

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

October - November, 2020

From the Desk of
Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos

Parish Registry, Progress Report
Upcoming Church Services and Events

Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From the Desk of Fr. Angelo

Retaining Young People in Our Churches through Positive Mentoring

At one of my recent Sunday sermons, I spoke about the importance and impact that positive mentoring can have on retaining our young adults (25-40 years old) in our Annunciation church Community. This topic has been one of the issues this parish, along with many other in the Archdiocese, continue to face. This problem is not isolated to Orthodox Churches but is also a problem among the other organized Christian faiths, namely Catholic, Protestant and some Non-Denominational faiths as well.

The Pew Research Group conducted a poll on young people across the country that grew up in faith communities and asked why their church attendance was waning. Common themes include:

- “unbelief” stemming from rational thought/science;
- they perceive a lack of authenticity in believers’ actions;
- dislike of a stagnant organized religion

About half (49%) of current ‘lost’ young people who were raised in a religion, indicate that a lack of belief led them to move away from religion. This includes many respondents who mention “science” as the reason they do not believe in religious teachings including one who said, “I’m a scientist now, and I don’t believe in miracles.” Others reference, “theological ideas don’t make common sense, lack logic or a lack of evidence to foster belief.” Many of them, embarrassed to admit this directly, simply say they don’t go to church because they are too busy.

A similar share (18%), say they are religiously agnostic but say they are religious in some way (i.e., “I believe in God, but in my own way” or “I’m seeking enlightenment” or “I want something more open minded,” and finally the catch phrase of today; “I’m spiritual but not religious.”

These findings show us the huge potential impact that thoughtful, logical, and relevant discussions can have on re-welcoming people to the Christian faith. Studies like this give us data on what we need to focus on to be effective in reaching out and connecting with lost young people but to do this we ourselves must understand and effectively relay the deep truths of Orthodoxy.

One other important thing this data tell us is that the problem is not caused merely by issues such as ethnicity or language. On the contrary, *very Americanized churches*, which use only English in their worship without any specific culture, suffer from the same problem of apostasy. In other words, the issue is *much deeper than people want it to be*, and is far greater than switching the language of the liturgy. In fact, there are studies that indicate that most American teenagers and adults do not understand the theological or spiritual lessons in hymns or worship services, *regardless of language* or style. This indicates that popular “quick fixes” such as using only English, updating the music, or using contemporary worship strategies, etc., do not make the impact we think they do.

From personal experience, the vast majority of young people who have returned to the Orthodox faith have done so after long discussions with answers to specific questions they have with honest and relevant answers.

This is why I am convinced that our *Thursday Orthodoxy Questions and Answers* sessions have become so popular as they feel free to ask any question, they want...with the understanding that the Orthodox Church is not there to placate them or answer in a judgmental manner but to provide an honest and direct position of the Orthodox Church in America.

Data collected from the National Study of Youth and Religion show that there are three main factors that contribute to a young person retaining their religious tradition into adulthood:

1. The young person's parents practiced the faith **in the home and in daily life**, not just in public or churchly settings.
2. The young person had at least one significant adult mentor or friend, other than parents, who practiced the faith seriously.
3. The young person had at least one significant spiritual experience before the age of 17.

This could then be summed up to say that a person is most likely to retain Christian faith throughout adult life if he or she had *three meaningful and healthy relationships in their early to mid-teenage years*: one with faithful Christian parents, one with a faithful Christian mentor outside of the family, and one with God Himself.

In addition, while all three relationships are important, what a young person **observes in the actions and daily life** of his or her parents and their faith community is also critically important to avoid issues with regards to hypocrisy.

What we must keep foremost in our minds is that the next generation will be driven from our church mostly because the local church (i.e., community) does not follow the lessons of the Great Master Teacher – our Lord Jesus Christ.





PARISH REGISTRY



Baptisms:



Anastasia Victoria Graham – Parents Edward Zachary and Agathi Georgiou Graham



George Philip Demkos – Parents Philip & Kim Demkos



Pavlos Anestis Panitsidis – Parents George & Sarah Ann Panitsidis



Eleanore Rose Daggett -Parents David Daggett & Zoe Kostarellis



Efthimios Dragos – Parents Sam & Christina Dragos



Joseph Daniel Zaov – Parents George & Jennifer Zaov



40-day Blessing:



Child of God: Nolan Anastasios Lumb



Weddings:



19 September – Denny Jay Pooler and Melpomeni Karras



3 October – Ioannes Zaromitdis and Sarah Nicole Bartz



Memoriam: May their memory be eternal.



Georgia Liounis – Interred on September 11, 2020



Anastasia Tahou – Interred on September 25, 2020



Olympia “Bea” Stathe – Interred on September 26, 2020



Marion “Mini” Roussos – Interred on October 6, 2020



Daniel “Danny” Manou – Interred on October 8, 2020



Kostantinos “Gus” Zegas – Interred on October 17, 2020



EVENTS:

- 1 November – Daylight saving time ends
- 3 November – Election Day
- 3 November – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 5 November – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 10 November - Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 11 November – Veteran’s Day
- 12 November - Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 15 November – Good News submission deadline
- 15 November – Nativity Fast begins
- 15 November - Fall General Assembly Tentative, 12:00 PM
- 17 November – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 19 November – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 21 November - Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos, 10:00 AM
- 22 November – Philoptochos Bake Sale – Orders to be picked up on Sunday, November 22nd.
- 24 November – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 25 November – St. Catherine, 10:00 AM
- 25 November - Joint Paraklesis, Annunciation, 6:00 PM
- 26 November – Thanksgiving Day – Office closed
- 27 November – Thanksgiving Day – Office closed
- 30 November - Divine Liturgy - St. Andrew, 10:00 AM
- 1 December - Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 3 December – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 4 December – Taste of Greece – Church hall – 11:30 AM – 7:00 PM
- 5 December – Taste of Greece – Church hall – 11:30 AM – 7:00 PM
- 6 December – Taste of Greece – Church hall – 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

AGENDA – FALL General Assembly 2020

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, immediately following the Divine Liturgy service we will be having the **Fall General Assembly meeting**. **Due to the current COVID restrictions the GA will be held in church and also livestreamed. We will be able to take questions via chat from the livestream.**

Please see the Agenda below and we look forward to seeing you there and ask that you encourage you to attend.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Call to Order | PC President |
| 2. Opening Prayer | Fr. Angelo |
| 3. Elections | Jim Stathopoulos |
| 4. Approval of previous General Assembly Minutes | Meeting Chairperson |
| 5. Treasurer Report and Stewardship | Eric Vangellow |
| 6. Ministry and Organization Reports | |
| a. Fund Raising Events | |
| • Golf Outing | Jim Stathopoulos |
| • Holiday Bazaar | |
| b. Communications Ministry | |
| b. Religious Education | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>In the interest of time and to allow ample time for a full and open discussion all ministry updates will be provided at the General Assembly meeting.</p> </div> |
| c. Philoptochos | |
| d. Choir/Chant | |
| e. GOYA | |
| f. Greek School | |
| g. Seniors Group | |
| h. Cultural Groups | |
| h. Cultural Groups | |
| 7. Call for Questions | |
| 8. General Maintenance and Upkeep | |
| 9. Old Business | |
| 10. New Business | |
| a. Limited use of the Hall | |
| 11. Call for Adjournment | GA Chairman |
| 12. Closing Prayer | Fr. Angelo |



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TASTE *of* GREECE

DECEMBER 4-6, 2020

FRIDAY, DEC. 4: 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5: 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6: 12 - 4 p.m.

Order Ahead
Qty.

MENU

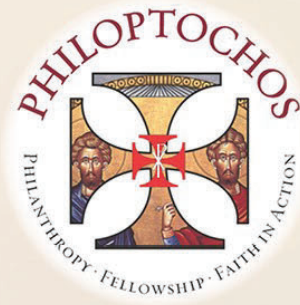
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gyro Pita _____ | \$8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mousaka Dinner <i>served with Greek salad and side of pita bread</i> _____ | \$12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tyropita _____ | \$6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Spanakopita _____ | \$6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Side Greek Salad _____ | \$3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Avgolemono soup _____ | \$4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loukoumades _____ | \$8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Baklava <i>small container (2 pieces)</i> _____ | \$7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Baklava <i>large container (6 pieces)</i> _____ | \$15 |

To Place An Order: (585) 244-3377 or agocevents@gmail.com
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CHURCH HALL - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Please Wear Your Masks - We will be Following All Proper COVID-19 Guidelines



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Philoptochos Pre-Order
BAKE SALE

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT A LOCAL
 PHILANTHROPIC CHARITY



Whole Pie Pita (<i>Spanakopita, Tyropita or Prassopita- approximately 30 pieces</i>)_____	\$40
1/4 Pita (<i>Spanakopita, Tyropita or Prassopita</i>)_____	\$12
Baklava (<i>Greek Dessert Pastry - 8 pieces</i>)_____	\$15
Koulourakia (<i>Greek Butter Cookies - 12 pieces</i>)_____	\$7
Tsoureki (<i>Greek Sweet Easter Bread</i>)_____	\$12
Kourabiedes (<i>Greek Cookies with Sugar - 12 pieces</i>)_____	\$10

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ORDER _____ TOTAL _____

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ORDERS DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Cash and/or Checks Made Out To: Philoptochos

Orders to be Picked Up in the Church Hall the Sunday Before Thanksgiving – November 22
Please Wear Your Masks - We will be Following All Proper COVID-19 Guidelines

CHURCH OPERATION PROCEDURES DURING COVID – FACT SHEET

The following represent a set of guidelines for us to following to reopen our church and maintain conformance to current State and Metropolis guidelines. This Fact Sheet highlights the most critical aspects of church operation while COVID precautions remain in place. **FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ON OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES PLEASE REFER TO THE FULL CHURCH OPERATIONAL POLICY THAT IS POSTED ON OUR CHURCH WEBSTIE at annunciationrochester.org.**

All requirements presented here are considered mandatory for each parishioner working, visiting or worshipping here at Annunciation.

1. GENERAL CHURCH ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

- State and Metropolis guidelines require us to record the names and phone numbers of each attendee at every service in the event that a subsequent infection requires tracing.
- Currently we are maintaining a 25% occupancy rate which for our church is 125 persons. This is currently the Metropolis mandate. As church attendance increases, we will adapt some type of reservation process to ensure we maintain this occupancy rate.
- All on-site Religious Education (Sunday School) and Greek School are suspended until further notice.

2. POLICY DURING ANY SERVICES

- Before entering church, the temperature of each person will be taken by a designated person. If the temperature is above 100.4°, they will politely be asked to return to their home.
- All monetary offers for donations will only be accepted at the Narthex in the tray.
- Please restrict your movement during the time services are being conducted and masks are required any time you are not seated.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- Communicants must line up row by row to be released by a Narthex attendant. You must remain six feet apart as designated by social distancing X's that have been placed in the church.
- Masks may only be removed **momentarily** to receive Holy Communion.
- The red communion cloths will not be used. In its place, a napkin will be handed to the parishioner for their personal use, which will be discarded after receiving Holy Communion in a provided receptacle.
- The communion spoon will be sanitized in boiling water after EACH use by the communicant.
- Antidoron will be distributed in plastic bags at the end of the service.

4. AFTER SERVICES

- Clergy will wear a mask during distribution of Holy Communion and mask and gloves when distributing antidoron and will not offer their hands for reverence.
- There will be no shaking of hands or hugs.
- Sunday Coffee Fellowship hours are suspended until further notice.

CHURCH SANCTUARY, ALTAR AND NARTHEX AREAS WILL BE CLEANED AND SANITIZED BETWEEN EACH SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CDC GUIDELINES, ESPECIALLY OBJECTS THAT ARE ROUTINELY TOUCHED, LIKE DOOR HANDLES OR PEWS.

Annunciation Policies

MEMORIAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTION POLICY

All monies received during a funeral or memorial service that are made out to the church, that is, checks marked with “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church” or cash with the envelope marked with “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church” will be used for purposes in support of church operation.

These could include support of recognized church ministries, sacramental articles purchased for the church proper or for ongoing campaigns such as Hall Renovation or other capita improvements.

If it is desired that these monies are to be used for other wishes that the family may have the family must ensure that they announce that these checks or cash be designated as such.

All monies received for funerals are tracked, and family members will receive a listing of those who donated and a total amount of the donation, typically within 40-60 days following the date of the funeral. In addition, for all monies received designated “*Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*,” donors will receive a letter thanking them for their donation to the church in memory of the deceased.

POLICY FOR DOCUMENT PREPARATION:

There is a required processing charge of \$40 per document. This charge covers research, preparation and routing of documents such as Certificate of Residency, Certificate of Freedom to Marry, Reissued Marriage Certificate, Reissued Baptism Certificate and Certificate of Death. Additional documents are \$20.00 per document.

WEDDINGS:

We have wedding candles in the office for purchase which is required at the time of the ceremony. The donation for the plain one is \$30.00. \$100 would be for the decorated ones. Lena has them in the office. Also, available are four sets of Stefanos while they last. The donation for each of these is \$100 a pair.

BAPTISMS:

We also have baptismal candles, \$30 for the large plain candle and \$7 each for the two (2) smaller plain candles. If you are interested in purchasing decorated candles, the larger one is \$50, the two (2) smaller ones are \$25 for the set.

MEMORIALS:

Coffee Hour scheduling for family memorials is the responsibility of the Philoptochos unless other arrangements have been made by the family sponsoring the Memorial. The family which is sponsoring the Memorial is asked to :

1. Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange scheduling for Coffee Hour that day. The Secretary will contact the Philoptochos President.
2. Arrange for or pay for Coffee Hour food items that are in excess of the standard menu (coffee, drinks, and simple snacks).
3. Coordinate the preparation and delivery of Koliva (if used). The Philoptochos or Church office can provide information on persons who can prepare Koliva. The standard rate for the preparation of koliva is \$150 .



When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation. Because of your devotion to the Friends program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service. I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout the Metropolis of Detroit in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response, I remain, with paternal blessings and prayers,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit

MORE INFO AT:
WWW.DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG/FRIENDS

GENERAL SUPPORT
Fully fund the general expenses of the Metropolis office, including programs and travels.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS
Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society. Participate in inter-Christian and interfaith activities. Provide quick responses to national and international disasters.

EDUCATION
Enhance various scholarship opportunities, adult education programs, and support Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

HELLENISM
Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history, and arts.

CLERGY/PARISH SUPPORT
Develop and provide instructional seminars and services for clergy and parishes.

YOUTH MINISTRIES
Support the youth & young adult ministries, including our summer camps, as well as the activities of a full-time Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

LEADERSHIP
Organize Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Youth Worker and Religious Education Training, and Adult Education Seminars.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
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In order to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to increase awareness among our community of the broad range of experience and services available from our parishioners, we are inviting both parishioners and any vendors to our church to consider advertising in our monthly newsletter. Just complete the form below and mail, email or drop off to the church office. For email use office@agocroc.org



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact _____ Email _____

<p>ADVERTISING OPTIONS:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Page.....\$500/yr</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Half Page.....\$300/yr</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business Card\$150/yr</p>	<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Newsletter is printed 11 months per year as June/July is a combined newsletter</p> <p>For best quality, artwork should be high resolution jpeg files or similar</p> <p>Emailed ads must be 600 dpi or greater PDF</p> <p>Please include or email artwork</p>
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PARISH INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

Voice: (585) 244-3377

Web: AnnunciationRochester.org | RochesterGreekFestival.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester

Office and scheduling requests: office@agocroc.org

Stewardship and finance related questions: finance@agocroc.org

CLERGY:

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: agocny@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Secretary: Lena L. Livecchi

Email: Office@agocroc.org

Submit Good News Articles to: goodnews@agocroc.org

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