

# GOOD NEWS

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • 962 EAST AVE • ROCHESTER, NY 14607

Voice: (585) 244.3377

Web: [AnnunciationRochester.org](http://AnnunciationRochester.org) | [RochesterGreekFestival.org](http://RochesterGreekFestival.org)

Issue I, 2019

From the Desk of  
*Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos*

*Parish Registry, Financial Report  
Upcoming Church Services and Events*

*Youth Ministry and Organizations News*

## From the Desk of Fr. Angelo

As we approach Great Lent, I think this is an appropriate time to recall what Christ and the Apostles have commanded us to do with regards to our Christian responsibilities toward others. In an article written by Army Chaplain Capt. Michael Fox, he highlights four distinct responsibilities.

First, we have a Christian duty to pray for each other. The Apostle James tells us, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16) In today's environment, we tend to respond to problems and issues in a dynamic way. Just do something! In our Orthodox Tradition, prayer is the first of those dynamic actions. Both the worldly response *πραξις* (action) and spiritual *προσευχη* (prayer) are the natural Orthodox response. We must pray for each other. Christians must intercede for our brothers and sisters and pray on their behalf. This is realized in our parish through personal prayer at home with our families and communal prayer at the Divine Liturgy.

Second, we have a Christian duty to serve each other. The Apostle Peter tells us, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) It is in our service that all will see God's grace in action as we demonstrate our faith. Service demonstrates Christian love toward others. This is realized in our parish through the many outreach activities I have been part of. The people of our parish have offered the "gift" of clothing and other needed items to help those less fortunate in our local community. With our newly formed Outreach Ministry, we will also offer our "gift of service" through volunteerism. The mission of this outreach team is to empower all the ministries within our church by providing support, guidance and collaboration and to be the face of our church to the local Rochester community. In addition to this, I have asked the Outreach Committee to develop a bank of volunteer opportunities from where we can select our personal interests.

Third, we have a Christian duty to encourage one another. St Paul tells us, "Encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) In today's stressful world it is easy to become discouraged because of work, relationships, finances, or larger issues occurring in the world. It is through encouragement that people can rise up and be prepared to deal with any obstacle they may encounter when they are reminded to not only believe in themselves but also to recognize the source of our strength – our Lord and Savior. This is realized in our parish through our time at coffee hour when we "check-in" with one another, making coffee hour an important and valuable ministry. This is where we can offer help to those in need of encouragement (or maybe it's where we receive that encouragement). This is why I strongly reject those

**From the Desk of Fr. Angelo, *continued***

who say “I just want to attend Liturgy and leave” as this attitude rejects this area of our Christian responsibility to be available to “encourage one another”.

Fourth, we have a Christian duty to help carry burdens for others. Again, St. Paul tells us, “Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2) None of us should have to walk alone in this life. We have seen too many times how this leads into depression and too many times suicide when things just seem insurmountable. When we routinely “check-in” with one another, we open ourselves to recognize those who are carrying a heavy burden and we can offer to walk with them in love and share in that burden with Christ. “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

To whom much is given, much is required. As Christians, these are our responsibilities toward one other. Great Lent is when the Church compels us to become introspective, so let us examine ourselves according to these four commandments.





### PARISH REGISTRY

**In Memoriam: Αιώνια η Μνήμη May their memory be eternal**

- + Elpiniki Harissis was interred on 10 December
- + Michael Mihalitsas interred on December 24th
- + Mary Soures (Broikos) interred on December 24th
- + Irene Ventzos (Primikirios) interred on December 27th
- + James Papapanu interred on January 11th
- + Anastasia “Sia” Stathe was interred on January 12th
- + Dimitrios “Mitcho” Petsios was interred on Jan 30, 2018

**Baptisms:**

- **Child of God:** Chrysanthia James **Parents:** Scott & Gloria Davis on 29 December, 2018

40 day Baby Blessings:

- **Child of God:** Irene Konstantina **Parents:** Danielle and Dino Marou



# Financial Update and Report

In our continuing effort to provide the latest updates on activities in the parish we had added this Financial News page. We will continue to emphasize certain financial facts in this column as we move through 2019. Please feel free to send any questions to [finance@agocroc.org](mailto:finance@agocroc.org).

## Annunciation GOC – Financial News

January 2019 – Eric J. Vangellow, Treasurer

Thank you for your financial support in 2018! I've highlighted some key points for the past year below.

### Account Balances

Our checking account balances as of early January 2019 were as follows:

#### **Unrestricted Cash**

Operating Account	\$ 153,347
Festival Account	<u>\$ 110,288</u>
	\$ 213,635

#### **Restricted Cash**

Building Improvement	\$ 317,735
Zutes Maintenance	\$ 27,870
Jempelis Account	\$ 71,235
GOYA	\$ 7,710
Other Restricted Funds	<u>\$ 150,042 (Upson, Kent, Tasikas, Christ, etc.)</u>
	\$ 574,592

### Estate Plans

Two parishioners graciously provided for our Community in their estate plans. The total financial benefit to our Church from these generous contributions was \$150,000. The Parish Council together with Fr Angelo would like to direct these funds toward the Community Center renovation project. As of this date, \$100,000 has been transferred to the Build Improvement account.

### Stewardship

Stewardship contributions were roughly level as compared to 2017. We'll have a more detailed accounting as we fully close out 2018 in the next couple weeks. To ensure that we obtain a reliable baseline going forward, Father Angelo is asking all parishioners to fill out a Stewardship pledge card for 2019 that was included in the year-end packet that was mailed to you. Our part time secretary, Lena Livecchi, is working diligently to organize all our contact and pledge information into our Parish Stewardship software package. This will help Father Angelo to better identify our parishioners as he and the Parish Council President continue to reach out to both members and those who have fallen away.

## **Financial Update and Report *continued***

### **Expenses**

We experienced an uptick in expenses from the period July-Sep 2018 as we carried the expenses of two priests; Fr Catlin Mot's 4 month reimbursement for Sabbatical which each priest is afforded after 6 years of continuous service in a parish and Fr Angelo's salary. We also added Lena Livechhi our part time Secretary who staffs the office M-F from 10am – 3pm. Moving forward, we will see base operating expenses level out at roughly \$405,000 annually or \$33,750 per month.

### **Restricted Accounts**

Over the years our church has been the beneficiary of certain restricted donations. Most of these donations have specific designations for use of the interest generated from the donation. Unfortunately many of these investments are static and generate very little interest and in some cases the original benefactor has passed away. The Parish Council has asked Alan Makovsky and I to reach out to these families who have ties to the original benefactor and determine if a more beneficial use of the funds is appropriate, which could include facility improvements, scholarships for our youth, or various outreach initiatives.

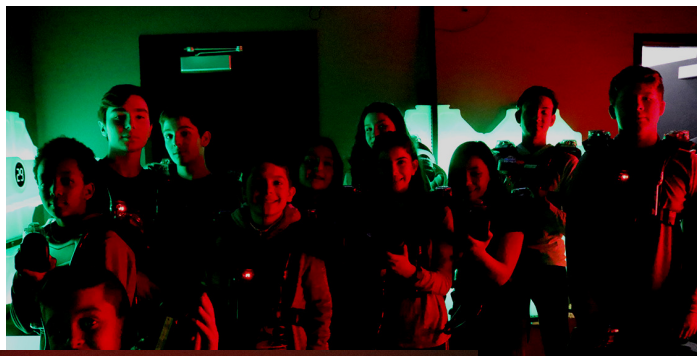
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND CHURCH SERVICES

- 2 February, Saturday, Presentation of Our Lord, Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- 3 February, Sunday:
- 40 day Memorial for Irene (Primikiros) Ventzos
  - 40-Day Memorial James Papapanu
  - 1-year Memorial James Balta
  - 40-Day Memorial for Michael Mihalitsas . Altar Candles lit in his memory.
  - Philoptochos General Meeting after Liturgy 12:00 noon.
  - Teen Lesson 11:30 am
  - Adult Greek Dance Group
- 4 February, Monday, Bible Study, Community Center 10:30 am
- 4 February, Monday, PC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 6 February, Wednesday, Adult Religious Education 6:00 pm
- 9 February, Friday, Family Game Night 6:30 pm
- 10 February, Sunday:
- 40 day Memorial for Anastasia Stathe. Altar Candles to be lit in her memory.
  - RE Parent Meeting
  - Adult Greek Dance Group
- 11 February, Monday, Bible Study, Community Center 10:30 am
- 15 February, Friday, Good News Submission deadline. Submit your news to [goodnews@agocroc.org](mailto:goodnews@agocroc.org)
- 17 February, Sunday:
- Teen Lesson 11:30 am
  - 40-Day Blessing of child Irene Konstantina Marou – Parents Danielle and Dino Marou.
  - Adult Greek Dance Group
- 18 February, Monday, Bible Study, Community Center 10:30 am
- 24 February, Sunday
- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL—Winter Break
  - Baptism Alexander Dimitri Manos 3:00 pm
  - Adult Greek Dance Group
- 25 February, Monday, Bible Study, Community Center 10:30 am
- 27 February, Wednesday, Adult RE 6:00 pm
- 28 February, Thursday, Seniors Meeting 11:00 am
- 2 March, Saturday, Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- 2 March, Saturday, Apokriatiko Community Dinner Dance, Sponsored by the Greek School 6:30 pm
- 3 March—Parish Level Oratorical Festival
- 4 March, Monday:
- Bible Study 10:30 am
  - PC Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9 March, Saturday, Saturday of Souls Liturgy—Philoptochos along with children decorate Koliva 9:00 am
- 10 March, Sunday, Philoptochos General Meeting after Liturgy 12:00 noon
- 11 March, Monday
- FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT! CLEAN MONDAY.
  - Bible Study, Community Center, 10:30 am
- 15 March, Friday, Good News Submission deadline. Submit your news to [goodnews@agocroc.org](mailto:goodnews@agocroc.org)
- 16 March, Saturday, Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

# Ladies Night Out at Living Roots Winery!



# GOYA vs Frs Angelo and Michael at LaserTron



Many wonderful fellowship experiences occurred on January 13, 2019. First, Our Annunciation Family welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Andy & Bridget Carry. Mrs. Carry, our guest speaker and representative from the House of Mercy along with her husband Mr. Carry accepted Outreach Towel Drive. As a custom, the first piece of the Vasilopita goes to any guests visiting. Therefore, Andy and Bridget accepted their piece of the Vasilopita cake. Thank you to all who participated in the towel drive and to all who made the Vasilopita luncheon a great success. Proceeds from the Vasilopita luncheon went to support St. Basil's Academy. (Children in need). (Article taken from our church's Facebook page - Visit <https://www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester> to stay current!)







## Religious Education Schedule of Events

2018 – 2019

September 16	First Day of Classes
October 27	Pumpkin Patch Party   Church Hall   6:00 pm
November 4	Christmas Pageant Practice Begins
November 25	Thanksgiving Weekend   No Classes
December 23	Christmas Pageant
Feb 14 (week off)	Valentines gift to Police and Fire Department
February 24	February Break   No Classes
March 9 (Saturday)	9 AM Prepare Koliva, 10:30 Saturday of Souls Liturgy
March 3	Parish Oratorical Festival, March
March 10	Kids receive Great Lent and Holy Week Passports
March 11	Great Lent Begins
March 31	Mid Term Exam
March 17	Sunday of Orthodoxy (kids bring icons)
April 7	District Oratorical Festival – Hosted at our church
April 20	Saturday of Lazarus   Palm Making
April 21	Palm Sunday   Children process with Palms during service
April 24	Holy Unction
April 28	Easter Sunday   Agape Service Children's Choir (No Classes)
May 19	Last Day of Religious Education – Final Exams

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30:*  
**PARENT MEETING:** Come to hear about the new RE curriculum and find out the facts about testing. Learn about opportunities for parent involvement, and opportunities for our youth to grow in our church!

*February 9<sup>th</sup> – Family game night*

*February 24<sup>th</sup> – no Sunday School (school break)*

Visit the church website for more information

**ADULT RELIGIOUS ED:** Monday Morning Bible Study with topics such as the Orthodox Faith, Gospels, Book of Acts, etc. This is held weekly from 10-11:30 AM.

Adult Evening Education – Study and discussion on how to apply our Orthodox faith to contemporary topics. Sessions are held 2 Wednesday evenings per month, from 6:30 to 8 PM. See the church calendar (on the website) for specific dates.

**CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS ED:** Religious education will not only take place on Sundays (immediately following communion), but we will also have twice monthly TEEN sessions with Father Angelo immediately following the divine liturgy. See the church calendar (on the website) for specific dates.

**SUNDAY SNACKS NEEDED FOR THE CHILDREN. ALL DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED. BRING TO RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE ON SUNDAY!**

**RELIGIOUS ED TEACHERS NEEDED! CONTACT RE Committee or Fr. Angelo if interested**

### CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

- **ONGOING YOUTH CLOTHING DRIVE:** We are pleased to announce our new collaboration with our neighbors, Asbury Methodist church. Their community outreach center provides clothing to those in need throughout the year. They are ALWAYS in need of gently used children's clothing. We will have a clothing donation box in the Sunday/Greek School hallway for families to donate children's clothes throughout the year. Please think of this clothing drive as your children out grow their clothes.
- **If you have an idea for a community outreach project, please contact the RE Committee at [recagony@gmail.com](mailto:recagony@gmail.com)**

## REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The future of our church depends on our children. It is imperative that we involve our youth in Sunday Services. It is never too late to register for Sunday School. Email [recagocny@gmail.com](mailto:recagocny@gmail.com) to register your child or for more information.

## The SJC Oratorical Festival Topics are in!

ATTENTION parents of Religious Education students grades 7-9 and 10-12.

The Parish Level Oratorical Festival will occur on Sunday March 3, 2018 immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

This yearly event is a great opportunity to encourage our children to study and learn our faith and publicly express that faith. The John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is one of the most important ministry of education that our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese offers.

PLEASE encourage your children to stand up and speak their faith, to feed our brethren as young Orthodox Christians!

We will present festival information to all students in grades 7 to 12, during one of the upcoming teen lessons with Father Angelo. Father will present the topics and encourage all students to participate in the festival. We will ask all of our students to pick out a topic that interests them and have them prepare a brief essay. Please do everything you can to encourage your child to be a part of the Oratorical Festival.

You can pick up a packet with topics and guidelines in the Religious Education office any Sunday team or you can download the topics and handbook at the link below:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/2019-st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival-topics>



**NEW THIS YEAR:** YOUR STUDENT HAS THE CHANCE TO RECEIVE UP TO \$1,000 IN GRANT MONEY FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL!

## NY District Level Oratorical Festival to be held at our Church

Mark your calendar for Sunday April 7, 2018. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the best and brightest of the NY area Orthodox churches as youth from these parishes speak about our Orthodox faith. I encourage all of you to support this important ministry of our Archdiocese to ensure the future of our church witnesses to our Orthodox faith.

# ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ

## COMMUNITY DINNER DANCE

Sponsored by the Greek School

\$25 Adults

\$10 Under 18


Music by DJ O Mastoras  
& DJ Stamos

Dinner will be served  
from 7-9pm

March

2<sup>nd</sup>

6:30



Σας προσκαλούμε στο  
Αποκριάτικο πάρτι  
της εκκλησίας μας.  
Μια γιορτή για την Νεολαία μας!

## **2018 LOCAL AHEPA CHAPTER AWARDS \$5,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Flower City Chapter # 67, Order of AHEPA, and the AHEPA Rochester Foundation have announced the 2018 scholarship winners.\

- Receiving the Dean Zutes Memorial Scholarships each for \$1,500 are awarded to: Ms. Evangelia Anita Letendre, Ms. Marianthi Stakos, and Mr. Peter Jeffrey Letendre.
- Receiving the Papapanu-Dedetsinas Memorial Scholarship, for \$500 is awarded to Ms. Nicole Maria Neselaris.
- Receiving the Panagiota E. Tonias Scholarship for \$500 is Ms. Olivia Florence Tempelton.

The Order of AHEPA and the AHEPA Rochester Foundation congratulates all the scholarship winners, and wishes them success in achieving their goals. Award presentations will take place on Sunday, January 13, 2019, 3:00 pm at a reception to be held at the AHEPA 67 Apartments, 100 AHEPA Circle, Webster, NY 14580. Since 1992, the Order of AHEPA has proudly awarded \$162,250 in scholarships to local recipients. The AHEPA scholarship program for 2019 is open to all high school graduates and undergraduate & graduate college students from Holy Spirit Church and Annunciation Church parishes. New applications will be available February 2019 and must be submitted to the AHEPA Rochester Foundation by June 30, 2019. Those wishing to apply for a scholarship application should contact any member of AHEPA, Anargyros Caloyeras, Dimitri Stefanou, Nick Eevsky or Dennis Kiriazides.

## Philoptochos



**Dear Annunciation Family.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2019 from the Ladies of Philoptochos. We sincerely thank you for all the continued support.**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019:**

1. February 3rd. **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
2. March 2nd—First Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy—10am
3. March 9th— Second Saturday of Souls-Philoptochos along with the children decorate KOLIVA. Preparation of koliva in community hall —9:00 am. Divine Liturgy—10am
4. March 10th, **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
5. March 16th—3rd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy
6. March 17th—Sunday of Orthodoxy—Pan-Orthodox Celebration
7. March 24th, Celebration of our Evangelistria with our Sister Church of the Annunciation, Buffalo. Details to follow.
8. April 7th, **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
9. April 20th, Philoptochos hosts breakfast for Saturday of Lazarus. Please join us for palm making and fellowship with our children and families.
10. April 25th, Holy Thursday: Egg Dyeing - 9:00 am.
11. April 27th, Post-Resurrection reception meal. Ladies of Philoptochos please bring in something for fellowship reception.
12. June 8th, Philoptochos year end brunch. Details to follow.

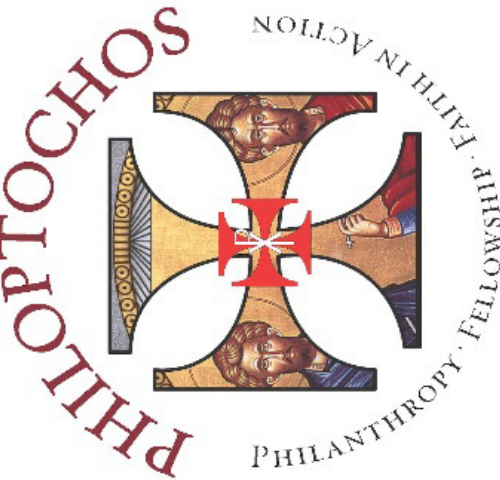
**God bless America and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Rochester NY.**

**PHILOPTOCHOS PRE-ORDER BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT C P ROCHESTER  
(SERVES INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL and DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES)**

BAKLAVA



SPANAKOPITA



TSOUREKI



KOULOURAKIA



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHOICES BELOW: CASH &/OR CHECK MADE OUT TO PHILOPTOCHOS:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

- Whole Pie Pita(Spanakopita, Tyropita, Prassopita) (Quantity)# \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00
- 1/4 Piece of Pita(Spanakopita, Tyropita, Prassopita) (Quantity) # \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00
- Baklava 8 pieces \_\_\_\_\_ ( Quantity # \_\_\_\_\_ ) \$12.00
- Koulourakia (Greek Butter Cookies) 10 pieces \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity) # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00
- Tsoureki (Greek Sweet Easter Bread) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)# \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. GOD BLESS YOU**



# **Senior's Club Bake Sale**

**Sunday, March 17th**

**After Divine Liturgy in the Church hall**

**Come to get your delicious baked goods!**



# Annunciation Policies

## Memorial Funds 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 theses checks or cash be designated as such.

The Church secretary tracks all monies received for funerals and will provide the surviving family members a listing of those who donated and a total amount of the donation, typically within 40-60 days following the date of the funeral. In addition, for all monies received as designated “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church” the Church secretary will send each donor a letter thanking them for their donation to the church in memory of the deceased.

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The Right Decision.**

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# 2019 ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

**In order to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to increase awareness among our community of the broad range of experience and services available from our parishioners, we are inviting both parishioners and any vendors to our church to consider advertising in our monthly newsletter. Just complete the form below and mail, email or drop off to the church office. For email use of-  
fice@agocroc.org**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>ADVERTISING OPTIONS:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Page.....\$500/yr</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Half Page.....\$300/yr</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business Card .....\$150/yr</p>	<p><b>NOTES:</b></p> <p>Newsletter is printed 11 months per year as June/July is a combined newsletter</p> <p>For best quality, artwork should be high resolution jpeg files or similar</p> <p>Emailed ads must be 600 dpi or greater PDF</p> <p>Please include or email artwork</p>
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## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of the ANNUNCIATION

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**Web:** [AnnunciationRochester.org](http://AnnunciationRochester.org) | [RochesterGreekFestival.org](http://RochesterGreekFestival.org)

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

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

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

### CLERGY:

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

**Secretary:** Lena L. Livecchi

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

**Submit Good News Articles to:** [goodnews@agocroc.org](mailto:goodnews@agocroc.org)

### PARISH COUNCIL

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