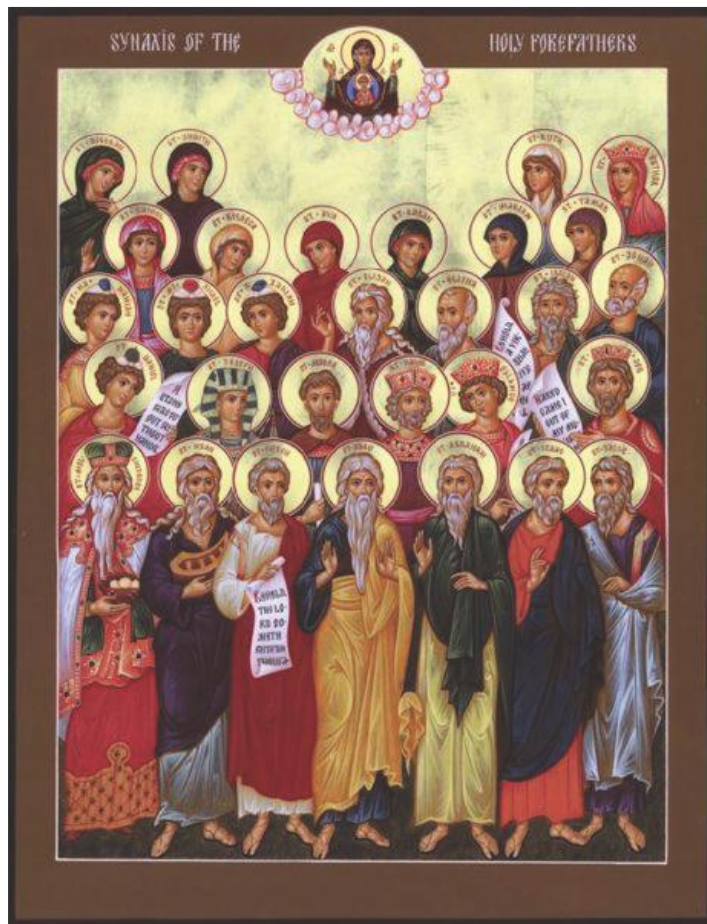


HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Synaxis of the Forefathers

December 15, 2024

Sunday of the Forefathers:

The Holy Hieromartyr Eleutherius:

Our Venerable Father Paul of Mount Latros:

Our Holy Father Stephen the Confessor, archbishop of Surozh

December 15, 2024

Schedule of services for the week of December 16 – December 22

Saturday, December 21 – *Saturday before the Nativity; The Holy Martyr Juliana*

- 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 4:00 PM – Confessions
- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22 – *Sunday before the Nativity – of the Ancestors; The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia*

- 8:40 AM – 3rd Hour
- 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

“Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.” Our gracious Lord seeks to bring all people who are willing to his heavenly banquet. His servants are called to reach out to the ends of the earth so that his house may be filled. While this is the calling of all Christians, those called to the priesthood, diaconate, minor orders, monastic and religious life do so in a special way. If this may be your calling, contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Mark the Date:

Parish Work Day on Dec. 21.

Cleaning and Decorating the Church and Hall will start at 10:30 to 2:00 with lunch included. All types of helpers are needed, from easy duty to heavy! Help us prepare for the Nativity, as we joyfully serve our Parish Family.

Please check out the Sunday Social Donor sheet in the hall. We are seeing a possibility of only coffee/juice at some socials without donors. We still need weekly Hosts. Please see Janet.

Suggestions for Celebrating Christmas

1. Give thanks to God by attending church.
2. Seek peace with those we may be at odds with.
3. Give an anonymous gift to a stranger in need.

O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Fr. Deacon Craig Anderson, Janice Andre, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Noah Chase, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Jacob, Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasnak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Michael Raya Jr. Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

Many Blessed Years!

Congratulations to Beau and Makayla Davis on the occasion of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church and for the baptism of their son Finn. May God abundantly bless them all!

Save the Date!

With Kyr Artur’s blessing, the 2025 Alive in Christ Camp will be held July 10-13 at Palomar Christian Conference Center in San Diego County, California.

This ascetical boot camp is for boys aged 7-17 and for dads/guardians, with an emphasis on vocational discernment and growth in the life in Christ.

More details to come.

Schedule of Service for the Feast of Nativity

Tuesday, December 24 - *Vigil of the Nativity*

9:00 AM – Royal Hours

4:30 PM – Christmas Carols

5:00 PM – Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil followed by “God is with us” Great Complines

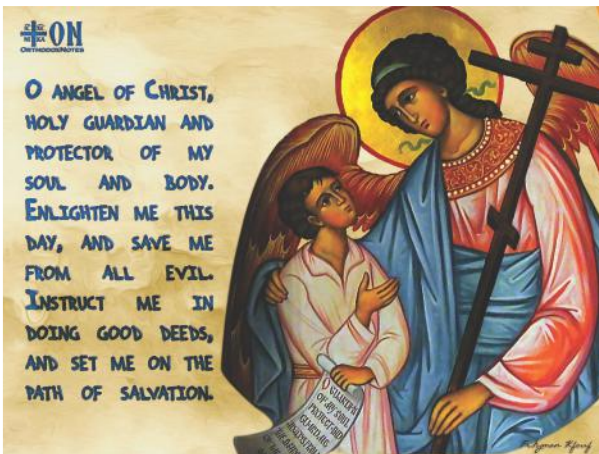
Wednesday, December 25 – *The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ*

7:45 AM – Festal Matins

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy For all parishioners

Prayer before using the Internet

Light from light, Only-begotten Son of the Father of lights, who dwellest in light unapproachable, the beauty of whose countenance is beyond description and whose luminous thoughts are beyond the grasp of any created mind; O Creator of all form and beauty, which are intended for holiness and contemplation of Thee: do Thou now guide me who would use the internet, that by so doing I would glorify Thee, and walk in the light Thou givest me, at all times thinking on whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good, to the sole glory of Thy most holy Name, Jesus: through the prayers of the Virgin Mary, Thy Mother; of our fathers among the saints Isidore of Seville and Theophan the Recluse; of the Venerable Eugenius of Aitolia, and Nicodemus the Hagiorite; and of all the saints. Amen.



Women's Group - WOHA:



WOHA will meet on Saturday December 21, following the 9AM Divine Liturgy. All women 21 of age and up are invited! Invite your friends.

Men's Group - BROHA:



This is an informal group of men who support each other in living their faith more fully in today's culture. Next meeting is Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 PM. All men, 21 years of age and up, are invited!

BROHA along with WOHA are working through the book *Men and Women Are From Eden: A Study Guide to John Paul II's Theology of the Body*.

Copies are available in the bookstore for \$17.00.



“OUR SAVIOR, BOTH GOD AND MAN”

By Saint Ephrem the Syrian – 4th Century

We confess one and the same individual as perfect God and perfect man. He is God the Word Which was flesh.

For if He was not man, why was Mary chosen? And if He is not God, whom does Gabriel call Lord?

If He was not man, who was laid in a manger? And if He is not God, whom did the angels who came down from heaven glorify?

If He was not man, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, And if He is not God, in whose honor did the star appear?

If He was not man, whom did Simeon hold in his arms? And if He is God, to whom did Simeon say, “now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace”?

If He was not man, whom did Joseph take when he fled into Egypt? And if He is not God, who fulfilled the prophecy: “Out of Egypt have I called my Son”?

If He was not man, whom did John baptize? And if He is not God, to whom did the Father say: “This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased”?

If He was not man, who hungered in the desert? And if He is not God, unto whom did the angels come and minister?

If He was not man, who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee? And if He is not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not man, who took the loaves in the desert? And if He is not God, who fed the five thousand men and their women and children with five loaves and two fish?

If He was not man, who slept in the ship? And if He is not God, who rebuked the waves and the sea?

If He was not man, with whom did Simon the Pharisee sit at meat? And if He is not God, who forgave the sins of the harlot?

If He was not man, who wore a man’s garment? And if He is not God, who healed the woman with the issue of blood when she touched His garment?

If He was not man, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He is not God, who gave sight to the eyes of the blind man with the clay?

If He was not man, who wept at Lazarus’ grave? And if He is not God, who commanded him to come forth out of the grave four days after his death?

If He was not man, whom did the Jews arrest in the garden? And if He is not God, who cast them to the ground with the words: “I am He”?

If He was not man, who was judged before Pilate? And if He is not God, who frightened Pilate’s wife in a dream?

If He was not man, whose garments were stripped from Him and parted by the soldiers? And if He is not God, why was the sun darkened upon His crucifixion?

If He was not man, who was crucified on the cross? And if He is not God, who shook the foundation of the earth?

If He was not man, whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross? And if He is not God, how did it happen that the veil of the temple was rent in twain, the rocks were rent, and the graves were opened?

If He was not man, who hung on the cross between the two thieves? And if He is not God, how could He say to the thief: “Today thou shalt be with me in paradise”?

If He was not man, who cried out, and gave up the ghost? And if He is not God, whose cry caused many bodies of the saints which slept to arise?

If He was not man, whom did the women see laid in the grave? And if He is not God, about whom did the angel say to them: “He is arisen, He is not here”?

If He was not man, whom did Thomas touch when he put his hands into the prints of the nails? And if He is not God, who entered through the doors that were shut?

If He was not man, who ate at the sea of Tiberias? And if He is not God, on whose orders were the nets filled with fishes?

If He was not man, whom did the apostles see carried up into heaven? And if He is not God, who ascended to the joyful cries of the angels, and to whom did the Father proclaim: “sit at My right hand”?

If He is not God and man then, indeed, our salvation is false, and false are the pronouncements of the prophets.



By the Grace of Almighty God,

The Most Reverend Kurt R. Burnette,

Apostolic Administrator of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
and Bishop of Passaic,

**cordially invites you to the liturgical and social celebrations planned for the
Consecration and Enthronement of**

The Most Reverend Artur Bubnevych

as Sixth Bishop of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

In the presence of

His Eminence Christophe Cardinal Pierre

Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

scheduled for

1:00 pm Tuesday 28 January 2025

at

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

995 N. West Street

Anaheim CA 92801

By the Laying on of Hands of

The Most Reverend William C. Skurla

Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Principal Consecrator

The Most Reverend Kurt R. Burnette

Bishop of Passaic

Co-Consecrator

The Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta

Bishop of Parma

Co-Consecrator

Liturgical celebrations will take place at: **Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church**
995 N. West Street
Anaheim CA 92801
Telephone 714.533.6292

Lodging and Banquet will be provided by: **The Anaheim Marriott Suites Hotel**
12015 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove CA 92840
Telephone 714.750.1000

Schedule of Events

Monday 27 January 2025: 7:00 pm - Solemn Vespers and Profession of Faith
Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

Tuesday 28 January 2025: 1:00 pm – Divine Liturgy with Consecration
Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

6:00 pm – Dinner Banquet
Anaheim Marriott Suites Hotel

Due to time constraints placed by the hotel for lodging and banquet attendance, as noted below, and seasonal concerns related to mail delivery, we respectfully request your email or telephone response to this invitation at your earliest convenience and thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

On your response, please indicate:

- **The number in your party**
- **The day and date of your arrival at the hotel**
- **The day and date of your departure from the hotel**
- **If you will be attending the banquet and the number in your party**

We will contact you by telephone or email if any other information is needed

ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Room reservations can be made directly with the hotel OR through Teresa at the Chancery

--- not later than the hotel deadline date of Friday 27 December 2024 ---

The hotel contact is Genevieve (714.750.1000) / The Chancery contact is Teresa 602.861.9778 x 101

--- Please be sure to have your credit card information available ---

The following link is provided for your direct internet access to reserved lodging arranged with the
Anaheim Marriott Suites Hotel in Garden Grove CA

It covers arrival on Mon 27 Jan 2025 through departure Wed 29 Jan 2025 ONLY.
Please see the text box below the link regarding earlier arrivals and/or later departures.

Link: [Book your group rate for Eparchy of Phoenix](#)

If you wish to arrive earlier than Mon 27 Jan 2025 and/or depart later than Wed 29 Jan 2025

Please contact either Teresa at the Chancery or Genevieve at the hotel

not later than 27 Dec 2024

Teresa-Chancery: 602.861.9778 x 101 / email: tribunalsec@ephx.org

Genevieve-Marriott Hotel: 714.750.1000 / genevieve.gatchalian@marriott.com

BANQUET INFORMATION:

Banquet reservations should be made with Teresa at the Chancery
--- not later than 27 December 2024 hotel deadline for this information ---

Telephone: 602.861.9778 Ext. 101 /email: tribunalsec@ephx.org

Upon making your reservation(s), please indicate your choice of entrée:

Hoisin Chicken or Short Ribs or Cauliflower Steak

**All entrées include baked rolls and butter, a Caprese Salad, Tiramisu for dessert
and regular or decaffeinated coffee, or choice of teas**

Please be sure to mention any special dietary needs or restrictions.

*While there is no fee for the banquet,
free-will offerings to the eparchy will be gratefully accepted*

Attendees should feel free to contact the Eparchy of Phoenix for assistance with lodging reservations, dietary needs, and any other concerns or questions. For these purposes, please contact:

Ms. Teresa Blanc at 602.861.9778 / Ext. 101, or by email at tribunalsec@ephx.org

For further information regarding Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, attendees may contact the church directly, and its pastor,

The Right Reverend Stephen Washko at 714.533.6292 or by email at abcc72069@gmail.com

We do hope you will be able to join us. Your presence and prayers will be most welcome.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Byzantine Basics – Greetings / Response

Greeting

Response

Throughout the year:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory forever!

-or-

Christ is among us!

He is and shall be!

Christmas Season:

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

On January 6 (*Theophany*):

Christ is Baptized!

In the Jordan!

Paschal Season (*From Pascha to Ascension*):

Christ is Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

ON THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

By Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos



The Birth of Christ is a historical event, because it took place at a specific moment in history, when Caesar Augustus was Emperor in Rome and Herod was ruler of Judea. The Evangelists insist on emphasizing the historicity of the event, because they want to say that Christ is a historical person. This means that Christ assumed real human flesh, and the Incarnation was not merely seeming or imagined.

In spite of its historicity, this event remains a mystery. We know that the God-man, perfect God and perfect man, exists, but it remains a mystery how the divine nature united with human nature in the person of the Logos. Moreover, what happened to the person of Christ, that the divine nature was united hypostatically with human nature, happened just once. Therefore St. John of Damascus said that Christ is “the only new thing under the sun.” This means that since the creation of the world and man, nothing new has happened in the world. Everything is repeated [according to the natural order and rules which govern the universe]. The [successive] birth of human beings is a consequence and result of God’s words: “Let us make man in our image and likeness”, and “Be fruitful and multiple; fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen. 1:26-28). The only new thing is the God-man Christ.

Thus the fact that the event is historical does not remove the mystery, but also the mystery does not do away with the historicity. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ, but at the same time we experience mysteriously in our hearts all the events connected with it, for when we are alive in the Church, we are participating in and experiencing all the stages of the divine Incarnation.

Non-Perishable Food PLUS Toiletries, Clothing Drive comes to an end NEXT Sunday, December 22.

(All items distributed by Catholic Worker)

Non-opened, Non-expired dates or recently expired is OK

- 1. Canned goods** of all types, but especially proteins or whole meal like chili, ravioli, beefaroni, etc. Also fruit, vegetables, beans, condiments.
- 2. Jar items** like peanut butter, jelly or jam, pasta sauce.
- 3. Dry items** like rice, beans, pasta, cereal, oatmeal, noodles.
- 4. Staples** like sugar, flour, oil coffee, tea, pancake mix.
- 5. Seasonal items** like cake mix, cookies, candy, cocoa mix.
- 6. Other foods** like cereal crackers, dry mixes for gravy, etc.
- 7. Canned** tuna, ham, chicken, any other canned meats.

They also love to get baby food, diapers, and formula. Partial packages of diapers in clean zip lock bags will be taken. Baby toiletries are needed as well.

Hygiene items:

Needed are **new** toiletry items: **shampoo, lotion, liquid soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and Antiperspirant/Deodorant, Bar SOAP**, (all full size.) Also: **wet wipes, combs, lib balm, floss, disposable razors, shaving cream.**

For women: wrapped packaged sanitary pads, pantyliners, hair conditioner, women's disposable razors, shaving cream, hand lotion. (Travel sizes OK too.)

Clothing: New or good condition used - jackets, coats, hoodies, warm hats, gloves, scarves, socks, shirts, jeans, sneakers/ athletic shoes. All sized - ADULT, CHILDREN, BABY

Questions? Call or text Alex Huber at 619-977-4827

Bring items to the HALL.

May God Bless your generosity!

LOOKING FOR MIRACLES IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

Fr. William J. Mills

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles7/MillsMiracles.php>

Throughout the years people have often ask me why we don't have miracles like they did back in Jesus' time. When reading the Bible we encounter many miracles, Moses dividing the Red Sea, Elijah healing the widow's son, Jesus walking on the water, Jesus driving out demons from people, and of course the biggies, such as Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and then the biggest miracle of all, Jesus' own resurrection. If we read the Bible carefully we will encounter these miracles along with many others

Today when people encounter a miraculous event they usually chalk it up to scientific technology, good medicine, or an act of nature. At 9:00am on the morning of 9/11 many people left their offices in the Twin Towers in order to get coffee and bagels for their co-workers. Five minutes later two jet airplanes flew right into the Towers, killing thousands of people and maiming hundreds more. The survivors considered this a miracle. However, other people say well, it was just a coincidence that they left, after all, coffee runs are usual in big companies.

Just a few weeks ago a man was flying a jet plane and for some reason the plane crashed. The man was found safe and sound sitting in his cockpit in a tree, not even getting a scratch. People said that it was the type of wind shear that allowed the cockpit to fall gently and safely. However, surely this man sees it as a miracle. Furthermore, a few months ago there was a lady who gave birth to six children who were three months premature. They survived even though they were very small and had little chance of surviving. People also chalk this up to good science. So many things happen to people and we try to "figure it out" citing science, medicine, or nature.

Perhaps these events or situations are God giving us a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven. After all, this is what miracles are anyway, little glimpses into God's rule and authority. However, we miss the power of the message as did the people in the time of Jesus. Not much has changed since then, as the author of the Book of Ecclesiastes says, "there is nothing new under the sun." Then as now people want to be entertained. They had magicians, fortune-tellers, and astrologers and we have circus' and Hollywood with special effects to razzle-dazzle us. Yet, Jesus was not a magician nor was he trying to entertain people, although many thought they were being entertained. At one point when Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes they wanted to seize him in order to make him a king! They saw his power in human terms, missing the point that Jesus was directing them to The Kingdom. Jesus' miracles are a sign of His

Kingship, but his kingship is not of this world. His power is over disease, nature, and even death. God is the god over all things in creation.

Also, these miracles, like the one about the demon possessed man are an invitation of faith. Towards the end of the gospel lesson we heard that the once possessed man was found "clothed and in his right mind" sitting at Jesus' feet. This man is the male version of Mary, the one whose sister Martha was busy preparing lunch complaining that her sister Mary wasn't helping her. Yet all the while Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet as an act of faith, learning and listening from her Master.

The gospel of Luke provides us with many miracles of Jesus, the woman who was healed from her flow of blood, the Roman centurion's servant who was ill, and the cleansing of the lepers. These people approached Jesus in faith and they were healed of their disease and discomfort because of their faith; because they came to Jesus for help. And compared to the big miracles that we often think about, the parting of the Red Sea for instance, these miracles in the gospel are quite small, Jesus' really didn't do much, he says a few words and people are restored to health and well-being.

Yet all too often we overlook the hundreds of small miracles in our life, the small glimpses into the kingdom of God because we are too darn busy seeking the big miracles, the walking on water type of miracle. We overlook the many miracles of family members being reconciled to their family after being pushed out or living in self induced exile, the miracle of a restored friendship, and the miracle of life itself. I think we do this because deep down we would rather be entertained and excited and we don't want Jesus interfering in our life. After all, it is a fearful thing when we encounter the Lord. The great crowds were afraid because of what Jesus did to the possessed man, they were so afraid that they demanded that Jesus leave them immediately. Often we push Jesus out of our life too because we can't deal with the kingdom, **we want to focus on the here and now**. How sad, because all the while Jesus was directing these people to the kingdom, offering them the bread of life, and they were satisfied with popcorn and cotton candy, how sad indeed!

Fr. William C. Mills, Ph.D., is the rector of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC, as well as an adjunct professor of religious studies at Queens University in Charlotte, NC. He is married to Taisia Mills and has two daughters, Hannah and Emma.

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

2235 Galahad Road
San Diego, CA 92123-3931
Fr. James Bankston, Administrator
Fr. Deacon Jonathan A. Deane

Main: 858-277-2511

Social Hall/Ethnic Foods: 858-268-3458

Email: PastorHASD@gmail.com

Website: www.HolyAngelsSanDiego.com

Facebook: [Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/HolyAngelsByzantineCatholicChurch)

Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Bob Greenwell, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$535.00; Improvement Fund: \$140.00; Renovation Fund: \$50.00; Loose Change: \$69.01;
Retired Religious Fund: \$910.00; Renovation Fund: \$50.00; Bishop's Vestments: \$500.00;
Total: \$2204.01

Vocation Icon: This week: Washicko Family
Next week: Bankston Family

Please sign up in the narthex to host the vocation icon.

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX
SUBSCRIBES TO THE
*Charter for the Protection of
Children and Young People*
adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:

*Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- email: vac@ephx.org*

- or -

*Sbdcn. Paul F. Kilroy
Safe Environment Program Coordinator
Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 -- Cell: (480) 745-0316
email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org*