

GOOD NEWS

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

Voice: (585) 244.3377

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MARCH, 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: *Journey through Lent*

The services of Great Lent are characterized by an atmosphere of a penitential character. 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. The daily hymns are also of an intercessory character, 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 the entire collection of services that make up the entire Lenten season. Every Orthodox Christian should take full advantage of the beauty offered by our Church to properly and fully prepare themselves for the greatest event of Christianity – the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which is why I want to take time to review the entire schedule of services.



The Lenten session is prefaced by the Triodion (Τριώδιον) period, which means “three odes” and covers the preparatory weeks leading up to Holy Week. This period (17 February - 3 March) includes the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Sunday of the Prodigal Son and the Sunday of Last Judgment. The following week is called Meatfare Sunday (Απόκρεο-literally: the "Leave-taking from Meat") in Greek. Meatfare Sunday marks the change of diet to the fasting practice of Lent, as meat is no longer eaten after this day. The following week, Cheesefare Sunday (Τυρινε, - literally: "Cheese Sunday") is just before Clean Monday, when the fasting includes both meat and eggs but not dairy products.

In the Saturday of Souls (Ψυχοσαββατο) liturgies (see church calendar), of which there are three, we pray universally for all of the departed. The faithful offer koliva, and names of their departed are all read during the Memorial portion of the service. The Scripture readings refer to the dead and their hope of salvation through Christ who has “trampled down death by death”.

The Forty Days of Great Lent (Μεγαλη Σαρακοστη), begin on Clean Monday (11 March) and increases the fast to exclude dairy products and oil, although on two specific feasts during Lent (the Annunciation and Palm Sunday), fish is allowed. The fast lasts until Pascha. On the first day of Great Lent it is typical to conduct the Great Compline service where the Canon of St Andrew of Crete is read.

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CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- 2 March, Saturday: First Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- 3 March, Sunday: SJC Oratorical Festival Parish Level 11:30 am
- 4 March, Monday,: Bible Study 10:30 am
PC Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9 March, Saturday: Children/Philoptochos decorate KOLIVA 9:00 am
Second Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday School attends Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10:30
- 10 March, Sunday: Philoptochos General Meeting after the Divine Liturgy 12:00 noon
- 11 March, Monday: GREAT LENT BEGINGS - FAST BEGINS
Bible Study 10:30 am
- 11 March, Monday: PreSanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm
- 15 March, Friday: Good News Submission Deadline. Submit articles to goodnews@agocroc.org
Combined Salutations to the Theotokos @ Annunciation—5:00 pm
- 16 March. Saturday: Third Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- 17 March, Sunday: Sunday School - Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of Icons
Teen Lesson - the Liturgical Year & the Great Feasts of the Church 11:30 am
PAN-ORTHODOX VESPER SERVICE to be held at the UKRANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH—6:00 PM
- 18 March, Monday: Bible Study 10:30 am
- 20 March, Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ Holy Spirit, GOC— 6:00 pm
- 22 March, Friday: Combined Salutations to the Theotokos @ Holy Spirit, GOC— 6:00 pm
- 24 March, Sunday: Annunciation Feast Day VESPER @ Annunciation Church, Buffalo -6:00 pm
- 25 March, Monday: Divine Liturgy 10:00 am for the Annunciation to the Theotokos
- 27 March, Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm
- 29 March, Friday: Combined Salutations to the Theotokos @ Annunciation—5:00 pm
- 30 March, Saturday: NY GOYA Lenten Retreat -- to be held at St. Sophia in Syracuse
- 31 March, Sunday: Teen lesson - Orthodox, Catholic & Protestant - Why can't we all just get along?
- 1 April, Monday: Bible Study, 10:30 am
PC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 3 April, Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm
- 5 April, Friday: Combined Salutations to the Theotokos @ Holy Spirit, GOC— 6:00 pm



Sunday School Schedule (Revised 2/10/19)

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
February 24	February Break No Classes
March 3	Parish Oratorical Festival, Great Lent Begins
March 9 (Saturday)	9 AM Prepare Koliva, 10:30 Saturday of Souls Liturgy
March 17	Sunday of Orthodoxy (Procession of 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 No Classes
May 26	Memorial Day Weekend, no classes
June 2	Greek Festival, no classes
June 9	Regular classes will be held
June 16	Last day of classes and Sunday School Graduation

CALENDAR OF SOCIAL EVENTS

- 1 March, Friday: Apokriatiko Dance Set up 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- 2 March, Saturday: Panhellenic Dance Group Grades 1-9, 1:30 pm
Apokriatiko Community Dinner Dance, 6:30 pm \$25.00 Adults; \$10.00 under 18.
Music by DJ O Mastoras & DJ Stamos. Dinner served from 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- 3 March, Sunday: Adult Greek Dance Group 7:00 pm
- 6 March, Wednesday: Greek Festival Meeting 6:30 pm
- 9 March, Saturday: Panhellenic Dance Group Grades 1-9, 1:30 pm
- 10 March, Sunday: Adult Greek Dance Group 7:00 pm
- 16 March, Saturday: Panhellenic Dance Groups Grades 1-9, 1:30 pm
- 17 March, Sunday: Senior Club Bake Sales immediately following Divine Liturgy
Adult Greek Dance Group 7:00 pm
- 23 March, Saturday: PanHellenic Dance Group Grades 1-9, 1:30 pm
- 24 March, Sunday: Greek Independence Day Greek School Program, 12:00 pm
Adult Greek Dance Group, 7:00 pm
- 28 March, Thursday: Seniors Meeting, 11:00 am
- 31 March, Sunday: Adult Greek Dance Group 7:00 pm
- 3 April, Wednesday: Greek Festival Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 6 April, Saturday: Panhellenic Dance Group Grades 1-9, 1:30 pm

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In most Greek Orthodox parishes, two services dominate the Forty Days of Lent: the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια) each Wednesday and the Akathistos on Fridays. Some parishes include a Great Compline service (Αποδειπνο) on Mondays. 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 the Salutations to the Theotokos 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 AD. The word "akathistos" literally means "not sitting." The hymn consists of 24 stanzas with each short stanza (kontakion) ending with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded." The majority of the hymn is made up of praises directed to the Mother of God, always beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." In each of them, one after the other, all the events related to our Lord's incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The last of the five Salutation Services has all the odes from the first four services and is called the AKATHISTOS.

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 resurrecting His friend Lazarus, and His glorious entrance into the city of Jerusalem. Great and 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 in to the darkness of Christ's betrayal, arrest, torture, trial, and finally crucifixion until we all celebrate the event of His glorious resurrection.



WHY BE ORTHODOX?

*Presented by
Aristotle (Telly) Papanikolaou*



**SATURDAY
MARCH 16, 2019**

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Family Life Center**

5992 Genesee Street | Lancaster, NY 14086

1:00 PM-2:30 PM - SESSION I

2:30 PM-3:00 PM - BREAK

3:00 PM-4:30 PM - SESSION II

ALL are welcome - Retreat is FREE

Aristotle (Telly) Papanikolaou is the Archbishop Demetrios Chair of Orthodox Theology and Culture at Fordham University, and the Co-Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center. He is also Senior Fellow at the Emory University Center for the Study of Law and Religion. In 2012, he received the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Humanities. Among his numerous publications, he is the author of *The Mystical as Political: Democracy and Non-Radical Orthodoxy*. He is the son of the Fr. Byron Papanikolaou, of blessed memory, and Presvytera Xanthippe.



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FOLLOW UP LETTER TO PARENT MEETING – February 10, 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who attended the parent meeting this past Sunday. We are feeling great about the parent interest and dedication to helping their children grow in the Orthodox faith through dedication to their religious education.

The RE Committee and Father Angelo realize that a lot of changes have occurred not only within our church, but within the RE program, during the past several months. We are very excited and optimistic about the direction that we are headed, in that we will help to provide a very enriching, fun, and community rich program for the youth of our parish.

We promise to keep you updated regarding our goals and operations so here is the general structure for the current program:

In an effort to revive the program, and give the youth the best educational experience, we have combined some of the classes. When numbers increase in future years, we will separate the grades once again. The Youth Religious Education program consists of the following classes to be taught on Sundays:

PreK (ages 3 and 4) – taught by Zoe Stamatis, Beverly Hageman, Lauren Gashlin, and Mary Provenzano;

Kindergarten – taught by Julie and John Sidou;

1st and 2nd grade – taught by Christine Chinchilla;

3rd and 4th grade – taught by Demetra Bouquin;

Junior Class, grades 5-7 taught by Juan Linares; (Class topics for the above classes for the rest of the year to include: information on Oratorical festival, Lent, and Holy Week and Pascha.)

Teen Teach class – will be taught for the remainder of the year twice per month by Father Angelo, immediately following the divine liturgy in the Teen Room.

You may have noticed the RE program is under new leadership: We gratefully thank Nicoletta Pinopolous for her hard work and dedication over the past two years. We will miss her leadership but understand that she currently has a demanding career at the hospital. We look forward to her continued help with the RE committee. Our new committee members consist of Kristen Savage (Youth Education Director), Gabi Dobrot (Oratorical Director), Rhonda Stamatis (Advisor), and Father Angelo. We welcome all input and comments from parents.

Our 2019/2020 Curriculum for all classes will be based on 6 units, each tailored to the level of the class: The Bible, The Divine Liturgy, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and Orthodoxy in Our World. Very approachable midterm and final exams will be for purpose of review and based on these topics.



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During Sunday morning classes, we will also have fun celebrating teacher and student name days, and learning about saints.

In accordance with the structure presented in your Parent Information Handbook, we will supplement Orthodox Religion, with community service, service within the church, and religious based extra-curricular activities (Christmas tree cutting and decorating, making Koliva and participation in the Saturday of Souls, and more).

Our first youth service projects in the community will be focused to offer thanks to the service members of our community (Police and Fire). Meet us at church at 6 PM on Tuesday, February 19th as we embark on a short journey to the local fire and police units to deliver Valentines and cookies. Thank you to Maria Dembeyiotis (Director of Greek School) for devoting one of the Greek School classes to baking cookies for the police and firemen! All of our youth are encouraged to attend this baking session, along with their parents and learn how to make delicious Greek cookies. Also please bring Valentines and thank you notes to bring to these dedicated service members of our local community.

We are in need of teachers and substitute teachers. We have begun a teacher mentorship program, where upcoming teachers are paired with current teachers to help and learn about teaching in the church.

We invite you and your families to attend our Youth and Family information fun night, to be held in the church hall, Friday September 6th at 6 PM. Here you will learn about all youth programs for the upcoming school year, and have a chance to register. The new curriculum will be unveiled, along with information on the new and updated Christmas Pageant, parent volunteer opportunities, and much more. The youth will be entertained with activities to kick off the year, while the parents may enjoy some adult time with adult refreshments and information session about the year's programs.

We look forward to creating a solid community in which our youth can grow as Orthodox Christians, in a community that fosters relationships with Christ and one another.

In the Service of Christ,

The Religious Education Committee

Father Angelo Maggos

Kristen Savage

Gabi Dobrot

Rhonda Stamatis

Bravo to our Annunciation Children who gathered with open arms & grateful hearts to make cookies for the first responders (Police & Fire-fighter Departments) on Saturday, February 16, 2019. God Bless them all.

(posted on the Church's Facebook page - like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester>)



Our children delivering cookies and valentines to the Police and Fire Departments



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 3rd - Parish Oratorical Festival

March 9th - (Saturday) 9AM Youth prepare Koliva, 10:30 Saturday of Souls Liturgy

March 17th - Sunday of Orthodoxy (Procession of icons)

April 7th - District Oratorical Festival – Hosted at our church

April 20th - Palm Making

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! New teachers paired with current teachers in our new mentorship program. No teaching experience necessary! CONTACT RE Committee (recagocny@gmail.com) 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.
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** We are always in need of crayons, markers, pencils, paper, scissors, glue sticks, etc. Think of us at the end of the school year when your kids bring home their supplies.

Please join Religious Education class on Bloomz!

Bloomz is a new app that works both on your smartphone as well as on your computer. You will receive quick updates and photos of class activities, be able to access our class calendar, and more. All in a private and secure environment.

New Bloomz Parent

1. Download the "Bloomz" app from the AppStore/PlayStore and click "Create Account". If browser, go to bloomz.com and click on "Join Bloomz" 2. In the text box, enter AJJ6Q2 3. Create your account

Existing Bloomz Parent

1. Log into your Bloomz account 2. Click "+Add Class/Group" on the left navigation. 3. In the text box, enter AJJ6Q2 4. Click next

... or join using text messaging instead Text @AJJ6Q2 to 1-858-BLOOMZ1 (1-858-256-6691) to

Teen Teach Series -2019

Session	Date	Discussion Topic
1	2/3	Etiquette in the Orthodox Church
2	2/17	Prep for Oratorical Festival
3	3/3	Oratorical Festival
4	3/17	The Liturgical Year and the Great Feasts of the Church
5	3/31	Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant. Why can't we all just get along?
6	4/14	Confession. Why should I?
7	4/21	Palm Sunday
8	4/28	Pascha
9	5/12	Dating and Relationships
10	5/19	Drugs & Alcohol. What's the Big Deal?
11	6/9	Mental Health
12	6/16	Graduation

The Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian (with excerpts from Fr. Alexander 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. Here is its text:

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 twice during each of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during Lent. A prostration follows each petition. This short and simple prayer enumerates in a unique way all the "negative" and "positive" elements of repentance and constitutes, so to speak, a "check list" for our individual lenten effort. This effort is aimed first at our liberation from some fundamental spiritual diseases which shape our life and make it virtually impossible for us even to start turning ourselves to God. These spiritual diseases are:

Sloth — that strange laziness and passivity of our entire being which always pushes us "down" rather than "up" -- which constantly convinces us that no change is possible and therefore desirable. It is in fact a deeply rooted cynicism which to every spiritual challenge responds "what for?" and makes our life one tremendous spiritual waste. It is the root of all sin because it poisons the spiritual energy at its very source.

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 he is absolutely unable to see the light and to desire it.

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 persons. If one's life is not oriented toward God, not aimed at eternal values, it will inevitably become selfish and self-centered and this means that all other beings will become means of one's own 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. The lust of power is thus a fundamental depravity in one's relationship to other beings, a search for their subordination to me. It is not necessarily expressed in the actual urge to command and to dominate "others." It may result as well in indifference, contempt, lack of interest, consideration, and respect. It is indeed sloth and despondency directed this time at others; it completes spiritual suicide with spiritual murder.

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, it is by the same token the supreme danger. Being the very expression of man, the means of his self-fulfillment, 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. Having an ultimate positive power, it has therefore a tremendous negative power. It truly creates positively or negatively. When deviated from its divine origin and

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Η ΕΥΑΝΓΕΛΙΣΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

2019 ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ

Σαββατο, 4/20	Θεία Λειτουργία - Ανάσταση του Λάζαρου Πρόγευμα μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία (Ναός του Αγίου Γεργίου)	10:00 πμ
Κυρακη 4/21	Θεία Λειτουργία - Των Βαΐων Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου (Ναός του Αγίου Γεργίου)	10:00 πμ 6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Δευτερα 4/22	Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου Το τροπάριο της Κασσιανής	6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Τριτη 4/23	Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου	6:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Τεταρτη 4/24	Μυστήριο του Αγίου Ευχέλαιου	4:00 πμ 7:00 μμ
Μεγαλη Πεμπτη 4/25	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Τα Πάθη του Χριστου (Δώδεκα Ευαγγέλια)	10:00 πμ 6:30 μμ
Μεγαλη Πρασκευη 4/26	Ακολουδία των Βασιλικών Ώρων Η Αποκαθήλωσις Ο Επντάφιος Θρήνος (Τα Εγκώμια)	10:00 πμ 4:00 μμ 8:00 μμ
Μεγαλο Σαββατο 4/27	Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλλείου Αγία και Μεγαλή Κυριακή του Πάσχα (Θεία Λειτουργία της Αναστάσεως)	10:00 πμ 11:30 μμ
Κυριακη του Πασχα 4/28	Ακολουδία της Αγάπης (Children's Choir)	11:00 πμ

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



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2019 - SERVICES FOR THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Saturday, 4/20	Raising of Lazarus Divine Liturgy Service Held	10:00 am
Sunday, 4/21	Palm Sunday Bridegroom Matins	10:00 am 6:00 pm
Holy Monday, 4/22	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service	6:00 pm
Holy Tuesday, 4/23	Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service <i>Hymn of Kassiane</i>	6:00 pm
Holy Wednesday, 4/24	Great and Holy Wednesday Holy Unction	4:00 pm 7:00 pm
Holy Thursday, 4/25	Liturgy of St. Basil Office of Holy Passion (<i>Twelve Gospels</i>)	10:00 am 6:00 pm
Holy Friday, 4/26	The Royal Hours Vespers of Apokathelosis <i>(The Descent from the Cross)</i> Office of Lamentations (<i>Epitaphio</i>)	10:00 am 4:00 pm 8:00 pm
Holy Saturday, 4/27	Great and Holy Saturday - St. Basil HOLY PASCHA RESURRECTION	10:00 am 11:30 pm
Holy Pascha, 4/28	Agape Service Sunday of Love Service (Children's Choir)	11:00 am

*Christ is risen from the dead,
 by death trampling down upon death,
 and to those in the tombs He has granted life.*



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purpose, the word becomes idle. It "enforces" sloth, despondency, and lust of power, and transforms life into hell. It becomes the very power of sin. These four are thus the negative "objects" of repentance. They are the obstacles to be removed. However, only God can remove them. Hence, the first part of the Lenten Prayer is a cry from the bottom of human helplessness. Then the prayer moves to the positive aims of repentance which also are four.

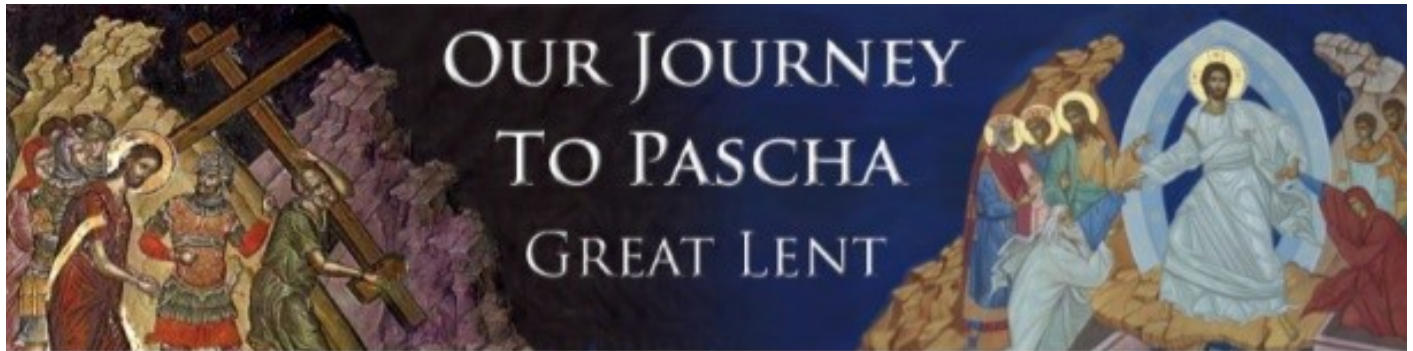
Chastity! If one does not reduce this term, as is so often and erroneously done, only to its sexual connotations, it is understood as the positive counterpart of sloth. The better and more exact translation of the Greek σωφροσύνη is sagacity, which is defined as an acuteness of mental discernment. Sloth is, first of all, dissipation, the brokenness of our vision and energy, the inability to discern the whole. Its opposite then is precisely wholeness. If we usually mean by chastity the virtue opposed to sexual depravity, it is because the broken character of our existence is nowhere better manifested than in sexual lust -- the alienation of the body from the life and control of the spirit. Christ restores wholeness in us and He does so by restoring in us the true scale of values by leading us back to God.

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 alone is capable of truth, of seeing and accepting things as they are and therefore of 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 indifferent to everyone except himself, he wants life to be successful right here and now. Patience, however, is truly a divine virtue. God is patient as He sees the depth of all that exists, because the inner reality of things, which in our blindness we do not see, is open to Him. The closer we come to God, the more patient we grow and the more we reflect that infinite respect for all beings which is the proper quality of God.

Finally, 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.

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 18:11-12) Spiritual writings are full of warnings against these subtle forms of pseudo-piety which, in reality, under the cover of humility and self-accusation, can lead to a truly demonic pride. But when we "see our own errors" and "do not judge our brothers," when, in other terms, chastity, humility, patience, and love are but one in us, then and only then the ultimate enemy--**pride**--will be destroyed in us.



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 (10am-3pm M-F)
- Mailing your donation to the church

FLOWERS FOR ICONS

1 st Salutations – Fri, March 15	\$120.00
3 rd Salutations – Fri, March 29	\$120.00
Akathist Hymn – Fri, April 12	\$120.00
Sunday of Orthodoxy – Sun, April 17	\$75.00
Annunciation – Tues, March 25	\$120.00
Sunday of the Holy Cross, March 31	\$120.00
Saturday of Lazarus, March 31	\$120.00
Palm Sunday, April 21	\$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	\$100.00
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

PHILOPTOCHOS

MARCH 2019

- A. March 9th, 2019 Second Saturday of Souls Philoptochos along with Annunciation children decorate KOLIVA. (9 AM)
- B. March 10th, 2019 Philoptochos General Meeting after Liturgy.
- C. March 24th, 2019 our Rochester Annunciation Family along with our sister parish Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Buffalo, NY will be celebrating together the name day of our Evangelistrias **in Buffalo, NY**. Bus arrangements have been made: Please be at the church parking lot by 3:00 pm. Bus leaves at 3:30pm. Fee is \$25.00pp. Cash/Check is accepted. Checks should be made payable to: Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. Please contact Despina Georgantopoulos @ 966-9055. Monies will also be collected in church hall after Liturgy.

APRIL 2019

- A. April 7th, 2019 Philoptochos General Meeting after Liturgy.
- B. April 20th, 2019 Philoptochos Hosts Breakfast for Saturday of Lazarus, Please join us for Palm Making and Fellowship with our children and families. All are welcome
- C. April 25th, 2019 Holy Thursday: Dyeing of the Eggs, (9:00 A.M.)
- D. April 27th, 2019 Mid-Night Resurrection Reception. Philoptochos Ladies please bring a dish for Fellowship. Call: Mrs. Angie George 425-4752, Despina G. 966-9055, Effie Kapatos 737-6426, Anthi Lolis 775-9151, Vickie Kiantos 737-9615, Maria Economides 507-5256.

MAY 2019

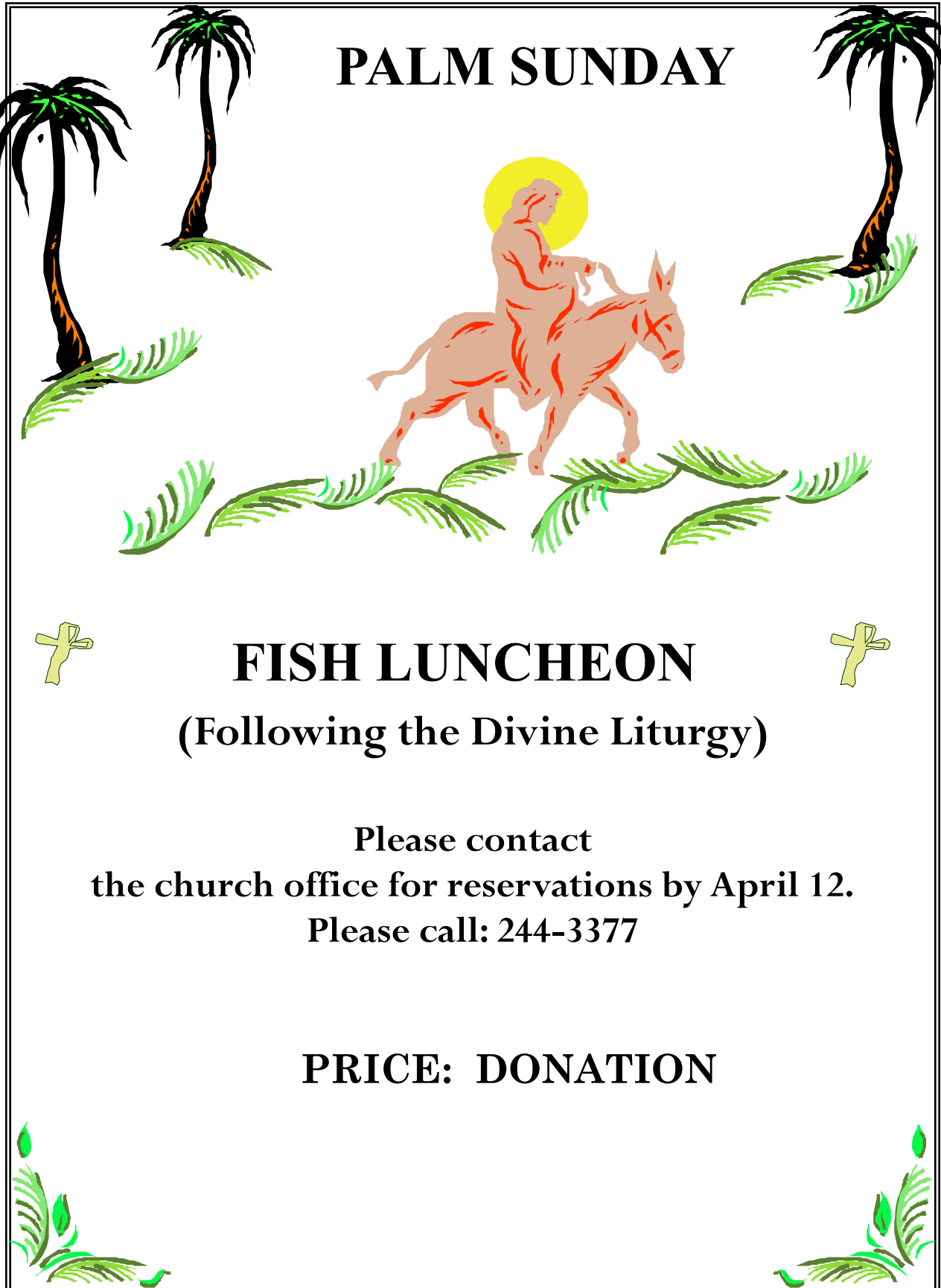
May 5th, 2019 Mother's Day Brunch Following Liturgy Featuring Children's Talent Show.

JUNE 2019

June 8th, 2019 Philoptochos Year End Brunch. More information to follow.

God Bless America and the Annunciation on East Avenue. Kali Sarakosti to us all.





PALM SUNDAY

FISH LUNCHEON **(Following the Divine Liturgy)**

**Please contact
the church office for reservations by April 12.
Please call: 244-3377**

PRICE: DONATION

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Florence G. Stefanou Scholarship



The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board is proud to announce the establishment of the Florence G. Stefanou Scholarship. This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the Stefanou family.

Florence Stefanou was a devoted Philoptochos member serving at all levels, her local chapter, the Metropolis Board and the National Board. Together with the family, we offer this scholarship to an outstanding male or female wishing to further their education. The scholarship to be awarded will be for \$1,000.

Applications can be obtained on the Philoptochos Page of the Metropolis of Detroit website and from the local Philoptochos Chapters. The deadline for submission is April 30th. The winner will be announced in June 2019 , and will be awarded at the Metropolis Conference in September 2019.

Please share this information with your local parishes. For further information you may contact Metropolis President Theone Dickos at 317-872-8683 or committee members Margaret Yates at 734-663-0131 and Eleni Zaferes at 513-891-0218.

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE UNDER THE "EDUCATION" TAB. Applications will be in the front office where parishioners can pick-up on Sundays or during the week (office hours 10 am to 3 pm).

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.

All monies received for funerals are tracked, and family members will receive 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 designated “*Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church,*” donors will receive a letter thanking them for their donation to the church in memory of the deceased.

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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 office@agocroc.org



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact _____ Email _____

<p>ADVERTISING OPTIONS:</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>NOTES:</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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FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation. Because of your devotion to the Friends program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service. I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout the Metropolis of Detroit in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response, I remain, with paternal blessings and prayers,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit

MORE INFO AT:
WWW.DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG/FRIENDS



GENERAL SUPPORT

Fully fund the general expenses of the Metropolis office, including programs and travels.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society. Participate in inter-Christian and interfaith activities. Provide quick responses to national and international disasters.

EDUCATION

Enhance various scholarship opportunities, adult education programs, and support Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

HELLENISM

Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history, and arts.

CLERGY/PARISH SUPPORT

Develop and provide instructional seminars and services for clergy and parishes.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Support the youth & young adult ministries, including our summer camps, as well as the activities of a full-time Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

LEADERSHIP

Organize Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Youth Worker and Religious Education Training, and Adult Education Seminars.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Continued website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries, charity and philanthropy.

FRIENDS INFORMATION

Please print the following required details.



PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks payable to Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.



.....
Name

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Address

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City State Zip

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Email Mobile No.

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Parish Name City/State

Credit Card Check Money Order

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Credit Card No.

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Expiry CVC No.

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Total in \$

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Signature

Fill out this card and send it with payment to: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit - 2560 Crooks Road - Troy, MI 48084



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PARISH INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

Voice: (585) 244-3377

Web: AnnunciationRochester.org | RochesterGreekFestival.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/annunciationrochester

Office and scheduling requests: office@agocroc.org

Stewardship and finance related questions: finance@agocroc.org

CLERGY:

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: frangelo@agocroc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Secretary: Lena L. Livecchi

Email: Office@agocroc.org

Submit Good News Articles to: goodnews@agocroc.org

PARISH COUNCIL

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