

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

June 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

Epikranthi (It is vexed)?!

Once again, during the Saturday night Paschal service, we will hear the beautiful Easter sermon by St. John Chrysostom. You know the one, where we all respond Epikranthi! (which means “it is vexed” or “embittered”). But, have you ever paused to consider what is vexed? Well, at the end of his sermon, St John tells us.

“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 at the center of Christ’s redemptive action in conquering this death. Christ, as the God-Man, took on humanity, lived among His creation, died and resurrected in His glorified body. St. Paul tells us the connection of this to death when he says

just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:11-12

The Truth of Christ’s resurrection for our salvation (freedom from eternal death) is the bedrock of our faith that allows us to see through the myriad of “new revelations” of our modern age that only hold empty promises. And Jesus’ own words give us this confidence.

“I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in Me, even though that person dies, will live.”

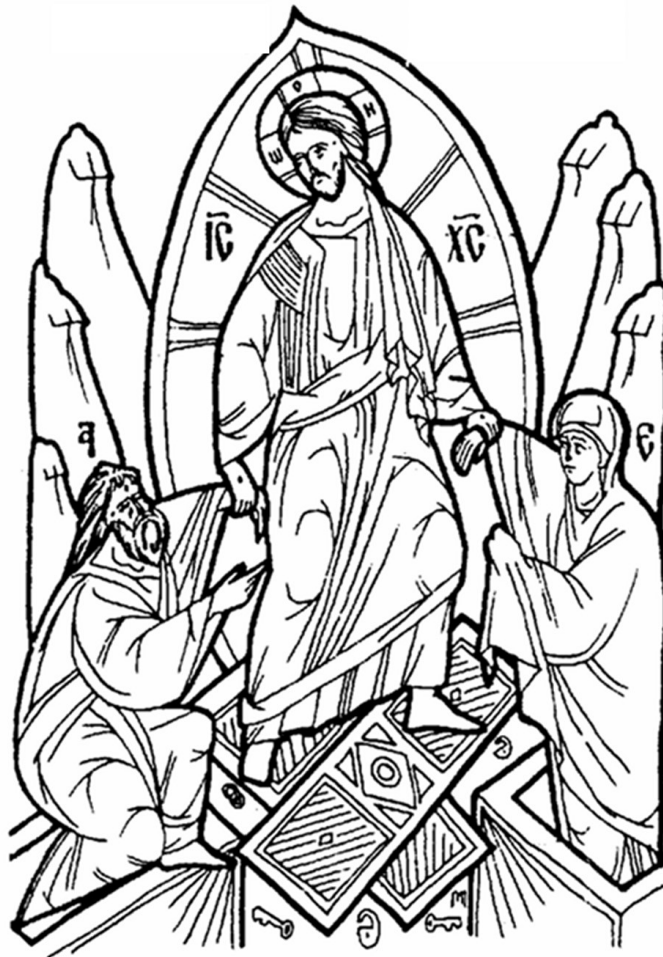
John 10:30 and 11:25

Through the witness of the Apostles (i.e. Scripture) we are assured not only of God’s infinite power in conquering death, but also His endless mercy and perfect love. The Father’s willingness to offer His only begotten Son and Christ’s obedience to His Father’s Will assure us of His infinite mercy and concern for His creation. This is proof that we as Christians do not worship a transcendent God separate from His creation. God’s condescension as Man brought Him directly into Man’s history as a real and personal encounter, both during His life and after His resurrection. (Mark 16:9)

Continued on page 2

But it is not only belief in Christ's resurrection which is critical to the Christian faith, but Christ's ***bodily*** resurrection which distinguishes us from other faiths. Many religions have professed resurrection after death: Dionysos for the Ancient Greeks and Assur (Osiris) for the Egyptians. However, in each of these religions is the Platonic ideas that a) the body is an unnecessary prison holding our spiritual self captive and b) that the importance of death is the release of the soul from its bodily prison. In none of these religions do we find the fully developed reality that, through Christ's death and bodily resurrection, death has been conquered. And it is this total and complete victory over death and the power of Hades that we celebrate every Pascha when we joyously and loudly proclaim,

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by His death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life!





REGISTRY



WEDDINGS



Andrew Manou and Morgan Levitt



BAPTISMS



Child of God: Isabelle Rose Jacobson

Parents: Aaron & Catherine Jacobson



Child of God: Elizabeth Anna Onderdonk

Parents: Benjamin & Karina Onderdonk



Child of God: Niko Christos Vasiliou

Parents: Nektarios & Suzanne Vasiliou



Child of God: Nicholas John Labrosa-Manou

Parents: George & Alexandra Manou



Child of God: Mitchell Kevin Mydosh

Parents: Kevin Mydosh & Alexis Vangellow



Child of God: Noah Padulo

Parents: Nick & Despina Padulo



Child of God: Agapi Kyriaki Panitsidis

Parents: Georgios & Sarah Ann Panitsidis



Child of God: Dafni Elise Theodorou

Parents: Damianos & Diana Theodorou



CHRISMATIONS



Child of God: Sarah Marie Collins

Parents: Hervin & Claudette Hutchinson



FUNERALS



Evangelos Tsanis -November 21, 2023



Angeliki Tamoutselis – December 7, 2023



Agapi Theodorou – February 26, 2024



Ekaterini Petalas – March 9, 2024



Panagiotis Konstanantinidis – March 10, 2024



Efstathios Kangelidis - May 22, 2024



May their memory be eternal



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES

27 May – Memorial Day - Office Closed

30 May through 2 June - Greek Festival

10 June – PC Meeting, 6:00 PM

15 June – Good News Submission Deadline

16 June - Father's Day

+22 June - 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 June – Orthros & Divine Liturgy, Sts. Peter & Paul, 9:00 AM

1 July - 5 July - Archdiocese Clergy Laity Conference, Father is attending.

4 July – Independence Day – Office closed

14 July – 3 August – Father is away

5 August – PC meeting, 6:00 PM

+6 August – Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, 10:00 AM

15 August – Good News Submission Deadline

+15 August – Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos, 10:00 AM

+29 August – Divine Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist, 10:00 AM



From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director

Χριστός Ανέστη!

As we approach summer and the end of the Liturgical Year, we reflect on how far we've come in such a relatively short time. For our youth efforts, we have seen growth in many key areas whilst keeping a keen eye on the opportunities we will still have to conquer. In April, we achieved our biggest numbers yet for our Young Adult & Teen Meet-Ups with the roll-out of our unique Trivia Game Show concept. From the attendance and feedback we have gotten, it was a hit prompting us to schedule Round 2 for the Teens in May (we split it in half for them due to time restraints) and to schedule a new game for the Young Adults once per season with the next one debuting this June.

In the planning of our Trivia Game Show, we also invested in the future with our “mini-game” of family axe and ninja star throwing becoming a large draw at the Holy Friday Youth Retreat. The young kids not only enjoyed the novelty, but I was impressed by how many volunteered to assist me in retrieving/handing out the playing pieces plus how orderly everyone was in awaiting their turn.

For Easter Sunday, we held an Easter Egg hunt with a twist – we hid six special tickets for additional prizes in the 600+ eggs throughout the Church and classrooms (segregated by older and younger). Next year, we may aim for a thousand eggs due to the speed and shocking efficiency these hunters had!

Thanks to donations from our Senior group, we upgraded our projector to give us the opportunity of screening movies in the bright Church Hall. Additionally, we have acquired an HD projector screen (which replaces our old and ailing version) which has outdoor capabilities for an all-age Summer Movie Night and BBQ which we are planning for June.

Looking ahead to August, we have partnered with several members of the parish to plan a Lakeside Retreat Camping Trip (with private beach, kayaks, possibly jet skis, and more)! This will serve as an addendum for the Juniors and Teens to this year's Vacation Bible School for the weekend of the 17th and 18th. More details and registration will be available next month, but we aim to start spreading the word and raise excitement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 8th – Greek School Seabreeze Picnic
- June 12th – Young Adult Meet Up: Trivia Game Show 2.0
- June 26th-30th – St. Timothy's Camp (Register Now!)
- June TBA – All-Age Summer Outdoor Movie Night & BBQ
- June TBA – Teen Meet-Up



Religious Education

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christos Anesti! We had another amazing Sunday School year. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, children, and community for all of your support throughout the year. We had an enjoyable last day with the ice cream social and graduation. We look forward to seeing all of our youth at our Summer Church Retreat! There will be more information coming out about our retreat in early summer.

We want to give our thanks to Julie and John Sidou who have served as Sunday School teachers for over 30 years in our church. As a community, we are so grateful to have had their passion and expertise in the classroom. They gave some of our youngest community members a wonderful start to their religious education journey. They are retiring from Sunday School officially this year. Thank you so much Julie and John for your service in our program.

As we look forward to next school year, we want to continue to offer a meaningful and enjoyable Sunday School experience to all of our youth. We currently have four classrooms in our program. We have had more children registering every year which has been wonderful! We would like to expand our classrooms to five classrooms next year. The classes would be as follows: preschool, kindergarten/1st, 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, and 6th-8th.

With that said, we have 6 to 8 openings in our classrooms that we need to fill. If you have interest in serving our church and serving our youth, please contact the religious education directors. If there is a specific grade that you are more comfortable with, please let us know. We would like to have two teachers in each classroom, so that teachers can feel supported throughout the year. Teaching is a very rewarding experience, and you will have a lot of support from all of us in Sunday School. We know it can feel like a large commitment, but we do not expect perfect attendance from our teachers. We have many subs who are willing to fill in! We can not do this work without the help of parents and community members supporting our program. Please consider helping out in this very important ministry.

With Love in Christ,
Karina and Lauren
Religious Education Directors
recagocny@gmail.com



New York District Level Oratorical Festival 23 April



HOLY WEEK



HOLY FRIDAY

Youth Retreat and decorating of the Koukoulion



HOLY FRIDAY

Youth Retreat and decorating of the Koukoulion



Holy Friday Vespers of Apokathelosis (Descent from the Cross)



Holy Friday Joyous Lamentations



Agape Sunday Easter Egg Hunt





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: _____

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
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

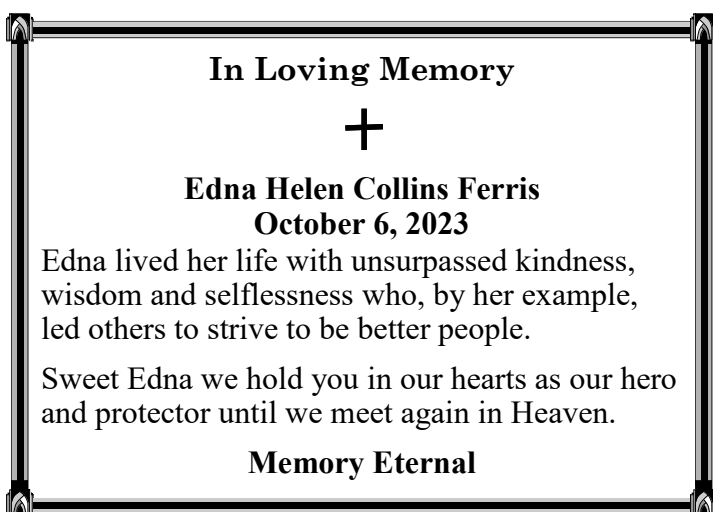
AG Foodservice
Ajay Glass Co.
Alpha Ironworks
Goodman Glass and Mirror
Konstantinou's Liquor
Rain or Shine Tent Rental
Regional Distributors Inc
Rhino Trunk and Case
Ridge Coin & Jewelry
Rochester Auto Glass
Rochester Meat
Walworth Wine & Spirits

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

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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;

Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Secretary: Lena L. Livecchi

Email: office@agocroc.org

2024 PARISH COUNCIL

Eric Vangellow, President
Karen Balta, Vice President
Dimitrios Kolokouris, Treasurer
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Zach Graham
Minas Theodorou
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