

GOOD NEWS

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

Voice: (585) 244.3377

Web: AnnunciationRochester.org | RochesterGreekFestival.org

December, 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



Christmas, unlike other Christian holidays, gives us a unique opportunity to view both our Orthodox and American lifestyles, a clash of culture if you will. Here in America in an effort to maintain our political correctness we replace “Merry Christmas” with greetings of “Happy Holidays”. Starting with Coca-Cola’s metamorphosis of St. Nicholas into Jolly Old Santa Claus and ending with the question of whether there even was such an event as the Immaculate Birth of the Son of God, Christmas in American has become an almost totally secular affair with the

focus on parties, giving and receiving of presents, stressful shopping, etc. In fact, it’s not even fair to say that Christmas has become *Pagan* since the Yule time for Pagans was very religious. Prior to and through the early Christian centuries, winter festivals — especially those centered on the winter solstice — were the most popular of the year in many European Pagan cultures. Many of our modern Christmas customs have their roots in Pagan ancient traditions such as the Celtic winter herbs; mistletoe and ivy, and kissing under a mistletoe, the Germanic Yule Log, the Norse god Odin as the “Yule Father” and Ancient Roman decorations of greenery and lights.

Now, of course, this is not to say that everyone celebrates the Feast of Christmas, however, we, as Christians, need to recover the original meaning behind this Feast. Historically, the Feast of Christmas was unknown to the early Christian writers, prior to the early part of the 4th century. The early Fathers of the Church such as Irenaeus and Tertullian did not even have Christmas on their list of feasts. The earliest known Christmas celebration is recorded in a 4th century manuscript by a Roman aristocrat. In the Orthodox lands, the birth of Jesus was celebrated in connection with the Epiphany on January 6, showing that the emphasis was more on the celebration of Christ’s baptism. Christmas was promoted in the Christian East as part of the revival of Nicene Christianity and the Feast of Christmas was introduced at Constantinople by St. John Chrysostom towards the end of the fourth century, probably around 381.

As to the date of Christmas being December 25th, the two most prevalent ideas are a) that this date was chosen to coincide with the pagan Winter Solstice celebrations and therefore begin the conversion of pagans to Christianity; or b) the date was selected to coincide with the 9-month period of pregnancy following the Annunciation event of March 25th.

From the Desk of Fr. Angelo, *continued*

But for us as Orthodox, the Feast of Christmas is much more than a historical event or a time to share memories with family and friends. The Feast of Christmas heralds in the beginning of our salvation. In his Christmas Day homily, St. John Chrysostom expresses this beautifully:

The Ancient of days has become an infant. He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And he who cannot be touched, who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infant's bands. But he has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory and total humiliation the measure of his Goodness.

For this he assumed my body, that I may become capable of his Word, taking my flesh, he gives me his spirit so he bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me, he gives me his Spirit, that he may save me.

In this [Christmas] feast the feasts of Epiphany, Holy Pascha, the Ascension and Pentecost have their beginning and their purpose. For if Christ had not been born according to the flesh, he would not have been baptized, which is Epiphany. He would not have been crucified, which is Pascha. He would not have sent the Holy Spirit, which is Pentecost. So from this event, as from some spring, different rivers flow - these feasts of ours are born.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken.

So during this Great Feast of Christmas let us all reacquaint ourselves with the true meaning and importance of this period. Christ is born! Glorify the newborn King!



United States Veterans Day Artoclasia held on November 11, 2018



Greek Veterans Day Artoclasia held on November 18, 2018



US Veterans Day Celebration

Marianne Sernoffsky, Program Manager for Female and Family Veterans Outreach Center, shown receiving our parish donation of \$300.00 worth of Wegmans Gift cards from Catherine Moynihan and Helen Eisenberg in support of veteran families in need.

Our way of thanking our veterans for their service in a meaningful way.



Over 50 Winter Coats Donation for Children in Need

A few weeks ago I asked for your generosity to provide coats and other winter clothing to kids who are in need. Since that day, the response we have received from our community has been overwhelming and has touched my heart deeply. This support makes me even more proud to be a member of this community! We as the Annunciation are known for our hospitality and our generosity but what I have experienced with your kindness by far exceeds our reputation!

The majority of the coats have been distributed to kids in need. After our first delivery, the school's social worker told me that after we delivered the coats, she asked a few kids to go choose which coat they would like. The happiness and excitement in the kids' faces cannot be described by words!



This became a reality because of each and every one of you who decided that we are in this together as a community. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and generosity."

Aliki Koupas (Schimopoulo)

Project Coordinator

The Blessing of the Emergency Vehicles Held on November 4, 2018



The Blessing of the Emergency Vehicles Held on November 4, 2018



Our thanks to CPT Jason Elwood of the Rochester Police Dept and CPT Steve Weisensel of the Rochester Fire Dept Truck 4 and their dedicated staff for this blessing of the vehicles.

We are all grateful to them for their dedication in protecting our community.

UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

- + 6 December, Thursday, Divine Liturgy of St. Nicholas, 9 am at Holy Spirit Church
- + 15 December, Saturday, Divine Liturgy - St. Eleftherios, 10:00 am (No Orthros)
- 24 December, Monday, Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy 5:00 pm
- 25 December, Tuesday, Christmas Day Divine Liturgy 10:00 am (No Orthros)
- 31 December, Monday, Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. 5:00 pm
- 1 January, Tuesday, St. Basil at Holy Spirit Church, 9:00 Orthros; 10:00 Liturgy



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 December, Monday, Bible Study, 10:30 am in Community Center
- 3 December, Sunday, Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 5 December, Wednesday, Topical Discussion on how to apply our Orthodox Faith to contemporary topics. 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 8 December, Saturday, Drosopigi Christmas Party - 1:00 pm
- 9 December, Sunday, Agia Paraskevi Christmas Party - 3:00 pm
- 10 December, Monday, Bible Study, 10:30 am in the Community Center
- 13 December, Thursday, Senior Citizens Christmas Party 11:30 am. \$10.00 per person. Catered by Christina. All are welcomed!
- 15 December, Saturday, Good News Submission Deadline. Submit articles and images to goodnews@agocroc.org
- 15 December, Saturday, Greek School Christmas Party, 9:00 am
- 15 December, Saturday, Flambouro Christmas Party, 6:00 pm
- 16 December, Sunday, Philoptochos General Meeting after the Divine Liturgy
- 17 December, Monday, Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- 22 December, Saturday, Omonia Christmas Party, 6:00 pm
- 23 December, Sunday, Christmas Pageant and Brunch immediately following the Divine Liturgy
- 27 December, Thursday, Seniors Meeting 11:00 am
- 31 December, Monday, Bible Study 10:30 am in the Community Center.

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK



To preserve each organization's presentation given on Centennial Friday, 13 October 2017, we would like to publish the following information in the Centennial Commemorative Book:

1. **The names of those who served on Committees for the Centennial and their responsibilities.**
2. **The name of your organization's speaker and the complete speech presented at the Friday, October 13, 2017 Celebration.**
3. **The names of Patrons who sponsored the Centennial Weekend event on October 13 through October 15, 2017.**
4. **The historical keepsake images that were used in the video presentation at the October 13, 2017 Celebration.**

Please send this information by **January 15, 2019** to:

goodnews@agocroc.org

Questions may be directed to:
 Dr. Christine Kerxhalli
 Email: goodnews@agocroc.org
 Centennial Commemorative Book Committee



Item List and Sign Up sheet for Holiday Christmas Drive for Veteran Families

Items Number of Items you would like to donate

Food

Gift cards	
Potatoes	
Rolls	
Stuffing Mix	
Cranberry Sauce	
Canned vegetables	
Dessert mixes / pie crusts	
Dry gravy mixes	
Spices	

Household

Irons	
Ironing Board	
Laundry Starch	
Toasters	
Toaster Oven	
Cookie sheets	
parchment sheets	
storage containers	
Ziploc bags	

Cleaning Supplies

Paper Tools	
Laundry Supplies	
Detergents	
Dryer Sheets	
Fabric Softener	

Personal hygiene

shampoo	
conditioner	
body wash	
soap	
Body lotion	
combs	
brushes	

NOTES

Cards should be from Wegmans or Tops

Ensure any perishables and/or fresh vegetables are dated November

Canned vegetables include green beans, cream of mushroom soup and French Fried onion strips

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Dec 7 – Trip to cut down the “Kids”
Christmas Tree**

See Page 14 for details

**Dec 9 – Christmas Caroling with the
choir**

See Page 14 for details

Dec 23 - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

See Page 13 for details

Email recagocny@gmail.com or call or text Kristen Savage (585-749-1483) if your child would like to be a part of this magical Christmas tradition!

***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL DECEMBER 30TH

ADULT RELIGIOUS ED:

Monday Morning Bible Study with topics such as the Orthodox Faith, Gospels, Book of Acts, etc. This will be weekly. This started 19 Nov and will be held weekly from 10-11:30am

Bi-Monthly Adult Evening Education – This will be study and discussion on how to apply our Orthodox faith to contemporary topics. Our first session is Wednesday December 5th at the church from 6:30-8pm

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 liturgy.

ALTAR Servers and readers NEEDED! Contact Fr Angelo or Juan

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS: This time of year, we are busy with many projects to help those in need prepare for the winter and holiday season. Any help is appreciated.

- **COAT DRIVE:** We have reached our goal of 40 new and gently used winter coats for children in need of Monroe County in collaboration with 30 other church communities. More coats continue to pour in. Thanks!
- **FOOD DRIVE** to benefit the American Legion post 468 veterans. Donations accepted through December 16.
- **TOWEL DRIVE:** We are also collecting towels to benefit the House of Mercy. We are over a quarter of the way to reaching our goal of 1000 new towels, in conjunction with our Ladies Philoptochos.

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 to register your child or for more information.

CALLING ALL YOUTH ACTORS!



On Sunday December 23rd, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a short pageant honoring the Nativity, followed by Greek and American caroling!

All Annunciation children grades K-12 are invited to participate in the pageant. However, to ensure that we put on the best quality pageant and to be fair to all, **kids must participate in all rehearsals to be in the Christmas Pageant**

Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School, starting November 18th
NO REHEARSAL NOVEMBER 25th

DRESS REHEARSAL after church on December 16th, so please plan to stay approximately 30 minutes afterwards

E-mail Kristen Savage at recagocny@gmail.com for more information

LET'S ALL CELEBRATE CRISTMAS TOGETHER!



DECEMBER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVENTS:

KIDS CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING AND DECORATING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH :

- Meet at Bauman's Farm Market (1350 Five Mile Line Road) at 4 PM. Go across the market to the tree cutting area down the gravel road. We will choose and cut our tree!
- Afterwards we will meet at the church to have a brief lesson on the meaning of Christmas, make decorations, and decorate the tree. If you cannot make it to cut the tree, meet us at church at 5:30! Pizza dinner will be provided.

CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH:

- We will meet in the hall after church for a pizza lunch, carpool to a few area nursing homes for caroling, then return to church.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD:

- Dress rehearsal December 16th immediately following the divine liturgy.

We hope to see our Annunciation Children at these events!

Please RSVP to Kristen Savage if you can come; or with any questions!

(email recagocny@gmail.com; call or text 585-749-1483)

Greek School - Ελληνικό Σχολείο

Our Greek School children had the opportunity to learn about Oxi Day which is celebrated on October 28th. Our sixth grade teacher, Sotirios Koupas, presented to the 3rd-7th graders and shared with them the importance of Oxi Day and why we continue to celebrate each year.

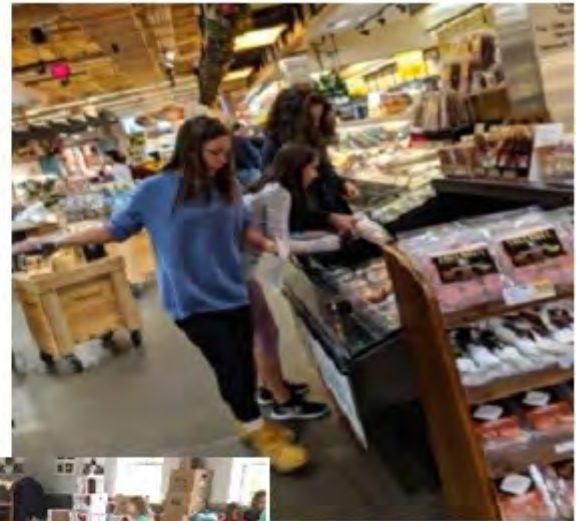
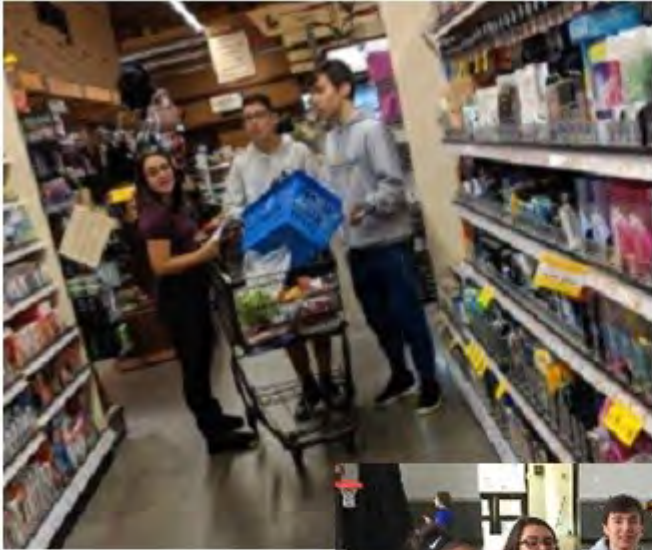


This past month, the Seventh grade students participated in the “Celebration of Nations” at Spencerport Cosgrove Middle School by sharing traditional dances and costumes to Spencerport students and their families.



Greek School - Ελληνικό Σχολείο, continued

The seventh grade also went on a field trip this month! Their teacher, Katina Sekella, gave her students detailed grocery shopping lists, all in Greek, and the students, in teams of 4 shopped for various items through the store. Their hard worked ended with a class lunch.



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. January 13th, St. Basil Vasilopita Luncheon.
2. February 3rd. **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
3. March 2nd—First Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy—10am
4. March 9th— Second Saturday of Souls-Philoptochos along with the children decorate KOLIVA. Prep-
aration of koliva in community hall —9:00 am. Divine Liturgy—10am
5. March 10th, **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
6. March 16th—3rd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy
7. March 17th—Sunday of Orthodoxy—Pan-Orthodox Celebration
8. March 24th, Celebration of our Evangelistria with our Sister Church of the Annunciation, Buffalo. Details
to follow.
9. April 7th, **Philoptochos General Meeting.**
10. April 20th, Philoptochos hosts breakfast for Saturday of Lazarus. Please join us for palm making and fel-
lowship with our children and families.
11. April 25th, Holy Thursday: Egg Dyeing - 9:00 am.
12. April 27th, Post-Resurrection reception meal. Ladies of Philoptochos please bring in something for
fellowship reception.

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

TSOUREKI



KOULOURAKIA



BAKLAVA



SPANAKOPITA



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



O come all ye joyful

OMONIA FLAMBOURO CHRISTMAS PARTY

Annunciation Community Hall

December 15 | 6:00 pm

complimentary dinner. visit from santa. cash bar.

Music by the Aegeans



Agia Paraskevi's Annual Christmas Party

DECEMBER 9 AT 3:00

CHURCH HALL

RSVP TO NICKI PINOPOULOS AT 820-2286 (CALL OR TEXT)

BY DECEMBER 1ST

RESERVATION REQUIRED... \$25 PER PERSON

BRING YOUR GIRLFRIENDS FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN... FOOD, DRINKS & DANCING!

THE RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE DONATIONS WILL BE THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL IN AMMOCHORI

Save the date...Vasilopita Meeting January 20, 2019 at 3:00 in the Church hall

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.



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.

CLERGY/PARISH SUPPORT

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

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.

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.

EDUCATION

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

LEADERSHIP

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

HELLENISM

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

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

.....
Address

.....
City State Zip

.....
Email Mobile No.

.....
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

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

962 EAST AVENUE

ROCHESTER, NY 14607

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PARISH INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

Voice: (585) 244-3377

Web: AnnunciationRochester.org | RochesterGreekFestival.org

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

Demetrios Stathopoulos - President

Alexia Georgiou - Vice President

Nicoletta Pinopoulos - Secretary

Eric Vangellow - Treasurer

Demitri Kolokouris - Assistant Treasurer

Kathy Markakis

Alan Makovsky

Peggy Votsis

Evangelos (Van) Zissis