

names of adults attending. Thank you! Retreat Schedule: 8:00-9:00 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments 9:00-11:30 a.m. Discussion (10-15 min break included) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AEAE2CA6F8C34-58258768-amgoc>

## Greek School

Greek school meets on Saturdays at 3:30pm. Please contact Alex Ellis at 719.471.0157 for details.

### Reflection

St. Dionysius the Areopagite writes of the immeasurable joy, the outer and inner radiance, and the indescribable fragrance that he sensed in the presence of the Holy Theotokos when he visited her in Jerusalem. In his zeal, he says that if he had not known the One True God, he would have recognized her, the Holy Virgin Mary, as God. The Holy Virgin made such a powerful and unique impression on men during her earthly life—and she received an incomparably greater power and glory after her physical death when, by the will of God, she was exalted above the heavenly hosts. Her power comes from her ceaseless prayer for the faithful, for all those who turn to her for help. When St. John of Novgorod and his people prayed to her for help against a hostile army, he understood that she was simultaneously praying to the Lord with tears in their behalf, and Novgorod was miraculously saved. As she was compassionate toward her crucified Son, so the Holy Most-pure One is also compassionate toward all those in need, and who turn to her for help. It could be said that the entire earth is covered by the miracles of her mercy. Even today, there lives in Belgrade a café owner (C.J.), who was born in the village of Labunište (Macedonia) outside Struga. His mother brought him blind to the Monastery of Kališto, where, after the priest prayed over him before the icon of the Holy Theotokos, he received his sight. The first monk at Pochaev saw a fiery pillar extending from earth to heaven, and in that flaming pillar he saw the Holy Theotokos. She was standing on a rock. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: even today, it heals many of the sick.

**The Holy Martyr Sozon:** Sozon was born in Lyconia. He was a shepherd and kept all of God's laws, instructing his peers and friends in his pious Faith. In a vision he was shown that he would suffer martyrdom for Christ. This was in the time of Maximian, magistrate of Cilicia, who perpetrated a terrible persecution of Christians in the nearby city of Pompeiopolis. In that city there was a certain golden idol which the pagans worshiped. Sozon left his flock, went to the city, entered the pagan temple and broke the arm off the golden idol. He crumbled it into bits and distributed it to the poor. There was a great uproar because of this, and the pagans sought out the guilty one. So that no one else would suffer for his deed, Sozon went to the magistrate and declared himself to be a Christian and the perpetrator of that act. His torturers first beat him, then suspended him from a tree and scraped his body with iron combs. When he was nearly dead, they cast him into a fire, where St. Sozon gave up his holy soul to God. He suffered in about the year 304. St. Sozon's relics were miracle-working, and a church in his name was built over them.

## Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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## September 7, 2025

### Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

**Apostolic Reading:** Galatians 6:11 – 18

**Gospel:** St. John 3:13 – 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: Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

Martyr Sozon of Cilicia; Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy; New-martyr Athanasios; John, archbishop of Novgorod; Ven. Kassiane.

### Hymns of the Day

#### Apolytikion for the Resurrection Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, “Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!”

#### Apolytikion for the Forefeast of the Theotokos Tone 4

Unto us is born today Mary the child of God, \* as the branch from Jesse's root, and as the fruit of David's loins, \* and all creation is re-created and deified. \* O heaven and the earth, rejoice in unison. \* Sing praises unto her, O all you Gentile clans. \* Joachim is exultant, and Anna is keeping festival, crying out: \* “The barren woman bears the Theotokos, \* the nourisher of our Life.”

#### 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 the Theotokos Tone 3

On this day the virgin Maid, Mary the true Theotokos, \* the inviolate bridal room of the heavenly Bridegroom, \* by the will of God is born of a barren woman, \* to prepare to be the carriage of God the Logos, \* as for this she

had been destined, \* to be the gateway of God and Mother of Life.

## Divine Services

**Mon. Sept. 8:** Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Nativity of the Theotokos at AMGOC.

For those who would like to travel to our Metropolis Center, there will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Orthros 8:30am and Liturgy 9:30am, reception to follow services. This feast patronal feast day of our Metropolis.

**Wed. Sept. 10:** Paraklesis to the Theotokos 5pm

**Sat. Sept. 13:** 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.

## Bookstore and Library

There is something for everyone in our Church Bookstore! New books, Icons, beautiful Orthodox gifts and items for your home are available. We are ordering from various publishers, Orthodox websites, and even Etsy! Beautifully handmade items from Edward and Rose Lewis are available for sale too! If you can't find what you are looking for, I'm more than happy to place a special order. See you at our bookstore! *A little spiritual reading or study, when carried out before prayer, is very helpful because the soul is warmed and the mind is transported to the spiritual realm. ~Saint Paisios the Athonite*

## Stewardship 2025

The 2025 Stewardship Sunday was on Sunday December 22nd and a presentation was offered by Ruxandra Georgescu and Nathan Pesch co-chairs. Stewardship Packets are available today. Please see Ruxandra Georgescu for more information. You may return your filled out card in the offering box.

## Open House Celebration

Our Chancellor, Fr. Lou Christopoulos is retiring after 45 years of faithful service to the Church. On Thursday October 2, 2025 Assumption Cathedral-Annunciation Room, 4610 E. Alameda Ave. Denver 6-9pm. Cocktail Attire - Adults Only Please R.S.V.P. to [MLC2morrow@gmail.com](mailto:MLC2morrow@gmail.com) by September 25<sup>th</sup>

## Capital Campaign

**King Soopers Cards** has established a new program by using their Loyalty Program. You may sign up online and our parish will receive 5% of you purchase.

## Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome! All are invited to participate in the Parish Community Coffee Hours, no signup needed. Please see Rose Timora to coordinate food items with her.

**Sept. 7:** Rose Timora

**Sept. 14:** Sponsor Needed (Strict Fast)

**Sept. 21:** Marzavas Family

**Sept. 28:** Parish Community

## Philoptochos Outreach

The next meeting will be on Saturday, in September 13, 2025 at 10am. All women are invited to attend.

**Ronald McDonald House Pull Tabs:** During the months of June - August, Philoptochos asks for participation in "Pulling for the Ronald McDonald House." The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado keeps families together when their child needs medical care. Beverage tabs can be placed in the "Ronald McDonald Houses" available in the Church Hall. Please take one and return the pull tabs throughout the summer, that are to be placed in the large Ronald McDonald House, also located in the Church Hall. The pull tabs will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in early September for recycling.

**Care and Share Food Drive:** The Philoptochos will be conducting a Care and Share Food Drive from September 7-28. Bins to collect non-perishable food items are located in the hall. Monetary donations are also needed. A donation of \$2 provides five meals. Please make checks out to AMGOC Philoptochos with "Care and Share" in the memo line.

## Retreat at Holy Theophany Orthodox Church

Holy Theophany Orthodox Church is sponsoring the Fall Retreat with Father Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA and he will also bring with him the wonderworking icon of St. Anna. Suggested donation is \$20/Person **The theme is** *Acquiring the Mind of Christ* on September 20, 2025 at Holy Theophany Orthodox Church. To attend, you must register and the deadline to register is September 14. <https://holytheophanyorthodoxchurch.breezechms.com/form/c6bd29>

## Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will resume on Sept. 21, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

## AMGOC Religious Retreat with Mother Cassiana

The Philoptochos at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is sponsoring a half-day retreat with Mother Cassiana, Holy Protection Monastery, on October 4, 2025 from 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. The theme is "How to Live an Orthodox Life". The retreat is for **adults only**. The retreat will be at AMGOC. Please use the following SignUpGenius link to sign up. If you prefer, you may also email Penny Johnson at [pavrajohans1985@gmail.com](mailto:pavrajohans1985@gmail.com) with the