

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

December 2021

From the Desk of
Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos

Parish Registry, Progress Report
Upcoming Church Services and Events

Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From Fr. Angelo

Orthodox and Protestants in Dialogue

Here in America we as Orthodox are certainly in the minority. According to a 2020 census membership in the Eastern Orthodox churches in America was estimated at 675,765. When compared to Catholic and Protestant churches, Orthodoxy represents far less than 1% of the total Christian community in America.

Being such a small minority among Christians in America, makes it vitally important that we are prepared to properly engage and dare I say even “evangelize” to other Christian expressions. While most conservative Orthodox reject any form of evangelism with Protestants or Catholics we as Orthodox must acknowledge that Protestantism represents over 90% of Christianity here in America. It is thus important that we engage our Christian brothers and share with them the fullness of our Orthodox faith. Before we can begin engaging Protestants in dialogue a good starting point is to know the historical relationship between the Orthodox and Protestant Church.

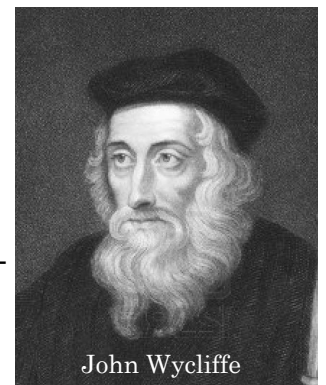
Most Orthodox Christians know of the schism within the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages, better known as the Protestant Reformation, however, most *do not* know that there is a long history of communication and dialogue between many of the early Protestant reformers and the Orthodox Church. While Protestant theology today has several major differences as compared to Orthodoxy there are still several areas where our theology and belief are aligned.

It is important to remember that the original intent of the early reformers such as, Hus, Wycliffe, Zwingli, Gansfort, Melanchthon and Luther was not to start a new expression of Christianity but only to “protest” and “reform” the excesses and corruption occurring in the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.

Many of the discussions between these Protestant reformers and the Patriarchs of Constantinople during the reformation period focused on these “protests” and were used by the Orthodox Church as a defense against the corruption that Protestant reformers saw in the Catholic Church.

For the Eastern Orthodox Church, the reformation was seen as a phenomenon occurring in the West and early on did not take sides either with the Catholic Church or the reformers, although the Orthodox patriarchs did support the reformers arguments against papal primacy.

The earliest documented interactions between the Reformers and the Orthodox occurred in the 14th century with John Wycliffe, professor of philosophy and theology at the University of Oxford and a clergyman and St. Gregory of Sinai. Wycliffe was one of the first reformers to reject the idea of papal primacy however his discussions centered around the idea of how to view priesthood. Reflecting on the Schism of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches Wycliffe saw an ally in the Orthodox East since they also rejected papal primacy. While Wycliffe did not have the benefit of the writings of the Holy Fathers, he favored the idea of “general priesthood” whereas St Gregory spoke of “spiritual priesthood.”



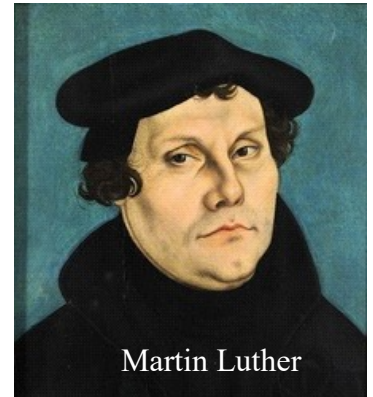
John Wycliffe

Jan (John) Hus was a 14th century Czech theologian and philosopher and student of Wycliffe who led a reformation in the Bohemian lands. The basis for their reforms were inspired by the Greek and Slavic Orthodox cultural and religious influences of the Bohemian area.



Ulrich Zwingli, a Swiss pastor began his militant reforms against the Catholic Church in the early 1500's having been heavily influenced by Erasmus's Greek New Testament. While Zwingli supported a symbolic view of the Eucharist he did believe as did the Orthodox in married clergy and the that both the church and the state are under the sovereign rule of God. Christians were obliged to obey the government, but civil disobedience was allowed if the authorities acted against the will of God.

In 1517, Martin Luther, a Catholic monk, angry with the abuse of indulgences in the Catholic Church nailed his 95 *Theses* on the door of the chapel at Wittenberg University. While there is no record of Luther having personal contact with the Church of the East, when debating on his *Theses*, Luther made reference to the Orthodox as *"the ones who did not recognize the universal primacy of the pope. The Greek Church does not agree on this point and is not considered heretical for that."* He went on to say that the Orthodox Church was the most ancient Church faithful to her traditions.



Martin Luther



Philip Melancthon

Although not as well-known as many of the more famous Protestant reformers Philip Melancthon (1497-1560) played not only an important role in developing the Systematic Theology of the Protestant faith but also maintained a steady dialogue, both personal, and in letters, with the Orthodox Patriarchs of Constantinople. Melancthon sent to Patriarch Joasaph II a copy of the Augsburg Confession (28 articles that constitute the basic beliefs of the Lutheran churches of which he was a principle author) along with a letter entitles *Ορθοδοξία και Προτεσταντισμός* outlining an explanation of the Lutheran confession of faith. His arguments for reformation cited parts of St. John Chrysostom's Liturgy.

The Lutheran theologians of Tübingen continued to exchange letters with Patriarch Jeremias II of Constantinople from 1573 to 1581 and there was even the appointment of an embassy chaplain in Constantinople by the University of Tübingen.

Patriarch Jeremiah even responded with a detailed enumeration of the Augsburg articles as well as discussing other matters of dispute such as the Filioque, Original Sin, and Intercessory Prayers.

The influence of the Protestant Reformation continued into the 17th century with Patriarch Cyril Lucaris' supposed publication of *"Eastern Confession of the Christian Faith."* The Protestant movement found a proponent in that this confession which allegedly embraced the singularly Protestant theology of Calvinism and the Patriarchy remained silent in response since they needed their Protestant brothers to help them combat the evangelizing influence of the Jesuits.

Today dialogue is much improved between the Orthodox and Catholic Church while the ever-increasing denominations of the Protestant faith have made continued discussions with the Protestant Church much more difficult. In the end, though, it is important that when we engage our Protestant brethren, we remember that there is a long history of positive and meaningful dialogue and that we engage in these conversations with respect, sensitivity and above all Christian love as we are all one in the Body of Christ.



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES:

Due to the situation regarding the Delta variant the Metropolis of Detroit is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDING** that all Church School/Greek School students wear masks during church and church related events when indoors and that parishioners also wear masks.

1 December – Adult Greek School, Sunday School Classroom, 6:00 PM

2 December – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

5 December – Aghia Paraskevi Society Christmas Party, La Luna Restaurant, 3:00 PM

6 December – PC Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM

+6 December – Liturgy St. Nicholas, 10:00 AM

7 December – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

8 December – Adult Greek School, Church Hall, 6:00 PM

9 December – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

14 December – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

15 December – Good News Submission Deadline

+15 December – Divine Liturgy, St. Eleftherios, 10:00 AM

15 December – Adult Greek School, Church Hall, 6:00 PM

16 December – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

18 December – Philotochos Society Christmas Party, Church Hall

19 December – Christmas Pageant - combined Sunday School and Greek School

21 December – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

22 December – Adult Greek School, Church Hall, 6:00 PM

23 December – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

24 December - Office Closed

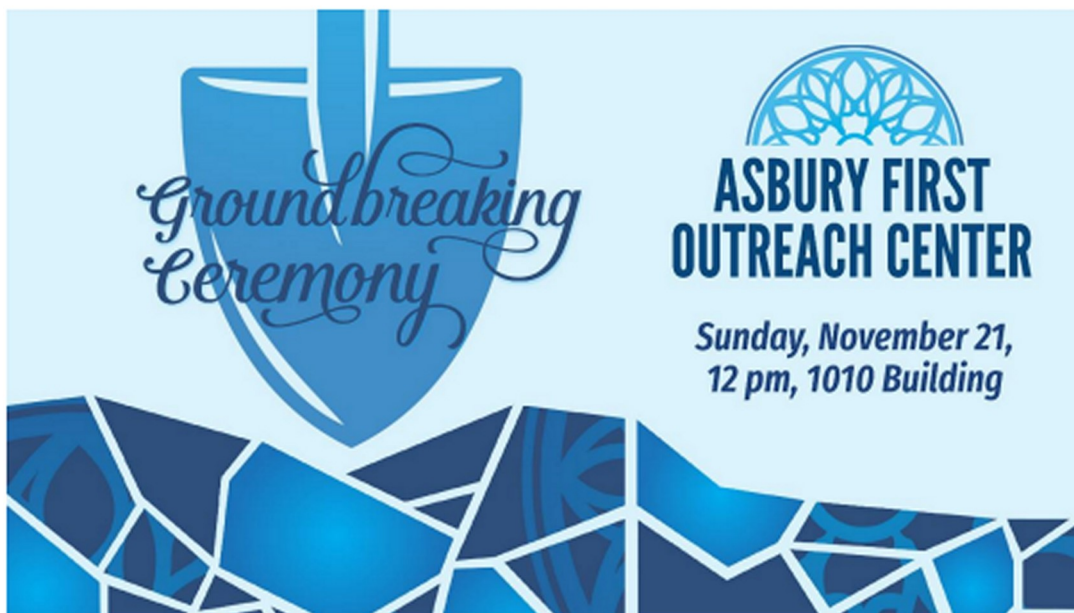
+24 December – Christmas Eve Liturgy, 6:00 PM

+25 December – Christmas Day Liturgy, 10:00 PM

27 December - Office Closed

Merry Christmas! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
Christ is Born, Glorify Him! Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε!





GROUNDBREAKING on the [NEW OUTREACH CENTER](#) at ASBURY FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Our closest neighbor on East Ave, Asbury First Methodist, had their ceremonial groundbreaking of their new \$4.5 million Outreach Center following their worship service on Sunday, November 21

The construction crew from DGA Builders LLC have already erected the fence around the sight of the existing home which was serving as the outreach center new Center and have begun the initial phases of the project.

The existing Outreach Center at Asbury First has been providing services for those in need in Rochester since the mid 1950's. Prior to COVID, the Asbury Dining and Caring Center served more than 35,000 meals each year and continued to serve the community throughout the pandemic.

After several years of evaluating the effectiveness of their outreach programs through surveys with their guests, conversations with volunteers, and explorations of best practices, the result was the current design and structure which will continue to provide a three-fold service to the community; food, clothing and basic care services in in a single integrated space.

By centralizing their outreach programs into one dedicated and accessible space, they will remove existing barriers to access of all services. Some of the improvements of this new center are

- A main entrance addition with an elevator serving all three floors
- Added security and safety measures
- A staffed reception area within the main entrance to help direct guests to the appropriate services
- New clinic exam rooms with wash stations, waiting area and office
- An expanded dining area for the Dining & Caring Center with natural light
- A larger and more easily accessible clothing drop off location
- A dedicated space for community gathering
- New shower, laundry, and hair care facilities
- Office for a social worker

GOYA

Fall Activity

October 29, 2021



GOYA

The Great Escape Room

November 27, 2021



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Grandparents

We are excited to say that Sunday School has been up and running now for about two months. We have a wonderful group of students that come on a weekly basis, and we have seen some new faces the last couple of weeks as well. All are welcome, so please join us even if you have not been able to come yet this year! We are so excited that you have chosen to send your children to Sunday School.

This year, we have been able to bring cohesion to the Sunday School by linking the theme of each Sunday School lesson with a short video. (Thank you Demos!) for each grade. This was exemplified really well one Sunday in September, so we thought we would share this small example. Our September theme was *a new beginning and God's creation*.

- The bulletin board in the Sunday School Hall was all about God's creation in the beginning.
- The video was about God's creation.
- Father's sermon talked about creation and how we as Orthodox Christians understand the creation story.
- And the video and Sunday School lesson was about how God created everything.



It was a wonderful synching of the different parts of the church. My three year old could actually articulate to me that day what she had learned, "Mommy did you know that God created animals and the sun!"

That is our goal throughout the year to continue to provide meaning and understanding to all of our students in Sunday School. We also want the lessons and themes to go beyond one day a week on Sunday. All of the almost 50 Sunday School videos are [online](#) so if you need to rewatch something or catch up on a week you missed they are all there for you.

(annunciationrochester.org Then go to media/videos/virtual Sunday school).

To reinforce these lessons we will also have activities and drives throughout the year to help out kids apply what they learn at Sunday School. Sooo...going into the Holiday season, we will be



focusing on giving thanks and giving back to our community. The first event was our November food drive where our kids and our parish collected over 15 boxes of food for local families in need.

As we look back on these last couple months as first time Sunday School directors, we are both so thankful for all of the hard work and dedication that our teachers, parents, and community members have put into getting Sunday School back up and running. While there will be a few bumps in the road, but it has been so exciting to see all the

children with their smiling faces attending Sunday School. We look forward to a joyous holiday season.

With love in Christ,
Lauren and Karina
Sunday School Directors

ST TIMOTHY SUMMER CAMP REUNION

October 11, 2021



Join us for Orthodoxy Questions Answered!

Live on YouTube every Thursday from 7 - 8 pm

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

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



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?

ADULT EDUCATION

Tuesday Evenings via Zoom at 7:00 pm

Topic for current session: The Gospel of John

Zoom links will be provided through email

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, 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. One (1) set of Stefanos is left. The donation for each of the set is \$100.

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 .

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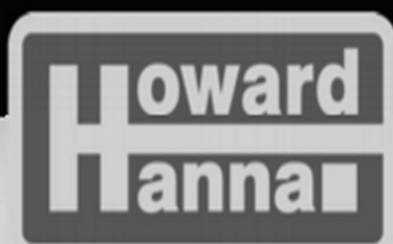
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Contact _____ Email _____

<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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Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: agocny@gmail.com

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