

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

November 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

The news today seems to be centered on two major topics; the natural disasters facing our nation, and wars that have broken out on two continents between the Ukraine and Russia and Palestine and Israel. Both conflicts have seen tremendous suffering both in the dead and wounded. Our President, in his latest address, prepared us for some level of involvement in both conflicts, which could potentially lead to our soldiers once again being called to military action. As a veteran myself, my prayers are with those soldiers who willingly answer this call to duty, and their spouses and families that must face the loneliness, pain, and ever-present possibility of loss of their loved one.

In this article I would like to recall our Orthodox theology as it relates to war. The Church is no stranger to war and the tragic consequences that result from it, and throughout her history has been critical of emperors and national leaders who seek to engage in conflicts which cost the lives of thousands of soldiers and civilians in a quest for glory or misplaced nationalistic ideals. The Church must remain a “*voice crying in the wilderness*” regarding the pursuit of peace. In their long history all Christian Churches, Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox have developed ways to address the proper response to conflict.

For the Catholic Church the answer, until recently, was their *Just War* doctrine; Article 5 §23072317. Initially developed by St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, it provided four conditions which must be met before a nation can engage in armed conflict:

- a) the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain.
- b) all other means of putting an end to [the conflict] must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective.
- c) there must be serious prospects of success.
- d) the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated.”

However, in 2016, Pope Francis convened the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace together with the international Catholic peace organization Pax Christi to clarify the doctrine of Just War so that it has the tonality of our Orthodox position on war.

Continued on page 2

"There is no 'just war. Too often the 'just war theory' has been used to endorse rather than prevent or limit war and in suggesting that a 'just war' is possible also undermines the moral imperative to develop tools and capacities for nonviolent transformation of conflict."

We need a new framework that is consistent with Gospel nonviolence. "We propose that the Catholic Church develop and consider shifting to a Just Peace approach based on Gospel nonviolence and call on Pope Francis to consider writing an encyclical letter, or some other "major teaching document," reorienting the church's teachings on violence."

Although not as formal as the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, through Martin Luther, Calvin, and in the 20th century, Reinhold Niebuhr addressed the topic of just war and the soldier's responsibility stating that being a soldier could be a legitimate vocation for a Christian under certain circumstances. While Luther rejected the idea of a crusade or holy war, he did believe that nations could wage just wars when necessary in this sinful world but specifically asserted that soldiers should not fight or serve for an unjust cause.

Scripture and the Early Church on War and Soldiers

Scripture is replete with military overtones in both the Old and New Testament, with certainly the most overt presence in Hebrew Scripture where God (Yahweh) Himself engages and assists in the battles of the Israelites. In fact, after God defeated the Egyptian army through drowning in the Red Sea Moses the people of Israel praised Yahweh as a "Man of war." (Ex. 15)

But the same God places boundaries on what is an acceptable and justifiable war. During the reign of Ahaz the prophet Oded reproached the commanders of the Army of Israel.

"Because the Lord, the God of your ancestors, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. Now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. But what have you except sins against the Lord your God? Now hear me, and send back the captives whom you have taken from your kindred, for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you."

However, it is a mistake to differentiate the God of the Old Testament from the God of the New Testament claiming that Jesus preached only absolute pacifism. While Jesus, in His beatitudes, did say "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God*", the Synoptic Gospels offer favorable impressions of soldiers. Placing aside the fact that differentiating the God of the Old and New Testament is a heresy in that it denies God's unchangeable nature, Jesus, His Apostles, and St. Paul all used military imagery. When Jesus spoke to the crowds about the cost of discipleship said,

"What king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace." (Luke 14:31)

When the crowds came to John to be baptized by him, there were soldiers who asked him “*And we, what should we do?*” John’s answer to them was not put down your swords and leave the military but only, “*Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.*” (Luke 3:14)

St. Paul, in his epistles frequently uses military imagery likening the Christian battle to a military battle such as here when he is encouraging the Ephesians.

“Take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand evil...fasten the belt of truth around your waist and put on the breastplate of righteousness...take the shield of faith...take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ep. 6:13)



One of the first persons to be granted sainthood is a soldier, Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, who at the foot of the Holy Cross confessed before everyone, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Mt. 27:54).

Orthodoxy and War

Throughout her history, the Orthodox Church’s tradition towards war is long and complicated. She has honored not only the martyrs for the faith, but also honors those who served in the military. Oftentimes they are not shown in the icons holding a cross, but a spear or a sword. Saints George and Demetrius, are shown on horseback, ready for battle and the hymn of the feast of Holy Cross implores God to “*Grant victory to your rulers over the adversaries of the faith.*”

While in agreement with the canonical exemption of the clergy from any armed military combat, many of the Fathers of the Eastern Church, in certain instances, permit the faithful to engage in some degree of warfare.

In his letter to the monk Amun, St. Athanasius writes that it is not right to kill, yet in war it is lawful and praiseworthy to destroy the enemy; accordingly not only are they who have distinguished themselves in the field held worthy of great honors, but monuments are put up proclaiming their achievements. So that the same act is at one time and under some circumstances unlawful, while under others, and at the right time, it is lawful and permissible.

St. Basil in his letter to Amphilochius also makes concessions for warfare

Murder (φόνους) in war is not reckoned by our [Church] Fathers as murder; I presume from their wish to make concession to men fighting in defense of chastity and true religion. Perhaps, however, it is well to counsel that those whose hands are not clean only abstain from communion for three years.

Today typically the approach to warfare in the West tends to focus on how to formulate and regulate how war is conducted, how to deal with those who disobey those regulations and the immorality of war.

Orthodoxy in contrast, insists on a transfigurative morality that recognizes Man's goodness as a creation of a Good and Loving God and thus stresses the fulfillment of his potential. Thus policy is not so much about how to conduct civilized warfare but how to bring about virtuous behavior so that humans behave as they ought to.

To this end there are two basic Orthodox approaches to warfare as outlined by Fr. Alexander Webster in his book *The Pacifist Option*. Fr. Alexander offers both the modernistic approach of absolute pacifism and the more ancient thought present in some of the Holy Fathers of the Eastern Church.

The first approach of pacifism is evident in the words of Patriarch Bartholemew who reflects on Christ's words in His Beatitudes.

While many deem violence as a necessary means of dispute resolution, we can never see it as part of God's good creation, nor can we ever approve the use of violence to pursue peace. Instead, we must look back to the "good" that God first created and the perfect peace to which he desires us to go..."

The second approach, while not offering the detailed criteria of a Just War doctrine establishes conditions for determining when warfare against an enemy would be justified.

- a) Proper political ethos through the legitimate authority of governmental agencies such as the United Nations, NATO, or the US Congress, that offer protection to an entire populace to re-establish the norms of natural ethical law.
- b) Defense of the people of God from an evil intent to destroy the Church and the Body of Christ by means of a good and proportionate means to a good end. Examples here would include the brutality of the Roman Empire, the Ottoman invasions, and the two World Wars.
- c) Proper spiritual intent which requires that both the military leaders and the combatants engaged in warfare are obligated to always ensure that the enemy is still viewed as the image and likeness of God and thus never reduce the enemy to an impersonal expedient that must be eradicated. Military leaders must also have as their ultimate goal the forgiveness and rehabilitation of the enemy. Good examples here include the Marshall Plan following the WWII, while tragic examples include the Armistice Treaty following WWI, the My Lai atrocity during the Vietnam War, and the use of waterboarding.

As we celebrate Veterans Day this November, let us remember that although peace is always our ultimate goal, the Church has always supported a well-regulated military that is prepared for war. But this military must be led by those who desire to first seek peaceful resolution before committing to the horrors of war.





FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



2023 END-OF-YEAR REVIEW AND APPEAL

By supporting the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you become a greater part of the ministry of our Holy Orthodox Church to serve the people of God.

Through your commitment to the Friends program, the Metropolis of Detroit is able strengthen its efforts to educate the youth, help our parishioners grow in their faith, share our Orthodox faith with our neighbors, and so much more. The support of our Friends is felt across the entire Metropolis, as these efforts touch every one of our communities, and I would like to invite you to join us in support of these important ministries.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity! I remain, with paternal blessings and prayers,

+NICHOLAS

Metropolitan of Detroit

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



OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

Through the aid of the Friends of the Metropolis, our effort to follow Christ's command to, "Make disciples of all nations," (Mat 28:19) is made a reality by supporting outreach, education, community involvement, and love.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The Friends of the Metropolis generously support all the Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries, including regional retreats, parish ministries, support for youth workers, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, and three Metropolis summer camps.

HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

Thanks to the Friends of the Metropolis, the Metropolis provides continual support to its students at Hellenic College Holy Cross. Additionally, with the school accepting its largest incoming class in history, we will be able to continue to support this incredibly important institution of our Orthodox Church.



NAME (PLEASE PRINT ALL FIELDS)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

EMAIL MOBILE NO.

PARISH NAME CITY/STATE

CREDIT CARD CHECK



CREDIT CARD NO.

EXP. DATE CVC NO.

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



PARISH REGISTRY



WEDDINGS:

Andrew Manou and Morgan Levitt (Trevor) on October 4, 2023
Michael Timothy Buono and Dina LoVerde



FUNERALS:

Eftihia Pateras, October 5
Elizabeth Kontos, October 6
Amiel Mokhiber Sr., November 1
May their memory be eternal.



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES

12 November - General Assembly Meeting, 12:00 PM.

Alternate date: Monday, 13 November 6:00 PM

19 November – Philoptochos Bake Sale. Orders WITH PAYMENT due by Wednesday, November 15.

+21 November - Divine Liturgy - Entrance Theotokos into Temple 10 AM

+6 December - Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas 10 AM

14 December - Seniors Christmas Party 11 AM to 2 PM

16 December - Final Christmas Pageant Practice and Sunday School/Greek School Christmas Party

+24 December - Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy - 6 PM

+25 December - Christmas Day Divine Liturgy - 10 PM



Sunday School every Sunday after Holy Communion, 10 September through May.

On-going adult Orthodox study programs:

- **Bible Study every Tuesday, Zoom, 7pm starting 26 September**
- **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 1:00 PM, 23 September through May

AGENDA – Fall General Assembly 2023

On Sunday, November 12, 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 Chairperson |
| 4. Treasurer Report and Stewardship | D. Kolokouris/Eric Vangellow |
| 5. 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 | |
| e. Philoptochos | <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> |
| f. Choir/Chant | |
| g. GOYA | |
| h. Greek School | |
| i. Seniors Group | |
| j. Cultural Groups | |
| 6. Call for Questions | |
| 7. General Maintenance and Upkeep | |
| 8. Old Business | |
| i. Community and Youth Center Formal Proposal | |
| i. Board of Election Nominations | |
| ii. Financial Audit | |
| 9. New Business | |
| 10. Call for Adjournment | GA Chairman |
| 11. Closing Prayer | Fr. Angelo |

Annunciation Strategic Overview Summary

This is a progress update to our Annunciation Strategic Vision Plan that was presented at last year's General Assembly. As a reminder, our Vision Statement is very succinct.

Learn the Faith, Live the Faith, and Share the Faith

As you, hopefully, recall from our presentation, the Parish Council and I have established Four Pillars to Realize our Vision. (The entire presentation is available on our church website under ABOUT/OUR PARISH).

INREACH Involves how we attract active members from within our community's extended family, and how we effectively communicate and connect our parishioners and their families with the multitude of ministries and activities we offer.

Also includes how we work to create new ministries to meet the interests of all parishioners, young and old. This is an essential first step before working on OUTREACH.

OUTREACH Involves what our church offers to the Rochester community. This includes our involvement with other local churches in programs of community assistance and social issues.

Outreach also involves how we reach out to those who wish to join our church and community and how we intelligently and actively communicate the richness of our Orthodox faith to those whom we meet.

RESOURCES Today, people who come to our church represent a broad range of ethnicity, age, gender, life stage and spiritual maturity. RESOURCES involves the effort needed to ensure that we effectively capture the passion that each person can bring to our church and community.

This includes recognizing and developing the leadership potential of our parishioners in terms of their strengths, gifts and capabilities.

LEADERSHIP The success of each of the previous categories depends on church leadership, which occurs at two levels: Ministry and Parish Council.

The Role of the Ministry Leaders

The directors of each Ministry are responsible for developing methods and promoting involvement in those things which energize and deeply move our people in those particular ministries.

Ministry leaders put in place those resources necessary to achieve, *at their level*, the words of our vision statement. Ministry leaders are responsible to provide ongoing opportunities for the professional development of their staff with regards to the latest skills and technologies.

The Role of the Parish Council

The Parish Council has *oversight* responsibility of each ministry to ensure they remain current with emerging societal trends and maintain a financial progression path to achieve the objectives necessary to meet our church's vision.

To this end, the Parish Council requests from each of the parish ministry leaders a recurring report of their progress and what resources are needed to address any challenges to their success.

The Parish Council will use this information to create a more realistic parish budget that reflects actual resource requirements, and to communicate to the parish the accomplishments of each ministry, which in turn we are certain will enhance parish participation.

PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 19

Proceeds Will Be Donated to Help Veterans and Families In Need



Pre-Order Form

Name _____

Phone (____) _____

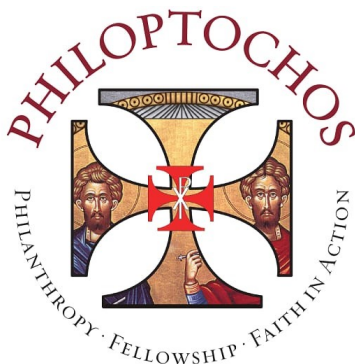
ITEM	PRICE	#TOTAL	\$TOTAL
Whole Pie Pita (Spanakopita, Prasopita or Tiropita - Approximately 30 pieces)	\$50.00	_____	_____
1/4 Pita (Spanakopita, Prasopita or Tiropita)	\$15.00	_____	_____
Baklava (Greek Dessert Pastry - 8 pieces)	\$17.00	_____	_____
Koulourakia (Greek Butter Cookies - 10 pieces)	\$10.00	_____	_____
Tsoureki (Greek Sweet Easter Bread)	\$15.00	_____	_____
Kourabiedes (Greek Cookies with Sugar - 10 Pieces)	\$12.00	_____	_____
	TOTALS	_____	_____

Orders due Wednesday, November 15

Drop off forms **with payment** at Church Office or Coffee Hour
 Cash and/or Checks **Made Out To: Philoptochos**
 Pre-orders to be picked up in the Church Hall the Sunday Before
 Thanksgiving - November 19, 10 am to 1 pm

SENIORS' MEETING

Guest Speaker: Daphne Morrissey, Program Facilitator and Health Coach.
Daphne spoke on Fitness and Nutrition and Lifestyle medicine



PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS

November 5th - Cosmas & Damianos

Join us as we celebrate our Philoptochos Patron Saints, the Health of our Philoptochos Members, and the memory of Departed Philoptochos Members

November 19th - Philoptochos Bake Sale

From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director

We have officially kicked off our rejuvenated Youth Programs with a bang! In October, we hosted a wide array of events focused from kids and teens to young adults and helped fundraise for worthy, local causes. Following our first event at the end of September, the Eternal Flame Falls Adventure Hike, we were also able to establish a strong collaborative drive from our sister churches, specifically Buffalo which delivered a big turnout. Moving forward, we aim to make Rochester a central destination for further events, uniting our children and teens throughout Western New York.

Children & Pre-Teens

As mentioned in last month's article, one of our big focuses has been to build and support programming for our younger children with an aim to strengthen our future Teen and Young Adult groups. Many times, these younger children have been overlooked in favor of teen programming leaving only Sunday School and Greek School to pick up the slack. Our Summer Vacation Bible School event proved that we have many children ready for activity. Thus, in October, we held our annual Blessing of the Animals and Trunk or Treat events to continue this path and we are looking forward to our first ever Seneca Park ZooMobile event in November.

Teen Ministry / GOYA

As we continue to try and grow our Teen Ministry, we have met many scheduling conflicts and obstacles; yet, this month's event proved a massive step in the right direction with the success of our Escape from Rochester! Escape Room event which saw a great turnout. We elected our GOYA president and strengthened parental involvement. Looking forward to November, we hope to have an even greater turnout with our Lasertron Pizza Party event which should include groups from our sister churches joining in the fun!

Young Adult

In October, we launched the first monthly Young Adult Meet-Up program at Mullers Cider House. The aim of this program is to set up casual meetups and activities every month for our young adults and couples to help solidify community and the future of our parish. These meetups may include dinner and/or drinks at local venues, activities such as axe-throwing and bowling, and may even grow to more organized trips and destinations in the future. In November, we'll be visiting Rochester's first craft brewery, Rohrbach. Additionally, by the time you read this, ENA will have held their second annual Oxi Day Dance with the goal of raising funds for our new young Mother's Room. I'm sure it was a great success and thank you to all who participated.

Outreach

Also in October, we held the first of what we aim to be a monthly outreach and charity program. The goal is to bring together all our ministries, such as ENA, Philoptochos, Sunday School, and Greek School, to sponsor a different charity or fundraising drive each month. This month, we participated in the AFSP Out of the Darkness Rochester NY Walk and raised approximately \$2,000 towards the cause. Next month, we will be joining the East Ave Grocery Run to help raise money for Foodlink.

Upcoming November Events:

November 4th - East Avenue Grocery Run (all ages – register on our website to join)

November 5th - Seneca Park ZooMobile (all ages)

November 8th - Young Adult Meet-Up: Rohrbach Brewing Co. (21+)

November 12th & 19th – Christmas Pageant Practice

November 17th - LASERTRON and Pizza Party! (ages 12-18 Teen Ministry / GOYA event)

Escape From Rochester - Escape Room Teen Event 2023



AFSP Out of the Darkness Rochester NY Walk 2023



We are so grateful you joined us for the 2023 Rochester Out of the Darkness Walk! We understand our walkers come to our Out of the Darkness walks for different reasons and we are thankful you chose to support AFSP. Your fundraising efforts allows us to continue to create a culture that is smart about mental health and build initiatives to further understand and prevent suicide.

Together we have raised \$135,000 as a community!

More than 48,000 people die by suicide in the U.S. each year, making it the 11th leading cause of death. Through our research, education, advocacy, and loss support programs, AFSP has become the leading national organization dedicated to preventing loss of life by suicide.

Our vision is to build a world without suicide. That vision is not possible without your involvement. Thank you for your support of AFSP!

Eternal Flame Falls Adventure Hike 2023



OXI DAY DANCE 2023



TRUNK & TREAT 2023



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Annunciation family,

October was a full month for Sunday School. We continue to work through the beginning of the New Testament with multiple Sundays learning about every child's favorite feast, the Nativity! Speaking of Christmas, **we are seeking volunteers to lead our children in the annual Christmas play!** Play practice is planned for each Sunday starting November 12th until the performance on 12/17. Please email recagocny@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

We had several youth events in October including the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk. Our parish raised over \$1500 to support this important mission, tripling our original goal! Glory be to God and thank you to all who contributed and participated! We also had the opportunity to bring our pets to be blessed in honor of St. Modesto, patron saint of animals. We ended with our second annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, tons of fun had by all!

Upcoming Events:

November:

11/4	East Avenue Grocery Run: An amazing event on our street to address food insecurity in our community!	All ages (if under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) There's a 1 mile walking option also!
11/12	Christmas play practice starts	Participation in all practices is required to perform in the play. All children are welcome!
11/19	Play practice	
11/26	Thanksgiving Break! No Sunday School and no Play practice	Give thanks!

We are always looking for more help in our Sunday School program. You don't have to be a parent or have teaching experience to get involved. We are looking for substitutes for our Sunday School classes and volunteers for different events. If you are interested please contact us!

As always please reach out to us with any questions or comments at recagocny@gmail.com.

With love in Christ,
Karina and Lauren



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
Bay Front Restaurant
Bill's Long Pond Diner
Blades
Blue Ridge Grill
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
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

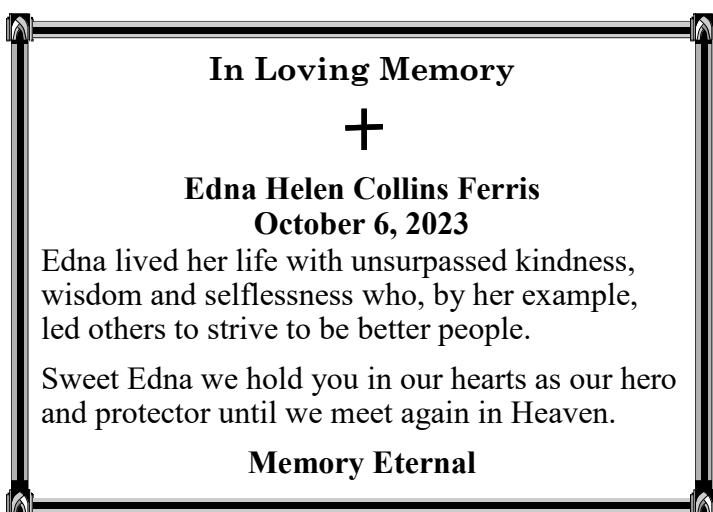
AG Foodservice
Ajay Glass Co.
Alpha Ironworks
Goodman Glass and Mirror
Konstantinou's Liquor
Rain or Shine Tent Rental
Regional Distributors Inc
Rhino Trunk and Case
Ridge Coin & Jewelry
Rochester Auto Glass
Rochester Meat
Walworth Wine & Spirits

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

Frank and Patty Cost
Jennefer & Perry Noun, Bill Noun
Have a wonderful fellowship
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:

The family which is sponsoring the Memorial is asked to:

1. Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange scheduling the memorial for that day.
2. Coordinate the preparation and delivery of Koliva (if used). The Church Office can provide information on persons who can prepare Koliva. The standard rate for the preparation of Koliva is \$150.
3. Provide Coffee Hour food items.



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 10:00 am to 3:00 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
- Ronald Wiegand
- Evangelos Yannas