

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

July/August 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

Summer's Here! A Vacation from Church?

With the completion of the Paschal season and our Greek Festival finished (and very successful) our thoughts now turn to settling in to a nice relaxing summer, whether in our backyards, Greece, Scotland, or some other place of peace and bliss...and a break from the obligation of going to church.

Well...as the Holy Father of our church have many times expressed, Orthodoxy is not a faith of a season but *a way of life*. In fact, the Early Christians were referred to as followers of *The Way* (Acts 24:14,22). A follower of Christ exhibits a daily behavior, different from what the secular world views as normal or important, nor is Christian life seen as an obligation or, like our job, something that we look forward to taking a break from.

Rather, Christ passed on to His apostles, and all of us, a calling to a "*holy priesthood*." (1 Peter 2:5). And this holy priesthood is not an obligation or a job but a "daily behavior," which reflects a faith lived in accordance with what Christ preached. Throughout the Gospels the Apostles, through Christ's own words, tell us the pillars of faith.

- God is One but exists as a Trinity of three Persons
- a liturgical and communal experience
- a faith of true freedom
- eschatological

Trinitarian

Everything in Orthodoxy is Trinitarian. To the Orthodox, much of Western Protestant Christianity seems unbalanced as the focus is Christocentric, meaning that all the attention is focused on Christ, which downplays the ever-communal operation of all three Persons of the Holy Trinity. We, as Orthodox, recognize Christ's revelation that God exists in Trinity and this governs our lives based on understanding the distinct roles of each personhood of the Trinity.

- we are expected to be ever obedient to the Father's Will as we say every Sunday when we recite the Lord's Prayer; *Our Father, Who art in Heaven... Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done...*
- we are expected to follow the earthly examples given to us by the Son, Jesus Christ, Who taught His disciples and us to lead a life grounded in His Commandments, *worship the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind and Love your neighbor as yourself.* (Matt 22:37-40)
- we are expected to allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, sent to us by the Son who said, "...the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, ... who shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26)

Continued on page 2

Liturgical and Communal Experience

These expectations guide our daily actions, and through communal worship we receive strength from a sense of community, through hearing God's Word each Sunday, and of course through regular receipt of Holy Communion, Here again Orthodoxy is Trinitarian. By partaking of Jesus' Body and Blood we allow ourselves to seek God's Will. Equally, the Divine Liturgy and our communal fellowship reminds us to allow space in our daily lives to seek the comfort and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is why our faith is not seasonal, and that church attendance is vital throughout the year. Even while on vacation we have a wonderful opportunity to visit other Orthodox churches and see how other Orthodox celebrate Liturgy and coffee hour.

True Human Freedom

Characteristic of Orthodoxy is *freedom*. When observed through a Western lens, this seems to be a paradox. In Western thought, freedom is understood as individualistic, as a personal right preserved from interference on the part of any other person or organization, religious or secular. In Protestantism this can manifest itself as a radical devotion to one's personal relationship with Christ while severely downplaying the importance of the church community as essential to salvation. In Orthodoxy, being "spiritual" has a selfish component since it prevents a person from recognizing their role as a member of a community which together participates in the salvation of all members of the community.

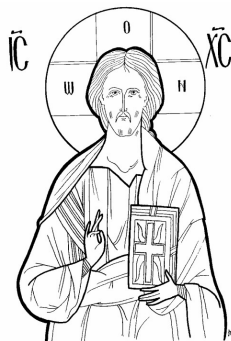
I often hear people claiming to be "spiritual" saying that "...since God is everywhere, attending a church is not important." In this light the Church is seen as an authoritarian overlord burdening the person with laws of life, and not a grace-filled sanctuary of love from which true freedom abounds; a freedom from sin and life's burdens. Authentic freedom occurs not in an isolated autonomous life, lived in individualism, but in unity within the Body of Christ, i.e. the Church community which gathers weekly to be one in the Body of Christ.

Eschatological

From the beginnings of the Ancient Church, the anticipation of Christ's second coming was *the* hope and expectation. Orthodoxy still anticipates this event and ceaselessly strives to instill in each of us a lesser attachment to the world and earthly life and a greater turning towards the Kingdom of God. This guarantee of hope is the mystery of the Christ's resurrection which is why Pascha is the central feast in the life of the Orthodox Church and that each Divine Liturgy is referred to as a *Small Pascha*.

The shining rays of the Resurrection permeate the Orthodox world. All other feasts are seen in the light of what Pascha offers to Mankind. The Way, which was spoken of in the beginning of this article is also the Way of the Cross, struggle and pain, and ultimately death. But Christ has conquered death so that it no longer has dominion over us. The promise of His Resurrection is the promise that is spoken of at every memorial service: "grant to us a *place of light, a place of renewed life, a place of refreshment where there is no pain, sorrow or suffering.*"

Regular church attendance helps remind us of these pillars of faith, but additionally regular attendance keeps before us the dual reality of the fearful approach of our upcoming judgement at Christ's Second Coming, while at the same time joyful anticipation that through His Resurrection we have regained eternal life that was lost by Adam and Eve.





REGISTRY



BAPTISMS:



Child of God: Anastasia Tretyak

Parents: Yaroslav Tretyak and Rodi Keisidis



Child of God: Luca James Pace

Parents: Justin and Panagiota Pace



Child of God: Leon Ioannis Celerier

Parents: Alexis and Diamando Celerier

WEDDINGS:



Jad Touma and Alexandra Marie Hristodoulou



Taylor Fowler and Tina Zisis



Morgan Thomas Gianni and Eleni Christine Manos

FUNERALS:



George Theodorakakos – May 24, 2024



Maria Katherine Eichas – June 2, 2024



Jeanne C. Broikou – June 10, 2024



Michael Yare, Jr. – June 20, 2024



Helen Mihalitsas – June 21, 2024



Stella (Sfikas) Alland - June 30, 2024

Peggy Nardone - June 30, 2024

May their memory be eternal.



EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES:

14 July – 2 August – Father is away

+14 July – Sunday Divine Liturgy at Holy Spirit

+21 July - Sunday Divine Liturgy at Holy Spirit

+28 July - Sunday Divine Liturgy with Fr. Irfan

5 August – PC meeting, 6:00 PM

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

+14 August - Dormition of the Theotokos Vespers, 5:00 PM

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

2 September - Labor Day, Office closed

9 September - PC meeting, 6:00 PM

+14 September - Divine Liturgy, The Elevation of the Cross, 10:00 AM

CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS 2024



**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros
Opening the conference**

**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros
opening prayer at the Clergy Breakfast**



Fr Evagoras and Fr. Angelo

CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS 2024



Session on 50th Anniversary of the Invasion of Cyprus

Dinner on the Midway



Thursday Night Banquet Dinner on the Lawn



The Andrew Sisters on the Midway



Hey kids! I know that our Holy Friday retreat was fun, so we're going to continue the fun with our Summer retreat. On the 15th of August Sunday School will be hosting Vacation Church Retreat for all young kids (K-7 grade). This retreat will run from 9:30am to 3:00pm and will include celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Assumption of the Theotokos. Here's the agenda...and we're asking for help from not only parents but any GOYA or other young adults who would like to help out.



9:00 Check in
 9:00-9:30 Breakfast
 9:30-10:00 Children's Choir practice
 10:00-11:15 Divine Liturgy of the Assumption
 11:15-11:45 Lunch
 11:45- 1:30 Outdoor Games
 1:30-3:00 Craft Stations
 3:00-3:15 Snacks and clean up
 3:15-3:30 Dismissal

Sunday School is looking for baby donations! This year we have teachers with young babies/toddlers that are not able to go into the preschool program yet. We are creating a space for our teachers' young children, so they are able to teach this year! If anyone has baby donations that they no longer use, we would greatly appreciate it!

We are looking for:

- changing table
- bouncer
- gently used baby toys
- gently used books
- pack and play



From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director

Summer has arrived, the warm weather heralding an end to school and the beginning of trips to Greece for many! It also brings an end to our year of Teen/GOYA events and Young Adult Meetups for the season. We had a very experimental year, trying out many different types of events and activities including hikes, go karting, trivia games, escape rooms, Zoomobiles, and, more recently, outdoor movie nights. For the Young Adults specifically, we have grown into a large, reliable group and our trips to various venues have been communal and exciting.

Looking forward to 2024-25, we aim to continue to experiment and grow with a larger focus on all-age activities to include our pre-teen demographic. For Young Adults, we have a whole list of venues we have yet to discover for our monthly meet-ups which will kick off again in September.

Our first big event of next year will be one of the more ambitious yet. Expanding on Sunday School's Vacation Bible School (August 15th), we will be hosting a weekend event for our pre-teens and teens. We'll be sending details soon. More information will be forthcoming; at the moment, we've invited many other Western New York Greek Orthodox Churches to join and we are aiming for an age-range of 8-18 (kids 8-11 will require a parent to join). Pictures, registration, and volunteer options will be posted soon.

Happy summer to all!

GREEK FESTIVAL 2024 A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you to all our Annunciation community for your unwavering support of the 2024 Rochester Greek Festival. Once again, we were blessed with great weather and an incredible turnout. This success is owed to our dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and enthusiastic participation of the Rochester community.

The hard work and dedication of everyone involved resulted in not just another record-breaking festival, but also a vibrant presence from our younger parish members. Highlights of the event included the impressive opening ceremony featuring 20 motorcycles from the Adelpia Motorcycle Organization of Rochester and Toronto, a delightful wine-tasting event, the 3rd Annual Greek Iron Chef competition, and amazing performances by our Greek dance groups.

The preliminary numbers for the festival are as follows:

Cash Sales	\$235K	Credit Card	\$303K
Marketplace	\$12K (Marketplace vendor revenue sharing)		
Sponsorships	\$27K		
Total	\$577K (12% increase over last year - another record!)		



While it would be impossible to acknowledge every person who contributed, we would like to thank all those volunteers who tirelessly prepped, baked, cooked and grilled to make this festival the incredible event it is. Thank you so much and know that your commitment and efforts do not go unnoticed. We also want to say thank you to all the chairpersons for their long hours and dedication before and during the festival and a special thank you to this year's Festival Chairmen, John Vangellow and Mike Nassis



GREEK FESTIVAL 2024



CHURCH TOURS DURING THE FESTIVAL



Dear Greek School Families and Parishioners,

Congratulations to all the children for a great 2023-2024 Greek School year!

IT'S A WRAP!

A few things to share as we wrap up this year of Greek School:

- Thank you to **Thanasi Hristodoulou** for capturing the joyful faces of our children on Greek School Graduation Day (see above)!
- Congratulations to our senior this year, **Panagiotis Halvatzis**, who will be taking the New York State Regents Exam on June 24th at the Penfield High School. Panagiotis has worked really hard throughout the years attending Greek School, participating in events, and studying really hard year after year. We wish him all the best as he prepares for the upcoming exam and we have confidence he will ace it!
- Congratulations to our parishioner, **Gregory Demos**, who took the NY State Regents exam last year and got a perfect 100% score. Gregory and his family recently attended the Award Ceremony in Astoria, NY, where His Eminence presented him with the Award of Excellence!



- Greek Festival Dancing was a blast! All dance groups had a great time performing, sharing their dance skills and promoting our Greek heritage with our Rochester community! Thank you to all the teachers who made this possible: **Danielle Marou & Christina Theodoridis, Julie Bausch, Dina Buono & Eleni Manou, Sammy Dragos & Evana Battle.**

- Lastly, we had such a nice time at our Seabreeze Picnic this year! Thank you to **Zoe Tzogas and Kostas Kapatos** for helping organize the event! Kids got to kick-off the summer by playing with their Greek school friends and enjoying the rides.



GREEK SCHOOL 2024-2025

SAVE THESE DATES:

Parent Orientation Day: Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 9:30 -11:00 AM.

We encourage all parents and children to attend this day, so that you can meet the teacher, receive important information for the Greek School year ahead, and ask any questions you may have.

First Full Day of Classes: Saturday, September 21,

2024 from 9:30 AM -1:00 PM. Classes will start every Saturday promptly at 9:30 am and will end at 1 pm.

Zoom Conversational Classes (4th-7th only): We will continue to offer conversational classes through zoom, every Wednesday starting September 25th from 6 pm-

6:45 pm



Online Registration is Open for the school year 2024-2025:

Families can start registering for September now! It's never too early to register and you can help us order our books earlier too! As a reminder, Greek School Tuition is \$450 for one child, \$800 for two children, and \$1100 for three children.



To register, follow the instructions on this link:

<https://forms.gle/xXhUopX9N2HNsGR58> Have a great summer everyone!

As always, feel free to reach out with your questions at agreekschool@gmail.com

Ευχαριστούμε,

Elina Kokorotsis & Maria Dembeyiotis

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: _____

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

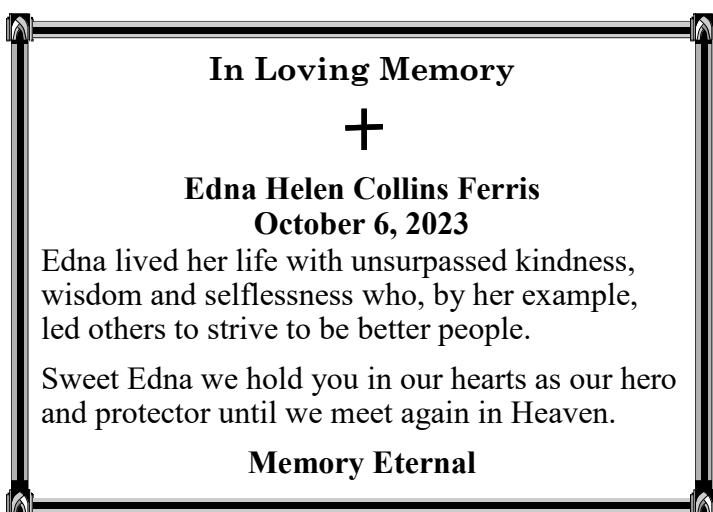
AG Foodservice
Ajay Glass Co.
Alpha Ironworks
Goodman Glass and Mirror
Konstantinou's Liquor
Rain or Shine Tent Rental
Regional Distributors Inc
Rhino Trunk and Case
Ridge Coin & Jewelry
Rochester Auto Glass
Rochester Meat
Walworth Wine & Spirits

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
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