

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

February 2025

From the Desk of
Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos

Parish Registry, Progress Report
Upcoming Church Services and Events

Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From Fr. Angelo

While most Orthodox are familiar with some of the services of Lent and Holy Week, few know the entire collection of services that make up the entire Lenten season and this is especially important for those who have recently joined our church through Chrismation. The joyous event of Christ's resurrection can only be fully appreciated through the journey of Lent. The Lenten journey is vital to fully prepare for the single greatest event of our Christian faith, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason, I want to take the time to provide this overview of the entire schedule of services.

OVERVIEW

The services of Great Lent are characterized by an atmosphere of a penitential character evident through noticeable differences. The royal gates to the altar area remain closed to remind us of Man's separation through sin from the Kingdom of God. The church vesting is of a somber color, usually purple and the 7-day candles are changed to purple. The daily hymns reflect this somber tone with a repentant and intercessory character, entreating God through His saints to have mercy on us sinners.

THE SERVICES OF LENT

The Lenten session consists of three distinct periods, Triodion, Great Lent, and Holy Week.

PREPARATION

The Triodion (Τριώδιον) period, which means "three odes" covers the preparatory weeks leading up to Holy Week. This period includes Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Sunday of the Prodigal Son and Sunday of the Last Judgment. Following this we prepare our bodies for the fasting period of Great Lent starting with Meatfare Sunday (Απόκρεο-literally: the "Leave-taking from Meat"). The following week, Cheesefare Sunday (Τυρινε, - literally: "Cheese Sunday") eliminates meat and dairy products from our diet.

During this period the Church also celebrates the Saturday of Souls (Ψυχосαββατο) liturgies, of which there are three, we pray universally for all of the departed. The faithful offer koliva, and names of their departed are read during the Memorial portion of the service. The Scripture readings refer to the dead and their hope of salvation through Christ who has "defeated death by His death".

GREAT LENT

The Forty Days of Great Lent (Μεγαλη Σαρακοστη), begin on Clean Monday (3 March) as the Orthodox do not have any equivalent to Ash Wednesday. This begins the full fast, although on two specific feasts during Lent (the Annunciation and Palm Sunday), fish is allowed. The fast lasts through Holy Week. On Clean Monday it is typical to conduct the Great Compline service where the Canon of St Andrew of Crete is read.

In most Greek Orthodox parishes, two services dominate the Forty Days of Lent: the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy held each Wednesday and the Salutations to the Theotokos on Fridays.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts was first documented by St. Gregory the Dialogist (AD 540-604), who was the papal legate to Constantinople. The Presanctified Liturgy is a beautifully solemn evening service

Continued on page 2

combining elements of Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the Eucharist during the service as the Lamb (Body of Christ) has been pre-sanctified (consecrated) at the previous Sunday's liturgy. It comes after a day of spiritual preparation and offers the faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work. Normally a light lenten meal is eaten in the morning or early afternoon. This service was initiated by the early Church to offer strength to the faithful during this time of increased struggle. The prayer of St. Ephraim of Syria that is repeated throughout this service clearly displays the repentance nature of this service:

O Lord and Master of my life: take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk.

But grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

Lord and King, grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

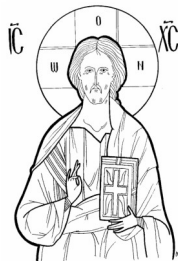
SALUTATIONS AND AKATHIST

The Friday Salutation services that take place over the course of five (5) Fridays are conducted in place of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy that is typically performed in the Antiochian and Slavic traditions. The hymn was composed in Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist in the year 556. Each Friday, one part of the total Akathist service is sung with hymns by the chanter and stanzas by the priest ending with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded." On the final Friday all 24 stanzas are sung by the priest.

These hymns and stanzas, while honoring the role that the Theotokos played in our salvation, it also prepares us for the Bridegroom services of Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday immediately precede our entrance into Holy Week and celebrate two significant events in the earthly life of our Lord: His final sign in returning His friend Lazarus to life after 4 days dead and His glorious entrance into the city of Jerusalem. Holy Week begins with the evening Matins of the Bridegroom service on Sunday night where the long Alleluia replaces the psalm: God is the Lord. Scripture readings from Genesis and Proverbs are added to Vespers, and the Prophecy of Isaiah to the Sixth Hour. Each of these books is read nearly in its entirety during the Lenten period. The remainder of Holy Week carries us ever deeper into the darkness of Christ's betrayal, arrest, torture, trial, and finally, crucifixion after which we emerge victorious with our Lord celebrating the event of His glorious resurrection and our gift of eternal salvation with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.



Sunday School after Holy Communion

Greek School Classes (4th-7th), Every Wednesday 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM.

On-going adult Orthodox study programs:

- Bible Study, 7:00 PM
- Orthodox Questions and Answers every Thursday, YouTube, 7:00 PM.
- On-Line Orthodox Catechism on our website under the EDUCATION tab.

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- 10 February PC Meeting, 6:00 PM
- 15 February Kids baking cookies for the firemen
- 15 February Good News article submission deadline
- 17 February Presidents' Day
- 19 February Young Adult Meeting - Living Roots Winery 7:00 PM
- +22 February First Saturday of Souls, 10:00 AM**
- 27 February Sunshine Club Meeting, 11:00 AM
- 1 March Apokriatiko Dance. Refer to page 17 for details.
- +1 March Second Saturday of Souls joint service at Holy Spirit, 10:00 AM**
- 3 March Clean Monday - Great Lent Begins**
- 3 March PC Meeting, 6:00 PM
- +5 March Presanctified Liturgy, 5:00 PM**
- +7 March First Salutations to the Theotokos, 5:00 PM**
- +8 March Third Saturday of Souls, 10:00 AM**
- 8 March Movie Night: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) (Teen/Young Adults)
- 9 March Sunshine Club Bake Sale after the Divine Liturgy
- 9 March SJC Oratorical Festival after the Divine Liturgy
- +9 March Sunday of Orthodoxy - Kids: bring your icons for the procession during the Divine Liturgy**
- +9 March Sunday of Orthodoxy Evening Vespers. Joint service with all local Orthodox churches hosted by St. Mary the Protectress, St. Paul Blvd, 6:00 PM. Reception following Vespers.**
- 12 March Young Adult Meet-Up, 7:00 PM
- +12 March Presanctified Liturgy, 5:00 PM**
- +14 March Second Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:00 PM. At the Holy Spirit**
- 15 March Good News article submission deadline
- 15 March Horizons Fun FX Skating Youth and Teen Meetup (Youth/Teen)
- 15 March Monastery trip to the Holy Protection (Agia Skepi) women's monastery via bus travel, 8:00 AM
- +19 March Presanctified Liturgy, 5:00 PM**
- +21 March Third Salutations to the Theotokos, 5:00 PM.**
- +24 March Joint Vespers of the Annunciation Feast in Buffalo (via travel bus) - details on Page 5**
- +26 March Presanctified Liturgy, 5:00 PM**
- 28 March Sunshine Club, 11:00 AM
- +28 March Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:00 PM At the Holy Spirit**
- TBD Lenten Lecture Series
- +2 April Presanctified Liturgy, 5:00 PM**
- +4 April Akathist Hymn, 5:00 PM**
- 5 April Western New York SJC District Level Oratorical Festival
- 5 April Lenten Movie Night: The Prince of Egypt (1998) (Youth/Teen)
- 9 April Young Adult Meet-Up
- +12 April Divine Liturgy, Saturday of Lazarus, 10:00 AM.**
Breakfast and making of Palm crosses following the Divine Liturgy
- +13 April PALM Sunday**
- +14-19 April HOLY WEEK Refer to pages 10 and 11 for services listing**
- 20 April Easter Egg Hunt 2025 (Youth)



REGISTRY

40-DAY BLESSINGS:

Child of God: Elio Manou **Parents:** P.J. & Alyssa Manou

BAPTISMS:

Child of God: Joshua Hale
Parents: Pat & Delene Goode

Child of God: Glendalis Hale-Gonzalez
Parents: Antonio & Rosa Gonzales

Child of God: Elena Colon
Parents: Joshua Hale & Glendalis Hale-Gonzalez

Child of God: Rachel Antoniou
Parents: Mark Walker & Lorraine Nier

Child of God: Matthew LaPlant
Parents: Duane & Kyrstyna LaPlant

Child of God: Jonathan VanWicklen
Parents: John & Donna VanWicklen

Child of God: Emma VanWicklen
Parents: Jonathan & Amanda Marie VanWicklen

Child of God: Oliver VanWicklen
Parents: Jonathan & Amanda Marie VanWicklen

FUNERALS:

- Catherine Stark - October 25, 2024
- Dimitrios Zissis - December 20, 2024
- Zaharia Mihalitsas - January 21, 2025
- John Notides - January 21, 2025

WEDDING:

Matt Hoyer and Stephanie Vangellow





ANNUNCIATION FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

March 24 & 25

Monday, March 24 - Join us in celebrating the name day of our church and our sister Church in Buffalo with vespers on March 24 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Buffalo at 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow. We have arranged to have a bus available and it will leave our church at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person round trip. Please call the office to reserve your spot on the bus by March 16.

Tuesday, March 25 - Orthros 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit our webpage for links to the Scholarship applications
<https://annunciationrochester.org/scholarships>

The following Scholarships are available:

FLORENCE G. STEFANOU PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP

HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF NEW YORK

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM NATIONAL AHEPA/DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Annunciation Family,

Happy New Year! Χρόνια πολλά ! Wishing all of you a blessed, happy, and healthy new year. As we look around we definitely have reason to be thankful not only in our personal lives but right here at church. I am sure many of you were excited to make the Vasilopita Cake and even more thrilled awaiting to see who in your families would receive the “coin”, flouri . Thank goodness for the moms and yiayias that make the delicious cake. It’s certainly a great way to ring in the new year, staying up until midnight, celebrating and watching the ball fall. With that being said, Philoptochos thanks all the organizations that participated and attended the Vasilopita cutting at Annunciation on Jan. 12th. All the proceeds will go to St. Basil Academy, in Garrison, NY, an orphanage that assists and helps many children in need. Thank you for your most generous donations. As Fr. Angelo was cutting the Vasilopita we all waited in anticipation to see who the fortunate organization would be. This year’s group was the Parish Council. Lets wish them a most blessed and productive year ahead and all of our 20 plus organizations continued success. We also want to wish one of our own young parishioners Miss Athanasia Tzogas who during fellowship coffee hour was the blessed recipient of the Vasilopita Coin. Congratulations Athanasia, may you and your family have an amazing 2025 year ahead. Thank you to all those that purchased the Vasilopita Coin in support of Philoptochos. Many blessings to you and your families for your support. I am sure it was a pleasant surprise to find the “flouri”. Please keep in mind that the Vasilopita Coin will be available for the 2026 year too. We will keep you all posted.

Furthermore, Philoptochos is ready, willing, and able to begin the new year with all that it has to offer. But, first let’s take a look back at a few of the wonderful things that occurred during 2024. First and foremost is our famous bake sale in November. What a huge success that was. With the wonderful support of our parish family, You, Philoptochos was able to raise plenty of money in 2024 for two charities. Each charity received two thousand dollars. These charities were IOCC (Hurricane Response/ International Orthodox Christian Charities and the Veterans Outreach Center of Rochester. None of this can be accomplished without our Annunciation family. Looking forward to another 2025 Famous Bake Sale. Continuing Philoptochos hosted the 3M’s, Membership, Mezedeths, and Mimosa. Yes, I did say Mimosa! The 3M’s is a mix and mingle cheer for not only our on going members but for all those that might have an interest in joining this amazing philanthropic organization. Please look for the 2025 3M’s party/fellowship gathering in the fall and join Philoptochos; we would love to have you and your talents. Thanks to all those who continue to be members of Philoptochos and pay their dues. Please reach out to Maria Economides for details. (585-671-4034). Philoptochos continues to honor it’s patron sts. Cosmas and Damianos who were celebrated on Nov. 3rd. These mercenaries are an example of the works that we all should be exemplifying in our Orthodox faith. Philoptochos also met it’s obligations and responsibilities for 2024 to both the national and local metropolis. We continue to be the right hand of the church and 2025 looks to be such a promising year ahead.

Fellowship coffee hour for the month of January is hosted by the Pontos Society. Let’s thank the lovely ladies Mrs. Eleni Panitsidis, Mrs. Irene Viron, and Mrs. Parthena Panitsidis who took time to greet everyone with a smile and a cup of coffee. We thank all our organizations that sponsor a month of fellowship and all those that participate singly too.

Continued on page 7

Philoptochos, continued

Philoptochos continues to remember our dear friend Mrs. Florence G. Stefanou. May her memory be eternal. Please read about the “Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship.”

Quote:

“The Mrs. Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to qualifying high school seniors entering an accredited college, university or trade school as well as undergraduate college students.” “The scholarship will be awarded to one student in the amount of \$1,000.00....”

“The funding for this scholarship is provided by the generosity of the Stefanou family. Mrs. Stefanou, past Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos President, was a devoted Philoptochos sister in her local chapter,” right here in our Annunciation Church, “the Metropolis Board and the National Philoptochos Board.” We here at the Annunciation are honored to have worked along side Mrs. Stefanou. Please visit the Annunciation website for more details and how to fill out the application too. Application must be postmarked by April 25th, 2025. There will be some copies available after liturgy during coffee hour. Please ask one of our Philoptochos ladies.

Furthermore, Philoptochos will be holding it’s elections for the 2025-2027. As of now here are the current Executive Board Members: President Ms. Karen Balta, VP Mrs. Andrea Vangellow, Treasurer Mrs. Helen Eisenberg, Secretary Presvytera Teri Maggos, and Corresponding Secretary Niki Chamberlain. The Bylaws outline the following:

Quote:

Article V: Parish Chapter-Section 2 Membership Qualification:

1. Full Member-Women of the Greek Orthodox Faith, of at least 18 years of age, shall be eligible for full membership in the Society.
2. Associate Membership- A) An Associate Member shall enjoy all privileges of membership, except the right to vote or hold office. B) The following persons shall be eligible for associate membership: i. A non-Greek Orthodox woman married to a Greek Orthodox man. ii. Greek Orthodox men. iii. A non-Greek Orthodox man married to a Greek Orthodox woman.

Qualifications for Elections to the Chapter Board: A member of the Chapter Board shall:

- A. Be a full member of the Society;
- B. Be a member in good standing with the parish and chapter for a period at least one full year prior to the date of election to the Chapter Board;
- C. Have attended a minimum of four meetings of the Chapter in the previous year; and be present at the election meeting unless reasonable cause for such absence is provided. Further information will follow for the 2025-2027 year.

Looking forward to an exciting and fulfilling year ahead. Thank you Fr. Angelo and Presvytera Teri, Annunciation Family, All our Organizations, and The Ladies of Philoptochos.

Corresponding Secretary,
Niki Chamberlain

Please PRINT CLEARLY



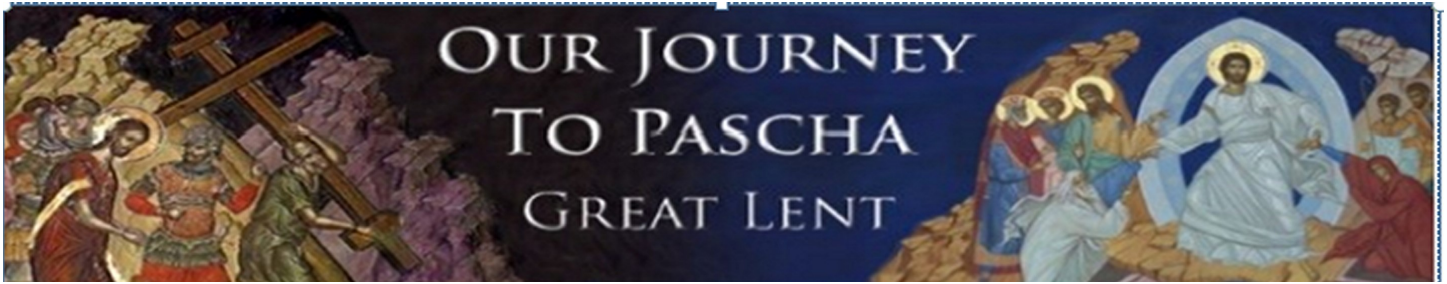
ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ
Saturday of Souls

+22 February, Sat.-1st Saturday of Souls
+1 March, Sat. - 2nd Saturday of Souls
+8 March, Sat - 3rd Saturday of Souls
More information to follow

Two columns of horizontal lines for writing names.

**SATURDAY OF SOULS
COMMUNITY KOLIVA**

As always, parishioners may bring their own Koliva for the three (3) Saturday of Souls services. However, Despina has once again offered to make a large community Koliva for the 1st and 3rd Saturday of Souls services. If you would like to contribute to the community Koliva, the suggested donation is \$20.00. To contribute, contact Despina 966-9055 or Akrivi 352-0536, or the church office.



FLOWERS FOR LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

The following list of items are those used to decorate during Great Lent and Holy Week Services, to include the Tomb of Christ “Epitaphio”. It is a time for each of us to reflect and participate in this labor of love. We have arranged to have a variety of pricing so as to encourage everyone to donate one or more of the items listed.

You can donate by:

- Placing your donation in the “Easter Flower” envelope located in the church pews
- Calling the Church Office or stop by the Church during business hours (10 am - 3 pm M-F)
- Mailing your donation to the Church

FLOWERS FOR ICONS

1 st Salutations	\$140.00
2 nd Salutations	\$140.00
3 rd Salutations	\$140.00
4 th Salutations	\$140.00
Akathist Hymn	\$140.00
Sunday of Orthodoxy	\$ 75.00
Annunciation Feast Day	\$140.00
Sunday of the Holy Cross	\$120.00
Saturday of Lazarus	\$120.00
Palm Sunday	\$100.00
Nymphios Icon (Sun-Tues)	\$120.00
Nymphios Procession Icon (Sun)	\$140.00
Crucifixion of Christ (Thurs).	\$120.00
The Un-nailing of Christ	\$120.00
Empty Tomb (Holy Sat. Morning)	\$120.00
Resurrection Icon	\$120.00

GREAT LENT & HOLY WEEK ITEMS

Rose Water for Epitaphio	\$25.00
12 Gospels Candles	\$120.00
Candles for the Crucifix	\$ 50.00
Priest Resurrection Candle	\$150.00
Eggs for Resurrection Service	120 Dozen
Daffodils - Sun of Holy Cross	\$ 60.00
Crown of Thorns (Holy Thurs)	\$ 65.00
Palms for the Crosses	\$150.00
Garland for Nymphios	\$ 50.00
Holy Unction Oil	\$ 25.00
Epitaphio Flowers	\$1600.00
Rose Petals	\$150.00
Bay Leaves	\$ 75.00
Potted Easter Lilies	\$125.00

**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2025 SERVICES FOR GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK**

Saturday, 2/22	1st Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
Saturday, 3/1	2nd Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
LENT BEGINS MONDAY, March 18		
Saturday, 3/8	3rd Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
Saturday, 4/12	Raising of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Sunday, 4/13	PALM SUNDAY	10:00 am
	Palm Sunday Luncheon immediate following the Divine Liturgy	
	Bridegroom Matins	6:00 pm
Monday, 4/14	HOLY MONDAY	
	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service	6:00 pm
Tuesday, 4/15	HOLY TUESDAY	
	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service - Hymn of Kassiane	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 4/16	HOLY WEDNESDAY	
	Holy Unction (2 services available)	4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday, 4/17	HOLY THURSDAY	
	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	10:00 am
	Office of Holy Passion (Twelve Gospels)	6:00 pm
Friday, 4/18	HOLY FRIDAY	
	Kids Holy Week Retreat	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
	The Royal Hours (Decorating Epitaphio)	10:00 am
	Vespers of Apokathelosis (Descent from the Cross)	2:00 pm
	Office of Lamentations (Epitaphio)	7:00 pm
Saturday, 4/19	GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY	
	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	10:00 am
	HOLY PASCHA RESURRECTION SERVICE	11:00 pm
Sunday, 4/20	HOLY PASCHA AGAPE SERVICE (Sunday of Love)	11:00 am

Please note that all the Salutations to the Theotokos services will be alternated between Annunciation and Holy Spirit and begin at 6:00 PM.

**Η ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ**

Σάββατο, 4/12	Θεία Λειτουργία - Ανάσταση του Λάζαρου Πρόγευμα μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 πμ
Κυρακη 4/13	Θεία Λειτουργία - Των Βαΐων Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Δευτερα 4/14	Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου	6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Τριτη 4/15	Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου Το τροπάριο της Κασσιανής	6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Τεταρτη 4/16	Μυστήριο του Αγίου Ευχέλαιου	4:00 πμ 7:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Πευπη 4/17	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Τα Πάθη του Χριστου (Δώδεκα Ευαγγέλια)	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Πρασκευη 4/18	Σαρακοστιανη κατασκηνωση του παιδικου κατηχητικου Ακολουδία των Βασιλικών Ώρων Η Αποκαθήλωσις Ο Επιτάφιος Θρήνος (Τα Εγκώμια)	9:00 πμ - 3:00 μμ 10:00 πμ 2:00 μμ 7:00 μμ
Μεγαλο Σαββατο 4/19	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Αγία και Μεγαλή Κυριακή του Πάσχα (Θεία Λειτουργία της Αναστάσεως)	10:00 πμ 11:00 μμ
Κυριακη του Πασχα 4/20	Ακολουδία της Αγάπης	11:00 πμ

***Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω, θάνατον πατήσας
και τοίς εν τοίς μνύμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.***

Σημειώστε ότι όλες οι ακολουθίες των Χαιρετισμών στην Θεοτόκο θα εναλλάσσονται μεταξύ Ευαγγελισμού και Αγίου Πνεύματος και αρχίζουν στις 6:00 μ.μ.

From the Desk of the Annunciation Youth Director

Hello all! Below we have a list of all the upcoming Youth & Young Adult events for the next three months. Be sure to check the website calendar for updates and be sure to bookmark the Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry pages on the website for all upcoming news!

February

2/8 – Pixar Movie Night: Inside Out (2015) (Youth/Teen)
2/19 – Young Adult Meet-Up: Living Roots Rochester (Young Adults)

March

3/1 – Apokriatiko Dance 2025 (All-Ages)
3/8 – Movie Night: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) (Teen/Young Adults)
3/12 – Young Adult Meet-Up: TBD (Young Adults)
3/15 – Horizons Fun FX Skating Youth and Teen Meetup (Youth/Teen)

April

4/5 – Lenten Movie Night: The Prince of Egypt (1998) (Youth/Teen)
4/9 - Young Adult Meet-Up: Trivia Night (Young Adults)
4/18 – Holy Friday Youth Retreat (Youth)
4/20 – Easter Egg Hunt 2025 (Youth)

Demosthenes Euclid
Annunciation Youth Director and Video Producer



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

We are looking forward to multiple opportunities to engage more deeply with our faith in the coming months! Please see below for upcoming events and ideas as we approach Great Lent. As always we welcome the ideas, questions, time, and talents of our community!

With love and prayers for a blessed Lenten Season,
Karina and Lauren

Upcoming Events

Month of January: Diaper Drive (due February 2nd)
February 2nd: Godparent Sunday

Learning Our Faith

Our youth have been busy learning and preparing their speeches for the Oratorical Festival in March. They have each picked a topic of their interest to research and learn about. If you have a child at home who is in 7th through 12th grade and would like to participate in the festival please reach out to us! Visit <https://www.goarch.org/oratorical> for the 2025 topics.

At home you can:

1. Ask your child which topic they picked and why.
2. Have your child practice their speech in front of the family, so they become comfortable reading out loud.
3. Start to discuss what you and your family are going to do for lent!

Living Our Faith

1. See below for a Lenten Calendar that you can participate in with your child! We will have the children fill in dates at activities for different days during Sunday School.
2. We would like to collect kid friendly lenten meals! If you have a recipe that you and your family like for lent please feel free to share with us! You can email us at recagocny@gmail.com.

Practicing Our Faith

All children will be given a coin collection box for the lenten season. This money will go towards the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. Please see the website for more information!

<https://www.ocmc.org/>

OUR JOURNEY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TRIDION BEGINS SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE	FAST FREE					
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON	EASING INTO LENT: OUR LAST WEEK TO EAT MEAT UNTIL PASCHA					
THE LAST JUDGMENT MEATFARE SUNDAY	EASING INTO LENT: OUR LAST WEEK TO EAT DAIRY UNTIL PASCHA					
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY CHEESEFARE SUNDAY	Clean Monday: STRICT FAST BEGINS					
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: BRING YOUR ICONS						
SUNDAY OF SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS						
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS						
SUNDAY OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT						
SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT						LAZARUS SATURDAY
PALM SUNDAY	HOLY MONDAY	HOLY TUESDAY	HOLY WEDNESDAY	HOLY THURSDAY	HOLY FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY

TO PASCHA

BASICS AREN'T BASIC.*

*They're essential.

Please support our

DIAPER DRIVE

All funds and diapers donated benefit:

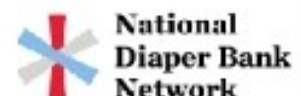


Date(s): Sunday, January 5th
to Sunday, February 2nd

Location(s): Drop off in Narthex or in the
Sunday/Greek School Office

Hosted by: Religious Education/Youth Ministries

Thank you for helping keep
babies clean, dry, and healthy.



ALL AGES CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT December 13, 2024



DECEMBER TOY DRIVE
For Golisano Children's Hospital





GREEK SCHOOL PRESENTS
APOKRIATIKO
COMMUNITY DANCE

Saturday, March 1st | 5pm

\$40* ADULTS
\$10 under 21
*ticket includes
dinner and 1 free drink

 **RSVP REQUESTED BY 2/23**
 **RESERVATIONS FOR
TABLES OF 8-10 BY 2/23**
585-507-1646 (DANIELLE)

CASH BAR | RAFFLE PRIZES!

MUSIC BY
DJ STAMOS





GREEK DANCING

FOR GREEK FESTIVAL 2025

SCAN TO REGISTER:



PRACTICES WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY. BE SURE TO **REGISTER BY JANUARY 19TH** TO RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING PRACTICE TIMES & COSTUMES!

* IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE, DANCERS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, UP TO 12TH GRADE.





2025 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
Park Place Restaurant
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
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
Mary Manou
Clayton, George and Dr. Joan Laura Nardone
Nassis Family
Jennefer & Perry Noun, Bill Noun
Have a wonderful fellowship

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

Eric Vangellow

Eric Vangellow
President, Annunciation GOC

¹**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
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. A decorated candle is \$50.00.

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

Secretaries: Lena L. Livecchi and Leslie Fitzsimmons

Office Email: Office@agocroc.org

Voice: (585) 244-3377

2025 PARISH COUNCIL

Eric Vangellow, President
Karen Balta, Vice President
Demitrios Kolokouris, Treasurer
Helen Eisenberg, Secretary
Zachary Graham
Anastasios Kolokouris
Ronald Wiegand
Evangelos Yannas