

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

January 2022

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

To Be or Not To Be: Use of the Organ in Church

One of the questions that arises in our weekly YouTube live show and from some parishioners is the why do Orthodox Churches in America use organs? Isn't this against our Orthodox tradition? Some conservative Orthodox will answer with the very strict interpretation that instruments such as pianos, drums, or guitars and yes, organs, artificially stir up emotions that are not appropriate for Orthodox worship.

Now this is not necessarily without foundation as the Early Church recognized the association of the organ and other instruments being used for pagan ceremonies. During the time of the Early Church in the 4th century organs were used in the circuses of the Colosseum and Hippodromes leading a number of the Church Fathers to speak out against the use of such instruments as inappropriate for Christian worship.

Partly this came from the fact that the Emperor Theodosius I (379–395 AD) had an obelisk erected on Hippodrome in Constantinople. On one side of the obelisk Theodosius I is shown offering the crown of victory to the winner in the chariot races, framed between arches and Corinthian columns, with spectators, musicians and dancers surrounding him. In the bottom right of this scene is depicted a water organ similar in design to one invented by Ctesibius of Alexandria (3rd century BC).

Additionally an organ was placed in the Narthex of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople for use in processions of the Emperor's entourage.

While the Orthodox West had a well documented use of the organ, the East continued to maintain their prohibition of instruments to accompany worship until the 20th century. (Although St. Innocent of Alaska (d. 1879) did make a few barrel organs which he sold to the Franciscan missionaries in

California to help finance his mission work, but these were not used in Orthodox worship).



Archbishop Athenagoras, who was instrumental in forming the Greek Archdiocese in America in the early part of the 20th century, was a fan of organs and encouraged their use in America. In the book *From Mars Hill to Manhattan*, Bishop George Papaioannou writes about Archbishop Athenagoras and organ music:

Athenagoras was a lover of music. His ministry to the people of Corfu, who had and still retain the reputation of being the most musically inclined in Greece, encouraged him to introduce a revolutionary idea into the Orthodox worship. That was the use of the organ. His people enthusiastically endorsed the idea, but the Church hierarchy condemned it as a terrible unorthodox innovation. From the official publication, St. Spyridon, 1928, we are informed that a case was brought against him in court by members of the Holy Synod for having introduced into the church a musical instrument that was foreign to Orthodox tradition. Athenagoras

refused to yield to the Synod's pressure, claiming that a similar musical instrument had first been used by the Byzantines in the Church of St. Sophia. A renowned church historian and liturgical scholar, Fr. Constantine Callinikos, came to Athenagoras' defense, advising him not to give in and continue his praiseworthy policy of upgrading the Orthodox worship. Athenagoras ignored the demands of his fellow hierarchs and apparently the case was dropped because the organ continued to be used in the services at the Cathedral of St. Spyridon. Today, St. Spyridon's in Corfu remains the only church in Greece to include the organ in its services.

As the 20th century progressed, more and more parishes of the Greek Archdiocese and, to a lesser extent, the Antiochian Archdiocese, made use of organs to help support the singing of the choir and to provide music before and after weddings. The first organ ever used in American Orthodoxy was at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Orleans. The photo to the left is of the melodeon, a type of organ used by Holy Trinity in New Orleans as early as 1895.



When St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church in Washington, DC had an organ installed, the Washington Post reported "On this Greek Easter Day the choir of St. Sophia's, L and Eighth Streets, N.W., is of unusual interest, there being only five Greek Orthodox churches in the world having mixed choirs and an organ."

By the mid-1920's, choirs and organs accompanied the Divine Liturgies – a departure from customs in the homeland where this type of music was considered a 'western innovation' and not typically used since only the psaltes (chantors) sang the responses to the priest or bishop during liturgical services.

Today the vast majority of Orthodox Churches, at least Greek Orthodox parishes, have an organ of some type that they use during worship services but only for support to the choir and not purely as an instrument. However, the organ is still widely used for wedding music before and after, but not during the wedding service itself.

One final, note, while always maintaining the Holy Traditions of the Orthodox Church, that is Scripture, Ecumenical Councils, and Writings of the Holy Fathers, the Orthodox Church has always been very amenable to allowing the culture and diversity of the people to be expressed in the land which the Orthodox Church finds herself. Here in America the organ is far removed from its original objections, that of pagan worship, and thusly can be appropriately used for the glory of God.





PARISH REGISTRY



40-Days Blessing:

Child of God: Oliva Rotolo **Parents:** Michael & Alexa Rotolo

Baptism:

Child of God: Kathryn Josephine Loury **Parents:** John & Caitlin Loury.

Child of God: Markos Stevenson **Parents:** Jeffrey Stevenson and Marina Skrombolas

Wedding:

11 December – Bassil Nabil Said and Viki Kristina Katsetos

Memoriam:

Eleni Voulageorgos – Interred on December 14, 2021

May her memory be eternal



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES:

+6 January – Baptism of Christ, Orthros 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

+7 January - John the Baptist, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

+9 January – Vasilopita Sunday of St. Basil, 11:00 AM

11 January - Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

12 January – Adult Greek School, 6:00 PM

13 January – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

15 January – Good News Submission Deadline

17 January – Martin Luther King Day

+17 January – St. Anthony the Great, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

18 January – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

19 January – Adult Greek School, 6:00 PM

20 January – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

25 January – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

26 January – Adult Greek School, 6:00 PM

+26 January – Joint Paraklesis, to be held at Annunciation, 6:00 PM

27 January – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM

+30 January – The Three Hierarchs, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

1 February – Adult Education, Zoom, 7:00 PM

+2 February – Presentation of our Lord, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

2 February – Adult Greek School, 6:00 PM

3 February – Orthodox Questions and Answers, YouTube, 7:00 PM



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos would like to thank our Annunciation Parish for their generosity in helping us raise funds for local charities through our most recent bake sale. So far we have donated \$2,000 of gift cards to the Veteran's Outreach Center.

The successful bake sale would not have been possible without the efforts of countless volunteers who donated their time and their pitas! The pitas are a very popular item and we very much appreciate those of you who took the time to make them for us. And a special thank you to Despina Georgantopoulos who was the Chair of the bake sale who organized so many volunteers and coordinated all of the baking.

Every Sunday, Philoptochos will be selling frozen pitas. You can purchase a sleeve of 5 pitas for \$15.00. Cheese and spinach are available.

We will be holding our Vasilopita luncheon on Sunday January 9th after Liturgy. All proceeds will go to support St. Basil's Academy.

Philoptochos Board:

Marissa Adams; Karen Balta; Niki Chamberlain; Dionysia Dimitrakopoulou; Maria Economides
Helen Eisenberg; Despina Georgantopoulos; Presvytera Teri Maggos; Callie Monna; Roxanne Stavropoulos;
Andrea Vangellow.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18, 2021



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2021



Thank you to all the Pageant Committee members, teachers, parents, and of course all our youth who all worked so hard to make this year's Christmas Pageant such a success.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year to all! Christ is born! We had a wonderful month of December at Sunday School. The children did an amazing job practicing and staying focused for our pageant. This was the first year Greek School and Sunday School performed for the annual Christmas pageant together. We felt this was a beautiful way to perform as one community in celebrating the birth of Christ!

As we reflect on 2021 and move into 2022, we are encouraged to think about how far we have come. In 2021, we were rebuilding our Religious Education program, and anxious to see what the new year would bring. We are so excited to have new parents assist with the kid's lessons, crafts, and activities. We encourage more parents to participate in the coming year. Looking forward to 2022, we know that we have a solid group of children attending Sunday School once again. We look forward to seeing all of you after our brief holiday break.

Sunday School videos and themes this month will focus on Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. You can always access these videos through our church's YouTube page to watch or rewatch at home! As we always say, everyone is welcome even if you have not been able to attend Sunday School yet this year, or you have not come as often as you would like. We always love to see familiar faces and new faces in our classrooms!

OUTREACH DRIVE of the MONTH

The month of January, we will be focused on giving back to our smallest members of society. Just as the wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus, we will bring diapers and wipes to babies in our community this month! Please look out for the flyer and information about this diaper drive.

With love in Christ,

Karina and Lauren
Sunday School Directors

BASICS AREN'T BASIC. *

* They're essential.

Please support our

DIAPER DRIVE

All funds and diapers donated benefit:



Date(s): January 9nd – January 30th 2022

Location(s): Narthex and Chapel – All Sizes Diapers, Wipes, and Training Pants Welcome!

Hosted by: Philoptochos, Greek School,
GOYA, Sunday School

Thank you for helping keep babies clean, dry, and healthy.



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. The Stefanos are sold out - Lena does have catalogs for Stefanos in the Office if anyone is interested in shopping on-line.

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

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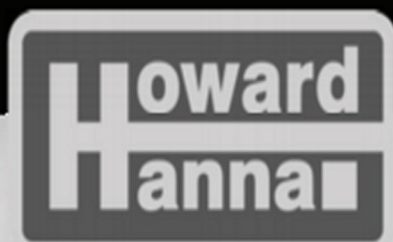
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Stewardship and finance related questions:
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Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: agocny@gmail.com

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

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