

GOOD NEWS

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

Voice: (585) 244.3377

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November, 2018

From the Desk of
Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos

Parish Registry
Upcoming Church Services and Events

Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From the Desk of Fr. Angelo

Most of you have heard me speak at length about the direction of our community in the face of changes in societal values and how we as the Orthodox community of believers struggle with how to react to these changes. One of the major questions that arise is, "What is the proper balance between Tradition and tradition?" Capital "T" Tradition deals with those things the Church deems as dogmatic which means that they are applied firmly, the term in Greek being ακριβεια. Small "t" traditions are those areas of doctrine where our Church can be flexible (οικονομια). Some of these small "t" traditions are meant as guides in our Orthodox walk of faith and can therefore be applied in a more personal way. As you heard me say in one of my first sermons; "the answer to most questions about what is the Orthodox position on something is... it depends."

It is vital, then, that these discussions form the basis for how we as a parish respond both to those who have been here in our community from her beginnings while also being responsive to the new parishioners coming into our parish whether through marriage or on their own. The Guidebook for New Parish Council Members of the Greek Archdiocese of America states that these decisions and [strategies] are made based upon a common love and understanding of the Church and Her mission in which both the priest and Parish Council share."

Since my arrival here in Rochester I have been witness to an amazing amount of energy, progress, and desire to move forward, however, we want to ensure that this energy and growth is properly developed and presented to each member of our community as well as the Rochester community at large.

To that end, together with the Parish Council, we will be developing a 3-part initiative to layout the organizational and spiritual aspect of a parish-growth strategy, where the parish Council and I will examine and address two important questions; 1) WHO WE (Annunciation) ARE and 2) WHAT WE (Annunciation) SHOULD BE as we move forward.

The first part of this will force us to enter into a "zone of discomfort" as we seek to take a fresh look at the ministries offered here at the Annunciation and identify those opportunities for re-adjustment. I realize that this introspection can be difficult and unsettling, however, every organization, whether church or business, must continuously face this inward evaluation to ensure its survival.

In this second part, we will examine what are the elements of a dynamic and useful Parish

From the Desk of Fr. Angelo, *continued*

Growth Plan, also referred to as a Strategy for Growth. This is to answer the question of WHAT WE SHOULD BE.

The third part will be the implementation of this growth plan and a continual (yearly) evaluation of our progress towards the goals we have established for ourselves.

In closing, I want to identify what goes into a Growth Plan. A Growth Plan identifies three terms: **Vision**, **Goals**, and **Values** of the organization or in this case, parish, and are defined as follows:

Vision – A set of clear and concise statements that paints for our parishioners a picture of “what” our church does and “why” she does it. This vision must be challenging enough that it pushes us into the “zone of discomfort” which leads to growth both individually and as a community.

Values – Core statements of what we believe as Orthodox Christians, and how those beliefs guide our actions. These would include things such as: How do we want to be treated and how will we treat one another, how prospective members and visitors will be treated, and what values will we use to govern how we lead and interact with one another.

Goals – This essentially is the PLAN or the path we will use to achieve our vision. Goals must identify four (4) things: 1) a list of what we want to provide to our community; i.e., education, cultural, or social outreach; 2) identifies who we are targeting; our parishioners, youth, seniors, etc.; 3) a plan on how we will provide these things to those we have identified and where those resources will come from; and 4) how we will measure the success of what we have done.

Some of these Vision, Goals, and Values will and should remain the same as they have since our parish began in 1917; however, others will be re-adjusted to be more in-line with how society has changed since the inception of our parish. For example, while our parish will, in the foreseeable future, maintain cultural and ethnic traditions the challenges presented by 3rd and 4th generation families here in America have forced changes (increased use of English, non-traditional education methods for our youth, and a more focused path for leadership development and mentoring).

The process of developing Vision and Goals is a journey, not a destination, and will take us time to work through it; however, the time we spend is necessary to ensure that all members of our parish understand WHO and WHAT we are and develop each parishioner to share in a personal and spiritual way to this vision which at all times glorifies God and allows Him to work in the hearts and minds of each of us .



PARISH REGISTRY



Baptisms:

• **24 June** - Eva Victoria Bitikofer Godparent: Eleni Kiriakidis; Parents: Kevin & Dimitra (Economidis) Bitikofer

• **22 September** – Penelope Kathrina Smelt Parents: Thomas & Konstantina Smelt

• **30 September**– Gia Misha Gogos Parents: Chris & Flora Gogos

• **7 October** – Evangeline Zoe Gashlin, Parents: Jeffrey & Lauren Gashlin

• **13 October** – Isabella Gianna Zaov Parents: George & Jennifer Zaov



UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

- 3 November, Saturday, Gerontistiko dinner - Drosopigi Society, 02:00 PM - 09:00 PM
- 4 November, Sunday, The Blessing of the Vehicles
- 5 November, Monday, Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 November, Sunday, Philoptochos General Meeting after the Divine Liturgy
- 15 November, Thursday, Nativity Fast begins
- 15 November, Thursday, Good News Submission Deadline. Please send articles and images to goodnews@agocroc.org
- 18 November, Sunday, Philoptochos Bake Sale after the Divine Liturgy
- 22 November, Thursday, Seniors' Meeting, 11:00 am
- 30 November, Friday, St. Andrew. Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

NINTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND – The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America convened its ninth annual meeting Tuesday Oct. 2 in Cleveland, Ohio. The day began with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Chairman of the Assembly, opened the meeting with a prayer. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, Secretary of the Assembly, took the roll call. Twenty-five hierarchs were present. Prior to the meeting, the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia notified the Chairman that they have suspended their participation in the Assembly in light of events currently ongoing in Ukraine.



After the roll call, Archbishop Demetrios offered his opening remarks. Recalling the words of the Apostle St. Paul to the Corinthians, “A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (1 Cor. 16:9),” His Eminence continued “The door is open, but there are many adversaries for us, too. Many challenges. This is why it is vitally important to be together, to act together, to strengthen the work of this Assembly.” He went on to express his sorrow at the absence of the Brothers of the Moscow Patriarchate and said, “given the various difficult matters of ecclesiastical and geopolitical significance our Mother Churches are dealing with, I take this opportunity to emphasize the need, now more than ever, for our Assembly to strengthen our relationships and continue our essential work serving the Orthodox faithful of this country.”

After approval of the agenda and last year’s meeting minutes, Archbishop Michael, Treasurer of the Assembly, presented his financial report and proposed budget. The treasurer encouraged the hierarchs to continue to support the Assembly financially. The Secretary gave a brief update on the activities of the Assembly’s committees in 2018. The Secretary, who serves as the liaison for Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), emphasized the importance of OCF reaching out to Orthodox college freshmen during their first 40 days on campus, to engage them in the life of the Orthodox Church while at college. He called on the hierarchs to help OCF’s efforts by encouraging parishes to submit the names of matriculating college freshmen so that OCF can contact them. At the conclusion of the session, two guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Alkiviadis Calivas, Professor Emeritus of Liturgics at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology, and V. Rev. Dr. John Morris, Ph.D., Pastor Emeritus, presented to the hierarchs on the topic of baptism, chrismation and the reception of converts. The speakers emphasized the diverse practices across jurisdictions and even amongst hierarchs. The discussion revealed that the Assembly must research this delicate matter further in order to arrive at a pastorally sensitive yet canonically appropriate response.

On the second day of the Assembly meetings, Wed. Oct. 3, the Hierarchs discussed ways to support cross-jurisdictional cooperation among parishes at the local level. The Hierarchs issued the following statement in that regard:

“The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America is committed to encouraging spiritual unity, communication, and cooperation among the parishes of various jurisdictions situated in the same geographic areas. The work of local clergy brotherhoods is a critical part of this process of achieving greater unity. In particular, the Assembly encourages all parishes to engage in joint liturgical events, educational activities, and outreach ministries, with respective hierarchical blessings.”

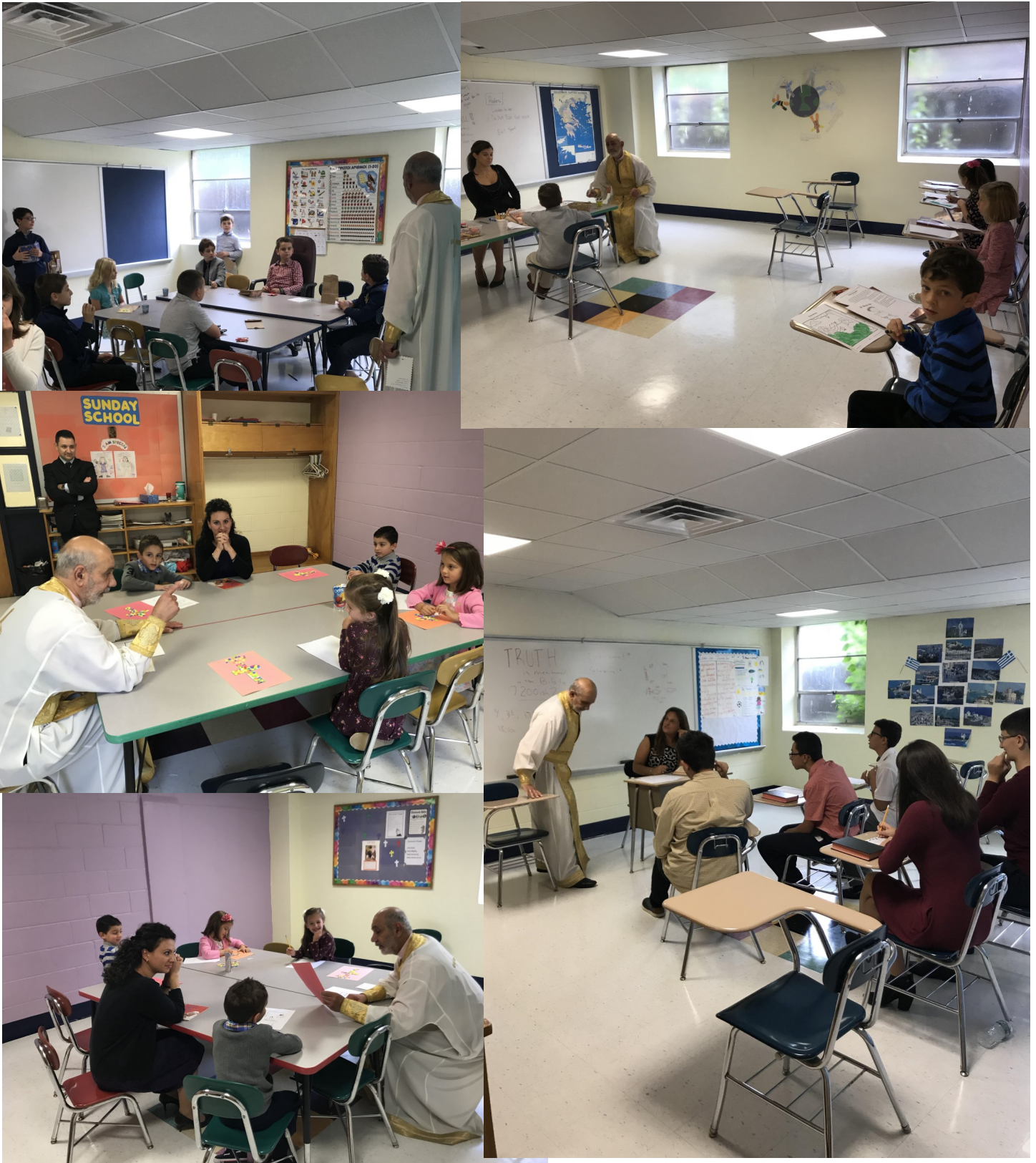
The Hierarchs endorsed the upcoming Orthodox Camping and Youth Worker Conference to be held January 23-26, 2019 at the Antiochian Village. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, Secretary of the Assembly, strongly encouraged the participation of youth workers in the conference.

In the afternoon session, the Hierarchs discussed an assessment of the Assembly’s accomplishments and challenges over the first nine years and began to identify some specific future objectives and priorities to achieve over the next several years. The Hierarchs reaffirmed their commitment to the mission of the Assembly and their desire to reinvigorate its work.

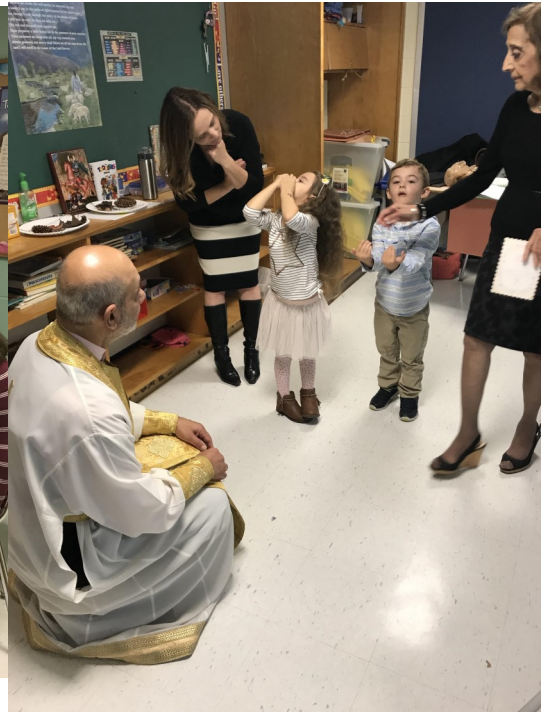
Photos of the Assembly are available on-line at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/goarch/sets/72157702056434815/>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is in full swing! Fr. Angelo stopped by each classroom on September 30 to meet with teachers and students.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



IONIAN VILLAGE SUMMER 2019 PROGRAM DATES

The Office of Ionian Village announced today the dates for its Summer 2019 programs. Ionian Village is the international camping ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with campgrounds located in Peloponnesus, Greece.

The mission of Ionian Village is to enrich the lives of its participants by bringing campers and staff into close contact with their Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage by providing the opportunity for young people of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to foster a life-long appreciation and love of Greece, Orthodoxy, and Hellenism.

IV Next

Dozens of colleges and universities offer study abroad programs in Greece, and many programs of our own diaspora offer similar opportunities for young adults to travel to Greece and see the sights. However, IV Next is the only travel-based program for young adults that has our Greek Orthodox faith as a core tenet of the program. Only IV Next combines professional development, international travel, and the Orthodox Faith into one all-inclusive program. IV Next is for participants ages 19-24 and will run from June 2-13, 2019.

Summer Camp

The picturesque Ionian Village campgrounds sit along the shores of the pristine Ionian Sea and are equipped with a private beach, a renovated Olympic-sized pool, air-conditioned cabins, and various athletic courts and fields. Campers actively explore their Orthodox faith and heritage, both through the daily at-camp program and through excursions to culturally and religiously significant sites throughout Greece. Excursions include Ancient Olympia, Patras, Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Kalavrita, Aegina, and Athens. Each 20-day session is open to young people who will have completed grades 9 through 12.

Session One: June 22 – July 11, 2019

Session Two: July 21 – August 9, 2019

Ionian Village Summer 2019 Staff Applications

Ionian Village depends upon its highly motivated and energetic Staff Members, each of whom is selected through a careful application process. Applicants must be Greek Orthodox and at least 21 years old by August 14, 2019. Applications to be a part of the 2019 Summer Staff will be available on the Ionian Village website on December 26, 2018.

For more information regarding any of the 2019 Summer programs, to apply to be a Staff, Medical, or Clergy Member, or to register for our Alumni Project please visit the Ionian Village website at www.ionianvillage.org.



Philoptochos

Dear Annunciation Family,

Can you believe that we are in the month of November! Being in upstate NY we certainly use our senses to engage in the autumn season. The smells of the fresh air, the picking of apples, getting fresh fry cakes, drinking apple cider, and taking in the beauty of the fallen leaves that surround us. Well, this engagement also occurs within our church. Who measures this engagement and why do we bobble back and forth? At times it's easier to be in spectator mode. Thus you sit in the pew and hope that others will engage. Our spiritual engagement is something we all think about and wonder, well maybe not all. In my opinion the second is the most difficult. Church attendance has increased and we definitely are more willing to sit next to our neighbor. I know for a fact that at times I too fall in that trap. The neighborhood of our church as mentioned in the last Good News certainly has been energized and so are the ladies of Philoptochos.

We had a great turn out on October 7th, 2018 with the 3Ms party. We welcome with open arms the following new members: Anthi Lolis, Vasiliki Kiantos, Fanny Elias, and Alik Schimopoulou. Thank you for joining Philoptochos. The Philoptochos dues are \$30.00. We are obligated to give part of the monies to the National Philoptochos and Metropolis Philoptochos. Please make sure to pay your dues. Maria Economides will be happy to assist you. (1-585-671-4034)

Memory Eternal: We appreciate the families that share in the memory of their loved ones during fellowship. We sincerely thank you for your most generous donations during coffee hour. Philoptochos would not exist without your generosity.

Please continue to give to the "coffee basket" during fellowship. We are grateful for the continued support. The "coffee basket monies", for the month of November will be going to the Multiple Sclerosis Organization.

Ladies of Philoptochos please sign-up for coffee hour. Akrivi Bitsas is in charge of coffee hour sign-up. Please reach out to her with dates that you can serve. Bring a friend with you. (1-585-352-0536) Thank you for your service.

I thank all those that have participated in the Friends of the Metropolis. Please ask during fellowship how you too can be a Friend. Forms will be available during fellowship every Sunday. Contact Niki 747-6319

November: 2018

1. Sunday November 4th: Artoclasia for the health of Philoptochos and Annunciation Family. Philoptochos Patron Saints Damian & Cosmas. A Second Tray will be Passed in church. Philoptochos will sponsor fellowship coffee hour.
2. Sunday November 11th-Philoptochos General Meeting
3. Sunday November 18th- Philoptochos Famous Bake Sale.

December: 2018

1. Sunday December 2nd, 2018 Philoptochos Christmas Party @ LaLuna Restaurant. After Liturgy at 12:00 ish. \$30.00 pp. Please contact: Angie George 425-4752, Effie Kapatos 247-3326, Despina Georgantopoulos 966-9055, Helen Eisenberg 737-9960, and Olga Petrou 749-3632.
2. Sunday December 16th-Philoptochos General Meeting after Liturgy.

January: 2019

- 1: Sunday January 13th: St. Basile Vasilopita Luncheon. After Liturgy.

"God clearly spelled out His good and perfect will for us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 when He inspired the Apostle Paul to write:" "In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." "Did you catch that?" "In everything."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING and God Bless America and the Annunciation on East Avenue.

5 Ways to Fight the Flu



FLU SHOT CLINIC!
 Sunday, 18 November 2018
 After the Divine Liturgy at 11:30 am
 Don't forget to bring your medical insurance cards!

If you are interested, please contact the church office at:
 585-244-3377 or office@agocroc.org
 so we know approximately how many people will be interested.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
Philoptochos
Christmas Party
 at
LaLuna Restaurant
 60 Browns Race | Rochester, NY 14614
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018
12:30 P.M. After Liturgy
 Buffet Style
\$30 per person
RSVP With Payment by Sunday, November 25, 2018
 The Christmas Giving Tree to Benefit Local Veterans:
American Legion Post 486
Please Bring Non-Perishable Food Items

Please remember that Wedding and Baptismal candles are available for purchase.
For further information call the church office or 752-7432


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




TSOUREKI



BAKLAVA



KOULOURAKIA



SPANAKOPITA



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

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

Whole Pie Pita(Spanakopita, Tyropita, Prassopita) (Quantity)# _____	\$40.00
¼ 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

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.



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Email Mobile No.

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Parish Name City/State

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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

**2018/2019 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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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of the ANNUNCIATION

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PARISH INFORMATION

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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

PARISH COUNCIL

Demetrios Stathopoulos - President

Alexia Georgiou - Vice President

Nicoletta Pinopoulos - Secretary

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