Front and Back Covers

The Nativity of Christ Icon, details from a wall painting depicting the wonder of His birth, a rendering which is based on the Biblical narratives as found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Cathedral Office Personnel

For general inquiries, information about stewardship, scheduling a sacrament, or for more information about the Cathedral, please e-mail info@thecathedralnyc.org

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John Paterakis, 2nd Chantor/Office Assistant

Cathedral School

Visit our website: www.cathedralschoolny.org

Cathedral School Board:
Rev. Fr. John Vlahos, Cathedral Dean
Kristine Cecere, Head of School
Dimitra Manis, Chairman of School Board
Elias Lambiris, Treasurer
Barbara Aurecchione-Sherer, Secretary
Peggy Sotiroho Nicholson, Trustee
Jacob Amato, Trustee

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Little Angels (0-3 yrs old):
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Diakonissa Elizabeth Constantine
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Designed and printed
by Inkwell Solutions Inc
Christmas: God’s Arrival Makes All Things New
REV. FR. JOHN VLAHOS, Cathedral Dean


is so pure and invigorating; so filled with endless possibilities. We are overjoyed when we receive a new item and when we give gifts, we likewise give something which is new.

As we celebrate the Birth of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, we must take to heart the fact that He came to offer us a ‘new’ life. The chosen people of God during that time were so looking forward to the arrival of the Messiah. They were filled with the hope that He would come and make things better. Our Lord has come and has given us a new outlook on life. A model of love, service gentleness and purity. A new life that gives us freedom from destructive habits, petty quarrels and guilty feelings.

**For the Lord said,**

**“Behold I make all things new!”**

(Revelation 21:5)

In and through His Birth, Crucifixion and Resurrection, the old has passed away; the new has come. The ‘new’ is the Church, the final and everlasting covenant of God with man, the Kingdom of God on earth. The Church in her mystical reality is the foretaste and experience now of the new age to come, the new life of the new creature in the new heaven and the new earth. For the Lord said, “Behold I make all things new!” The knowledge and experience of this saving fact is given to man in the life of Christ’s Church. It is in the Lord’s house where we are washed, enlightened and sanctified. As a Spiritual Hospital, we enter the Church dirty and we leave clean; we come in wounded and we leave healed; we come in sinners and we leave saints.

Then, as healthy and Spirit-filled Christians, we fulfill our mission of being bridges that connect people to Christ and the Church. And it is our conviction that there is nothing else to be offered and nothing else that is necessary. Our witness is to this conviction and our service is to this end.

In the Parable of the Great Banquet, the master invites numerous people to this Feast, pulling out all the stops and when all is ready, He sends His servants to bring in the guests. Those invited guests made excuses why that could not attend. The angry master told his servants to go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come so that His house may be filled. The servants brought them in, and YET THERE IS STILL ROOM!

Today, my beloved Christian, there is still space in the Master’s House. There are still empty seats in the Master’s House. We are called to:

**Tell the...**

drug dealer there’s still room
convict there’s still room
molested teenager there’s still room
abused wife there’s still room
aged person there’s still room
addicted gambler there’s still room
There is still room in the House that heals, purifies and saves! If we say that the Lord Jesus and His Holy Church are the answer to these crying needs, we must be ready to make every effort and sacrifice to verify our claims by our actions, witnessing and serving with love “not in words and speech, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017**

**December 2016**
- 04 Communion Breakfast – Classes-Rehearsal for Pageant
- 10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal in Church at 11:00 am
- 11 Christmas Pageant Performance in Church & Santa
- 18 Sunday School Classes
- 25 Merry Christmas – No Sunday School Classes

**January 2017**
- 01 Communion Breakfast – Cut the Vassilopita
- 08 Sunday School Classes
- 15 Sunday School Classes – Martin Luther King Weekend
- 22 Sunday School Classes
- 29 Sunday School Classes

**February 2017**
- 05 Communion Breakfast
- 12 Sunday School – Valentine Project
- 19 Sunday School – President’s Weekend
- 26 Sunday School Classes
- 27 Lent Begins

**March 2017**
- 05 Communion Breakfast – Sunday Of Orthodoxy
- 12 Sunday School Classes
- 19 Sunday School Classes
- 26 Sunday School Classes

**April 2017**
- 02 Communion Breakfast
- 09 Palm Sunday – Children carry palms around the Church
- 14 Holy Friday – Children help with flowers during Apokathelosis Service
- 16 Easter Sunday – No Classes
- 23 Sunday School Classes
- 30 Sunday School Classes

**May 2017**
- 07 Sunday School Classes – Communion Breakfast
- 14 Sunday School Classes – Mother’s Day
- 21 Sunday School Classes
- 28 No Classes – Happy Memorial Day

**June 2017**
- 04 Pentecost – Graduation Party
- Happy Summer
- See you all in the Fall
Thanksgiving Day

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Thanksgiving holiday is a joyous day of celebrating the blessings of life. Traditions connected to faith, family, and community have developed in this country, affirming the importance of offering thanks to God for these blessings and recognizing the many ways we are blessed by Him.

We are blessed through God’s compassion and care for all that He has created. Our Lord asked, Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:26) He knows our needs, even those we think are small and insignificant. Because God’s love and provision are always with us, because He created us and sustains us by His grace, we give thanks.

We are blessed through God’s wondrous power of His grace. It is a power that heals, redeems, protects, and saves. The Apostle Paul proclaimed this power by stating, For by grace you have been saved through faith; and it is not of your own doing, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8) We accept this gift by faith and with thanksgiving. We offer thanks to God in communion with Him through the Holy Eucharist, a communal act filled with grace. Because God loves us and by His grace seeks to restore us to eternal fellowship with Him, we give thanks.

We are blessed because in Him we have life, and we have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

We are blessed because in Him we have life, and we have it abundantly. (John 10:10) He created us in His image and has given us the breath of life. Through Christ we see life as it should be lived. We see the path to meaningful life. In Him life has purpose and direction, and our lives begin a journey of faith that leads us from abundant to eternal life. We give thanks for the blessing of life.

We are blessed with the anticipation of salvation and glory to come. (Revelation 19:1) We are thankful to God that so many before us have endured for our sake so that in the words of the Apostle Paul we may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. (II Timothy 2:10) Because we have hope in deliverance, joy in the light of the Resurrection, and assurance in God’s promises, we give thanks.

As you observe Thanksgiving Day, may all of these blessings be on your hearts and minds. May this be a day of giving thanks to God for His grace, and may His abundant blessings be on each of you and your families. Through your thanksgiving and your joy in His blessings may you offer a witness to the world of the life and love we have in Him. Have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

With paternal love in Christ,
† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

We are blessed because in Him we have life, and we have it abundantly. (John 10:10)
Notes from the Choir Loft...

Cathedral Choir Celebrates 40 Years of Holiday Concerts!

On December 22nd, 1976, the late Maestro and former Cathedral Music Director Dr. Dino Anagnost began a tradition of musical excellence. Entitled “Candlelight Christmas Concert”, the Cathedral Choir was joined by the Orpheon Chorale and the American Symphony Orchestra in a program of holiday carols and masterworks, in addition to Byzantine Chant. Music critics called it one of the highlights of a jam-packed New York City holiday concert schedule.

Today, the concert series is going strong at 40 years old, with the renowned Cathedral Choir performing the 40th annual Christmas Concert under the leadership of music director Evey Simon. The concert program consists of works by Brahms and Berlioz that were included on the very first program, in addition to holiday favorites and carols, among them Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia on Christmas Carols with Baritone soloist Costas Tsourakis.

Here’s to 40 more years of joyful music!

METROPOLITAN OPERA DEBUT!

From January 9th–February 11th 2017, Karolina Pilou will be performing the role of Berta in Rossini’s famous opera, “The Barber of Seville”. Tickets can be purchased at metopera.org. You can also hear her every Sunday as a member of the Cathedral Choir!

The cathedral choir congratulates Karolina on this amazing accomplishment and wishes her continued success in all future endeavors. See you at the Met!

Visit The Cathedral Choir on Facebook and YouTube: Search “Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir”

CATHEDRAL GREEK DANCE TROUPE

The Cathedral Greek Dance Troupe, Συνεχιστες, is a ministry for adults and young professionals to learn traditional folk dances from all over Greece. While being a ministry of the church for over a decade, the troupe has continued to grow. We have participated in various performances and performed at various events.

As we continue to grow we plan on integrating such various such workshops and performances into our calendar. We also hope to perform at festivals around NJ/NY. In the upcoming year we will host fundraising events to purchase στολές for our group.

We, Συνεχιστες, invite everyone to join us every Monday night at the Cathedral undercroft at 7:30 pm. Come dance and socialize!

For more information, please contact Alexandra Devaris at: cathedraldancegroup@gmail.com.
THE ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
PRESENT
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF
HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS, GERON OF AMERICA

40TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
7:30PM
Holy Trinity Cathedral
319 East 74th Street

FEATURING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND FAVORITES BY BRAHMS, BERLIOZ AND MORE!

Tickets:
$100
$75
$50
General Seating
By Section

Tickets also available at the door
Raffle and reception to follow

To purchase tickets:
www.thecathedralnyc.org or call 212-288-3215
81st Archdiocesan Cathedral Gala

On September 17th, 2016 the 81st Cathedral Gala convened at the illustrious Park Plaza with great success thanks to the dedication and support of our own Community’s stewards who were eager to respond to the invitation and join the festal occasion. Justin Bozonelis and Madelene Lambiris were the resourceful and tireless Chairs who organized and promoted the event also honoring the very generous Peter C. Georgiopoulos.

Photos: Dimitrios Panagos
Eighty-first Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
Eighty-first Gala

Photos: Dimitrios Panagos
CATHEDRAL LIFE

Cathedral Fellowship Bookstore Review

I feel richer for having the memoir; “Trained to be an OSS Spy,” placed in my hands. It is a book that engages all of the senses of the reader and places them in a very unique time and place. I hail from a family of war veterans. Looking back at my one year in Vietnam, (1969-1970 as a draftee) my experience pales in comparison to that of the Honorable Helias Doundoulakis. His service validates the accolade, “the Greatest Generation.” However, I am still amazed about how wartime service at a young age is often the most intense and unforgettable life situation any person will have.

This monumental work takes one on an adventure comparable to that of Homer’s, “The Odyssey.” Helias Doundoulakis poignantly describes his harrowing escape from occupied Crete to Cairo for intelligence training. From there he is inserted into strategic Salonica. His task is to secretly provide vital information to the American Command.

Much like Odysseus, he uses his many tools of resourcefulness and cunning to carry out his mission and avoid detection. He was continuously hunted by the Nazis as he sent over 400 encrypted messages via a wireless radio. Capture would have meant certain torture and death.

Helias’ wartime heroics are complimented by his many laudable achievements in civilian life. They include his 30 years plus as a prominent civil engineer at Grumman Aerospace Corporation. His crowning achievement was the patent for the largest radio telescope in the world designed with his brother George. He was an accomplished writer, artist, and musician.

Helias Doundoulakis legacy includes his wife of 63 years Rita and four children and 10 grandchildren.

Reviewed by Nicholas Zabarakos

AT THE CATHEDRAL FELLOWSHIP BOOKSTORE

Trained to be an OSS Spy:
A memoir by Helias Doundoulakis

The month of November has been a busy time for the HOPE & JOY ministry of our Cathedral. The children participated in an outreach project where they prepared over 80 bagged lunches that were donated to the Jan Hus Church. The children had a wonderful time helping their community along with applying themes we have discussed during some of our meetings. With Thanksgiving approaching, the children showed their gratitude to our armed forces by preparing 25 “cards of thanks” along with phone cards that will be sent to active duty soldiers stationed in Kuwait. Both these projects were made possible through the generous donation of the Cathedral Philoptochos.

If you would like for your child to be a part of this awesome ministry, it’s never too late to join. Our December meetings are December 2nd and December 16th at 6:00 in the Cathedral School undercroft.
Cathedral Students Receive High Honors in Greek Language Exam

The Cathedral School is very proud to announce that sixteen of their lower and middle school students recently received honors certificates for Ellinomathaià, the Greek Language exam. Students who participated in this exam were tested on their Greek reading, writing, and speaking proficiency. They achieved exceptional results, a tribute to the collaborative efforts of the school’s Greek language department and its dedicated and hard working students.

Certificates were awarded through the Center of the Greek Language in Thessaloniki, which organizes worldwide certification exams in Greek Language Proficiency, in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Education, Culture and Religious affairs. Among other items, the certificate provides any user of Greek, “with an expert and objective opinion regarding the level of their knowledge and language skills, and serves as proof of the successful candidate’s level of attainment in Greek in the work market.”

This accomplishment represents a significant undertaking by the teachers, the school, and the students and is a testament to the interdisciplinary approach in which Greek is taught as a foreign language at Cathedral. “Our foreign language apprenticeship is seamlessly woven throughout the curriculum. Students consistently learn how to speak Greek through traditional language classes and also through literature, theatre, art and mythology. For instance, they have read The Odyssey in English and in Greek. Our students should be very proud of this language proficiency certificate, and the hard work they undertook to prepare for the exam,” said Head of School Kristine Cecere.

As a school with over 65 years of experience in educating young students Nursery-8th grade, The Cathedral School, offers a rigorous academic education in a small and supportive learning environment. At its foundation, The Cathedral School upholds its Orthodox and Christian values and Hellenic heritage. With a low student-teacher ratio, an international student body and placement of graduates in the city’s best high schools, The Cathedral School continues its legacy of preparing children for the complexities and challenges of the world beyond school.
In conjunction with the November 8th Feast of the Archangels, St. Michael’s annually hosts a Name Day Gala to celebrate the many accomplishments of the Home since opening its doors in May of 1958. For almost 60 years, this Archdiocesan institution has offered quality care to the elderly of our community in a loving Greek Orthodox environment and has evolved into a stellar facility with increasing demands for the services it offers.

As guests entered the Metropolitan Club Sunday, November 13th, there was already a buzz of excitement as this year’s gala also marked the official start of the facility’s Capital Campaign to raise the necessary funds to transform the 90,000 square foot building on the recently purchased 11 acre Uniondale property into a state-of-the-art continuum care facility of the Archdiocese. This expansion is needed in response to the growing needs of the elderly population and will increase the capacity of the current facility from 60 to over 160 residents and levels of care from one to four, including independent and assisted living as well as nursing and dementia wings.

Also during the gala, the Home annually presents the Archangel Michael Award to distinguished members of the community who promote the finer qualities and traditions of our Greek Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Heritage. This year the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to honor Efstathios & Stamatiki Valiotis for their devotion to their Church and community and for their philanthropy to many worthy causes including a number of parishes and schools of the Archdiocese.

On Sunday night a sold out crowd of two hundred and fifty guests, many being Cathedral members, joined together with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, a number of diplomats, civic leaders and dignitaries representing organizations of the Archdiocese and residents of the Home in the magnificent setting overlooking Central Park. The program began with an introduction from Gala Chairperson, Efthalia Katos and then continued with Board of Trustee President, Haeda Mihaltses who spoke passionately about the kick off for the expansion project and stressed the importance of building a larger facility for our community and preserving the mission set forth by Archbishop Michael who founded the Home to care for those encumbered by old age.

The evening also marked the debut of a video presentation highlighting the exemplary and unique care offered by the Home and the need for the expanding the services St. Michael’s offers. Board of Trustee Vice-President Peter Lambros then proceeded to the podium to introduce the recipients of the 2016 Archangel Michael Award, Efstathios and Stamatiki Valiotis. During acceptance Mr. Valiotis announced that his family was commit-
ting $10,000,000 to this exciting and much needed endeavor to expand the Home. This gift represents the largest single donation to an institution of the Archdiocese and was greeted with a prolonged standing ovation along with all in attendance.

The donation of the Valtiots Family puts the Home’s Expansion Fund over 15 million dollars in pledged contributions for this long awaited dream of the Greek American community. The goal of the campaign is to raise $25 million dollars to transform the property once owned by the Rockville Center Roman Catholic Diocese into the new magnificent home of St. Michael’s with 27 one-bedroom independent living apartments, 49 studio bedrooms for independent and assisted living, a fully equipped wing with 14 nursing home beds and a secure lockdown wing for 28 residents who suffer from severe dementia/Alzheimer’s.

Reflective of the trends in the general population, the number of Greek Orthodox elderly continues to grow exponentially and because of medical advances are living longer thus needing greater care as they reach higher ages. To respond to this need, St. Michael’s, the only Greek Orthodox elder care facility under the aegis of the Archdiocese, has embarked upon this expansion. This year’s event will always be remembered for the overwhelming magnanimity of Mr. & Mrs. Valtiots who serve as an inspiration and example for others in the community.

To secure a copy of our Capital Campaign Brochure or to find out more about this exciting project including a list of Naming Opportunities, please visit the Home’s website at www.stmichaelshome.org/expansion or contact our Development Office at 914-327-3066.
2016 Stewardship as of December 9th, 2016

As of December 9th we have received 362 pledges in the amount of $372,000. Thank you to the following stewards who have sent in their pledges. If any names have been mistakenly omitted from this list, please notify the church office and we will make corrections in our next newsletter.

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We thank you all for a fruitful 2016. Please continue to support the Cathedral through your Time, Talent and Treasure so that 2017 can be just as successful!
The 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention celebrating the 85th anniversary of philanthropy, fellowship and faith, took place on July 3-8, 2016, in Nashville, Tennessee. The participation of our membership made it possible for our Philoptochos to once again receive the National Philoptochos Award of Excellence in recognition of “National Ministry Commitments for 100% participation in the Years 2014 & 2015”.

Since 1989, the National Philoptochos Society and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF (USF) have been partnering closely to strengthen UNICEF’s mission to protect children worldwide by supporting UNICEF’s emergency relief efforts, education programs, USF’s End Trafficking project, and more. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is one of our annual commitments to the National Philoptochos for the month of December. National Philoptochos presented UNICEF with a check in the amount of $50,000 to be allocated where it is needed most. The organization's generous support comes at a crucial time for all children globally. UNICEF implements programs that improve children's lives through lifesaving interventions for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, social inclusion, child protection and HIV & AIDS.

The Welfare Committee was exceptionally busy this summer supporting families and individuals in need. In August we participated in the Louisiana disaster relief by helping students of the Metropolis of Atlanta get school supplies for the new school year.

The popular Luncheon and a Movie General Meeting was held on October 2, 2016, celebrating the tenth Annual Greek Film Festival. The Luncheon took place at Molyvos, followed by the film Cloudy Sunday directed by Manoussos Manoussakis. It was well attended.

Our annual major fundraiser, the Chrysanthemum Ball, took place at the Mandarin Oriental, New York on November 11, 2016. This year we honored a very special lady, Ms. Helen Chiotes, a 40-year veteran of CBS, who was instrumental in arranging the first television broadcast of the Divine Liturgy from the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New York during the Christmas season. Ms. Chiotes, a philanthropist and devoted member of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, has recently made a very generous donation to our beloved church, which was earmarked towards the renovation of the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall. Our community is grateful for her support and generosity.

One of the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Regional Leadership Training Meetings took place in the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall, on Monday, October 3, 2016. It was open to all Philoptochos members. The meeting was very informative and highly interactive.
The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos partnered with GOYA, JOY, and HOPE on November 16, 2016, to make one hundred sandwiches to benefit the homeless, for the Make A Difference Day. This is a National Philoptochos initiative, which encourages children nationwide to do their very own good deed on National Make A Difference Day.

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos is hosting the annual Christmas Angel Tree and General Meeting on December 6, 2016, at 6pm at the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall. This year the gifts will benefit “Room to Grow”, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of babies born into poverty throughout their critical first three years of development. To participate, select a star from the Angel Tree and purchase a much needed baby item suitable for a child under the age of three. All items must be new and unwrapped. “Philoptochos Now” is the topic of this General Meeting. Jennifer Constantin, President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos, will be the guest speaker. There will also be Christmas boutiques for our members and friends who would like to do holiday shopping.

Please support the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Agape Luncheon on December 10, 2016.

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos will once again welcome the New Year by sponsoring the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall following the New Year’s Day Divine Liturgy.

We have fulfilled our National obligations including:

- Hellenic College Holy Cross Scholarship Fund
- Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund
- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
- Ecumenical Patriarchate
- National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Benevolent Fund
- UNICEF
- General Medical Fund

The Feed the Homeless Program together with Jan Hus Church continues every Tuesday to provide a meal for about 100 homeless and low-income individuals.

We also continue to support our social welfare cases, helping individuals and families in crisis.

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society continues to sponsor the coffee hour every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ!**

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Please visit our website, www.ac-philoptochos.com, for the latest news!

*Chrysanthemum Ball images courtesy of Dimitrios Panagos*
For up-to-date information on our activities, please visit [http://www.thecathedral.goarch.org](http://www.thecathedral.goarch.org).

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The Cathedral School
Admissions Open House
Tuesday, January 24th, 6 to 7:30 pm

Please join us at our informative Open House.
Tour the school, meet with our faculty and staff, and speak with our Head of School.

To register for our Open House please contact the Admissions Office at info@cathedralschoolny.org or call (212) 249-2840.

Pursuing Excellence in Body, Mind & Spirit
319 East 74th Street, New York City
www.cathedralschoolny.org

A Classical Education for the Modern World

To advertise in the CathedraLife contact Catherine Moutoussis at catherinemts@aol.com
For up-to-date information on our activities, please visit http://www.thecathedral.goarch.org.
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Join us for Christmas, New Years and Epiphany