

# GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

December 2023 - January 2024

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*

### **PROGRESS REPORT - 2023**

2023 has been quite a year! Finally, we turned the corner on the COVID pandemic to the joyful return to not only our church life but also a return to a vibrant community. As I have done in previous years, I want to present a summary of the wonderful things that have happened this year along with some of the ongoing challenges we still face. All of us should be proud of the wonderful accomplishments this year and that this energy continues in 2024.

**PARISH OVERVIEW** Attendance on Sunday, has returned to almost pre-COVID levels averaging between 120-180 people. During the last 12 months, we performed eighteen (10) Forty-Day Blessings, 13 Baptisms, and 5 weddings. Out of 950 potential families on our current mailing list, we still stand at a bit over 500 members in good standing. For a definition of good standing see our website or the Good News. Stewardship continues to be strong and we have seen a significant increase in new (mostly younger) people from outside the Orthodox faith who are exploring Orthodoxy either formally through Catechism or because of exposure to our Thursday Night Orthodoxy Q&A live stream and our other videos on YouTube. However, these efforts only invite people to come see our church. The real transformation comes from the welcoming attitude of our community and I am proud that our parishioner's hospitality has extended to inviting them to the many events we offer.

I continue to entreat all of us to reach out to those members who don't attend regularly for whatever reason. Take them to lunch or dinner and talk with them to let them know the latest happenings. Ask them what keeps them from becoming more involved in our church and community. I realize that not everyone will respond favorably but through personal experience I know that there are many who would respond to words of encouragement to reconnect with our wonderful community!

### **STRATEGIC VISION**

As you may recall from our Spring and Fall General Assemblies the Parish Council and I are focused on implementing a long term strategy since that is the heart of a living community with a vision to the future. As a reminder, this effort consists of four steps.

1. Updated Mission Statement; *Learn the Faith, Live the Faith, and Share the Faith.*
2. Presented a roadmap to transform this vision into reality. This roadmap consists of four (4) pillars, Inreach, Outreach, Resources, and Leadership. You can review this <https://annunciationrochester.org/about-us/parish/>
3. Each Church ministry prepared and has been implementing their own strategic plans of what they would like to accomplish over the next 1,3, and 5 years. To view these please go to <https://annunciationrochester.org/about-us/parish/> just above the *Proposed Strategic Plan* video.
4. Each ministry has been reporting to the PC on their progress towards their goals. I am proud to say that the Parish Council has been extremely supportive of providing the ministry directors with the resources

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they need to accomplish their goals. Each ministry has been tracking their expenditures to develop realistic budgets for input into the overall Parish Proposed Budget Plan.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

Sunday School Directors Karina Onderdonk and Lauren Gashlin continue to inspire not only our young children but also our teachers through their dedication, energy and tremendous personal talent. They have developed tight bonds both professionally and personally with our Greek School, GOYA, and our Youth Director, Demos Euclid. This is evident in the joint projects that Sunday School, Greek School, and GOYA continues to undertake such as the Holy Friday Retreat, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Toy Drive, and Christmas Pageant, to name a few.

Sunday School attendance is continuing to improve, and we have about 25-28 on a typical Sunday. One clear sign of progress is that since September we had 19 children achieve perfect attendance.

The Religious Education Committee (REC) continues to publish the entire year's schedule of activities (September- August) in late summer so parents can plan ahead for all education and activities. This schedule is included in the August issue of the Good News and is also on our website under Education/Sunday School/Sunday school 2022-2023 Curriculum.

Rhonda Stamatis continues to serve in the position of Teacher Recruitment and Mentorship, so if you are interested in teaching or participating in another way with our youth, please contact Rhonda or me to help get you involved. Trust me, the rewards are priceless!

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

We are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our 5-year Religious Education Curriculum. The first two years covered the critical Old Testament events with the next two years covering the New Testament and the final year learning about the saints of the Orthodox Church. It is felt that this will provide our children with a wellrounded appreciation of our Orthodox Christian faith. Each lesson is paired with a short video that offers a visual understanding by which children can keep up with Sunday School lessons when they are unable to attend church.

The Sunday school directors work with our teachers to make sure that education is well rounded and consists of varied events beyond classroom instruction and they have supplied our teachers with the latest in educational technology. Some examples of Religious Education programs include.

**Outreach activities** Throughout the year such as cookie baking for the police and fireman, food drives, and the annual Vehicle Blessing for the police and fireman.

**Church Presentations** Sunday School is committed to making sure that our parish "sees" our kids through in-church performances following Liturgy.

**Chapel Lessons** Four (4) times per year Juan Lianares, Sam Dragos, and Demos Euclid supplement our children's classroom education with hands on presentations where they can actually see the sacraments of the Church being performed up close. This interaction gives our children the ability to participate and ask questions. Classes in 2023 included Divine Liturgy, Holy Week, Baptism, and priest vestments. We will continue this through 2024.

**Monthly and Seasonal Activities** These are activities where children can play together while competing for prizes in a setting where they can build important bonds. Seasonal activities in 2022 included prosphoro and koliva making, trunk or treat and the Lenten Retreat.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** Now that the Educational Curriculum is fairly well established some of the focus in 2024 will be on our teachers to ensure that they are up to date with the latest developments in education and teaching methods and the latest Archdiocese Education curriculum and training resources. I have asked our Directors, both Sunday School and Greek School to investigate relevant seminars,

guest speakers, and workshops to assist teachers in ensuring that our children receive not only the best Orthodox education but also are fluent in the best methods of teaching.

## YOUTH DIRECTOR

In last year's progress report, I mentioned the challenge of a) the size of our parish which severely impacts my ability to have personal contact time with our children during Sunday School and b) my difficulty in getting teen and pre-teen attendance at church and at our youth events. Sports, travel leagues, and many more teenagers getting jobs continue to be among the primary reasons behind a lack of attendance.

To address this, the Parish took a positive step and approved funding for a Youth Director with the goal of assisting the priest in developing an effective model and strategy for Youth Development as well as establishing a cohesive relationship with all the various Youth Ministries such as Sunday School, GOYA and Young Adults, in a way that our youth can have fun AND grow together in their Orthodox faith.

Demos, as our Youth Director, has been on board for a bit over one year and I tasked him to focus his first year on observing and becoming better acquainted with each of the youth-related ministries here at Annunciation. Youth Directorship has historically been a challenge for us and in order to make a lasting success, I felt that an important first step was to spend time getting to know not only the Ministry Directors but also our kids, young adults, and parents. Even so Demos has organized several events that include all ranges of ages such as Snowtubing, Great Escape Room, Charity Walks and Ice Skating. At these events Demos had the opportunity with both our kids and their parents to learn more about past challenges and suggestions for future events which reestablished the consistency of events which was dormant during COVID. In addition he is creating a monthly Young Adult program which has also been absent for many years. For Demos 2023 has been a year of meeting and learning and in January he is planning to meet with parents to discuss some of the concerns and work together to build greater participation and I am confident that Demos is on track with this mission.

## ADULT EDUCATION

As I mentioned in last year's Progress report, one of the benefits resulting from COVID was a dramatic improvement to our Orthodox outreach within the parish through technology. In addition to livestreaming Sunday Services as well as other major feasts and events the following programs continue to be very popular as a venue for Orthodox Education. Our YouTube channel now has over 13,000 subscribers.

1. ***Orthodox Book Club and Bible Study.*** A weekly (every Tuesday at 7:00pm) study of either an Orthodox Book or Book of the Bible via Zoom. Each Zoom session is accompanied by a written study guide and the audio of the previous session are available on our website prior to each Tuesday's session so there's no worry if you miss a session. You can find this on our website under EDUCATION/RESOURCES. We are currently reading the Gospel of John. Contact the church office and we'll send you an email with the Zoom link.
2. ***Orthodoxy Q&A*** Once we started livestreaming our services on our YouTube channel, we discovered many people asking to learn more about Orthodoxy. This weekly Questions and Answers show on our YouTube channel has reached parishioner and non-parishioner alike, national and international audiences and provides a forum to ask any question about Orthodoxy they like. The response continues to be phenomenal and we have completed over 150 shows...and quite a few of our listeners have begun their catechism process on the way to becoming Orthodox.
3. ***Orthodoxy 101 and Orthodoxy: Fact or Fiction*** As a supplement to our Orthodoxy Q&A, we continue to create short (7-12 minute) videos which answer specific questions derived from Orthodoxy Q&A and provide guidance on important Orthodox traditions. So far we have over 170 videos on a wide range of topics such as *Can Holy Communion make me sick?*, *What are my options for funeral services?*, *What does Orthodoxy think about Alien Life?*, *Making the Sign of the Cross*, and many more. Our latest one is

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a 12-part series on the History, Style, and Purpose of Orthodox Vestments. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel so you don't miss out!

4. **Music** As part of the professional development strategy of our Choir and Chant Directors this year the choir has secured the services of a professional voice coach from the Eastman School of Music. Since September Joelle has been working with our choir to train them on vocal exercises, techniques and harmonization. Also, as part of their strategy plan, our Chant Directors brought a professional Protopsaltis from Greece, Prothromos Karagiannidis, for Holy Week to not only assist during the Holy Week services but also work with our small chant group in learning Byzantine Chant. For the next phase of this strategy we have contracted once again to bring Prothromos back for 2024 for both Great Lent and Holy Week. This year he will be offering a Byzantine workshop to anyone interested in learning to chant.

## **OUTREACH**

Philoptochos, St. Paraskevi Society, Seniors, GOYA, Religious Education, Greek School, along with interested parishioners, continue to provide needed items of care to those who need it.

We continue to have a good relationship with Ashbury Methodist Church and Catholic Charities at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. I would like to resume having some of our parishioners help serve at their meal program.

Our Greek Festival also continues to be a major source of community involvement as each year we provide upwards to \$30,000 from Festival proceeds to worthwhile charities in the Rochester area.

## **HOME MEAL PROGRAM**

A new and important outreach program that will be starting up in 2024 comes from several requests I received regarding offering Greek meal plans to those parishioners who are homebound and cannot prepare meals for themselves. My thought is that we have an abundant supply of Greek restaurants in almost all areas where our parishioners live and a parish size that can supply the needed volunteers for delivery. Hopefully you received my email sent back in mid-November informing everyone of our intent to launch this program and a request for volunteers. Thankfully, I received quite a few responses for volunteer delivery drivers and, together with George Anagnostakos, we have prepared a simple menu that can be delivered twice/week.

By offering this much-needed service we can help relieve the stress that many of our parishioners face as they care for elderly parents who long for good Greek cooking but full-time work and family commitments prevent them from preparing meals. Stay tuned for more updates to this program and please contact us if this is a need you currently have so that we can begin to build our client list.

## **FACILITY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Just as 2022 was a year of many capital improvements, such as finishing our beautiful hall with curtains and new chairs, 2023 also saw some long overdue improvements. These included a new roof on the church and associated buildings, and replaced all the old windows in the offices, classrooms, kitchens, and basement. Other improvements included a new commercial grade water heater, and beautiful brass handrails in the church, and the addition of a nursing room in the upstairs area of the church.

### **Technology and Security Updates.**

- In addition to the entire facility being internet (wireless) capable, and at the request of our Sunday School and Greek School teachers, we equipped ALL of the Sunday School classrooms with 32" smart TVs equipped with Google Chrome.
- The exterior grounds, rear and side parking lot, front circle drive, Sunday School classrooms and GOYA room are now observable live via remote camera 24/7 through computer, iPad or mobile phone. With the addition of recording, these cameras offers an important layer of security to be able to instantly observe these critical areas.

- The addition of cameras in the church and our livestreaming capability has been extended to offering to record and/or livestream funerals, weddings, and baptisms for a small fee. This has proved very popular for guests that cannot attend due to travel distance or other factors.
- Security Guard presence is active throughout the week from 6am-6pm provided by Quatela and our church provides Security Guard presence each Saturday and Sunday, Holy Week, and other evening services.

**Capital Projects Survey** At the Fall 2023 General Assembly the Parish Council and I spoke about not just the projects that we have completed but also about a list of upcoming projects, some in the area of maintenance and other in the area of improvement. At the GA we stated that we will be putting together a collection of the projects and sending this out to our parishioners as a survey to get your input on helping us prioritize these projects. These capital projects have been grouped into four (4) categories, 1) Church Enhancement, 2) Handicap Accessibility, 3) Grounds Improvement, and 4) Facilities Expansion. Look for this survey in your email about mid-January and *please* take the time out to respond to this survey.



## EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES

**+25 December - Great Vespers of Nativity 10:00 AM (No Holy Communion)**

**+1 January - Liturgy of St. Basil 10 AM**

**+6 January - Holy Theophany- Orthros 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM; Great Blessing of the Water 11:30 AM**

7 January - Vasilopita Sunday and tray passed for St. Basil's Academy.

21 January - Philoptochos General Meeting after Church

10 February - Valentine's Luncheon. This will be a catered meal in the Hall at Church.

More details to follow.

**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





# 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](http://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.



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OR PAY ONLINE HERE!

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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



# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



# DROSOPIGI CHRISTMAS PARTY





## *From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director*

We have had a lot of exciting events to close out 2023. In November, we enjoyed Lasertron for the teens, a wonderful visit from the Seneca Park ZooMobile for the youth, and our second monthly Young Adult Meet-Up at Rohrbach plus the first few rehearsals for our upcoming Christmas Pageant. Additionally, our fundraising efforts from the Oxi Day Dance has resulted in the current construction of our new Mother's Room in the balcony section of our Church.

Our monthly focus has been created a good sense of consistency which we aim to continue strongly in the next coming year with additional events aimed at the younger members of our parish. The most notable area of growth opportunity involves strengthening attendance for our events – notably our Teen/GOYA events. We will be deploying several strategies to increase teen participation but the most effective will always be family participation. No youth program can be successful without passion from our parish families. In the spirit of Christmas, we ask all teen parents to familiarize themselves with our programs and to *bookmark our new dedicated ministry pages* to keep abreast of all our upcoming events and programs. Only together can we make the future of our parish a strong one.

### **DECEMBER EVENTS INCLUDED:**

#### Outreach Ministry

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Toy Drive for Golisano Children's Hospital 2023

#### Teen Ministry/GOYA

December 8<sup>th</sup> - IndyKart Raceway Go-Karting Night (visit our website for registration link and code)

#### Youth

December 9<sup>th</sup> - Drosopigi Christmas Party (with a visit from Santa!)

December 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School/Greek School Christmas Party

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Annunciation Christmas Pageant

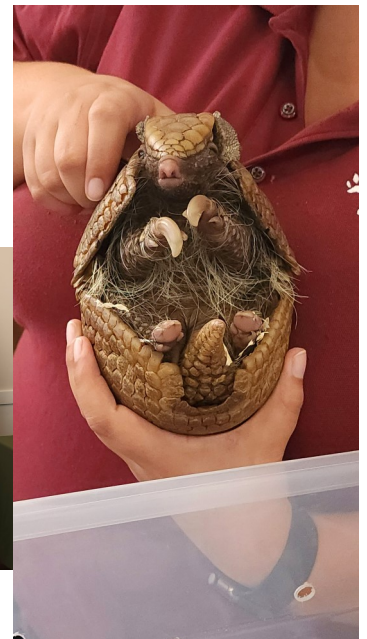
#### Young Adult

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Young Adult Meet-Up: ROC Holiday Village Ice Skating



### **SENECA PARK ZOO MOBILE**

**November 5, 2023**





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Annunciation family,

November went by quickly! Curriculum-wise: we've learned about the early life of Jesus, Theophany, the Temptation, and the start of Jesus' ministry! We have started practicing for the annual Christmas Play, the children are working hard and looking forward to presenting the Nativity story to our community. We had several youth events in November, including the East Avenue Grocery Run, a visit from animal friends courtesy of the Seneca Park Zoo, and laser tag!

In December, we had our annual service project with Greek School collecting toys, games, and gifts to benefit children receiving care at the Golisano Children's Hospital.

### Events That Occurred in December:

12/2 - 12/17	Christmas Gift Drive for Golisano Children's Hospital	See Annunciation website for details
12/8	GOYA IndyKart Raceway Event	See Annunciation website for details
12/9	Drospigi Christmas Party	See Father's email message
12/16	Dress rehearsal with Greek School	Breakfast followed by practice!
12/17	Christmas Play	

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](mailto:recagocny@gmail.com).

Merry Christmas!

Karina and Lauren



Dear Greek School Families and Parishioners,

We hope you all had a wonderful time during the Holiday Season! The kids did a great job with their Christmas play and caroling. Great gratitude goes to Lisa Tzogas, Katrina and John Manos, and all the parents who helped serve and clean-up. It was so much fun!

### **A Look Ahead:**

We are thrilled to announce that our Greek School program will be introducing **Conversational Greek Classes via Zoom starting in January 2024**. These classes will provide a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore the richness of the Greek language and culture in a fun and engaging way. The classes are optional, but participation is highly recommended, so that your children can gain more practice speaking in the Greek language.

### **Zoom Class Details:**

- 4th Grade: Every Tuesday from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm with Mrs. Stacy Stamoulacatos
- 5th, 6th, and 7th: Every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm with Mrs. Eleni Chitou
- Start Date: January 2nd and 3rd (Zoom link will be sent to parents through email)
- Teachers will start promptly at 5:30pm. Please be prepared and join the link **5 min prior** to the start time.

### **What to Expect:**

- **Interactive Lessons:** Our Greek School instructors, *Eleni Chitou and Stacy Stamoulacatos*, will conduct interactive lessons focusing on greetings, everyday conversations, cultural insights, and more.
- **Engaging Activities:** Each class will include engaging activities such as role-playing, discussions, and cultural sharing to make the learning experience enjoyable.
- **Weekly Topics:** The curriculum will cover a variety of topics, including introductions, food and dining, travel and tourism, hobbies, Greek history, mythology, holidays, literature, arts, and current events in Greece.

### **How to Prepare:**

- Ensure that your child has access to a computer or device with Zoom installed.
- Encourage a quiet and comfortable learning environment.
- Have a notebook and pen ready for note-taking

We are enthusiastic about this new initiative and believe it will be a valuable addition to our students' educational journey of learning Greek. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

As always, feel free to reach out with your questions at [agreeschool@gmail.com](mailto:agreeschool@gmail.com)

Ευχαριστούμε,

Maria Dembeyiotis & Elina Kokorotsis

Greek School Directors



## 2024 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## GOOD NEWS SPONSORS

### RESTAURANTS

Atlantic Family Restaurant  
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Bay Front Restaurant  
Bill's Long Pond Diner  
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

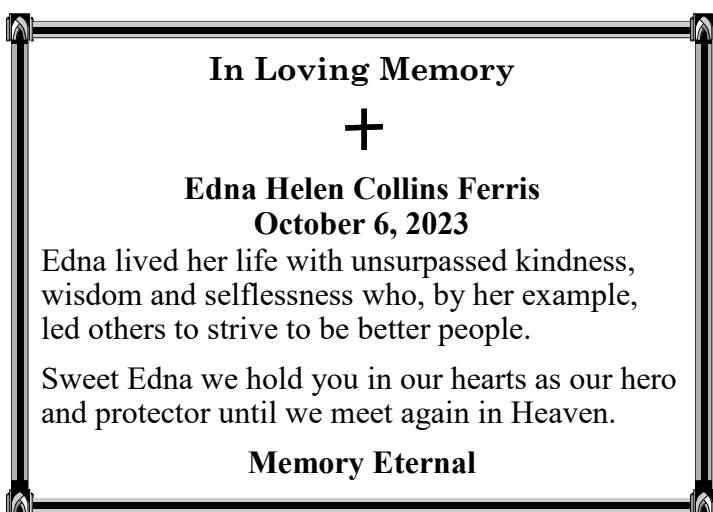
AG Foodservice  
Ajay Glass Co.  
Alpha Ironworks  
Goodman Glass and Mirror  
Konstantinou's Liquor  
Rain or Shine Tent Rental  
Regional Distributors Inc  
Rhino Trunk and Case  
Ridge Coin & Jewelry  
Rochester Auto Glass  
Rochester Meat  
Walworth Wine & Spirits

### 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](#),<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>Note: The link to the [Hall reservation form](#) is available on our website. The form is also available in the Church Office.

## HALL Rates, Access and Requirements

	Recognized Church Organization	Parishioner in Good Standing	Non-Parishioner
<b>Hall Lease Fee</b>	No Charge	\$500	Starting @ \$1000. Final price dependent on type of package selected.
<b>Hall Lease Deposit</b>	N/A, however, the Church Organization MUST complete the <a href="#">Hall Registration<sup>1</sup></a> form to secure the date/time.	Full amount required at time of reservation.  Completion of the <a href="#">Hall Registration<sup>1</sup></a> form to secure the date/time.	\$500 deposit at time of reservation.  Completion of the <a href="#">Hall Registration<sup>1</sup></a> form to secure the date/time.
<b>Hall Balance</b>	N/A	N/A	Balance due two (2) weeks before event takes place.
<b>Hall Lease Time</b>	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
<b>Kitchen Privileges</b>	Full privileges	Full privileges but requires a \$350 usage fee	None
<b>Cancellation Policy</b>	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.
<b>Use of Caterers</b>	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.
<b>Setup and Cleanup</b>	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.

<sup>1</sup>Note: 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 Stefanas are sold out - Lena does have catalogs for Stefanas 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](http://AnnunciationRochester.org) | [RochesterGreekFestival.org](http://RochesterGreekFestival.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester](http://www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester)

**Office and scheduling requests:** [office@agocroc.org](mailto:office@agocroc.org)

**Stewardship and finance related questions:**  
[finance@agocroc.org](mailto:finance@agocroc.org)

**CLERGY:**

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

**Email:** [agocny@gmail.com](mailto:agocny@gmail.com)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS;**

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

**Secretary:** Lena L. Livecchi

**Email:** [office@agocroc.org](mailto:office@agocroc.org)

**2023 PARISH COUNCIL**

Eric Vangellow, President  
Peggy Votsis, Vice President  
Dimitrios Kolokouris, Treasurer  
Helen Eisenberg, Secretary  
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