

dairy products. While many in America have Christmas parties before the 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!*

Olive Oil Needed

Please remember to bring in 100% olive oil for our hanging and altar lamps.

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 Holy Hieromartyr Eleutherius: *From a good tree comes good fruit. This wonderful saint had noble and greatly eminent parents. Eleutherius was born in Rome, where his father was an imperial proconsul. His mother Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul and was baptized by him. Having been left a widow early, she entrusted her only son for study and service to Anicetus the Bishop of Rome. Seeing how Eleutherius was gifted by God and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him a deacon at the age of fifteen, a priest at the age of eighteen, and a bishop at the age of twenty. Eleutherius's God-given wisdom made up for what he lacked in years, and this chosen one of God was appointed Bishop of Illyria with his seat in Valona (Avlona), Albania. The good shepherd guarded his flock well and increased their number day by day. Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent the commander Felix with soldiers to seize Eleutherius and bring him to Rome. When the raging Felix arrived in Valona and entered the church, he saw and heard the holy hierarch of God; suddenly his heart changed, and he became a Christian. Eleutherius baptized Felix and departed for Rome with him, returning joyfully as if he were going to a feast and not to trial and torture. The emperor subjected the noble Eleutherius to harsh torture: flogging, roasting on an iron bed, boiling in pitch, and burning in a fiery furnace. But Eleutherius was delivered from all these deadly tortures by God's power. Seeing all this, Caribus the Roman eparch declared that he also was a Christian. Caribus was tortured and then beheaded, and so was Blessed Felix. Finally, the imperial executioners cut off the honorable head of St. Eleutherius. When his mother, the holy Anthia, came and stood over the dead body of her son, she also was beheaded. Their bodies were translated to Valona, where even today St. Eleutherius glorifies the name of Christ by his many miracles. He suffered during the reign of Hadrian in the year 120 A.D.*

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

2215 Paseo Road—Colorado Springs, CO 80907—719.634.5678 *church*
Fr. Dennis Schutte—*Proistamenos*—719.322.4436 *cell* e-mail: info@amgoc.org

Parish website: www.amgoc.org

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/amgoc.co>

December 15, 2024

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8 – 18

Gospel: St. Luke 14:16 – 24

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: Sunday of Forefathers: Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 8

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Apolytikion for the Forefathers Tone 2

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Apolytikion for St. Eleutherios Tone 5

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. * You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. * In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint * Eleftherius, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. * Therefore cease not interceding * for us who loyally honor * your blessed contest of martyrdom.

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

Wed. Dec. 18: Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. Nov. 21: 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. 15: Topakas Family

Dec. 22: Georgescu/Pesch Families

Dec. 29: Rose Timora

Jan. 5: Sponsor Needed

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.*

Memorial Service

This morning we remember the departed servants of God +Jackie Topakas (10 years) and +Daniel Topakas (3 years). *Everlasting be their memory!*

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 with over 250 gifts delivered to the school recently. Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone that participated in the Christmas Community Outreach!

AMGOC 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, all women are invited to attend.

Church School

Classes meet following Holy Communion. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first. See Sara LaBrie for more information. Our Church School children will sing Christmas Carols following services on Sunday, December 15.

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet today following coffee hour. *All are welcomed 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>

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

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