 Family & Friends in memory of Antonios V. Tsimounis

\$200 John & Armanda Georges in memory of mother; Angelika Georges

\$50 Greg & Marie Koulas in memory of Jim Rice

Anne & Peter Ziavras in loving memory of parents; Chresoula & George Smallis, Mary & Vasilios Ziavras & Godson Steven \$100 Chaput

\$345 Family & Friends in memory of Athanasios Siasios

\$1,790 Family & Friends in memory of George P. Tsouvalas

\$100 David & Ellen Grosiak in memory of beloved son; David Matthew Grosiak and father; James Perakis

\$150 Harriet & Michael Zolotas in loving memory of parents; Stephen & Mary Zolotas and Tomasina & Jack Armoian

\$50 Harriet & Michael Zolotas in memory of Emmanuel Papanicholas

\$200 Family & Friends in memory of Valerie Batsinelas

\$425 Family & Friends in memory of Michael Bentas

ST. VAL'S MEN'S CLUB



Sunday Schedule: Orthros: 8am Liturgy: 9am

JANUARY 2026

28	29	00			Fri	Sat
0 1		30	31	1	2	3
8am - Orthros			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		4:30pm - Dance Group
9am - Divine Liturgy			7pm - NO Bible Study	9am - Feast of Saint		
				11:45am - Feast of	9	
				1pm - NO Bible Study		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
St Basil's Kitchen			7pm - Bible Study	6:30am - Men's Club		4:30pm - Dance Group
8am - Orthros				1pm - Bible Study		5pm - Parish Night:
9am - Divine Liturgy				5:30pm - St Val's		
3,						
11	12	13	14	15	16	_ 17
8am - Orthros			7pm - Bible Study	1pm - Bible Study		4:30pm - Dance Group
9am - Divine Liturgy				5:30pm - St Val's		
11am - Philoptochos						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am - Orthros Marti	n Luther King Jr.		7pm - Bible Study	1pm - Bible Study		4:30pm - Dance Group
9am - Divine Liturgy				5:30pm - St Val's		
5pm - Parish Council						
25	26	27	20	00	30	24
8am - Orthros	26	21	7pm - Bible Study	1pm - Bible Study	30	St Val's Men's Club
			7 pm - bible Study			
9am - Divine Liturgy				5:30pm - St Val's		4:30pm - Dance Group



See our listings at www.nerest.com

IN MEMORY OF PARENTS

GEORGE & ANNE

GIANARELIS AND

HUSBAND RALPH V. MIRRA

Sunday Schedule: Orthros: 8am

Liturgy: 9am

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri 📑	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
St Basil's Kitchen		6:30pm - Men's Club		5:30pm - St Val's		4:30pm - Dance Group
8am - Orthros						
9am - Divine Liturgy						
8	9	10	[11]	12	13	14
8am - Orthros				5:30pm - St Val's		Valentine's Day
9am - Divine Liturgy						4:30pm - Dance Group
Julio Liturgy						5pm - Parish Night:
						Spin - Parish Night.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8am - Orthros	Presidents' Day			Family Ski Trip (NH)		
9am - Divine Liturgy						4:30pm - Dance Group
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Family Ski Trip (NH)	20	6:30pm - Men's Club	. (23	5:30pm - St Val's		4:30pm - Dance Group
8am - Orthros		STOOPHI MOITO OIGO		0.50pm ot vars		4.00pm - Dance Group
9am - Divine Liturgy						
Jain - Divine Liturgy						



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2026 St. Vasilios Greek Festival

2026 St. Vasilios Greek Festival

May 22-24, 2026

We're excited to announce that our festival will once again be held on Memorial Day Weekend! After last year's success — even with the challenges of a new date, outdoor venue, rain, and cold weather- we are thrilled to return stronger and even more united.

This festival is a wonderful opportunity to highlight our vibrant faith, culture, music, food, pastries, and community spirit. It also helps support our parish by reducing the current budget shortfall—an area that steward-ship alone has currently not been able to meet.

We Need EVERY Family to Help

To take this event to the **next level**, we need the support of our entire St. Vasilios community. For too many years, the festival has rested on the shoulders of too few. **This year**, that must change. We need YOU — every single one of you.

This is another opportunity for you to offer your **Time**, **Talent**, **or Treasure**:

- **Donate** Please consider helping offset our many festival costs.
- Volunteer Help us, plan, fundraise, set up, volunteer during festival hours, or assist with cleanup.
- Support the Event— Come support your community by enjoying our food, pastries, music, and fellowship.
- Spread the Word—Tell your family, friends, and coworkers. Share our festival on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and by word of mouth.
- Only when we all work together will we reach our full potential as a parish.

Look for more information in future monthly bulletins and emails.

If you wish to help in any way, contact John Kourtelidis, 978-907-3187, volunteer@stvasilios.org

PLACE YOUR AD HERE



CHURCH SCHOOL

We invite your children to join us in Church School every Sunday. If they have missed classes because of sports or other activities, we would love to welcome them back to class on January 4th. There are no Church School classes on Dec. 21st and Dec. 28th.

First graders learned about the many extraordinary gifts they receive from God, including a Guardian Angel. Please view the picture of the student's Guardian Angel pumpkins each of them made.

On October 26th, a Teaching Liturgy was celebrated. Thank you to Fr. Yanni, Rita and Andy Constantinou and a special thank you to the readers, Church School high school students, Lily Anezis, Evy Fenn, and Rena Deftos.

Thank you to all who purchased items from our first Christmas Country Store to benefit the Church School. It was a tremendous success!

Notices will go out to remind parents of upcoming events, including Godparent's Sunday (Jan. 25), the Icon Procession on the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Mar. 1st) and the Oratorical Festival (Mar. 8th). No Church School classes on Feb. 15th.

Please note that in case of inclement weather, school cancellations will be posted on the Church website and on Boston's WCVB-TV channel 5.









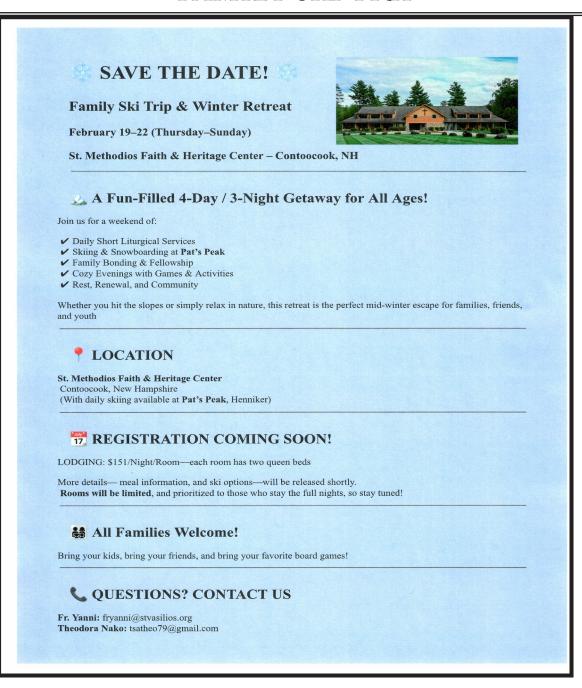
ST. VASILLIOS GREEK SCHOOL ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ

A special thanks to all who supported our calendar raffle, it was a great success! Winners are announced weekly on our Facebook page.

Our Annual Christmas Program will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 4:00 in the Andrew J. Demotses Educational Center, all are welcome to attend. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5th.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος!

FAMILY SKI TRIP





St. Vasilios Philoptochos Athena

December 2025/January 2026

Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Friends,

What a busy busy month of November we had!! We started up with a visit from author Stella Nahatis who came and spoke in front of a wonderful turnout about her book "Taxi to America". She graciously answered all questions and signed books for those who purchased.

Our Tiropites Fund Raiser was a huge success!! We had to close down the orders a week early because we sold out. We sold over 100 bags of tiropites with 30 tiropites in each bag...that's a lot of tiropites and the ladies who tirelessly worked under Stacey's supervision did a wonderful job. Thank you to all the ladies who came and made them and thank you to all who ordered and made this a great success.

We had our first "Loukoumades Sunday" and that too was a sell out! We were very lucky to get Hannah and Ari Lowe (Ruthie's granddaughters) out of retirement to come help us fry them. We'll be making them the fourth Sunday of every month so don't miss out.

We're getting ready for our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7 at the Bell Inn Tavern in Peabody. We're very excited to be able to get inside this gorgeous old home and see it in it's new glory.

As we get closer to Christmas we will be going out and doing our visitations to those who cannot come to church much anymore. This year we will do something a little different for the gifts we bring them. The children of our community lovingly painted ornaments and small pouches that will hold koulourakia in them for us to gift to them. If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please call me and let me know. We'd be happy to add them to our list.

Part of our mission is to help families that are in need of some assistance. Times are very difficult right now and many families are struggling...perhaps even one of our own St. Vasilios families. If you know of such a family, please see me or Father Chris and we'll see what we can do to help. Complete confidentiality.

The months of January through April are our membership drive months. If you would like to join our Philoptochos or renew your membership, please connect with one of the members of our board and we'll be more than happy to help you with that. As I've mentioned before, we welcome all ages. Please don't think you're too young or too old. We need everyone and would love to have you so come on and join us and bring your friends.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Sunday-December 28 Philoptochos serving at coffee hour and Loukoumades

Sunday--January 11 at 11:00—meeting in the parlor room

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have.

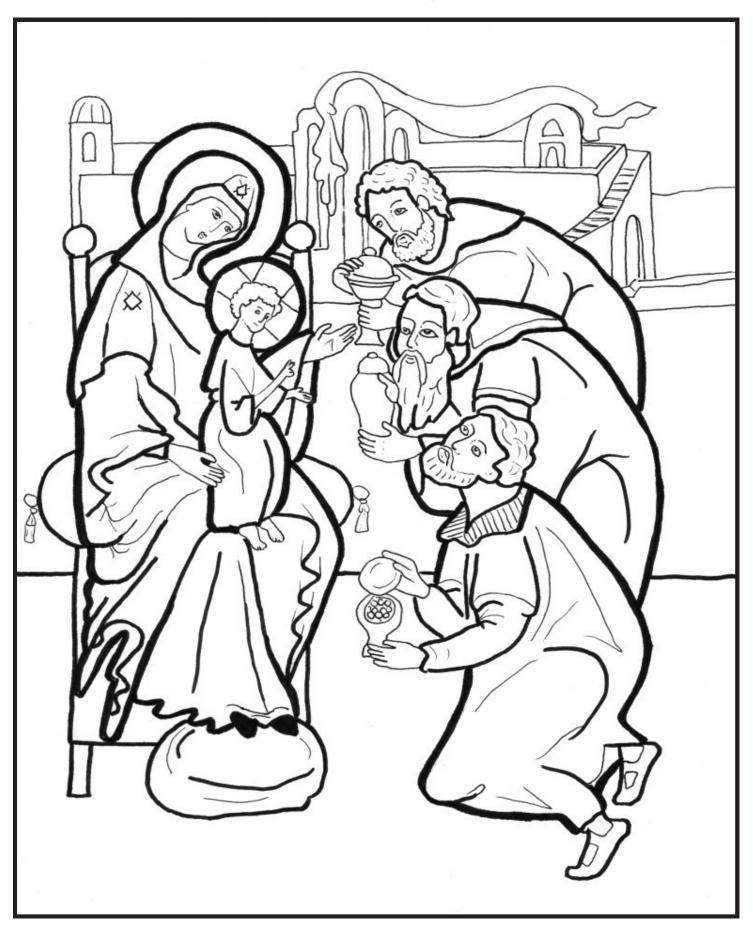
I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Zwitsa Joyce Kachinski, President St. Vasilios Philoptochos Athena zjoycekachinski@comcast.net (978) 852-4730

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CARROLLING



Children's Page



St. Vasilios Feast Day Celebration



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