

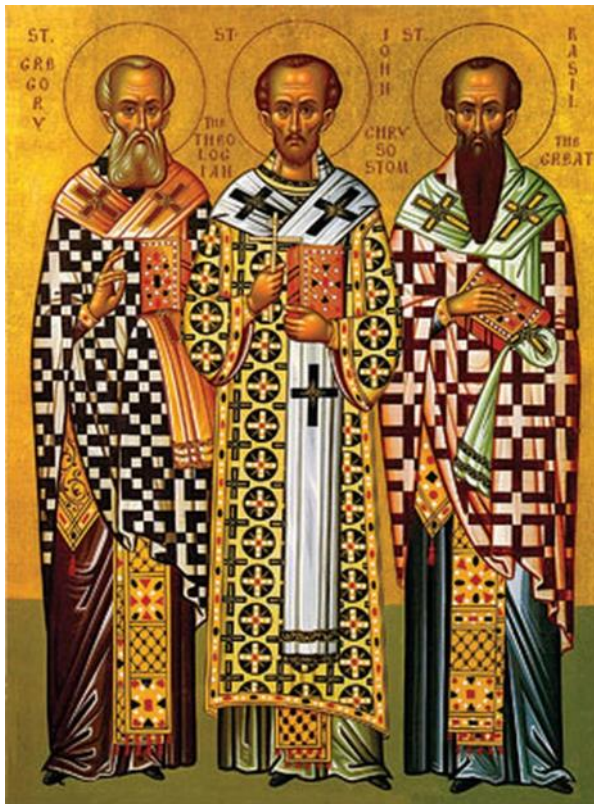


Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία των Ταξιαρχων

1527 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905
203-595-5902 or 5903

Presiding Priest: Fr. Harry Pappas
Pastor Emeritus: Fr. George Poulos

www.archangelsgoc.org - email: office@archangelsgoc.org



Sunday January 31, 2021

15th Sunday of Luke

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

Matthew 28:16-20



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 18/2021

Encyclical on the Feast of the Three Hierarchs and the Day of Greek Letters

January 30, 2021

So, from the very beginning, we must examine each of their teachings, to harmonize it with our ultimate purpose, according to the Doric proverb, “testing each stone by the measuring-line.”
(St. Basil the Great, ADDRESS TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT USE OF GREEK LITERATURE)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America,

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

The Day of Greek Letters is upon us, the Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and Gregory the Theologian. This Feast day was designed to settle the disputes about who was the greatest of the three. And the answer is ... they are all great!

The brilliance of these τρεῖς μεγίστους φωστῆρας τῆς τρισηλίου Θεότητος, “the three great lamps of the Divine Threefold-Sun,” comes not only from their spiritual wisdom and teaching, but from their special appreciation for education in all its forms. Saints Basil and Gregory were graduates of the Academy of Plato. Saint John Chrysostom was regarded as the greatest rhetorician of his age, and studied with a pagan master of the art, Libanius the Sophist. The Three Hierarchs were not afraid of science and learning.

Each of them incorporated the very best from the world of their day, and showed the Church how to put knowledge in the service of faith.

We call Basil “Great,” because he exemplifies how a Hierarchy of the Church should excel in teaching, in pastoral care of all the flock, and in humility. We call John “Chrysostomos” – the “golden tongue,” because his preaching was so inspiring that his words were held more valuable to the soul than a ransom of kings. And we call Gregory “Theologian,” because his orations are filled with the true and Orthodox teaching of the Holy Trinity.

Each of these geniuses infused their spiritual work with all the precious elements they found in Greek Literature and Παιδεία. They all subscribed to the same Doric proverb cited by Saint Basil above, which Saint Gregory also repeats in his Letter xxxviii, and Saint John Chrysostom in his Homily xxv. The wise builder measures each stone as he constructs his house. And as we construct the houses of our souls, we must also measure the material we use. Is it edifying or merely entertaining? Is it wholesome and conducive to our spiritual growth?

The Three Hierarchs found in the libraries of Classical Greece a wealth of knowledge and instruction, and we may find the same for ourselves and our children. Let us celebrate their memory and honor their legacy, by recommitting to preserving our language, culture, and the vast treasure that is Hellenic Παιδεία, which is our rightful inheritance, following in the footsteps of the these “three great lamps of the Divine Threefold-Sun.

With paternal love in Christ Jesus,

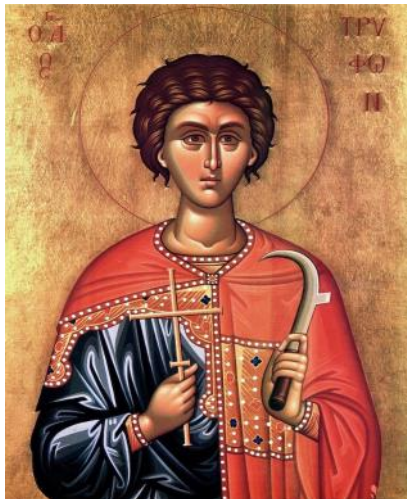
† Ὁ Ἀμερικὴς Ἐπιτοφύροϛ

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

† † † † †
St. Tryphon

February 1

Fr. George Poulos



A third-century shepherd named Tryphon became the lamb of God while yet a boy of seventeen, a martyr and servant of the Lord without formal education or training but endowed with a spiritual grace that superseded the highest learning. Tending a flock offers no credentials for sainthood, but neither does it preclude immortality in as much as the shepherd symbolizes loving care and the serenity which come from a proximity to the Lord. It is doubtful that fate would have cast him in any other role but that of a humble herdsman like those who, we are told, shall inherit the earth.

Tryphon was born during the reign of the Emperor Gordianus, who not only was of Hellenic descent but was also extremely tolerant of Christians, who were considered enemies of the state for their allegiance to the Son of God. When

Tryphon was only seventeen he was touched with the grace of the Holy Spirit and found that there was within him a genuine power of healing. There have always been faith healers in our midst who are soon enough discredited, but this lad had a bona fide divine gift which he did not try to exploit and which was made known to others in spite of his reticence. He divided his time between herding and isolated prayer but was constantly called upon by true believers who sought the benefit of his awe-inspiring spark of divinity.

The Emperor Gordianus had a lovely daughter who suddenly became stricken with a malady which the royal physicians diagnosed as fatal. The distraught emperor in desperation sought the help of soothsayers and self-appointed healers to no avail, and was in utter despair when someone told him of the young shepherds. Tryphon was summoned to Rome from Phrygia, but by the time he arrived the girl was in the throes of death; his task seemed hopeless. He took up a vigil at her bedside and, after bowing his head in prayer for divine intervention, took the girl's hand; the healing power of the Lord coursed her debilitated body and within a few days she was restored to good health.

The grateful emperor lavished on Tryphon gifts whose worth assured him a place of honor far from his humble abode and his lonely hillside, but he chose to turn over everything given him to the poor and return to his flock as impoverished as the days he left. He resumed his ascetic life as a herdsman and, though there is no record of his having been tonsured a monk, he patterned his life after those who dwelled in cloisters, apparently preferring to remain close to nature, content to glory in the serenity which few have known.

At the death of Emperor Gordianus a tyrant named Decius, who was as cruel as his predecessor was lenient, issued among his first official orders a decree that all Christians had to disavow Jesus Christ as their Master or suffer torture and death. Intent on asserting himself as lord and master of all in the realm, he set in motion a reign of terror designed to eliminate Christianity, a campaign of barbarism that made the agony and brutal death of Christians commonplace.

The governor of the Phrygian province, a loathsome myrmidon named Akylinos who curried the emperor's favor by sending him Christians in excess of his quota, exulted in the capture of the renowned Tryphon and dispatched the hapless Christian to the emperor, a prize victim worth several lesser followers of Jesus Christ. This pious prey of vengeful paganism was given the usual interrogation and then commanded to disavow Christ and acknowledge only the gods of the sovereign. Refusing this, Tryphon was put to inhuman torture but refused to recant; he was thereupon led to the executioner's block, where he prayed for God to take him before the blade could descend, and he died for Christ while the axe was yet lifted high.

Three hundred years after his death on 1 February 251, the great Emperor Justinian in the year 552 erected a chapel in his memory, and in A.D. 575 his successor, Justin, honored Tryphon with the erection of one of the finest monasteries of antiquity. The rustic St. Tryphon is considered the patron saint of laborers of the field.



† † † † †
Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες
30 Ιανουαρίου



Κάθε χρόνο, στις 30 Ιανουαρίου, η Χριστιανική Εκκλησία τιμά από κοινού τους τρεις Μεγάλους Πατέρες και Οικουμενικούς Δασκάλους, τον Μέγα Βασίλειο, τον Γρηγόριο τον Θεολόγο και τον Ιωάννη τον Χρυσόστομο. Στην Ελλάδα τιμώνται ως προστάτες της εκπαίδευσης και των γραμμάτων.

Η εορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών εισήχθη στην εκκλησία στα μέσα του 11ου αιώνα από τον λόγιο και μητροπολίτη Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννη Μαυρόποδα (1000-1070), επί αυτοκράτορος Κωνσταντίνου Θ' του Μονομάχου (1000-1055). Σκοπός του Μαυρόποδα ήταν να παρουσιάσει τις τρεις εξέχουσες αυτές προσωπικότητες της Χριστιανοσύνης ως τους κατ' εξοχήν υπερμάχους του τριαδικού δόγματος και να δώσει τέλος στον φατριασμό που σοβούσε στο σώμα της εκκλησίας για το ποιος από τους τρεις ιεράρχες είναι ο σπουδαιότερος. Είναι χαρακτηριστικό ότι την εποχή εκείνη μεγάλος αριθμός ιερωμένων και πιστών είχαν χωριστεί σε τρεις ομάδες: τους Ιωαννίτες, τους Γρηγορίτες και τους Βασιλείτες.

Η εορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών, εκτός από τον εκκλησιαστικό χαρακτήρα, έχει και εκπαιδευτικό στα καθ' ημάς. Θεωρείται ως η εορτή των ελληνικών γραμμάτων, καθόσον οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες συνετέλεσαν στην ανάπτυξη της χριστιανικής

διδασκαλίας, σε συνδυασμό με την ανάπτυξη των αρχαίων ελληνικών γραμμάτων. Ο εκπαιδευτικός χαρακτήρας της εορτής των Τριών Ιεραρχών καθιερώθηκε στις 9 Αυγούστου του 1841 από το ακαδημαϊκό συμβούλιο του Οθωνείου Πανεπιστημίου (νυν Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών) και πρωτογιορτάστηκε στις 30 Ιανουαρίου του 1842. Τα επόμενα χρόνια, ο εορτασμός επεκτάθηκε σ' όλες τις βαθμίδες της εκπαίδευσης.

Απολυτίκιο

Τους τρεις μεγίστους φωστήρας της τρισηλίου Θεότητος, τους την οικουμένην ακτίσι δογμάτων θείων πυρσεύσαντας, τους μελιρρύτους ποταμούς της σοφίας, τους την κτίσιν πάσαν θεογνωσίας νάμασι καταρδεύσαντας, Βασίλειον τον μέγαν, και τον Θεολόγον Γρηγόριον, συν τω κλεινώ Ιωάννη, τω την γλώτταν χρυσορρήμονι, πάντες οι των λόγων αυτών ερασταί, συνελθόντες ύμνοις τιμήσωμεν· αυτοί γαρ τη Τριάδι, υπέρ υμών αεί πρεσβεύουσιν.

Πηγή:<https://www.sansimera.gr/articles/731>



Η φλόγα της αγάπης

*Όταν υπάρχει η φλόγα της αγάπης,
ό,τι κακό πλησιάζει, το κατακαίει.*

Γέροντας Αμφιλόχιος Μακρής



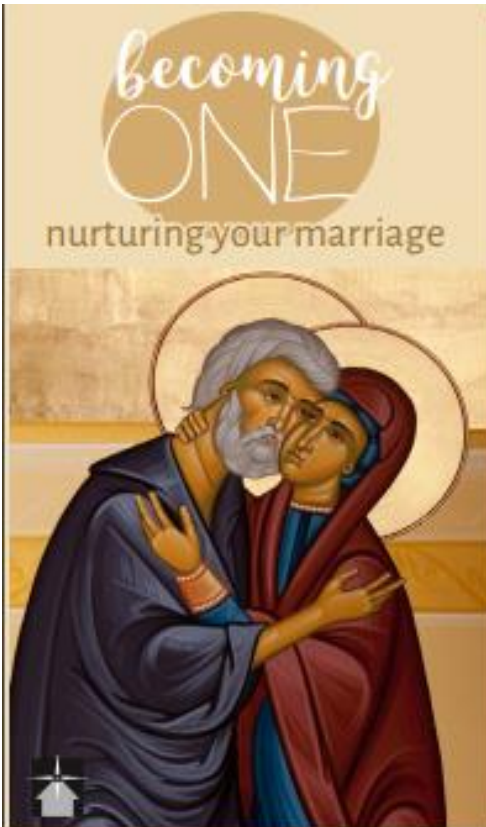
Light a Candle

Visit our website (www.archangelsgoc.org)
and “light a candle” today for yourself,
your family, a loved one or a friend!



Take a Minute for Your Marriage The Impact of COVID-19

www.family.goarch.org



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).

Many of us are experiencing stress, strain and weariness resulting from the months of sheltering in place, possible financial difficulties, illness, the death of loved ones, schooling at home, isolation, lost opportunities, joblessness, and other struggles -- all emanating from the impact of Covid 19. We are experiencing personal, relational and societal "weariness." In this time of some unprecedented challenges, as Orthodox Christians, how are we responding to Jesus' invitation to "come to" Him for rest? Particularly as married persons, let us reflect on how we are "coming" to Christ in our personal and collective weariness, so that this time of struggle and uncertainty will draw us to Him and to one another as husband and wife, rather than create or widen a rift between us.

*Στον ουρανό δεν ανεβαίνει κανείς με το κοσμικό ανέβασμα,
αλλά με το πνευματικό κατέβασμα. Μόνο έτσι, βαδίζοντας
«χαμηλά», χωράει από την στενή πύλη του παραδείσου.*

Όσιος Παΐσιος ο Αγιορείτης

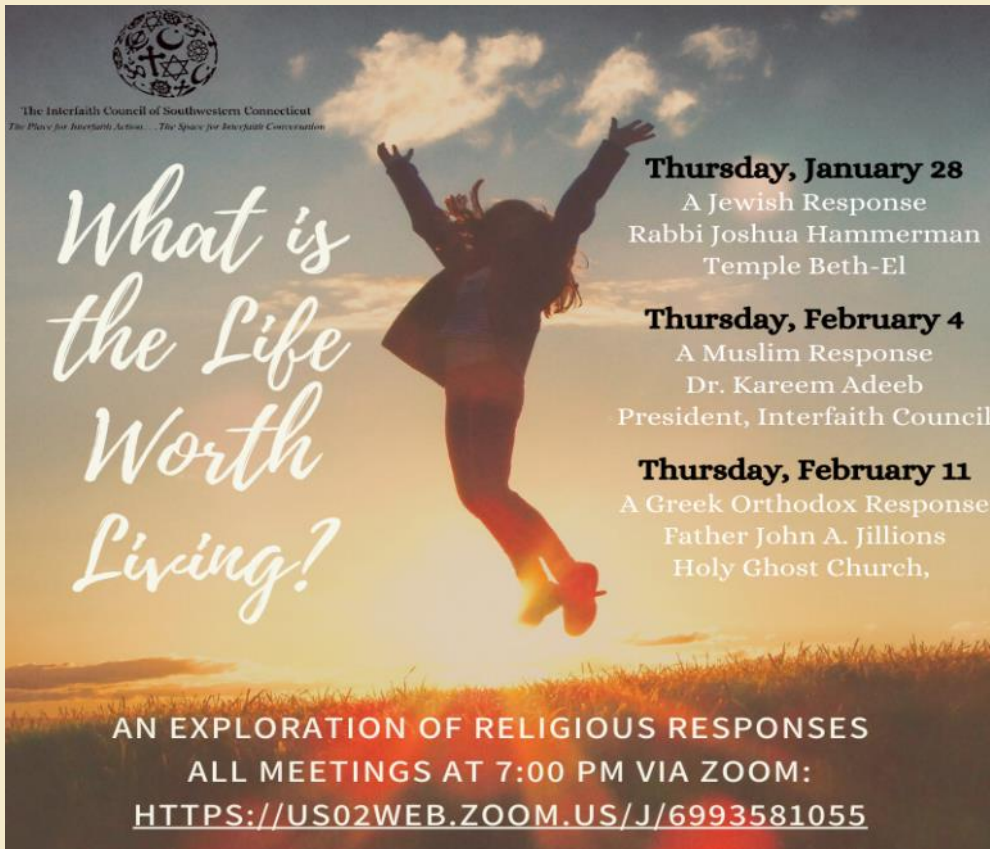



The Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut
The Place for Interfaith Action. . . The Space for Interfaith Conversation

Midwinter Theological Program

Join Each Session Here

9 members of our church participated in the first session on Jan 21, an enriching presentation by Rev. Duane Pederson of St. John's Lutheran on Newfield Avenue. This is publicly available with no advanced reservation. Spread the word as we continue our meaningful encounter with believers from other faith traditions!




The Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut
The Place for Interfaith Action. . . The Space for Interfaith Conversation

*What is
the Life
Worth
Living?*

Thursday, January 28
A Jewish Response
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman
Temple Beth-El

Thursday, February 4
A Muslim Response
Dr. Kareem Adeeb
President, Interfaith Council

Thursday, February 11
A Greek Orthodox Response
Father John A. Jillions
Holy Ghost Church,

AN EXPLORATION OF RELIGIOUS RESPONSES
ALL MEETINGS AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/6993581055](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6993581055)

BIBLE QUOTES



FOR WITH
GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

MARK 10:27

Sign Up Genius - House Blessings

Here is the link for a convenient sign up for us
to pray the annual Blessing of your Home:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D45AEAF29A5FC1-house>

Because of COVID precautions, Fr. Harry is offering to lead this either

1. remotely by Zoom or Facetime (in which you sign up for one 30-minute slot), or
 2. being present physically (in which you sign up for two consecutive 30 minute slots).
- All member households received a bottle of Holy Water with the brief service in English and Greek. Further instructions are included in Sign Up Genius (such as the items you will need). Please note that Fr. Harry has already received the 1st dose of the Pfizer vaccine, with the 2nd dose scheduled for Feb 10.

Father Harry looks forward to being with you one way or another to spend a little time together in such a stressful, isolating year!



*Thank you to all our stewards
and contributors!*

*May our God bless you and
your families always!*

Ένα μεγάλο ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ σε όλους!
Ο Θεός να σας έχει πάντοτε καλά!

Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in the following paragraph?

Actually, there are 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet's name, a variant that's used in the text of the King James Version (not as the title of a book, but in the text itself).

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

We are deeply grateful for all our faithful stewards and contributors, especially those who have completed a pledge card for 2021, and we encourage the rest to do so. Here is the link for the convenient online version -

<https://archangels.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/19/responses/new>

Secret Valentine Gift Exchange for Children

Dear Church Families,

Our Youth Ministry Programs will be hosting a Secret Valentine gift exchange in an effort to spread cheer in our community. Instead of traditional gifts, the exchange can include any Valentine themed items such as decorations, hard candies, singing cards, balloons, small Valentine toys, etc. (No food please) The gift, which is suggested to be no more than \$15 per family, can be sent via mail or contactless personal delivery.

If interested, please RSVP by February 7th using the link below. We will then send you your "secret Valentine family" and forward your family's name to another church family.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/A9sLA9mjVnYrPBPu9>

Warm Regards,
The Youth Ministry Committee

Call the Parish Office for any questions: (203) 595-5902

We are now on Instagram!

Follow us at [@archangelsstamford](https://www.instagram.com/archangelsstamford) to stay up-to-date with our latest news!



Office hours Monday – Friday 8:15am – 3:15pm
All worship is livestreamed; Most meetings still be zoom, some are now onsite

<i>Monday</i>	<i>4:30pm Greek School by Zoom</i>	
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Great Feast of the Meeting of Christ in the Temple 9:00am Orthros 9:30am Liturgy</i>	
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10:30am Pastoral Visit—Preschool 4:30pm Greek School by Zoom 5:00pm “Choosing Civility” Book Discussion by Zoom</i>	<i>6:30pm Youth Basketball 7:30pm Varsity Basketball 9:00pm Men’s Basketball</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>4:00pm Greek School Preschool Story Time by Zoom</i>	<i>7:00pm Interfaith Midwinter Program by Zoom</i>
<i>Friday</i>		
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>5:00pm Family Vespers</i>	
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>8:45am Orthros 10:00am Liturgy</i>	<i>11:20am Memorial Prayers for Phyllanthi, Marina and Ioannis Dragonas</i>

Unfortunately, it is no longer safe to offer even take out coffee and pastry after Liturgy. We will resume Coffee Hour in the future when appropriate. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing guidelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Feb 11 - 7:00pm Interfaith Midwinter Program by Zoom
Feb. 13-14: Secret Valentine Gift Exchange for Children
Feb 24 - 12:00pm Ecumenical Clergy*

LIVESTREAMING

www.archangelsgoc.org or <https://www.facebook.com/archangelsGOC/>

Online Giving

<https://archangelsgoc.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/archangelsGOC/>