

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

March 2023

From the Desk of
Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos

Parish Registry, Progress Report
Upcoming Church Services and Events

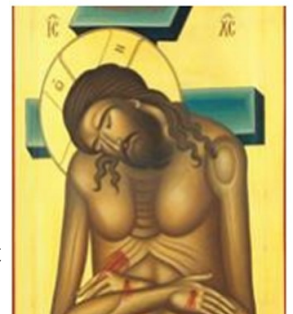
Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From Fr. Angelo

What Happens During Great Lent?

The services of Great Lent are constructed to aid us in a somber review of the gap between who we are and what we should be, as the image and likeness of God. The royal gates to the altar area remain closed as a physical reminder of Man's separation through sin from the Kingdom of God. The priest's vesting and the altar cloths are of a somber color, usually purple. The daily hymns reflect this sober mindedness as the prayers entreat God through His saints to have mercy on us sinners. Although Orthodox are most familiar with the services of Holy Week, few know the entire collection of services that make up the entire Lenten season. Every Orthodox Christian should take full advantage of the beauty and spiritual healing offered by the Church to properly and fully prepare themselves for the greatest event of Christianity – the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So let's review the entire schedule of services.

The Lenten session is prefaced by the Triodion (Τριώδιον) period, which means "three odes" and covers the preparatory weeks leading up to Holy Week. This period includes the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Sunday of the Prodigal Son and Sunday of Last Judgment which is called Meatfare Sunday (Απόκρεῶ-literally: the "Leave-taking from Meat") in Greek. Meatfare Sunday marks the change of diet to the fasting practice of Lent, as meat is no longer eaten after this day. The following week, is Forgiveness Sunday, AKA Cheesefare Sunday (Τυρινῆ, - literally: "Cheese Sunday") and occurs just before Clean Monday.



Included as part of the Lenten services are the Saturdays of Souls liturgies (Ψυχοσάββατα) set aside for the commemoration of the dead. Saturday was chosen since Christ lay dead in the tomb on a Saturday. (John 20:1 and Matt. 27:62-66) As for why we have these memorial services, the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church, being so moved in their love for man, decreed that a common memorial be made for all pious Orthodox Christians from all ages past who because of an untimely death in a faraway place, or other adverse circumstances, have died without being deemed worthy of the appointed memorial services. In the Saturday of Souls liturgies, of which there are three, we thus pray universally for all of the departed. The faithful offer koliva, and names of their departed are all read during the memorial portion of the service. The Scripture readings refer to the dead and their hope of salvation through Christ who has "trampled down death by death".

The Forty Days of Great Lent (Μεγάλη Σαρρακοστή), begin on Clean Monday (27 Feb) and increases the fast to exclude dairy products and oil, although on two specific feasts during Lent (the Annunciation and Palm Sunday), fish is allowed. On this day it is typical to conduct the Great Compline service where the Canon of St Andrew of Crete is read. The fast lasts until Pascha.

In most Greek Orthodox parishes, two services dominate the Forty Days of Lent: the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια) each Wednesday and the Salutations to the Theotokos on Fridays. Some parishes include a Great Compline service (Αποδειπνο) on Mondays. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts was first documented by St. Gregory the Dialogist (AD 540-604), who was the papal legate to Constantinople and was officially decreed to be celebrated by Canon 52 of the 6th Ecumenical Council in 680 AD.

Throughout the whole of Lent, except upon the Lord's day, the Sabbath, and the Annunciation, the presanctified gifts shall be offered.

The Presanctified Liturgy is a beautifully solemn evening service combining elements of Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion. There is no consecration of the Eucharist during the service as the Lamb (Body of Christ) has been pre-sanctified (consecrated) at the previous Sunday's liturgy. This service was initiated by the early Church to offer strength to the faithful during this time of increased struggle. The prayer of St. Ephraim of Syria that is repeated throughout this service clearly displays the repentance nature of this service:

O Lord and Master of my life: take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk. But grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. Lord and King, grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

In the Greek Orthodox tradition on Fridays of Lent the Salutation Service is conducted in place of the PreSanctified Liturgy that is typically performed in the Antiochian and Slavic traditions. The hymn was composed in Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist in the year 556. In addition to hymns similar to the Paraklisis service, each Friday several stanzas (kontakion) are intoned by the priest ending with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded." The majority of the hymns, while directed to the Mother of God, always refer back to her role as the Mother of God who brought salvation to Humanity. Which is the reason for the "Rejoice" in the refrain. The final Salutation is referred to as the Akathist Hymn as it contains each of the stanzas from the previous four Fridays.

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday are our entrance into Holy Week and celebrate two significant events in the earthly life of our Lord: His resurrecting His friend Lazarus, and His glorious entrance into the city of Jerusalem. Great and Holy Week begins with the evening Matins of the Bridegroom service on Sunday night where the long Alleluias replaces the psalm: God is the Lord. Scripture readings from Genesis and Proverbs are added to Vespers, and the Prophecy of Isaiah to the Sixth Hour. Each of these books is read nearly in its entirety during the Lenten period. The remainder of Holy Week carries us ever deeper into the darkness of Christ's betrayal, arrest, torture, trial, and finally crucifixion until we all celebrate the event of His glorious resurrection



Εισαγωγή στη Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή

Όταν κάποιος ξεκινά για ένα ταξίδι, πρέπει να ξέρει πού πηγαίνει. Το ίδιο ισχύει και με τη Σαρακοστή. Η Σαρακοστή είναι ένα πνευματικό ταξίδι και προορισμός του είναι το Πάσχα, “η εορτή των εορτών”. Είναι η προετοιμασία για την “εκπλήρωση του Πάσχα, την αληθινή Αποκάλυψη”. Για να ξεκινήσουμε, επομένως, πρέπει να προσπαθήσουμε να καταλάβουμε αυτή τη σύνδεση μεταξύ Σαρακοστής και Πάσχα, επειδή αποκαλύπτει κάτι πολύ ουσιαστικό, ύψιστης σημασίας για τη χριστιανική μας πίστη και ζωή.

Χρειάζεται να εξηγήσουμε ότι το Πάσχα είναι πολλά περισσότερα από μια ακόμη γιορτή, από μια ανάμνηση ενός περασμένου γεγονότος. Με το Πάσχα γιορτάζουμε την Ανάσταση του Χριστού ως κάτι που συνέβη και συνεχίζει να συμβαίνει σε μας. Επειδή ο καθένας μας έλαβε το δώρο αυτής της νέας ζωής και τη δύναμη να την αποδεχτεί και να τη ζήσει. Είναι ένα δώρο που αλλάζει ριζικά τη στάση μας απέναντι σε όλα τα στοιχεία αυτού του κόσμου, ακόμη και το θάνατο. Μας δίνει τη δυνατότητα να βεβαιώνουμε με χαρά: “Θάνατος δεν υπάρχει πια!” Όμως, ο θάνατος είναι ακόμα εδώ αναμιγνύομαι, και κάποια μέρα θα έρθει και θα μας πάρει. Αλλά είναι ολόκληρη η πίστη μας ότι με το θάνατο Του ο Χριστός άλλαξε την ίδια τη φύση του θανάτου, την έκανε μια μετάβαση, ένα “πέραςμα”, ένα “Πάσχα” – προς τη Βασιλεία του Θεού και μεταμόρφωσε τη μεγαλύτερη τραγωδία στον απόλυτη νίκη.

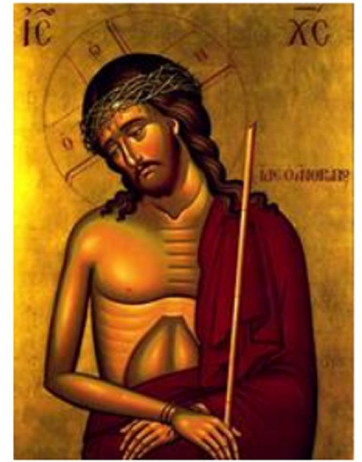
Ωστόσο, μήπως δεν είναι καθημερινή μας διαπίστωση ότι αυτή η πίστη μάς ανήκει πολύ σπάνια, ότι συνεχώς χάνουμε και προδίδουμε τη “νέα ζωή” που λάβαμε ως δώρο, και ότι στην πραγματικότητα ζούμε σαν ο

Χριστός να μην είχε αναστηθεί από τους νεκρούς, σαν αυτό το μοναδικό γεγονός να μην είχε καμιά σημασία για μας; Απλά τα ξεχνάμε όλα αυτά – τόσο πολυάσχολοι είμαστε με τις καθημερινές μας ανησυχίες – και επειδή τα ξεχνάμε, Και μέσα αυτή την κατάσταση η ζωή μας γίνεται πάλι “παλιά” και σκοτεινή, ένα άσκοπο ταξίδι προς ένα άσκοπο τέλος. Μεσα την Σαρακοστή μπορούμε να παύουμε και αναγνωρίζουμε και να εξομολογούμαστε τις διάφορες “αμαρτίες” μας, να αντιστοιχίζουμε τη ζωή μας πάλι προς εκείνη τη νέα ζωή που μας έδωσε ο Χριστός.



Ένα ταξίδι, ένα προσκύνημα! Όμως, καθώς το ξεκινάμε, καθώς κάνουμε το πρώτο βήμα στο “χαροποιόν πένθος.” Η Σαρακοστή βλέπουμε μακριά, πολύ μακριά – τον προορισμό. Είναι χαρά του Πάσχα, είναι η είσοδος στη δόξα της Βασιλείας. Και

είναι αυτή η όραση, η πρόγευση του Πάσχα, που κάνει το πένθος της Σαρακοστής χαροποιόν, το σαρακοστιανό μας αγώνα μια «πνευματική άνοιξη».



Prot. No. 71

CATECHETICAL HOMILY
At the Opening of Holy and Great Lent

+ BARTHOLOMEW

By God's mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Together with our Prayer, Blessing and Forgiveness Be with All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

By the goodwill and grace of the all-merciful and all-benevolent God, already living in the blessed and reverent period of the Triodion, tomorrow we enter Holy and Great Lent, the arena of fasting and “venerable abstinence” that eliminate the passions, during which the depth and wealth of our Orthodox Tradition and the vigilant care of the Church for the spiritual progress of its children are revealed. As we are reminded by the Holy and Great Council of Crete (June, 2016), “the Orthodox Church, in strict conformity with the apostolic precepts, the synodal canons, and the patristic tradition as a whole, has always proclaimed the great significance of fasting for our spiritual life and salvation” (The Importance of Fasting and its Observance Today, para. 1).

In the life of the Church, all matters have a solid theological foundation and soteriological reference. Orthodox Christians share the “common struggle” of ascesis and fasting “giving thanks in everything” (Thess. 5.18). The Church invites its children to run the race of ascetic exercises as a journey toward Holy Pascha. It is a central experience of the life in Christ that genuine asceticism is never despondent, since it is imbued with the expectation of resurrectional delight. Our hymnology speaks of the “spring of fasting.”

In this sense, far from the trappings of Neoplatonist dualism and the alienating efforts to “mortify the body,” genuine asceticism cannot conceivably aim at the eradication of an “evil body” for the sake of the spirit or the liberation of the soul from the torment of its shackles. As emphasized, “in its authentic expression, ascesis is not directed against the body but against the passions, whose root is spiritual because the intellect is the first to fall to passion. Thus, the body is hardly the great opponent of the ascetic.”

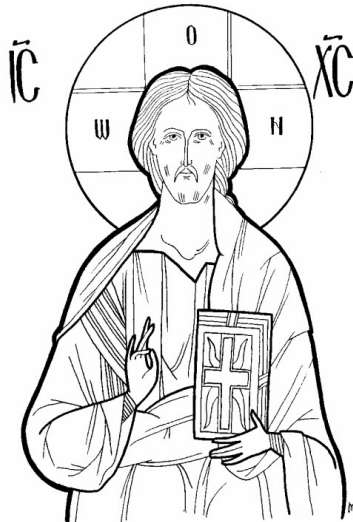
The ascetic endeavor pursues the transcendence of egocentrism, for the sake of love that “does not seek its own” and without which we remain enslaved within ourselves, in the “insatiable ego” and its unquenchable desires. Being self-centered, we shrink and lose our creativity, as has been said: “Whatever we give is multiplied; and whatever we retain for ourselves is lost.” For this reason, the wisdom of the Fathers and the experience of the Church associate the period of fasting with the “showering of mercy,” with good deeds and philanthropy, which are the evidence of surpassing self-love and acquiring existential fullness.

Such wholeness is at all times the characteristic of life in the Church. The liturgical life, ascesis and spirituality, pastoral care and good witness in the world, are expressions of the truth of our faith, interconnected and mutually complementary elements of our Christian identity, which share the eschatological Kingdom as a point of reference and orientation, as well as the completeness and fulfilment of the divine Economy. While church life in all its expressions reflects and depicts the coming Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it is the mystery of the Divine Eucharist that above all, as underlined by the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon, recently of blessed memory, “expresses the Church in its fullness” (The Image of the Heavenly Kingdom, Megara 2013, p. 59). “Pure communion,” the rendering of our existence into that of the church, as participation in the Holy Eucharist, is the “end” of fasting, the “crown” and “prize” of ascetical struggles (see John Chrysostom, Homilies on Isaiah VI: On the Seraphim, PG 56.139).

Today, in an age of desacralization of life, when humankind “attributes great importance to entirely insignificant things,” our Christian mission is the practical elevation of the existential depth of our Orthodox “trptych of spirituality,” as the inseparable unity of liturgical life, ascetic ethos and solidarity, the essence of the revolution of values in the fields of ethos and civilization constituted by faith in Christ and the divinely-granted freedom of the children of God. We consider it of paramount importance that we should live Holy and Great Lent as a revelation and experience of the true meaning of freedom “for which Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5.1).

With these thoughts and sentiments of love and honor, we wish you, our most honorable brothers in Christ and spiritual children of our Mother Church throughout the world, a smooth course in the arena of fasting, invoking on all of you the grace and mercy of Christ our God, who always delights in the ascetic struggles of His people. To Him belongs the blessed and glorified power of the Kingdom, now and always, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2023
✠ **BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople**
Your fervent supplicant for all before God





**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.



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TOTAL DONATION IN \$ _____

SIGNATURE _____

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

CALENDAR OF CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- 1 March – Aghia Paraskevi Bingo Night, 6:00 PM
+1 March - Presanctified Liturgy at Annunciation, 5:00 PM
+3 March - Salutations to the Theotokos, 5:00 PM
+4 March - 3rd Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM
 4 March - Seniors Club & Drosopigi Society, Sarakosti Dinner 4:00 PM
+5 March - Sunday of Orthodoxy. Kids, Bring your icons.
 5 March – Seniors Bake Sale, 10:00 AM
 6 March - - PC Meeting, 6:00 PM
+8 March – Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Spirit, 6:00 PM
 9 March - Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM
+10 March - Salutations to the Theotokos, 5:00 PM
 12 March - Greek School Dance Practice, 5:00 PM
 15 March – Good News Submission Deadline
+15 March – Presanctified Liturgy at Annunciation, 5:00 PM
 16 March - Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM
+17 March – Salutations to the Theotokos, 5:00 PM
 18 March – NYS Lenten Retreat in Buffalo, 11:00 AM
 19 March – Confession Class for Sunday School, 11:00 AM
 19 March – March Greek School Dance Practice, 5:00 PM
 20 March - Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM
+22 March – Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Spirit, 6:00 PM
 23 March – Seniors Meeting, 11:00 AM
 24 March - Vespers of the Annunciation at Buffalo, 6:00 PM - Bus trip from Rochester.-
 Bus leaves at 4:00 PM
+25 March – Annunciation of the Theotokos, Orthros, 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
 25 March - Join Greek School in celebrating Greek Independence Day on Sunday, 12:00 PM
 26 March – Confession Class for Sunday School, 11:00 AM
+29 March – Presanctified Liturgy at Annunciation, 5:00 PM
+31 March - Akathistos to Theotokos, 5:00 PM
 2 April - Greek School Dance Practice, 5:00 PM
 3 April - Office closed
 3 April - PC meeting, 6:00 PM
+5 April - Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Spirit, 6:00 PM
- +GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Refer to pages 10 and 11**



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

Join as us as we travel to Annunciation Church in Buffalo for the Nameday of our Churches

Friday March 24, 2023

Bus leaves Church at 4 pm

Vespers Service at 6 pm

Bus returns 10 pm

\$50 per person and payment must be received by
Monday March 20th. No refunds.

To sign up, contact the Church Office 244-3377,
Despina Georgantopoulos 585-966-9055 or
Patty Hatzipapas 585-721-9987



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2023 SERVICES FOR GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK**

Saturday, 4/8	Raising of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Sunday, 4/9	PALM SUNDAY Palm Sunday Luncheon immediate following the Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
	Bridegroom Matins	6:00 pm
Monday, 4/10	HOLY MONDAY Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service	6:00 pm
Tuesday, 4/11	HOLY TUESDAY Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service - Hymn of Kassiane	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 4/12	HOLY WEDNESDAY Holy Unction (2 services available)	4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday, 4/13	HOLY THURSDAY Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Office of Holy Passion (Twelve Gospels)	10:00 am 6:00 pm
Friday, 4/14	HOLY FRIDAY The Royal Hours (Decorating Epitaphio) Vespers of Apokathelosis (Descent from the Cross) Office of Lamentations (Epitaphio)	10:00 am 2:00 pm 8:00 pm
Saturday, 4/15	GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil HOLY PASCHA RESURRECTION SERVICE	10:00 am 11:00 pm
Sunday, 4/16	HOLY PASCHA AGAPE SERVICE (Sunday of Love)	11:00 am

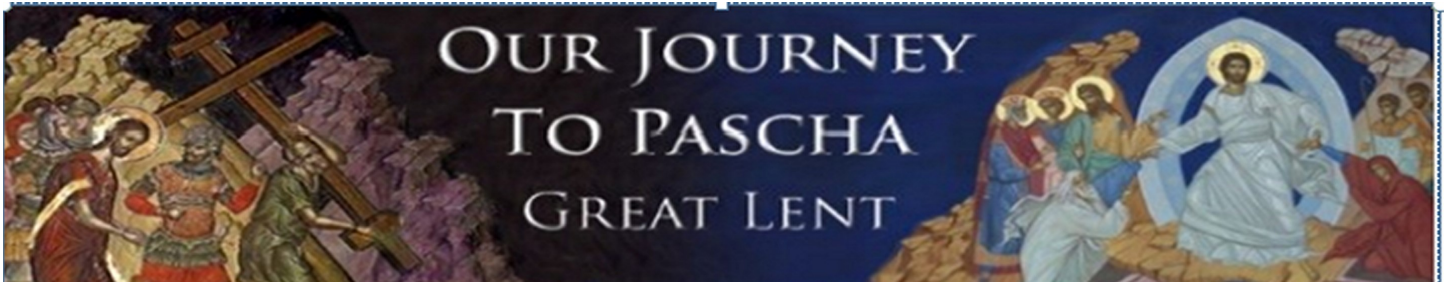
Please note that all the services of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be alternated between Annunciation and Holy Spirit. Salutations to the Theotokos will begin at 5pm.

**Η ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ**

Σάββατο, 4/8	Θεία Λειτουργία - Ανάσταση του Λάζαρου Πρόγευμα μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 πμ
Κυριακή 4/9	Θεία Λειτουργία - Των Βαΐων Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Δευτέρα 4/10	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου Το τροπάριο της Κασσιανής	6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Τρίτη 4/11	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Τετάρτη 4/12	Μυστήριο του Αγίου Ευχέλαιου	4:00 πμ 7:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Πέμπτη 4/13	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου Τα Πάθη του Χρίστου (Δώδεκα Ευαγγέλια)	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Πρασκευή 4/14	Ακολουδία των Βασιλικών Ωρων Η Αποκαθήλωσις Ο Επιτάφιος Θρήνος (Τα Εγκώμια)	10:00 πμ 2:00 μμ 8:00 μμ
Μεγάλο Σάββατο 4/15	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου Αγία και Μεγάλη Κυριακή του Πάσχα (Θεία Λειτουργία της Αναστάσεως)	10:00 πμ 11:00 μμ
Κυριακή του Πάσχα 4/16	Ακολουδία της Αγάπης	11:00 πμ

***Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω, θάνατον πατήσας
και τοίς εν τοίς μν΄μασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.***

Παρακαλούμε να σημειώσετε ότι όλες τις ακολουθίες, Λειτουργία των Προηγιασμένων και Χαιρετισμούς της Θεοτόκου, θα γίνεται στις 5μμ.



FLOWERS FOR LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

The following list of items are those used to decorate during Great Lent and Holy Week Services, to include the Tomb of Christ “Epitaphio”. It is a time for each of us to reflect and participate in this labor of love. We have arranged to have a variety of pricing so as to encourage everyone to donate one or more of the items listed.

You can donate by:

- Placing your donation in the “Easter Flower” envelope located in the church pews
- Calling the Church Office or stop by the Church during business hours (10 am - 3 pm M-F)
- Mailing your donation to the Church

FLOWERS FOR ICONS

1 st Salutations	\$120.00
2 nd Salutations	\$120.00
3 rd Salutations	\$120.00
4 th Salutations	\$120.00
Akathist Hymn	\$120.00
Sunday of Orthodoxy	\$ 75.00
Annunciation Feast Day	\$120.00
Sunday of the Holy Cross	\$120.00
Saturday of Lazarus	\$120.00
Palm Sunday	\$100.00
Nymphios Icon (Sun-Tues)	\$120.00
Nymphios Procession Icon (Sun)	\$140.00
Crucifixion of Christ (Thurs).	\$120.00
The Un-nailing of Christ	\$120.00
Empty Tomb (Holy Sat. Morning)	\$120.00
Resurrection Icon	\$120.00

GREAT LENT & HOLY WEEK ITEMS

Rose Water for Epitaphio	\$25.00
12 Gospels Candles	\$120.00
Candles for the Crucifix	\$ 50.00
Priest Resurrection Candle	\$150.00
Eggs for Resurrection Service	120 Dozen
Daffodils - Sun of Holy Cross	\$ 60.00
Crown of Thorns (Holy Thurs)	\$ 65.00
Palms for the Crosses	\$150.00
Garland for Nymphios	\$ 50.00
Holy Unction Oil	\$ 25.00
Epitaphio Flowers	\$1600.00
Rose Petals	\$150.00
Bay Leaves	\$ 75.00
Potted Easter Lilies	\$125.00

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

March 12, 2023

This year's speakers

Antonio Chinchilla (6th grade)

TOPIC 3 The sacraments are the mysteries of the Church through which God gives us His grace by actions, words, and material objects (for example, oil, wine, and bread). Pick one sacrament and explain its meaning. Antonio will discuss the sacrament of confession.

Athanasia Tzogas (6th grade)

TOPIC 4 Jesus models and teaches humility throughout His life and ministry. Discuss the challenges of living according to Jesus' teachings in a society that does not necessarily emphasize humility.

Vasili Koupas (8th grade)

TOPIC 1 Orthodox tradition teaches that the saints remain spiritually active beyond their earthly life. Discuss how we ask the Saints to intercede and pray for us and why.

Images below are from the 2019 NY District Oratorical Festival.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Parishioners,

Sunday School is in full swing for the Lenten season. We have/had lots of events in March. We are so proud of the hard work our children put into the oratorical festival. Thank you to Demos, Father Angelo, our parents, and our teachers for preparing the children for this very important event in the Orthodox church.

The children are working to collect coins for our philanthropy project to benefit Orthodox Christian Mission Center during Lent. Parents can encourage their children to do chores around the house, help a neighbor or a family member to earn coins! Father Angelo is also introducing the Sacrament of Confession to our Sunday School and we are looking forward to more chapel lessons with Juan and Sam coming up in April and May!

We would like to gauge interest in Vacation Church School this summer. We will be sending a survey through email in the coming weeks. We would like the parish's feedback on volunteers, ideas, and times that work for people to be able to participate. We appreciate your time in filling this out!

Perfect Attendance in January:

Congratulations to all of the kids that made it every day to Sunday School in January!

Preschool	Evangeline Gashlin and Zoe Onderdonk
Kindergarten	John Jackson and Stefanos Tzogas
1st	Mia Abulaitah, Anthony Gashlin, and Thanos Matakos
2nd	Daniel Collins
3rd	Meera Abulaitah and Brennan Collins
4th	Alex Chinchilla and Damianos Tzogas
6th	Antonio Chinchilla and Athanasia Tzogas
8th	Vasilios Koupas

Important Dates:

March 5th: Procession of Icons- Children bring icon to church

March 12th: Oratorical Festival after the Divine Liturgy

March 19th: Confession with Father Angelo for older grades

March 26th: Confession with Father Angelo for younger grades

April 2nd: Attendance Announcements for December through February

April 14th: Lenten Retreat for all children

April 23rd: Chapel Lesson on the Divine Liturgy (first half), Bingo Boards due, and coin collection due

We have many Sunday School videos. 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!

With Love in Christ,
Karina and Lauren
Religious Education Directors

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: Good for the drive to church or for anywhere that you happen to be driving! This is a great way to help prepare your children (and yourself) for the Gospel reading of the day.

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

This is a feature of the Antiochian Orthodox Department of Christian Education and Ancient Faith Radio and is available on Apple Podcasts or Ancient Faith App:



Children's Word Sunday Bulletin: For both kids and grown-ups! Available in print each Sunday next to the regular bulletin and at the link below:





Dear Parishioners,

We are looking to run a Vacation Church School this summer for our youth, and we are looking for some input from all of you!

We would greatly appreciate your time in filling out our survey. Just scan the QR Code below.

We are interested to hear from parents, potential volunteers, and parish members in general to see what suggestions and ideas our community has for this program.

We look forward to hearing from you and starting the planning process!

With Love in Christ,

Religious Education Team



ST. TIMOTHY'S CAMP 2023

JUNE 26 - JULY 1

sttimothycamp.org



GREEK SCHOOL

Dear Greek School Families and Parishioners,

In an effort to improve our current Greek School program, we would like to evaluate what we can do differently in the near future, so that we can create more language and cultural enrichment for our students. This survey is your opportunity to provide us with your honest feedback and creative ideas on how we can improve our current program, curriculum, instruction and structure. This is an anonymous survey, unless you choose to disclose your name or children's name in your response. The survey will remain open until March 31st.

We would like to hear from our parish, parents, teachers, and anyone who would like to provide their honest assessment for our current Greek School program. Once we have collected your responses, you will also have the opportunity to participate in an in-person meeting to ask questions and/or offer support.

Please take 5-10 min to submit your thoughts and feedback through the QR code or the link below:
<https://forms.gle/zxGUbMK9meBLUgkT9>

Any questions about this survey can be directed at agreekschool@gmail.com
Thank you for your open and honest responses!

Ευχαριστούμε,
Maria Dembeyiotis & Elina Kokorotsis
Greek School Directors





Join Greek School as we celebrate Greek Independence Day!

Sunday, March 26th at 12:00pm

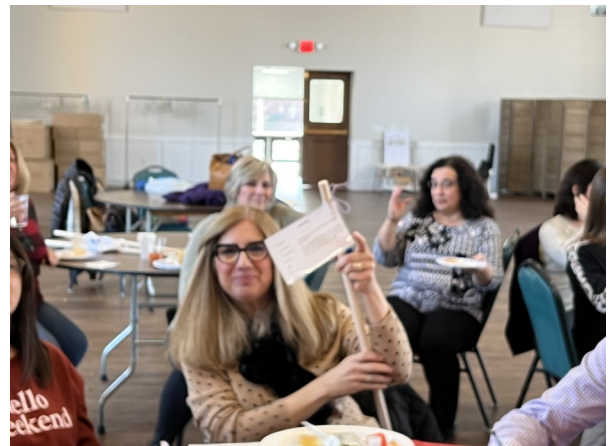
Τα παιδιά της κοινότητας μας θα παρουσιάσουν ποιήματα και χορούς για να γιορτάσουμε μαζί την 25η Μαρτίου.



Saturday, February 18th.
Agia Paraskevi Presented
Pita Lessons



This was part 1 of a 2-part series where the attendees learned not only how to make the pita but also learned how to make their own phyllo dough. In Part 2 the attendees will be divided into small groups where they will make their own pitas.





2023 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
 Vay-Schleich & Meeson, Funeral and Cremation
 Chapels

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

¹Note: 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
ROCHESTER, NY 14607

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, N.Y.

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

2023 PARISH COUNCIL

- Eric Vangellow, President
- Peggy Votsis, Vice President
- Dimitrios Kolokouris, Treasurer
- Helen Eisenberg, Secretary
- Karen Balta
- Patricia Gitsis
- Minas Theodorou
- Eric Vangellow
- Ronald Wiegand
- Evangelos Yannas