Voice: (585) 244.3377

December 2019

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos Parish Registry, Progress Report Upcoming Church Services and Events Youth Ministry and Organizations News

From the Desk of Fr. Angelo

In the November issue, I spoke about the meaning of true worship which is first and foremost the praise and act of placing the priority on God. In this article, I'd like to explore how the Orthodox Church achieves the act of worship.

The Background of Orthodox Services

In Orthodox theology, the first divine service was offered by Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden. In Paradise, divine worship consisted of freely glorifying God, which came naturally to them as a result of their unimpeded vision of God in his Divine Energies.

After the Fall of man, this "vision" became clouded, and worship required effort on the part of man. Now divine service was accomplished in the form of sacrificial offerings, penance and prayer. These services were later codified in the Law of Moses and specific liturgical days and feasts were instituted.

After the Resurrection of Jesus and Pentecost, the Early Church continued to participate in the rites of the Jewish Temple (Acts 2, 3, and 5) After the Second Destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 AD, Christians began to develop their own distinct forms of worship but did retain some elements of Old Testament worship (chanting of the Psalms, use of incense, etc.) and specific times of the day for worship.

Orthodox Services Today

Orthodox practice today is comprised of four main categories of public worship with each having a specific devotion that is being celebrated. The table below outlines the services typical of these four categories (with the exception of confession and private prayer as these are not public).

Liturgical	Sacramental		
Vespers	Eucharist		
Orthros	Baptism		
Divine Liturgies	Chrismation		
Hours	Marriage		
Compline	Ordination		
	Holy Unction		
Devotional	Special		
Paraklesis	Holy Week services		
Akathist	Artoklasia		
Churching – 40 Day Blessing	Memorial		
Blessing of the waters	Vigils		

In this month's article, we will only discuss the Liturgical Services. Liturgical services are ordered or arranged to be conducted or celebrated three (3) specific times during the day, evening, morning, and noon-day. While particular services differ slightly based on the feast day being celebrated, and the season of the liturgical year typically the format is:

- 1. Evening—Ninth Hour, Vespers, Compline
- 2. Morning— (Midnight Office), Matins, First Hour

3. Noonday—Third Hour, Sixth Hour, Divine Liturgy

Although all of these services are strictly followed in the monasteries, in most parishes not all these services are celebrated. The most common in the parish are Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is not technically a part of the daily cycle of services, since theologically, the celebration of the Eucharist takes place outside of time.

a) Hours

The services of Hours are called the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth. These "hours" conform generally to the hours of six and nine in the morning, noon, and three in the afternoon. This tradition follows Jewish tradition and would have been the cycle of prayer celebrated by the disciples and Christ. The Hours are typically only celebrated in the monasteries.

b) Vespers

Vespers is the first service of the day. This follows the Jewish tradition of the liturgical day beginning at sunset. The hymns of Vespers introduce the themes of the upcoming day, such as commemorating saints or events (Feasts) of the Church and includes Psalms readings. There are three forms of Vespers: Great Vespers, Daily Vespers and Small Vespers. Great Vespers is the form served on Saturday evening in preparation for Sunday divine Liturgy and also on major feast days

c) Orthros or Matins

Orthros is a Greek word meaning "daybreak". Matins is Latin, from matutinum meaning "of the morning". Orthros is often mispronounced as Orthos (without the second "r") which has a totally different meaning – "to be standing." Orthros is the longest and most complex of the daily cycle of services. Orthros or Matins is always served in the morning and is celebrated just prior to Divine Liturgy.

d) Divine Liturgies

The Divine Liturgy is the most significant ancient Christian service, not so much for its phrasing and words as for its meaning. The Divine Liturgy also referred to as The Eucharist as it is the only service where Holy Communion is distributed publicly.

In the Catholic and High Protestant churches Divine Liturgy is referred to as *Mass*. The original form of Divine Liturgy has its origin after the Pentecost Event and was the center of the inspiration of the first Christians in their communion with God and with one another as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles: (Acts 2:46-47)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God..."

Four categories of Liturgies are currently performed

- a) St John Chrysostom standard liturgy performed on most Sundays
- b) St Basil performed on Christmas, Theophany, Holy Thursday and Saturday and on St Basil's nameday.
- c) St James, Brother of our Lord on St James's nameday.
- d) Pre-Sanctified each Wednesday and Friday of Great Lent*

There is a special category of Divine Liturgy referred to as a Vesperal Liturgy. This liturgy is celebrated in the evening and combines elements of the Vesper service together with the Divine Liturgy. The most common Vesperal Liturgies are the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, Holy Thursday and Saturday and Christmas. (Although in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America the Holy Thursday and Saturday Vesperal Liturgies are celebrated in the morning).

Next month we will discuss the Sacramental services of the Orthodox Church.

MODERN DAY GOOD SAMARITANS

Luke 10:25-37 "...and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have".

The Access Church in Lakeland, FL collected donations to pay off \$1,620,799.58 in deferred medical debt for people in Lakeland. The \$1.62 million donation helped pay off more than half of the \$3 million in the medical debt, alleviating that responsibility for 1,315 people who live in the area.

Americans, collectively owe at least \$81 billion in healthcare costs according to a 2018 Health study.

But there's a new trend among American churches that's taking aim to help alleviate this massive burden. Over the past two years, more than a dozen congregations like Access Church, have partnered with a debt forgiveness organization to cancel millions in medical debt for people in their communities.



Each of these campaigns was done

through a nonprofit called <u>RIP Medical Debt</u>, which buys huge bundles of medical debt for cheap and then invites charitable donors—such as churches—to settle the bill. Once the donations are in, RIP sends letters to the debtors, alerting them that their bill was paid in full. Other wonderful examples include:

Pathway Church in Wichita, Kansas, spent a \$22,000 chunk of its budget to eliminate \$2.2 million in medical debt for local residents.

Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign, Illinois, used a \$15,000 surplus from a building renovation project to eliminate \$4 million of debt for more than 3,000 families.

Revolution Annapolis, a small Maryland church that doesn't even have its own building collected \$15,000 along with City Church in Evansville, Indiana, which raised \$15,000 to cover \$4 million in debt.

"The goal is to provide financial relief to families in our community to help give them a fresh start." Jesus said the most important thing a Christian can do is loving God and loving our neighbors. This is a practical way for us to love our neighbors," stated by the pastor of Access Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Families-

It's hard to believe we are in December already and Sunday School is focusing much attention on the annual Christmas Pageant! The program will take place during church on Sunday, December 22nd. For our pageant to be successful it is highly encouraged that every student attend Sunday School each week leading up to the pageant in order to participate in rehearsals. We are looking forward to this special event to help ring in the Christmas season.

The religious education curriculum topics this month are: Church Events, Church Holidays and Memorial Services. Church events that could be discussed are for example: funerals, presentation of babies and feast days to name a few. The students will learn about a variety of church holidays that are celebrated in the Orthodox faith as well. Religious education teachers will also delve into the Who, What and Why of Memorial Services focusing specifically on when Memorial Services are performed and what the priest does during a Memorial Service. As always please open a dialogue with your child about the topics they learned in religious education to further the discussion.

Sunday School is also joining forces with Greek School this season to contribute toward two wonderful causes. Through the month of December, there will be bins placed downstairs; one to collect gently used coats, and one for new toy donations. Please consider donating to one or both of these causes during this very important season of giving.

As previously mentioned, we are requesting that families donate snacks for Sunday School. Please drop off (peanut free) snacks at the Sunday School office whenever is convenient and thank you in advance.

Sarah Ann Panitsidis & Soultana Swain

Religious Education Administrators

Meet our RE Teachers

Administrative Staff



Sultana Swain Religious Education Directors



Sarah Ann



Rhonda Stamatis Educational Mentor and Recruitment

PreK 3/4 Grades

Lauren Gashlin



Beverly Stamatis



Zoe Stamatis



Mary Provenzano



Kindergarten and 1st Grades Julie Sidou John Sidou

2nd and 3rd Grades **Christina Chinchila**



4th and 5th Grade **Demetra Bouquin**



6th, 7th, 8th Grades **Juan Linares**



Teen Class Teri Strembenis



GOYA

October 2019 GOYA walked with Breast Cancer Survivors. Powerful and Inspiring Experience for all.





GOYA

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Church Events:

- 1 December, Sunday, No RE class Thanksgiving break
- 6 December, Friday, Liturgy of St. Nicholas, 10:00 AM
- 7 December, Saturday, Church Christmas Tree Decorating, 12:30 PM
- 8 December, Sunday, RE class
- 13 December, Friday, Weekly compline, 6:00 PM
- 15 December, Sunday, RE class
- 15 December, Sunday, Divine Liturgy St. Eleftherios, 10:00 AM
- 20 December, Friday, Nativity Vigil, 6:00 9:00 PM
- 22 December, Sunday, Christmas Pageant following Liturgy
- 24 December, Tuesday, Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy, 6:00 PM Holy Communion distributed.
- 25 December, Wednesday, Christmas Day Liturgy, 10:00 AM
- 29 December, Sunday, RE No class Christmas break
- 31 December, Tuesday, St. Basil's Vesperal Liturgy, 6:00 PM

Events:

- 8 December, Sunday, Combined Christmas Party Philoptochos & Agia Paraskevi at LaLuna, 3:00 PM
- 15 December, Sunday, Good News Submission Deadline
- 15 December, Sunday, Philoptochos General Meeting, 11:30 AM
- 21 December, Saturday, Greek School Christmas Party
- 22 December, Sunday, RE Christmas Caroling 1, Senior Center 4:00 PM
- 25 December, Wednesday, Office closed
- 26 December, Thursday, Seniors meeting, 11:00 AM
- 28 December, Saturday, Greek School No class

Annunciation Philoptochos Ladies and Ladies of Agia Paraskevi

Cordially invite you to our

Christmas Party

LaLuna Restaurant

60 Browns Race | Rochester, NY 14614

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 3:00 P.M.

\$40 per person

RSVP with payment by Sunday, December 1, 2019

Angela Dedes: 704-0244 or Despina Georgantopoulos: 966-9055

Music by the Aegeans, Steve Tavelaris

Cash Bar | Free Parking

Featuring The Christmas Giving Tree

HALL RENOVATION PLEDGE DONORS TO DATE

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Fr. Angelo and Presvytera Teri Maggos Maria Vasho (Anthony) Memory Natalie

Maria Vasho Dr. Elias and Anna Konstantinou

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Elias and Maria Sarganis

Marie Sakellariou

Agia Paraskevi Mary Critikos - In Memory of Irene Joglus

Chris & Chrisanthy Hetelekides

Antonakis & Victoria Georgiou

Ana Dobrot

John & Elaine Vangellow In memory of Jennie Mick-Vera Bellows

les

Angeline George

Dimitrios (Jim) Manou.

Vicky Stathe-Smith – In memory of her parents, Van

and Anastasia Stathe

Vasila Augustinos

Aphrodite Stathis Zoe Stamatis

George & Olga Nassis

Jeffrey & Lauren Gashlin

UPDATED HALL RENOVATION UPDATE & PLDEGE REQUEST

The Hall Renovation Project is progressing according to schedule. The Hall renovation contractor BLM Construction has made significant strides over the last month as is evidenced by the Hall progress pictures on Facebook and our Church website. There were some delays to ensure that the architects and structural engineers approved the installation plan for the HVAC (air-conditioning units) so as to meet code requirements for proper loading. Having received this approval we have the units on-site and will be installing them.

Currently the roof is completed and the coping (edge trim) around the building exterior is being finalized. The insulation and drywall is underway and you can see the structure for the vaulted ceiling.

You can also see the lighting being installed which will provide significantly more light than our existing hall had. We are very much appreciative to everyone for their patience regarding use of the hall for parish events. Each of our church groups have been very understanding with regards to making alternate arrangements...just for this year.

By the number of Facebook views and "likes" we are receiving it seems as most everyone we is eagerly anticipating the completion of this project. Our church is without a doubt one of the most beautiful expressions of Greek Orthodox tradition vividly displayed in magnificent mosaic art reflected in the comments I continuously receive from those who tour our church. The excitement generated by the Hall Project reflects the desire to have a hall that will parallel the beauty of our church. The hall will once again be the center point of community gatherings such as Baptismal receptions, Wedding Rehearsals, Makarias, Memorial Luncheons and the host of dances and celebrations our parish has during the year.

Hall Donor Pledges are continuing and we are very appreciative of everyone's support for this project. With donations we have \$385,000 which is getting us closer proposed budget of \$425,000.

Since the Parish Council and I feel very strongly that everyone must have the opportunity to be part of this important project, we are continuing to encourage everyone to donate whatever they can whether that be \$20 or \$20,000. The pledge form below can be mailed or dropped off to the church with your donation.

Be assured that as we move forward we will be providing updates on our progress, through our website, the Good News, and church announcements. Even though we had to move out the Hall be completion date to mid-January we know that the best course of action is to ensure that everything is done correctly and to that end there have been several corrections along the way to address some concerns that have arisen.

Thank you and may God continue to bless our endeavors. Annunciation Parish Council and Fr Angelo

DONATION PLEDGE FORM FOR HALL RENOVATION

Contact Information (Please print all information clearly)

Name:		
City/State/Zip:		
	Email:	
Donation Amount: \$		
Pledge Amount: \$	payment to be madeMonthly	yQuarterly
Payment Form (circle one):	Check VISA/MasterCard/American Express	
Card Number:	Expiration Date:	CVV Code:
Name as it appears on the ca	ard:	
Signature:		
This Donation pledge is mad	e in honor/memory of:	
Please send notification of m	ny gift to:	
Address:		

Annunciation Policies

MEMORIAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTION POLICY

All monies received during a funeral or memorial service that are made out to the church, that is, checks marked with "Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church" or cash with the envelope marked with "Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church" will be used for purposes in support of church operation.

These could include support of recognized church ministries, sacramental articles purchased for the church proper or for ongoing campaigns such as Hall Renovation or other capita improvements.

If it is desired that these monies are to be used for other wishes that the family may have the family must ensure that they announce that 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.

POLICY FOR DOCUMENT PREPARATION:

There is a required processing charge of \$40 per document. This charge covers research, preparation and routing of documents such as Certificate of Residency, Certificate of Freedom to Marry, Reissued Marriage Certificate, Reissued Baptism Certificate and Certificate of Death. Additional documents are \$20.00 per document.

ADDITIONAL:

We have wedding candles in the office for purchase which is required at the time of the ceremony. The donation for them are \$30.00.

We also have baptismal candles, \$30 for the large candles and \$7 each for the two (2) smaller candles which are also required at the time of the baptism.

MEMORIALS:

Coffee Hour scheduling for family memorials is the responsibility of the Philoptochos unless other arrangements have been made by the family sponsoring the Memorial. The family which is sponsoring the Memorial is asked to:

- 1. Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange scheduling for Coffee Hour that day. The Secretary will contact the Philoptochos President.
- 2. Arrange for or pay for Coffee Hour food items that are in excess of the standard menu (coffee, drinks, and simple snacks).
- 3. Coordinate the preparation and delivery of Koliva (if used). The Philoptochos or Church office can provide information on persons who can prepare Koliva. The standard rate for the preparation of koliva is \$150.
- 4. If you are interested in being added to the church list as someone who will make Koliva, please contact the church office.

2020 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			
ADVERTISING OPTIONS:	NOTES:			
□ Full Page\$500/yr	Newsletter is printed 11 months per year as June/July is a combined newsletter For best quality, artwork should be high resolution jpeg files or similar			
□ Half Page\$300/yr				
□ Business Card\$150/yr	Emailed ads must be 600 dpi or greater PDF			
	Please include or email artwork			



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.

Name			Credit Card	Check	Money Order
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Email Mobile No.		Total in \$			
Parish Name	City/State		Signature		

Make checks payable to Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit. 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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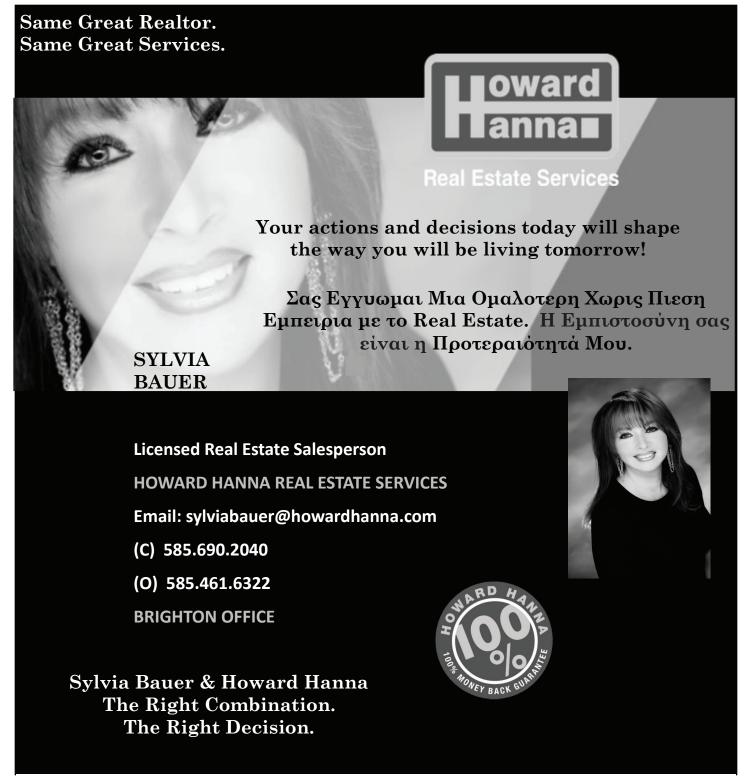


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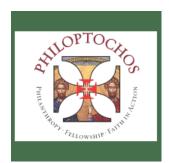


































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PARISH INFORMATION

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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

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