

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

January-February, 2021

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

Truth Matters

As is probably no surprise to anyone, a recent study by Edelman's annual Trust Barometer found that credibility in traditional media such as TV news, Radio, and Facebook, has declined to an all-time low with the following statistics.

- 56% of Americans agree with the statement that "Journalists and reporters are purposely trying to mislead people by saying things they know are false or gross exaggerations."
- 58% think that "most news organizations are more concerned with supporting an ideology or political position than with informing the public."

For those of us who grew up depending on the trustworthy reporting of Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, and Peter Jennings (to name a few), today's reporting seems to have taken on a bias and in fact rather than unbiased reporting, people can find a news source that will cater to their particular beliefs.

These statistics are alarming since the distortion of truth is done with a specific objective in mind; that "truth" is not presented as objective and unbiased truth but is altered to fit the reality of a particular ideology. The alteration of truth to fit a particular ideology is nothing new to the history of the Christian Church. Throughout Her history, she has struggled against people and institutions that have sought to alter the teaching of the Church (note: capital C – Church) for personal gain or for the promotion of radical ideologies. Examples include:

- The Romans presenting Christians as cannibals who eat and drink "flesh and blood."
- The Spanish Inquisition executing those determined to be "against Church doctrine."
- Persecution of innocent people during the Salem Witch Trials based on fabricated testimony.

While these are clearly harsh examples of violently misguided uses of Truth, there are more subtle examples which many of us face today and I will discuss in more detail in my next article.

The model of Orthodoxy, since the time of the Byzantine Empire, has always been one where the living Truth of God cannot be separated from our daily lives. The American concept of Separation of Church and State is alien to the Orthodox mind. Orthodox Christianity always evaluates what is said through the lens of a singular Divine Truth; that the One Holy God has placed in each person, His image and likeness (Gen 1:26). There is a divine source of our "innate awareness" of right and wrong and that Anchors us in the turbulent storm of modern life.

Separated from this divine link, ethics and morality is then tied only to individuals or worldly institutions creating subjective (or altered) truths based on the prevailing theme of the day, month or year. Modern day examples of these "altered truths" that certain social media outlets have proliferated include redefinition of the family unit, allegiance can only be to a single political party, nationalistic sentiment over ecumenical dialogue, and, of course, the statement that "there can be no universal or single Truth."

Continued on page 11



PARISH REGISTRY



Baptisms:
 Nikolaos Stephen Loury – Parents John & Cait Loury
 Vincent Wojciechowski – Parents Zach & Kelly Wojciechowski

Memoriam: May their memory be eternal
 Evangelia Roides – Interred on December 7, 2020
 Peter Gekas – Interred December 15, 2020
 Vasilios “Bill” Mitrousis – Interred December 19, 2020
 Anthoula Livadas – Interred December 30, 2020
 Theodore “Ted” Mourelatos – Interred January 19, 2021
 Elpiniki Stathopoulos -January 20, 2021
 Vasilogrigorios Destounis – January 23, 2021



Events and Church Services:

- 1 February - PC Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 2 February – Orthros, 9:00 AM
- 2 February – Presentation of Our Lord, 10:00 AM
- 2 February – Adult Education, 7:00 PM
- 2 February – Groundhog Day
- 4 February – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 9 February – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 11 February – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 15 February – President’s Day
- 15 February – Good News Submission Deadline
- 16 February – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 18 February – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 23 February – Adult Education, 7:00 PM
- 24 February – Joint Paraklisis, Holy Spirit, 6:00 PM
- 25 February – Orthodoxy Questions & Answers, Zoom, 7:00 PM

BLESSED SACRAMENT SUPPER PROGRAM

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

December 21, 2020

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
962 East Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the guests who join us for supper each evening, we wish to thank you for your gift of five hundred dollars (\$500.00), to the Blessed Sacrament Supper Program. Gifts such as yours allow the Supper Program to fulfill the mission that God sets before us, by providing the nourishment of a warm meal and companionship to those in need.

May God reward you for your kindness in thinking of us at this difficult time. We wish you health and peace!

Sincerely yours,

Fr. John Loncle
mjl

Rev. John F. Loncle, Pastor
Southeast Rochester Catholic Community
Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface, and Saint Mary's

MaryJo Lightholder, Director
Blessed Sacrament Supper Program

Check #19345, 12/14/2020

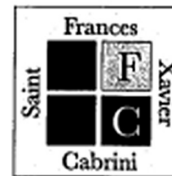
The Church of the Blessed Sacrament did not provide any goods or services in whole or in partial consideration of the above donation, or provided only intangible religious benefits.

259 Rutgers Street, Rochester, New York 14607, (585)271-7240
Maryjo.Lightholder@dor.org



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish

*Worship Sites: Annunciation Church, Our Lady of the Americas Church,
and Saint Michael Church*



January 15, 2021

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: Rev. Fr. Evangellos E. Maggos
962 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your love and dedication to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish community. We didn't expect to be able to support families this year because of the Covid pandemic. Despite these difficult times, your spirit of giving and kindness have shone through you and found a way to bless us once again.

Your Christmas outreach program allowed us to provide gift cards to 24 families comprising 98 people within our community; families adversely affected by the current pandemic.

Through your generosity we were able to provide families with assistance to make this Christmas season joyful and bright. As always, the families have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for your kindness.

"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice." (Psalm 112:5) We thank you for your selfless acts and we pray that God will bless you and your parish community of faith through the New Year!

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert Thomas Werth

Rev. Robert Thomas Werth
Parochial Vicar

124 Evergreen Street, Rochester, New York 14605, USA
(585) 325-4041 ✦ Fax: (585) 325-5771 ✦ Website: sfxcrochester.org



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish

*Worship Sites: Annunciation Church, Our Lady of the Americas Church,
and Saint Michael Church*



January 15, 2021

Rev. Fr. Evangellos E. Maggos
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
962 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

Dear Fr. Evangellos,

We would like to extend our sincerest thank you for your kind and generous donation of \$500.00 in Christmas time also for the three large poinsettia plants to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish.

We are a Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish community truly blessed by so many people sharing their gifts to help build God's kingdom. Through our common prayer and worship, our sacramental life and ministries of love and service, we are better able to make a difference in the lives of many throughout the Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish.

Thank you again for your generous donation in the work we do.

May God bless you for helping us make a difference.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert Thomas Werth
Parochial Vicar

No goods or services were provided by the church or its organization in return for these contributions. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent otherwise allowed by law.

124 Evergreen Street, Rochester, New York 14605, USA
(585) 325-4041 ✦ Fax: (585) 325-5771 ✦ Website: sfxcrochester.org

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Check payable to: Philoptochos Society

Thank you for your continued support



Dear Philoptochos Members:

It's that time of year again where we review our records and prepare our membership list.



Annual dues are \$30 for those under the age of 65
and \$25 for those members over 65

Please make your check payable to the

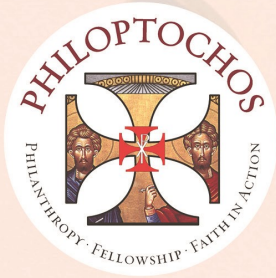
Philoptochos Society

and mail it to our membership chairperson:

**Maria Economides
23 Blue Pine Circle
Penfield, NY 14526**

*If you have any questions regarding your membership,
please contact Maria at 671-4034*

We appreciate your continued support of our philanthropic programs



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Valentine's Day Baklava Sale

Pre-Order your Baklava by February 9th!



\$15 (8 pieces)

***Orders Can be Picked up in our Church Hall
February 10 – 14***

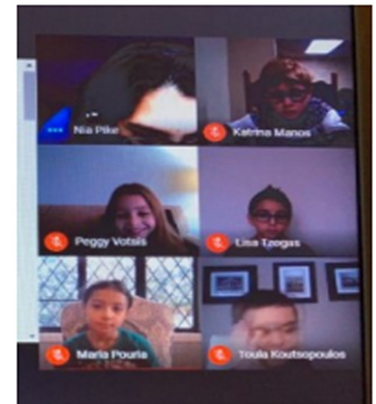
***Please Have Your Masks On
Thank you for your support***

THE GOOD NEWS FROM GREEK SCHOOL

ΝΕΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

JANUARY 2021

Greek School continues to be a thriving program with 37 students that are participating remotely. Teachers are developing engaging lessons and the students are coming to class each week ready to learn. I have had the opportunity to join the sessions and to see what the classes are doing remotely is impressive. I have seen projects being presented, I have seen virtual field trips, vocabulary games, and listening and reading activities.



Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο συνεχίζει το πρόγραμμα εν μέσω της πανδημίας με 37 μαθητές που κάνουν τα μαθήματα τους στο διαδύκτιο. Είμαι υπερήφανη και θα ήθελα να συγχαρώ τα παιδιά και τους δασκάλους για αυτην τους την προσπαθεια.

Με υγεία και ευτυχία,
Maria Dembeyiotis





Continued from page 1

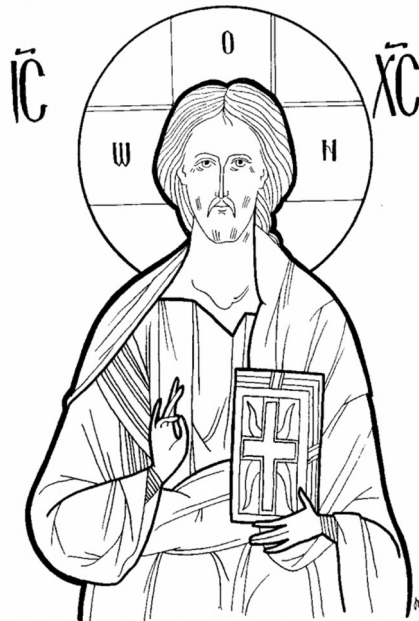
The danger of these subjective “truths” is that they break this connection from the Divine Anchor causing us to become separated from our source and being and thus alter the reality of who we are as God’s creation and the true purpose of our lives. Once this link is broken, it is an easy progression to the idea that truth is indeed “relative” and that each of us must individually determine our own truth thus becoming truly free and “enlightened” (In an upcoming article I’ll discuss the Perils of the Enlightenment Era).

This is not to say that truth cannot evolve since God grants to us His continued revelation. For example, while we laugh now at the “truth” that during the Bubonic Plague physicians believed that sweet fragrances of flowers worn in a mask could protect the wearer from the plague, science has discovered the “truth” regarding how to prevent and cure the germs of bubonic plague. This however is revelatory truth gained from God’s ongoing revelation to His creation, received by us through careful scientific analysis and growth. Here the Truth never changed, but our perception of what is the truth evolved.

Now certainly I am not advocating that we disconnect all our devices and tune out of the world. In fact, just the opposite for Jesus Himself said regarding His disciples and us,
“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth.” (John 15-17)

Instead, when we listen to media, whether TV, radio, or internet, we must carefully discern and separate subjective truths from Divine Truth. St Paul guides us in this saying, *“Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all and hold on to what is good, rejecting every kind of evil.”* (Thessalonians 5:19-22)

Here we can substitute the word “prophecies” with the *subjective truths* we are bombarded with. We must “test all things” and judge them against our “innate awareness” of right and wrong. For us as Orthodox, Truth is not a philosophical concept to be debated and molded into our image but is the living reality of Jesus Christ as the Living Truth.





FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



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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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 :

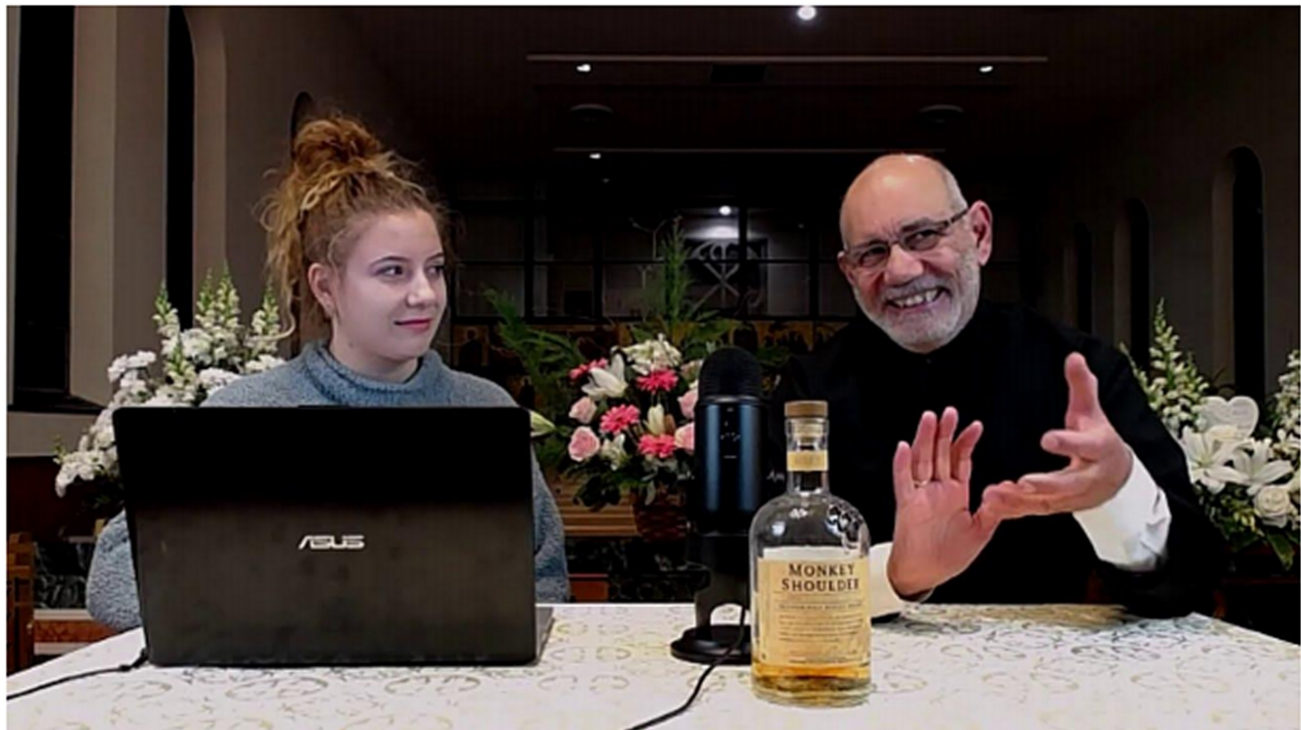
1. Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange scheduling for Coffee Hour that day. The Secretary will contact the Philoptochos President.
2. Arrange for or pay for Coffee Hour food items that are in excess of the standard menu (coffee, drinks, and simple snacks).
3. Coordinate the preparation and delivery 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 .

Join us for Orthodoxy Questions Answered!

Live on YouTube every Thursday from 7 – 8pm

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AnnunciationGreekOrthodoxChurchRochesterNY>

Fr Angelo answers your most pressing questions about our Orthodox Faith.



Featuring Fr Angelo Maggos; hosted by Marissa Adams; produced by Demos Euclid

Our shows are hosted either at a parishioner's establishment or in our Annunciation Church...and we always begin with a nod to our Whisky of the Week.

SUBSCRIBE to our channel where all questions are on the table, including:

- What can I do with Holy Water?
- Why do we have icons in the church?
- What's the deal with tollhouses?
- Can we pray for those in Hell?
- Can Catholics receive Holy Communion in our church?
- What does the church say about reincarnation and karma?
- How do you forgive those who continue to hurt you?

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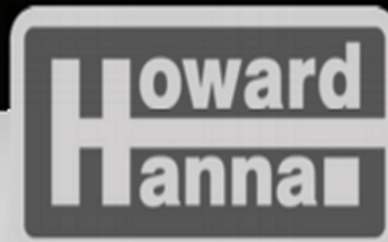
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In order to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to increase awareness among our community of the broad range of experience and services available from our parishioners, we are inviting both parishioners and any vendors to our church to consider 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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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of the ANNUNCIATION

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PARISH INFORMATION

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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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