

GOOD NEWS

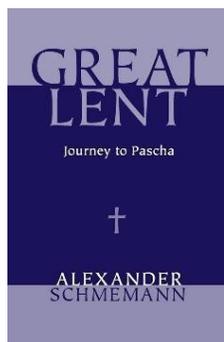
Voice: (585) 244.3377

January/February 2026

From Fr. Angelo

Journey through Great Lent The services of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha is the most wonderful gift offered by the Orthodox Church. The atmosphere of the church, the hymns, and the perpetual fragrance of the incense permeate the entire Paschal period. Throughout Lent the royal gates to the altar area remain closed to remind us of Man's separation through sin from the Kingdom of God and then on Holy Saturday are flung open testifying to the victory Christ brings to humanity. The purple color of the priest and altar server vestments and the candles are significant throughout Lent changing into white for Pascha. The hymns of Lent carry the themes of watchfulness and intercession, entreating God through His saints to have mercy on us sinners.

Although most Orthodox are familiar with some of the services of Holy Week, few know or understand the entire collection of services that make up the Lenten season. Every Orthodox Christian should take time out to appreciate the beauty offered by our Orthodox



Church to properly and fully prepare themselves for the greatest event of Christianity – the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The premier source to educate oneself on all the services of Great Lent and Holy Week is Great Lent – Journey to Pascha by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann which all Orthodox should read, however I want to take time to provide an overview of the entire schedule of services.

The Forty Days of Great Lent (Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή), begin on Clean Monday (23 February) when the Canon of St Andrew of Crete is read. This begins the strictest fasting regime of the year when the fasting is extended to include eggs and other dairy products, olive oil and alcohol. (although certain days of Lent allow for oil and wine and on the Feast of the Annunciation and Palm Sunday fish is allowed.)

In most Greek Orthodox parishes, two services dominate the Forty Days of Lent: the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Progiasmeni Liturgies) each Wednesday and the Akathistos on Fridays. 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 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.

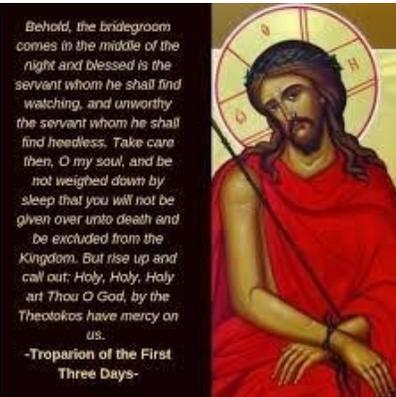
On Fridays of Lent in the Greek Orthodox tradition, the AKATHIST HYMN is conducted in place of the PreSanctified Liturgy that is typically performed in the Antiochian and Slavic traditions. The hymn was com-

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posed in Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist in the year 556. The word "akathistos" literally means "not sitting" and consists of 24 stanzas with each short stanza ending with the refrain: "*Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride.*" The majority of the hymn is composed of praises directed to the Mother of God speaking of her role in our salvation as the birth giver of Jesus, the God-Man.

Two significant days precede our entrance into Holy Week; Lazarus Saturday that celebrates Jesus' final miracle, the restoration of Lazarus, ending His public ministry and Palm Sunday; His glorious entrance into the city of Jerusalem where He was hailed by the people as the awaiting Messiah-King, to which the people chant, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, fulfilling the prophesy of Zechariah.



Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings The first three evening of Holy Week begin with the Matins of the Bridegroom service in the evenings punctuated by the beautiful Bridegroom Hymn where the extended Alleluias replace the typical Matin psalm; *God is the Lord...* Scripture readings from Genesis and Proverbs are added to Vespers, along with various prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and other prophets.

Wednesday While most other Orthodox Churches celebrate the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, the Greek Orthodox tradition is the Holy Unction service where all the people receive the physical and spiritual healing that comes from the sacrament of Holy Unction. There are seven Epistles and seven Gospel readings which mainly continue the focus on watchfulness.

Thursday The day begins with the celebration of St. Basil's Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper event that the Church views as the institution of the Eucharist. The evening service is the reading of 12 Gospel passages specific to Christ's Passion told from the perspective of each of the four Gospel writers. It is during this service, in the Greek Orthodox tradition, that after the reading of the fifth Gospel a procession, similar to the route of the Great Entrance ending on the Solea. The priest carries Christ on the Cross and places Him on the Solea symbolic of Christ carrying His cross to Golgotha.

Friday This day commemorates the death of Christ. Beginning in the morning with the decoration of Christ's Tomb (Kouvouklion) during which the Royal Hours are read. In the afternoon is the Apokathilosis (Un-nailing Service) where Christ is taken down from the cross, wrapped in a white shroud, and placed in His "tomb." During the evening service, the Kouvouklion (wooden structure representing Christ's funeral bier), with the Epitaphio inside, will be processed outside around the church by the faithful and returned to the Solea. Then follows the "Engomia" (also referred to as the "Lamentations") which represents Christ's eulogy sung as a poetic three-part set of stanzas based upon Psalm 119 (118).



Saturday This is the day between Jesus' death and His resurrection. The mourning and darkness of the preceding days becomes watchful expectation of His glorious resurrection. Holy Saturday is also referred to as Proti-Anastasi (first resurrection) as Christ descends into Hades (Greek translation of the Jewish Sheol) to release those in bondage who died before the Son of God entered into human history. This event is celebrated in the morning with another St. Basil Liturgy when during the service Christ's breaking the chains of those bond is symbolized by the priest bursting joyously from the Royal Gates throwing either flowers or bay leaves as the congregation bangs loudly on the pews. This event is beautifully captured in the icon behind the altar of our Annunciation Church.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Saturday Evening This is the celebration of the Paschal liturgy, prefaced by a short Matin service. With the church totally dark at the beginning of the service, at the completion of the Matins, the priest, holding the resurrectional candle emerges from the Royal Gates proclaiming to the faithful, “*Come, receive the light from the unwaning light and glorify Christ who arose from the dead!*” Slowly as the faithful light their candles from the priest’s candle the church becomes engulfed in candlelight with the people responding with joyful singing, “*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by His death, and to those in the tombs granting life.*”

Agape Sunday This Sunday of Pascha remembers the fellowship or Agape meal which the first

Christians celebrated as Christ had established at the Last Supper. The morning concludes with the Agape Vespers during which the Gospel is read in as many languages as possible to have us remember



THE LENTEN PRAYER OF ST EPHREM THE SYRIAN (excerpts from Fr. Schmemmann)

Of all the Lenten hymns and prayers, one short prayer can be termed the Lenten Prayer. Tradition ascribes it to one of the great teachers of spiritual life - St. Ephrem the Syrian.

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

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King!

Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother; For Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen

This prayer is read at the conclusion of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during Lent with a prostration follows each petition. This short and simple prayer presents all the "negative" (vices) and "positive" (virtue) elements of repentance and constitutes, so to speak, a "check list" for our individual lenten effort. The aim of the prayer is to free us from spiritual diseases which overtake us as we move further from the previous year's Pascha (Easter). Busy schedules and worldly distractions darken our outlook and are identified in the first line of St. Ephraim's prayer.

Sloth Laziness and passivity of our entire being always pushes us "down" rather than "up" which constantly convinces us that no change is possible and we lose the desire towards spiritual and mental and physical betterment. Sloth leads to deepen cynicism to which the hopeless reply is "what for?" thus affecting our ability to see through the darkness inhibiting spiritual progress.

Faint-heartedness The result of sloth. It is the state of despondency considered to be the greatest danger for the soul. Despondency is the impossibility for man to see anything good or positive; it is the reduction of everything to negativism and pessimism. It is truly a demonic power in us because the Devil is fundamentally a liar. He lies to man about God and about the world; he fills life with darkness and negation. Despondency is the suicide of the soul because when man is possessed by it, unable to see the light and to desire it.

Continued on page 4

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Lust of power Strange as it may seem, it is precisely sloth and despondency that fill our life with lust of power. By corrupting the entire attitude toward life and making it meaningless and empty, they force us to seek compensation in a radically wrong attitude toward other people. If one's life is not oriented toward God, not aimed at eternal values, it inevitably becomes selfish and self-centered desiring only self-satisfaction. If God is not the Lord and Master of one's life, then I become my own lord and master -- the absolute center of my own world, and I begin to evaluate everything in terms of my needs, my ideas, my desires, and my judgments. Lust of power can be expressed in the actual urge to command and dominate others, but in a lessor form becomes indifference, contempt, being inconsiderate, and disrespect.

Idle talk - Of all created beings, man alone has been endowed with the gift of speech, the very "seal" of the Divine Image in man because God Himself is revealed as Word (John, 1:1). But being the supreme gift, if used improperly can become deadly. Being the very expression of man, the means of his selffulfillment, it is for this very reason the means of his fall and self-destruction, of betrayal and sin. The word saves and the word kills; the word inspires and the word poisons. The word is the means of Truth and it is the means of demonic Lie. When deviated from its divine origin and purpose, the word becomes idle. It enforces" sloth, despondency, and lust of power, becoming the very power of sin.

These four vices are thus the negative "objects" of repentance. They are the obstacles to be removed, however, humility demands that we recognize that only with God's help can remove them. Hence, the first part of the Lenten Prayer is a cry from the pit of human helplessness, while the second part moves to the positive aims of repentance or virtues.

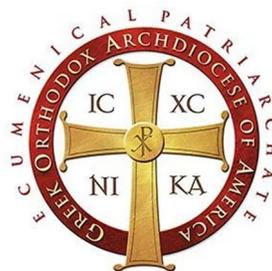
Chastity If one does not reduce this term, as is so often and erroneously done, only to its sexual connotations, it is understood as the positive counterpart of sloth. The word in Greek is σοφροσύνη and the more exact translation is sagacity, which is defined as an acuteness of mental discernment. The vices just mention severely dulls our inability to discern our brokenness. We lose sight of Christ who calls us to remain in Him, restoring wholeness in us thus restoring our ability to discern our descent into the vices and He guides us transforming vices into the virtues that lead us back to His Kingdom.

Humility — the first and wonderful fruit of this wholeness or chastity. It is above everything else the victory of truth in us, the elimination of all lies in which we usually live. Humility is the first step in recognizing the Truth of who Christ is and what He offers us. Humility allows us to see and accept things as they are and therefore seeing God's majesty and goodness and love in everything. This is why we are told that God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud.

Patience naturally follows Chastity and Humility. The "natural" or "fallen" man is impatient, for being blind to himself he is quick to judge and to condemn others. Having but a broken, incomplete, and distorted knowledge of everything, he measures all things by his tastes and his ideas. Being inwardly focused, he wants life to be successful right here and now. Patience, however, is truly a divine virtue exemplified in the Old Testament by God's patience with Israel. The closer we come to God, the more patient we grow and the more we reflect respect for all beings which is the proper quality of God. As St. Paul reminds us, "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bear with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4)

Love — the crown and fruit of all virtues, of all growth and effort. Love which, as we have already said, can be given by God alone — the gift which is the goal of all spiritual preparation and practice. Jesus Himself shows the importance of love saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

All this is summarized and brought together in the concluding petition of the Lenten Prayer in which we ask "to see my own errors and not to judge my brother." For ultimately there is but one danger: pride. Pride is the source of evil, and all evil is pride. Yet it is not enough for me to see my own errors, for even this apparent virtue can be turned into pride. (Luke 18) When we "see our own errors" and "do not judge our brothers," when, in other terms, chastity, humility, patience, and love unite us in Christ, then and only then the ultimate enemy--pride--will be destroyed in us.





REGISTRY



40 DAY BLESSINGS:

Child of God: Anna Cora Lucas

Child of God: Matto Colati

Child of God: Mark Peter Mydosh

Parents: Christopher & Angelia Luca

Parents: Domenico & Efrosyni Colati

Parents: Kevin Mydosh & Alexis Vangellow



BAPTISMS/ CHRISMATIONS:

Child of God: Adriano Battle

Child of God: Eloise Ariadni Celerier

Child of God: Sophia Danglis

Child of God: Thalia Danglis

Servant of God: Andrew Danglis

Handmaiden of God: Kellie Danglis

Parents: Christopher & Evana Battle

Parents: Alexis Celerier & Diamando Keisidis

Parents: Andrew & Kellie Danglis

Parents: Andrew & Kellie Danglis



FUNERALS:

Golfo Kangelidis– December 19, 2025

Maria S. Vasho – January 6, 2026

Irini Konstantinou – January 10, 2026

May their memory be eternal.



ON-LINE STEWARDSHIP PORTAL

This new Parishioner Portal will provide our parishioners a convenient and secure way to stay connected with our church community! We have completed the trials and the church office is currently sending invites to our parishioners.

Through the portal, you will now be able to:

- Create a personal login for secure access and Review and update your family information (address, phone number, email, etc.)
- Give your stewardship online quickly and easily, and Access your giving history anytime
- Download your annual stewardship statement for tax purposes (in Jan)

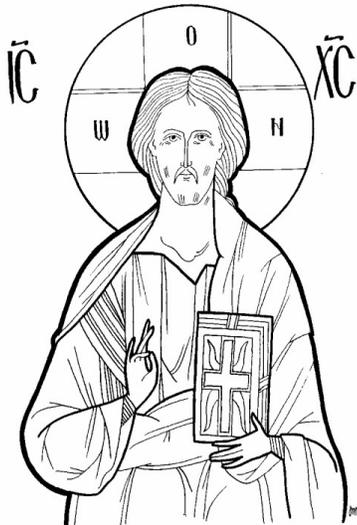
How to Get Started:

Look for an email from the church containing a personal link to your email address. Click on the link and follow the prompts to set up your login Explore your new portal!

We realize that there will be some issues as we roll out this new program so if you have any questions or need assistance setting up your account, please contact the church office at office@annunciationrochester.org

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- 1 Feb Godparents Sunday
 7 Feb Byzantine Chant Workshop. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Refer to page 8 for details.
 10 Feb Agathen Merida Sisterhood meeting @ 6:00 pm at Annunciation
+14 Feb First Saturday of Souls at Annunciation, 10:00
 18 Feb Young Adult Night - Location TBA
+21 Feb Second Saturday of Souls, Joint Service at Holy Spirit, 10:00 AM
 21 Feb Apokriatiko Community Dinner/Dance, 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Refer to page 10 for details.
23 Feb GREAT LENT BEGINS!
- Schedule of services on pages 13 and 14
- 26 Feb Sunshine Club (Seniors) Lunch, 11:00 AM
+28 Feb Third Saturday of Souls at Annunciation, 10:00 AM



Vasilopita 2026

The Office received the blessed coin for 2026.

On-going adult Orthodox study programs:

- Adult Modern Greek Language program every Saturday 1:30-3:00 PM through May 16
- Orthodox Christian Club every Monday 5:30 to 7:00 PM
- Zoom Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00 PM.
- Orthodox Questions and Answers every Thursday, YouTube, 7:00 PM.
- Online Orthodox Catechism on our website under the EDUCATION tab.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1st

Godparent Sunday

Godparents are invited to bring
their godchildren to Divine
Liturgy and participate in a
service project together!

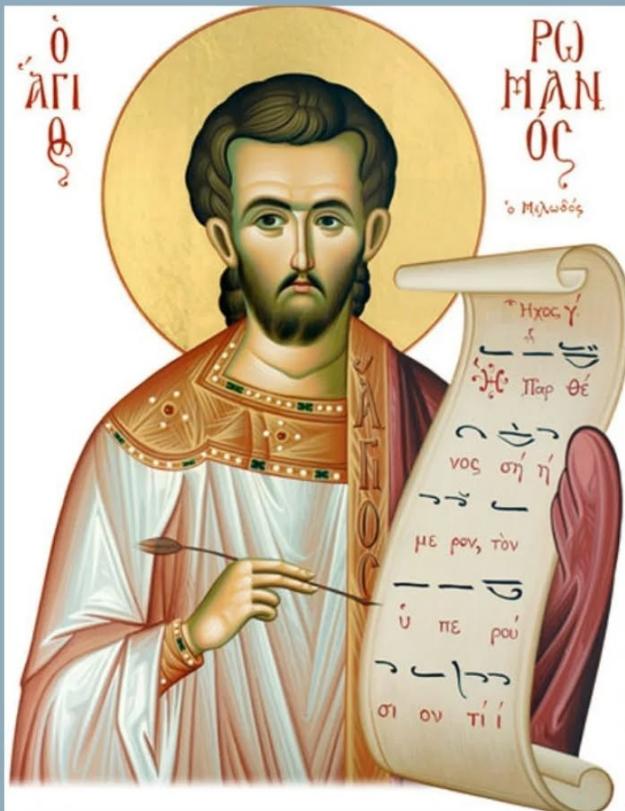


SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE MUSIC CHANT WORKSHOP

LED BY: FR. DR. ROMANOS KARANOS &
SBM DIRECTOR GEORGIOS THEODORIDIS

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2026

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH - ROCHESTER, NY



SATURDAY
10AM - 4PM
LUNCH INCLUDED
5PM VESPERS W/INSTRUCTORS

SUNDAY
9AM ORTHROS
10AM LITURGY
ANTIPHONAL W/GEORGIOS



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

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[YOUTH@DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org)

ANNUNCIATION GREEK
SCHOOL PROGRAM



MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE FOR ADULTS

Let's Talk: Modern Greek Conversations

Have you always wanted to speak Greek?

Join our new Adult Greek Language Program and build real-life conversational skills in a welcoming, community-centered environment. Whether you're a beginner or returning learner, this course focuses on speaking, listening, and everyday conversation, all while connecting to Greek culture.

Program Details (In-Person)

January 31 - May 16, 2026
Saturdays from 1:30-3:00 PM
Annunciation Greek Church
962 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14625

Registration open.
<https://gqr.sh/CGRN>
Limited slots available.



*Cost: \$425 per adult for the semester.
Includes in-person instruction, student book,
workbook, & e-learning interactive activities.*



CONTACT US:
agreeschool@gmail.com



GREEK SCHOOL PRESENTS

APOKRIATIKO

COMMUNITY DANCE

**SATURDAY,
February 21**

5:00pm

**\$40* ADULTS
\$10 under 21**

*ticket includes dinner and first drink



MUSIC BY



CASH BAR | RAFFLE PRIZES!

FULL TABLE RESERVATIONS -
507.1646 (DANIELLE) BY 2/14



Please PRINT CLEARLY



Ψυχολάββατο
Saturday of Souls

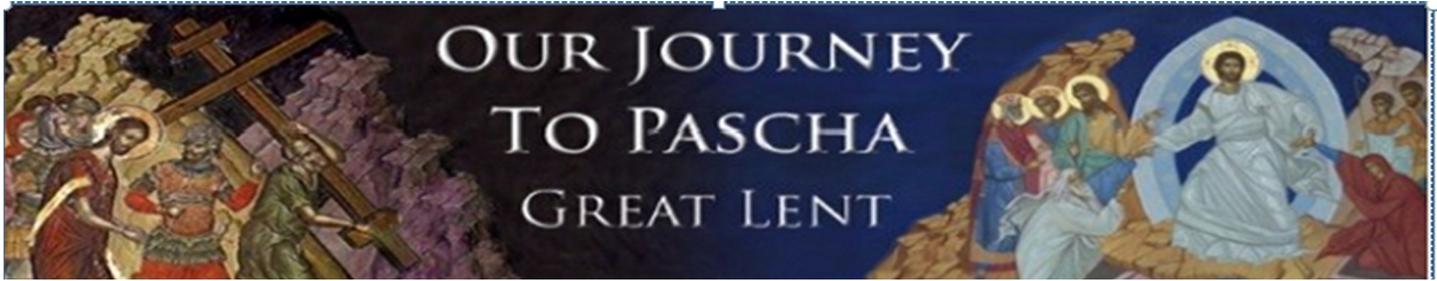
1st and 3rd Saturday of Souls
will be at the Annunciation.

2nd Saturday of Souls will be
at Holy Spirit.

Two columns of horizontal lines for writing, each containing 12 lines.

**SATURDAY OF SOULS
COMMUNITY KOLIVA**

As always, parishioners may bring their own Koliva for the 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 at the Annunciation. 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**2026 SERVICES FOR GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK**

Saturday, 2/14	1st Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
Saturday, 2/21	2nd Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
LENT BEGINS MONDAY, February 23		
Saturday, 2/28	3rd Saturday of Souls	10:00 am
Saturday, 4/4	Raising of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy Breakfast and making of the Palm Crosses after the Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Sunday, 4/5	PALM SUNDAY Palm Sunday Luncheon after the Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Monday, 4/6	Bridegroom Matins	6:00 pm
	HOLY MONDAY Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service	6:00 pm
Tuesday, 4/7	HOLY TUESDAY	
	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service - Hymn of Kassiane	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 4/8	HOLY WEDNESDAY	
	Holy Unction (2 services available)	4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday, 4/9	HOLY THURSDAY	
	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	8:00 am
	Office of Holy Passion (Twelve Gospels)	6:00 pm
Friday, 4/10	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, 4/11	GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY	
	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	10:00 am
	HOLY PASCHA RESURRECTION SERVICE	11:00 pm
Sunday, 4/12	HOLY PASCHA AGAPE SERVICE (Sunday of Love)	11:00 am

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

Σάββατο, 4/4	Θεία Λειτουργία - Ανάσταση του Λάζαρου Πρόγευμα μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 πμ
Κυριακή 4/5	Θεία Λειτουργία - Των Βαΐων Γεύμα μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Δευτέρα 4/6	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Τρίτη 4/7	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου Το τροπάριο της Κασσιανής	6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Τετάρτη 4/8	Μυστήριο του Αγίου Ευχέλαιου	4:00 πμ 7:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Πέμπτη 4/9	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Τα Πάθη του Χριστού (Δώδεκα Ευαγγέλια)	8:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγάλη Πρασκευή 4/10	Σαρακοστιανή κατασκηνώση του παιδικού κατηχητικού 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
Μεγάλο Σάββατο 4/11	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Αγία και Μεγάλη Κυριακή του Πάσχα (Θεία Λειτουργία της Αναστάσεως)	10:00 πμ 11:00 μμ
Κυριακή του Πάσχα 4/12	Ακολουδία της Αγάπης	11:00 πμ

***Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω, θάνατον πατήσας
και τοίς εν τοίς μν΄νμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.***



2026 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

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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 Rental Rates + Info

To book please email 962eastevents@gmail.com or fill out form on 962east.com

NOTE: All booking included access to tables, chairs, and ivory linens

	Church Organization	Church Parishioner	Non Parishioner
Hall Lease Fee	No Charge	\$500	Starting at \$1,600
Hall Lease Deposit	N/A	Full amount required at booking	\$500 Deposit
Hall Balance	N/A	N/A	Due 2 weeks prior to event
Hall Lease Time	Must end by 10:30pm	Must end by 10:30pm	Packages start at 8 hours, all events must end by 10pm
Kitchen Privledges	Full Privledges	Warming + Storage privledges, \$350 fee for full use	None, \$350 fee for full use
Cancellation Policy	Please notify at least 2 weeks in advance if possible	Please notify 2 weeks in advance in order to receive fee back	Please notify 2 weeks in advance in order to receive deposit back
Use Of Caterers	At discretion of organization	At discretion of parishioner, please let hall manager know 2 weeks prior to event	Must be an insured vendor + with proof of insurance provided 2 weeks prior to event
Set/Clean Up	Responsibility of the church organization	Responsibility of the parishioner	Responsible of the leasee or set up can be added for a fee

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

2026 PARISH COUNCIL

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

CLERGY:

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: agocny@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS;

Monday and Tuesday - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Wednesday 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