

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

May 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

While every Holy Week and Resurrection service is beautiful, this year was especially memorable in that it was immensely joyful to see our church filled once again to celebrate this most important event of our Orthodox faith. COVID certainly has had an impact on all of our lives but going through the pandemic has restored the blessing of having us appreciate the importance of in-person community. The words of Genesis, *"It is not good for man to be alone"* God communicates His desire that we, His creation, are meant to be in communion with one another in a very personal and intimate way that cannot be reproduced through technology.

However for many in our community who are unable to have this in-person communion (homebound, hospitals or nursing homes, or health-related concerns) technology, via the livestreaming of our services, provides a way to maintain this important connection. And not just to a church, but OUR church and the people that they know. During this Holy Week Demos and I had many people tell us how grateful they are for our livestreaming as it gave their family members the opportunity to feel as though they are part of our community.

Returning to the theme of this year's Holy Week, I could not help but be moved seeing our church bathed in the light of hundreds of candles and the deafening joyful cries of Χριστος Ανεστη (Christ is Risen!) shattering the darkness. This year was especially memorable as we heard the words of our beautiful hymns sung in Greek, English, and Arabic reminding us of the universal nature of our Orthodox Christian faith.

Equally meaningful were the inspiring words of one of the greatest orators of our Orthodox Church, St. John Chrysostom. St John vividly reminds us of the glorious, joyful, and hopeful event that is Christ's Resurrection. He speaks to the heart of the salvific work accomplished by our Lord and Savior which is to once again restore the relationship we had with God in the Garden.

"Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free: He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom."

The linchpin of our Christian faith is the belief in the ACTUAL DEATH and BODILY RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ. A resurrection where Christ, fully divine, one in essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit and yet fully human like us, died and resurrected as the example of what our renewed glorified form will be in God's everlasting kingdom. With this Truth as a solid foundation, we can endure history's many so-called "new revelations" of the faith without impact. In fact, St. Paul goes so far as to say that without the event of the Resurrection our faith is pointless.

"...But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then our preaching is useless, and your faith is also useless." (1 Cor 15)

Christ Himself assures us of both His divinity and of God's mercy towards us saying *"I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in Me, even though that person dies, will live."* (John 10:30 and 11:25) God's willingness to offer His only begotten Son for Man's salvation is the proof that we as Christians do not worship a transcendent God separate from His creation unable to partake in the suffering of His creation, as is the case in the gods of ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Norse. God's condescension as Man, one of His own creations, brought Him directly into the history of Humanity offering us a real and personal encounter, both dur-

Continued on page 2

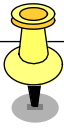
ing His life and after His resurrection. It is this personal encounter as Man that allows us to represent Christ in the iconography of the Church.

This is what St. Paul was saying when he preached to the Greeks in Athens regarding the identity of the Unknown God of their Gnostic faith (Acts 17). Through Christ's birth God was man manifest in human history and through Christ's BODILY resurrection mankind has been given the chance to redeem that which was lost by Adam; life everlasting in the new Eden.

Through Christ our Lord, we have been freely given through His Suffering and Grace, total and complete victory over death by the power of death to which Chrysostom so boldly responded with επικράνθη! Let us therefore in the same boldness and joy join St. John Chrysostom when he states:

“O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and life is freed, Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead ...O Hades, you have been vexed επικράνθη by encountering Him in the nether world. "Hades is vexed επικράνθη because frustrated, it is vexed επικράνθη because it has been mocked, it is vexed επικράνθη because it has been destroyed, it is vexed επικράνθη because it has been reduced to naught. So let us all ...as Pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this [Paschal] feast; ... let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward.”





Annunciation Parishioners. Χριστος Ανεστη! Christ is risen!

As some of you have already heard, last Friday at about 4:30pm there was an unsuccessful attempt to steal my Kia Sportage. While they were not able to steal the vehicle it was vandalized. This is unfortunately the third incident of vandalism at our church. There have also been suspicious vehicles "patrolling" our parking lot both at night and during the day.

Our church is certainly not the only area in Rochester where these crimes are occurring and they have been happening with increased frequency. I am writing this information not to scare anyone but to be sure that we are extra vigilant when exiting and entering our vehicles.

In response to this new reality the Parish Council and I have initiated several measures of increased security for everyone's safety.

1. Our church is outfitted with five (5) outside cameras which record live 24/7 every day and thus we are able to capture criminal incidents and suspicious behavior.
2. The Parish Council secured the services of a security watchman who was posted at our rear parking lot each evening of Holy Week and we are discussing security options moving forward.
3. We are working with two parishioners well experienced in security protocols and the Rochester Police dept to create a current security manual that outlines what measures need to be taken for various scenarios that could present a hazard.
4. **We require that all entrance doors, whether church or hall MUST NOT BE PROPPED OPEN.**
5. We encourage all of you that if you see suspicious activity do not hesitate to call 911 and report this to those who are on Narthex duty.

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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EXP. DATE _____ CVC NO. _____

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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

AGENDA - SPRING General Assembly 2023

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, following the Divine Liturgy service we will be having the **Spring General Assembly meeting. As in previous years, the GA will be held in church and also livestreamed. We will be able to take questions via chat from the livestream.**

Please see the Agenda below and we look forward to seeing you there and ask that you encourage your friends and family to attend.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Call to Order | PC President |
| 2. Opening Prayer | Fr. Angelo |
| 3. Approval of previous General Assembly Minutes Meeting | Meeting Chairperson |
| 4. Treasurer Report and Stewardship | D. Kolokouris/Eric Vangellow |
| 5. Update on Strategic Plan | |
| 6. Ministry and Organization Reports | |
| a. Fund Raising Events | Eric Vangellow |
| • Greek Festival | |
| • Golf Outing | |
| • Hall rental | |
| b. Youth Director Report | |
| c. Communications Ministry | |
| d. Religious Education | <div style="font-size: 3em; line-height: 1;">}</div> <p>In the interest of time and to allow ample time for a full and open discussion all ministry, updates will be provided at the General Assembly meeting.</p> |
| e. Philoptochos | |
| f. Choir/Chant | |
| g. GOYA | |
| h. Greek School | |
| i. Seniors Group | |
| j. Cultural Groups | |
| 7. Call for Questions | |
| 8. General Maintenance and Upkeep | |
| 9. Old Business | |
| 10. New Business | |
| a. Financial Audit | |
| b. Board of Election Nominations | |
| c. Community and Youth Center | |
| 11. Call for Adjournment | GA Chairman |
| 12. Closing Prayer | Fr. Angelo |

From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director

When I accepted the role of Youth Director, I was met with much support and a list of challenges on the table. We have been blessed with a robust Sunday School program, active GOYA group, and a bevy of good-spirited, excited youth; however, it is clear that these youth are not present in the numbers that many may have been familiar with in years' past. This is congruent with the experience of many Christian communities, particularly in the U.S. While we have been successful in reaching those in need on the digital frontier (with near-11,000 subscribers on YouTube), it is undeniable that we must also fortify our local "frontier" at the community level with an expanded focus on youth programs and offerings.

My assigned focus for the first year of this journey was to research and develop solutions to facilitate an ongoing foundation for youth activity. From New York to Texas, we corresponded with Orthodox Churches that showcase successful youth/young adult programs and facilities (including Orthodox schools) to explore and learn their best practices for success.

Which brings up the big question: based on our findings, how do we attract the youth to be active participants for the future of our community? My answer, that I have proposed to our Parish Council, based on my past



1. St. George Current Youth Room

youth worker experience and what I have found at other Orthodox parishes, is to create a space that will lean into their interests and facilitate interaction. This idea is validated by the success stories in the Buffalo Life Center and Houston's St. George Orthodox Church and Annunciation Greek Orthodox church. These facilities host large teen rooms with features such as: board games, pool tables, table tennis, foosball, approved video games, televisions, projectors, library, crafts, and more. Additionally, they support contemporary chairs, tables, couches, and lighting that provide a relaxing, inviting atmosphere.

In the three days I was in Houston, I never once saw the Teen Room empty of youth participants (with the proper exception being the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy). Saturday at 9am the room was packed with youths interacting and playing games (and they were not there for any specified event). When I asked them questions, they were very friendly, polite, and displayed the best Orthodox practices.

As impressive as Houston's current room is, their success has enabled them to expand. They are currently well on their way to reach a fundraising goal to build a brand-new facility that will provide a new ballroom and an entire floor dedicated to youth with the additions of a work-out gym, new activities such as air hockey, contemporary lighting effects, and more.

For comparison, the Buffalo Life Center has a more modest Teen Room with additional playground, half-basketball court, and large field for sport. This is supplemented with a children's library and craft center that is currently expanding.



2. St. George's Future Teen Room

Continued on page 8

With the application of the best practices that these three Orthodox Churches have demonstrated, in addition to the donations and facilities we already have, we should be able to create a wonderful, dynamic space for our youth. Imagine an activity center where they can be encouraged to interact and play fairly among a bevy of options including a frappe/coffee bar; a study area/library where they can be inspired by the Good News and written Word and further provide opportunities for tutoring programs or craft workshops; or, a small auditorium with a stage to provide a space for community plays and presentations (such as our Christmas play where they will be able to rehearse and perform on the same stage).

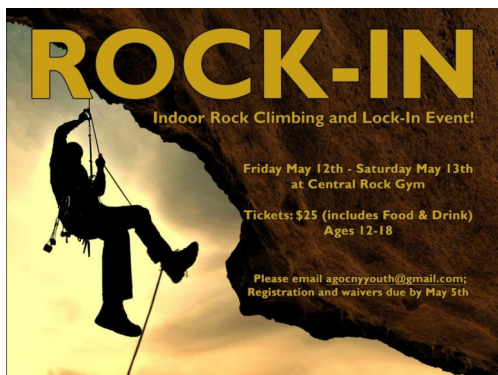
A Community Center, would provide the opportunity to host more easily many events such as a weekly Youth Night, karaoke, games, movies, group activities, and more. The events would be a bit more structured to include an Orthodox topic and teen-centric subjects that should be paired with (but not overwhelm) the night's activities where we will encourage a genuine, safe environment where questions can be asked, and topics explored via activity.

We hope that our largest challenge after building this space will be that the youth want to use it too much. We feel that if the biggest problem we face is that our kids want to go to Church a lot, then we have won more than half the battle. We have been doing an excellent job teaching Orthodox and Greek values at Annunciation, but we have a lot of opportunity on the table that we must take advantage of. We provide religious guidance through Sunday School. We provide Greek culture guidance through Greek School, the Festival, Greek Dancing, and more. We need to focus on teen guidance for teen issues in a similar fashion.

As we've stated before, this is the future of our community, and these are the types of interactive, memory-making opportunities that will create strong bonds for OUR future. We live in a digitally isolating world, where community, family, and safety are dissolving at a rapid rate. Giving them their space, oddly enough, can help redirect them toward the stronger bonds of their peers. After all, God is in Community (Communion). Let's do our part to take action to build and strengthen it.

Demos Euclid
Annunciation Youth Director

Χριστος Ανεστη! Christ is Risen to our Annunciation Youth!



Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and our other NY District Orthodox Churches are joining forces to present a special youth event featuring indoor rock climbing and an overnight lock-in including unique games, food, and more at Central Rock Gym.

TIME:

Friday, May 12th at 7:30pm – Saturday, May 13th at 8:30am

WHERE:

Central Rock Gym
725 Averill Ave
Rochester, NY 14607

This event is open to all teenagers between 12 and 18 with a reduced ticket price of \$25 per child (payable the night of the event). Father Maggos will be joining with a few words of inspiration along with the Buffalo and Rochester Youth Directors.

To register, please email agocnyyouth@gmail.com by May 5th. You will receive three mandatory waivers to sign and return plus further instructions on what to expect and what to bring (e.g. sleeping bags, pillow, etc).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – if you're 18+ and would like to volunteer, email agocnyyouth@gmail.com as soon as possible and we'll schedule you for a FREE rock climbing lesson.

CALENDAR OF CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS:

1 May – PC Meeting, 6:00 PM

4 May – Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM

7 May – Chapel Class Divine Liturgy, Part 2, 11:00 AM

7 May – Greek School Dance Practice, 5:00 PM

11 May – Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM

12-13 May - PAN-GOYA rock-in @Central Rock Gym, Rochester.

14 May – Mother’s Day

14 May – Greek School Dance Practice, 5:00 PM

15 May – Good News Submission Deadline

18 May – Greek School Dance Practice, 6:00 PM

20 May – Greek School last day of class

21 May - General Assembly, 12:00 Noon. This is an information only General Assembly.

25 May - Seniors’ Meeting 11:00 AM

+27 May - Saturday of Souls Graveside Services.

+ **9:00 am - Webster Rural**

+ **10:30 am - White Haven**

+ **11:30 am - Mt. Hope**

+ **12:30 pm - Grove Place/Chili**

+ **1:30 pm - Westside Cemetery/Scottsville**

+ **TBD - Batavia Cemeteries**

+ **For all other cemetery locations please call the church office to schedule a time and date.**

29 May - Office closed

1-4 June - Annunciation Greek Festival

10 June - Greek School Seabreeze Picnic - Tentative

12 June - PC Meeting, 6:00 PM

15 June - Good News Submission Deadline.



Greek Festival 2023 is taking place this year **Thursday, June 1 through Sunday, June 4** and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Please volunteer a bit of your time by signing up on the festival's website: www.rochestergreekfestival.com and click on the "VOLUNTEER" tab. Thank you!

GREAT LENT

PRESANCTIFIED



AKATHIST HYMN



HOLY WEEK



BYZANTINE CHANT

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

We were blessed to have Prodrimos Karagiannidis, a Protopsalti from Katerini, Greece, with us for Holy Week/Pascha services this year. His time here was not only spiritually edifying but also served as a platform from which we could learn and grow in Byzantine Chant.

We hope to explore more opportunities like this to continue our training as well as to inspire others to join us in learning this beautiful tradition!



HOLY WEEK

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS



PALM SUNDAY



HOLY WEEK

NYMPHIOS (BRIDEGROOM) SERVICES



HOLY UNCTION



HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY



HOLY WEEK

HOLY FRIDAY

Decorating the Kouvouklion (Tomb)



HOLY FRIDAY

Vespers of Apokathelosis (Descent from the Cross)



HOLY FRIDAY

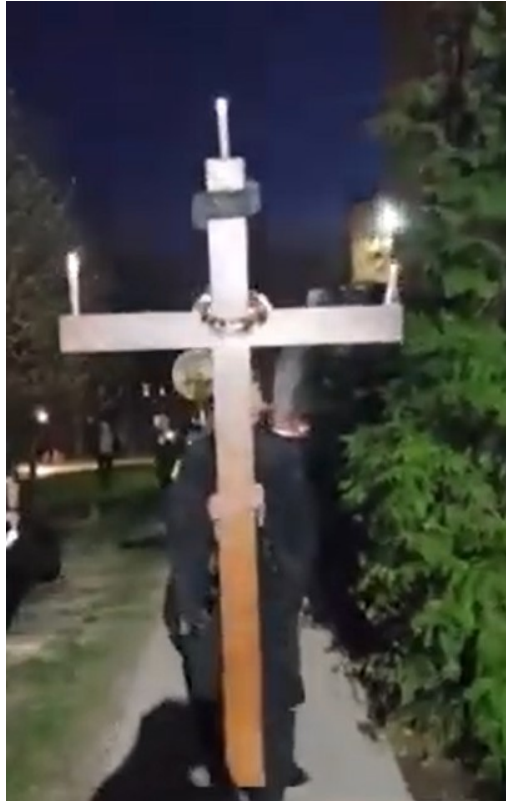
Joyous Lamentations



HOLY WEEK

HOLY FRIDAY

Joyous Lamentations



HOLY WEEK

HOLY FRIDAY

Joyous Lsmentations



HOLY WEEK

MIDNIGHT RESURRECTION



AGAPE SERVICE



Scholarships

2023-2024 Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships Available

<https://www.goarch.org/-/goa-scholarships-2023>



FLORENCE G. STEFANOU MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SPONSORED BY THE STEFANOU FAMILY

AND

THE METROPOLIS OF DETROIT PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTER OR VISIT THE METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT PHILOPTOCHOS WEBSITE**

Applicants must be related to a Philoptochos member

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christos Anasti! Christ has Risen!

We had a wonderful lenten retreat this year on Holy Friday. Thank you to all the teachers and parents who helped volunteer. The children did an amazing job in both morning and afternoon services! Also thank you to our teens for counting all the coins! We raised over \$300 for the Orthodox Christian Mission boxes! We have just a few more weeks left of Sunday School. We will see you all there!

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey that was sent out March 3rd on Vacation Church School. We would like the parish's feedback on volunteers, ideas, and times that work for people to be able to participate. If you haven't given us feedback yet, it is not too late! We will be sending out more information on this, so please be on the lookout!

Important Dates:

Sunday May 7th: Chapel Lesson on the Divine Liturgy (second half)

Sunday May 21st: Last day of Sunday School: Ice Cream Social and Attendance Awards!

August date TBD: Summer Vacation Church School

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!

Perfect Attendance in March:

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

Preschool	Zoe Onderdonk
Kindergarten	James Jackson John Jackson Loukas Triantafilou and Stefanos Tzogas
1st	Mia Abuaitah
3rd	Meera Abuaitah
4th	Alex Chinchilla Eleni Triantafilou and Damianos Tzogas
6th	Antonio Chinchilla and Athanasia Tzogas

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



THANK YOU ΕΝΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ



To everyone who supported the Apokriatiko Dance through attendance and generous donations. We had an amazing turn out and a wonderful evening was had by all!

We are proud to share that we have used proceeds from the dance to order 15 traditional costumes from Greece, to be worn by our dancers in the Greek Festival this year!



With these additional costumes, we are able to provide a costume for every student in our dance program. The church will retain these costumes for years to come and future students of Greek dance will be able to borrow them.

WITH LOVE | **ΜΕ ΠΟΛΥ ΑΓΑΠΗ**
Greek School & GOYA

Dear Greek School Families and Parishioners,

Congratulations to all! We had a wonderful event for our Greek Independence Day!



A job well done by all the students; they made their teachers and families proud!

A lot of individuals helped us prepare for the event by getting involved early in the process and also throughout the event on Sunday. Huge Thank you's go to the March 25th Committee: Katrina and John Manos, Vicki Pease, Sarah Ann Panitsidis and Claudia Votsis for helping to plan the logistics, set-up the hall, and host the event. Additional Thank you's & Gratitude go to:

- Zoi Varihidis for teaching the children Greek songs throughout the past few months.
- Maria Mihalitsas for accompanying the singing with her keyboard.
- PJ Manou for teaching the traditional dances to each Greek School class.
- Vasili Antoniou for being our videographer.
- Spiro Kapatos for being our photographer.
- Demo Euclid for supporting the audio equipment.

Lastly, our deep gratitude goes to our Greek School Teachers for continuing to teach, educate, and provide support to our students! Please share your gratitude with them when you see them next time in Greek School!

You are invited: Saturday, May 13th at 9:30-11:30 am for a Parent Meeting with the Greek School Directors. During our time together we will foster a collaborative discussion to review the results from the Parent Survey, and also share upcoming changes to our Greek School Program. Please drop off your children to Greek School and stay to participate in the Parent Meeting.

A look ahead:

- May 20: Last day of class. Italian Ice will be served as a treat during the break!
- May 21: Graduation and Promotion immediately following Divine Liturgy
- June 10: Seabreeze Picnic. If you haven't ordered a t-shirt yet, let us know asap!

Feel free to reach out with your questions at agreeschool@gmail.com

Ευχαριστούμε,
Maria Dembeyiotis & Elina Kokorotsis
Greek School Directors

GREEK SCHOOL

March 25 Greek Independence Day Celebration



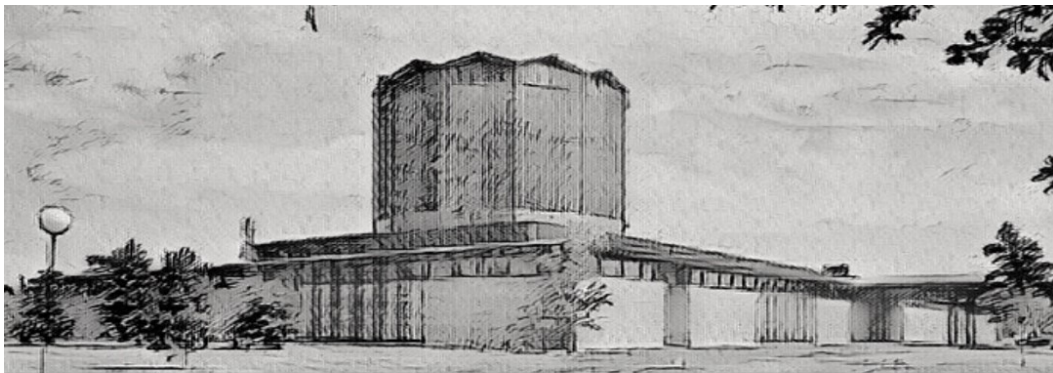
GREEK SCHOOL

March 25 Greek Independence Day Celebration





Greek Festival 2023 is taking place this year **Thursday, June 1 through Sunday, June 4** and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Please volunteer a bit of your time by signing up on the festival's website: www.rochestergreekfestival.com and click on the "VOLUNTEER" tab. Thank you!



TBK CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

TBK'S **175th** ANNIVERSARY

GALA WITH DINNER, MUSIC & AUCTION

featuring world renowned Israeli jazz musician Mattan Klein and his band

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 | 6:00PM

TEMPLE B'RITH KODESH | 2131 ELMWOOD AVENUE



TICKETS: ADULTS \$54 | TEENS (8-13)\$36

RSVP BY 5/25/23 AT WWW.TBK.ORG/175TH-ANNIVERSARY-GALA.HTML

COCKTAIL ATTIRE



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
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 Bay Front Restaurant
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 Blades
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 The Nutcracker Family Restaurant
 The Original Steve's Diner - 4 Locations
 The Peppermill Restaurant
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 Yia Yia's Ice Cream Shoppe
 Yianni's

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 Averdi
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 Delta Advisory Group, Dimitrios Manou, CPA
 EMS
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 Metropolitan Window Cleaning
 Mike Yar Photo Productions
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 Philoptochos
 ReMax Plus
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 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

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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

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