

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

December 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

The Nativity Icon

All of us appreciate the importance of icons as part of the expression of our Orthodox faith. In addition to enhancing the beauty of a church, icons serve a number of purposes for our spiritual development.

- Instructing the laity in matters pertaining to the Christian faith.
- A means of veneration which lifts our minds up to the prototypes which the icons symbolize.
- Arousing us to imitate the virtues of the holy personages depicted thus transforming and sanctifying us.

Because of this we recognize that our Orthodox practice of iconography is much more than merely stylized artistic representations of holy figures but are a symbol of both the material and the spiritual reality of the person or event depicted. From an instructional perspective icons are unique in that unlike regular artwork that depict a singular moment in time like the Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper or Rembrandt's Return of the Prodigal Son, icons oftentimes present multiple events in Christian history in a single icon, helping us understand through simple artwork the intricate elements of our salvation.

The Nativity icon is a beautiful example of just such an icon presenting simultaneously and concisely many things, a place, persons and events, that would require many words to express. Let's look at this in a typical of the event of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the **center** of the icon is the Theotokos and the infant Christ lying in a manger drawn much larger than all of the other characters indicating this as the central theme of the icon. Surrounding this scene are the historical narratives that accompany the event of the Nativity.

Christ, while presented as an infant is not drawn with an infant's face indicating His eternal Oneness within the Trinity. The ox and donkey behind Him represent both the lowliness of a cave or manger as opposed to the setting appropriate to a king, and Christ as God being the Master of all Creation. The ox and the donkey are also a prophetic reference from the Old Testament prophecy. "*The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib*" (Isaiah 1:3).

Symbolically the ox and donkey represent both the Jews and the Gentiles to whom Christ comes to offers salvation. The ox symbolized the Jews, for it was a clean, kosher animal representing the Jews who were kept "clean" through the covenant of the Mosaic Law. The donkey, on the other hand, symbolizes the unclean and not kosher, Gentiles who, as pagans, did not have the Law of Moses to guide them towards the One True God.

What is also very noticeable is that unlike most icons of Christ and the Virgin Mary, she is not looking at Him. Instead, she is looking at her betrothed, Joseph, and interceding for him because of his struggle with doubts. Christ is dressed in burial clothes foreshadowing His death and His halo indicates O ΩN, the name of God given to Moses, meaning that



he was God from birth and did not “become” divine later. Even though a cave is not mentioned in the Bible it is drawn here to foreshadow the grave in which He would be buried and where He would resurrect.

At the very **top** is the star that represents the star which the Magi followed to see the Christ child (Matt 2:9,10) and also the presence and the glory of God. (Luke 2:9). The beam originates from heaven and leads to Christ indicating His descent from the Father. (John 8:42)

In the **upper left** are the “*great company of the heavenly angels praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.’*” (Luke 2:13,14)

In the **upper right** is the angel proclaiming to the shepherds, who are tending their flocks, the “*...good news that will cause great joy for all the people. For today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*” (Luke 2:8,9)

Below the shepherds is pictured a young man playing an instrument representing humanity’s rejoicing, together with the heavenly hosts of angel, in the Good News of Christ’s incarnation for the salvation of the human race.

On the right and below the host of angels are the Magi sent by Herod to follow the star and “*...search carefully for the child and upon finding Him bowed down and worshiped him and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*” (Matt 2:7-11)

In the **bottom left** is pictured Joseph and an old man. Although not recorded in Scripture but accepted as Orthodox tradition from the extracanonical *Protoevangelium of James* which contain a more detailed account of the nativity then is recorded in Scripture.

In this account Joseph is troubled about Mary’s childbirth and has doubts about the divine nature hence the old man represents Satan who encourages Joseph’s doubt. However, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, granting him strength and courage saying, “*Be not afraid for this maiden, for that which is in her is of the Holy Spirit; and she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*”

In the person of Joseph, the icon displays the plight of all mankind, that is, the difficulty of accepting that which is beyond reason, the bodily Incarnation of God.

To the right of this scene in the **bottom center** is tree symbolic of another prophetic reference from the Book of Isaiah, where Isaiah tells of “the tree, or sprout, which sprang forth from the root of Jesse on which the Spirit of the Lord will rest.” (Is 11:1,2)

In the **lower right** of the icon, we see two woman bathing the Christ child. Tradition holds that Joseph brought these women to help with the birth. Just as the halo of O QN indicates Christ’s divinity, so does the washing affirm Jesus’ humanity as He came into the world through a real physical birth, like us, assuming a complete human nature, except for sin. (Heb 2:17)

Thus the Nativity icon, like many other icons, is not bounded by time as these event did not all take place at the same time. The icon brings together many images and events from different points in time to reveal not only a historical reality but also instruct the people in the spiritual and prophetic meanings of the life of Christ and His work given to Him by the Father.

Merry Christmas, Καλά Χριστούγεννα, عيد ميلاد سعيد and Nollaig Chridheil.

Fr Angelo





METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

MAKE AN IMPACT BY JOINING THE FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

WHY OUR FRIENDS MATTER?

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. The devoted stewards of the Friends program become coworkers in Christ's vineyard - assisting in the development of ministries and initiatives which strengthen our faith and our joint ministry of service.

If you are not already a Friend of the Metropolis, I invite you to join us in supporting the ongoing ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.

Thank you for your kind and generous response.
With paternal blessings and prayers, I remain,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit

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

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SUPPORT HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

Thanks to the Friends of the Metropolis, we continue to support our students at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. We were also able to give \$25,000 to support the school and its efforts.

SUPPORT YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Friends of the Metropolis fully support the work of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - from the regional youth and young adult ministries events and summer camps to youth worker educational workshops.

SUPPORT OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

Through the generosity of our Friends, the Metropolis has begun the important work of reaching out to the greater community to share the "Good News" of the Gospel through our new outreach and evangelism efforts.

Make checks payable to Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit. Fill out this card and send it with payment to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit - 2560 Crooks Road - Troy, MI 48084

PARISH REGISTRY

40-Day Blessing:

Child of God: Christopher Christanis

Parents: John & Sarah Christanis

Child of God: Alexander Nicholas Bakolas

Parents: Nicholas & Amelia Bakolas

Baptisms:

Child of God: Daphne Smelt

Parents: Thomas & Konstantina Smelt

Child of God: Aurianna Floretta Testa

Parents: Robert & Jordan Testa

Child of God: Aidan Christos Lianos

Parents: Vasilios Lianos & Aileen Marie Wade

Child of God: Cees Anderson Theodorou

Parents: Chris Menelaos Theodorou and
Andrea Johanna Vos Theodorou

Child of God: Malina Schimpf -Newcomb

Parents: Matt Newcomb and
Stephanie Schimpf -Newcomb

Child of God: Carly Sophia Fabian

Parents: Trevor and Christina Fabian

Child of God: Liliana Zoe Wojciechowski

Parents: Zach and Kelly Wojciechowski

Child of God: Paraskevi Dragos

Parents: Sam & Christina Dragos

Funerals:

Dimitrios Kokkinis – Interred on October 29, 2022

Apostolos “Paul” Kokorotsis – Interred on November 23, 2022

Αιωνία η Μνήμη May their memory be eternal



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES:

4 December – Drosopighi Society Christmas Party, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

11 December - PC elections, 12:30 PM

11 December – Agia Paraskevi Christmas Party, 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

15 December – Good News Submission Deadline

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

15 December – Seniors Christmas Party, 11:00 AM

17 December – Joint Sunday School/Greek School final play practice, 11:00 AM

17 December – Greek School Christmas Party 12:00 PM

18 December – Joint Sunday School/Greek School Christmas Pageant, 11:30 AM

22 December – Seniors Meeting, 11:00 AM

+24 December – Christmas Vesperal Service, 5:00 PM

25 December – No Sunday School

+25 December –Divine Liturgy Nativity of Christ, 10:00 AM

26 December – Office closed

31 December – No Greek School



Please Join the Choir in “Singing Praises to the Lord”.
 Contact Julie Eveleigh 585-747-4728 or Zoi Varahidis 585-414-5886 .

Sunday School every Sunday after Holy Communion unless noted differently in the bulletin

On-going adult Orthodox study programs:

- **Bible Study every Tuesday, Zoom, 7:00 PM**
- **Orthodox Questions and Answers every Thursday, YouTube, 7:00 PM**
- On-Line Orthodox Catechism on our website under the **EDUCATION tab**

Greek School every Saturday, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM unless noted differently in the bulletin



Philoptochos Upcoming Events

Sunday December 4th

Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday January 8th

Vasilopita

Pass Tray in Church to benefit St. Basil's Academy

I wanted to thank all of you who supported our bake sale last Sunday. After expenses, we raised about \$3,500.

A special thank you to Despina Georgantopoulos who oversaw the baking process and running the bake sale on Sunday.

And thank you to those of you who helped bake, helped work at the bake sale, who purchased items and who donated. It is a true team effort!

Karen Balta

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Merry Christmas to All!

Our children have been hard at work practicing for the Christmas Pageant! We also have been working on mini projects and lessons in the classrooms including making Christmas ornaments with different Saints. We have many Sunday School videos that went out this month as well. Be sure to check them out if you missed a week with your child! Please see “***Bringing the Church Home Resources***” section on the next page for more information!

In November, we had our first of four lessons in the Chapel on different parts of the Liturgy. The first one was on the Preparation of Holy Communion. The children were very interested in different parts of the preparation. Even the preschoolers were able to do a fun cut and paste project in their classroom with the chalice and the body and blood of Christ. Thank you Juan and Sam for presenting this to the children! Our next Chapel lesson will be on the first part of the Divine Liturgy which is scheduled for January 8th 2023.

We have perfect attendance to announce for October! Congratulations to all the children who came every Sunday in October and to their parents who brought them!! Special shout out to Evangeline, Stefanos, Alex, Damianos, Antonio, and Athanasia for perfect attendance in both September and October!! Wow, we are impressed!

Perfect Attendance for October:

PreK: Evangeline Gashlin, Aki Panitsidis
Kindergarten: Stefanos Tzogas
1st: Thanos Matakos, Parthena Panitsidis
4th: Alex Chinchilla, Damianos Tzogas
6th Antonio Chinchilla, Athanasia Tzogas

We look forward to presenting the Christmas Pageant with our Greek School to the parish on December 18th. We also have some service activities coming up, so please be on the lookout for those!

Important Dates:

December 4th- Attendance and Bingo Winner Announcements

December 17th- Mandatory Saturday Final Christmas Pageant Practice with Greek School

December 18th- Christmas Pageant

With Love in Christ,

Karina and Lauren

Religious Education Directors



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Bringing the Church Home - Resources

St. John Chrysostom famously taught that our homes are to be a “little church” and we hope that this new section will help our Annunciation families to make Christ and his Church a part of our homes and everyday lives. Suggestions are welcomed!

Virtual Sunday School Videos: Available on Annunciation YouTube Channel, Annunciation website or QR code below!



Let Us Attend: Highly recommended for the drive to or from church or anywhere that you happen to be driving!

Antiochian Orthodox Department of Christian Education and Ancient Faith Radio

Prepare your heart, and the hearts of your children, by listening to this Sunday's Gospel. The Gospel is paraphrased for younger children and read for older children, followed by engaging questions to help us think about what we've heard.

Listen on Apple Podcasts or Ancient Faith App:





**SUNDAY SCHOOL, GREEK SCHOOL
& GOYA**

Toy & Book Drive



Accepting Donation Through

Thursday, December 15

Some Ideas:

Books

Pajamas size 2T-Large

Uno Game

Legos

Playdoh

Activity Books

Rattles



TRUNK OR TREAT!

October 30, 2022





2022 ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP DIRECTORY

To increase awareness among our community of the broad range of experience and services available from our parishioners, we are encouraging both parishioners and any vendors to our church to advertise their business and/or family name in our monthly newsletter.

In order to help defray the costs of printing and mailing, this will be a Sponsorship Directory listing only. Advertising images will no longer be used in order to reduce the overall printing cost of the Newsletter. The Newsletter is printed each month during the year, except for one or two months that would be combined.

If you are interested in adding your business or family name to our Sponsorship Directory, the annual Sponsorship Fee is \$150.

Business or Family Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Contact: _____

Website: _____

Please make your checks payable to “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church”.

GOOD NEWS SPONSORS

RESTAURANTS

Atlantic Family Restaurant
 Arbor at the Port
 Arbor Loft
 Blades
 Blue Ridge Restaurant
 Dog Town
 Eastridge Diner Steakhouse
 Highland Market Bakery & Deli
 Highland Park Diner
 Jays Diner
 Johnny D's Restaurant
 Konstantinou's Restaurant
 Log Cabin Restaurant & Catering
 Long Pond Restaurant
 Mels Diner
 Olympia Restaurant & Lounge
 Parkside Diner and Miniature Golf
 Riki Family Restaurant
 The Distillery
 The Nutcracker Family Restaurant
 The Original Steve's Diner - 4 Locations
 The Peppermill Restaurant
 Town and Country Family Restaurant
 Uncle Danny's Family Restaurant
 Union Street Coffee House
 Voula's Sweets
 Yia Yia's Ice Cream Shoppe
 Yianni's

PRODUCTS

AG Foodservice
 Ajay Glass Co.
 Alpha Ironworks
 Goodman Glass and Mirror
 Konstantinou's Liquor
 Rain or Shine Tent Rental
 Regional Distributors Inc
 Rhino Trunk and Case
 Ridge Coin & Jewelry
 Rochester Auto Glass
 Rochester Meat
 Walworth Wine & Spirits

SERVICES

Akropolis Agency
 Averdi
 Better Relationships Counseling
 Delta Advisory Group, Dimitrios Manou, CPA
 EMS
 First POS
 Metropolitan Window Cleaning
 Mike Yar Photo Productions
 Ontario Family Dentistry, Dr. Elias Konstantinou
 Philoptochos
 ReMax Plus
 Roxanne Stavropoulos Realtor
 Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

ANNUNCIATION FAMILIES

Have a wonderful fellowship

Jennefer & Perry Noun, Bill Noun

Mary Manou

Nassis Family



Hall Rental Policy for 962 East.

We are excited and eager to finally be able to safely reopen our beautifully renovated church Hall to our community. However, the new renovations, along with the intent to lease the Hall to non-parishioners also, requires us to establish a higher degree of formality regarding rental of the new Hall. To assist in this transition, we have secured a dedicated Hall Manager, Sara Tone, who will be responsible for maintaining the Hall Lease calendar, process booking for both parishioner and non-parishioner, showing of the Hall and coordinating contract requirements and signatures. Our church secretary is no longer responsible for Hall scheduling or coordinating any Hall lease activities. With this in mind, we are establishing the following set of guidelines when leasing our Hall.

Attached is a pricing schedule and usage guide for both parishioners and non-parishioners. The fee to rent the Hall for a Parishioner in Good Standing is \$500 total. A signed Rental Agreement and payment of lease fee are required to reserve a date. All guests are expected to respect all Hall rules laid out in the Hall Lease Agreement. All trash and food stuffs must be disposed of properly at the end of your event. See the Hall Lease Agreement for specific information on the use of decorations.

To qualify for the parishioner rate, the person leasing the Hall must be a member in Good Standing for the current year. *Member in Good Standing* status requires a stewardship card on file for the current year and a reasonable payment amount made towards the current year's stewardship pledge.

To begin the Hall Lease process please go to the homepage of our Annunciation Church website. At the bottom of the home page, you will see a button labeled "**Hall Rental**." Click there to fill out the request form and you will then be contacted by our Hall Manager.

Note that use of the Hall for recognized church organizations or ministries is at no cost, however they are still required to complete the [Hall reservation form](#),¹ to ensure their dates are blocked from use by the Hall manager. This form can be accessed at the bottom of the home page of our church website.

Generally speaking, Hall rental *includes* the following. (Please see the HALL Contract for the full details)

- a) Six (6) hours of rental time
- b) Tables and chairs setup according to a previously agreed upon floor plan*
- c) Limited kitchen access (warming and cold storage privileges only)
- d) Hall cleaned prior to event
- e) Trash bins and bags

The six (6) hours of rental time does not count against setup time and the timing for this should be arranged with the Hall Manager. This rental *does not include* the following.

- a) Linens for tables, glassware, flatware, and china
- b) Food service utensils and dishes

Full kitchen privileges requires a \$350 kitchen usage fee if the food will be prepared using the Hall kitchen(s). If the lessee plans on using a catering service that cater, if they are not on the Approved Cater List, must be approved by the Hall Manager prior to use of the Hall kitchen(s).

* Set-up of the hall does not include taking down or removing any tables due to lack of personnel to do this. Parishioners are free to take down tables but must reset them after the event. Taking tables down could be done through the set-up fee. For non-parishioners events set-up fees are added to the lease price.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition to this new policy which we believe will serve to benefit us both from a financial and community perspective.

Angelo E. Maggos
Fr Angelo E. Maggos
Priest, Annunciation GOC

Jim Stathopoulos
Jim Stathopoulos
President, Annunciation GOC

¹**Note:** The link to the *Hall reservation form* is available on our website. The form is also available in the Church Office.

HALL Rates, Access and Requirements

	Recognized Church Organization	Parishioner in Good Standing	Non-Parishioner
Hall Lease Fee	No Charge	\$500	Starting @ \$1000. Final price dependent on type of package selected.
Hall Lease Deposit	N/A, however, the Church Organization MUST complete the Hall Registration¹ form to secure the date/time.	Full amount required at time of reservation. Completion of the Hall Registration¹ form to secure the date/time.	\$500 deposit at time of reservation. Completion of the Hall Registration¹ form to secure the date/time.
Hall Balance	N/A	N/A	Balance due two (2) weeks before event takes place.
Hall Lease Time	No later than 10pm	No later than 10pm 6-hour event time. Setup time does not affect this time. Additional time is \$100/hour	No later than 10pm 6-hour event time. Setup time does not affect this time. Additional time is \$100/hour
Kitchen Privileges	Full privileges	Full privileges but requires a \$350 usage fee	None
Cancellation Policy	N/A, however Church Organization MUST notify the Hall Manager 2 weeks prior to the event if their event is cancelled.	Hall lease fee recoverable if Hall Manager is notified no later than two (2) weeks prior to event.	Hall lease fee recoverable if Hall Manager is notified no later than two (2) weeks prior to event.
Use of Caterers	At discretion of the Organization but must be approved by PC.	At discretion of the organization but must be approved by PC.	Must be selected from church approved catering list.
Setup and Cleanup	Responsibility of the church ministry or organization that is leasing the Hall.	If the Lessee is not providing the setup, then setup fee is \$100. Setup plan required no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.	Setup is included in Hall leasing fee. Setup plan required no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

¹Note: The link to the *Hall reservation form* is available on our website. The form is also available in the Church Office.

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 koliva is \$150 .



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of the ANNUNCIATION

962 EAST AVENUE
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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 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Secretary: Lena L. Livecchi

Email: Office@agocroc.org

Submit Good News Articles to: goodnews@agocroc.org

2022 PARISH COUNCIL

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