

GOOD NEWS

Voice: (585) 244.3377

June-July 2020

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

Our society today is dealing with the pandemic of COVID-19, which is an infectious and deadly virus. This has required all of us to temporarily rethink how we will maintain our connections with our church and with one another. Virtual church via livestreaming and Zoom sessions have become the new norm and our church is certainly no exception. There are those, however, who feel that all this on-line streaming will spell the death of church as we knew it. Some comments include;

“Father, its really great watching you on TV with my pajamas and a cup of coffee”

“I can get everything I need just by watching the service on-line.”

“This is what the young people want now instead of having to come to church.”

Well, to paraphrase the words of Mark Twain, the rumors of the death of the Church are greatly exaggerated.

I am confident that once we can return to church there will be no shortage of people. Of course, there will still be people who will continue to enjoy the livestream service such as those who are homebound, in the hospital or are unable to attend church. So, let's present a few of the significant benefits that come from “going to church.”

1. Seeing one another encourages all of us to demonstrate Christ-like love and compassion.

In Hebrews St Paul tells us,

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

As seemingly wonderful and appealing livestream church is, it can in no way replace the physical intimacy that comes from engaging with one another face-to-face. To experience a real smile or a laugh, to hug one another, and to look directly into someone's face and read all the emotions there that cannot be replicated through any kind of media. Each of us at one time or another needs to be in communion with their friends and community; to catch up on the latest news, to check in on those that are experiencing difficult times or offer that hug of sympathy. God created us to be in communion with one another (Gen 2:18) and it is through this physical contact that we also provide much-needed support to one another. In the context of a community that we can show ourselves as followers of Christ (Galatians 6:2)

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2. Church meets practical needs of the community.

From personal experience, our church, outside of this pandemic, is a buzz of activity on a daily basis. Just as they did in the Early Church, our church is a place where we come to get our physical needs met. Many people don't realize all the other things a church provides beyond just spiritual nourishment. Obtaining copies of baptism or wedding certificates for obtaining passports or other business-related purposes. Some come in to have documents notarized by the church, while others come to use our facilities to practice things such as dancing, music, or use of our facility for business or study. When we have food or clothing drives the church is the easiest and best-known collection point.

3. Through church our gifts and talents are revealed.

St Paul clearly tells us this;

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. ... If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:5-8

Our church community is overflowing with wonderful God-given talent and the majority of that talent can only be manifested through physical participation and interaction. Our recent modernization of our hall is a prime example. This was accomplished through the efforts of many, some who led the effort and were physically at the church watching each phase of the work, others contributed a specific skill set during the construction, while others contributed their design talents to create a beautiful space for all our future events.

There is also the selfless dedication of our teachers and staff who educate our next generation religiously, culturally, and morally. To be truly successful, teacher and student must be face to face where they can interact together so that the teacher can clearly observe and guide the student when they make mistakes and encourage them when they succeed.

4. Attendance at church opens our eyes to the needs of others

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. Though one may be overpowered two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

It is impossible to be one in the Body of Christ for as Orthodox we believe that the Body is made up of many members (1 Corinthians 12:12-20). Attendance at church calls us outward from our self-absorption and inwardness of our daily lives and forces us, through interaction with others, to look outward. We have the ability to "check in" with those around us and to strengthen those who are weak and to also receive strength when we are weak. (1 Thessalonians 5:14). We can physically see how we are part of a larger and wonderful

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community that is the Body of Christ.

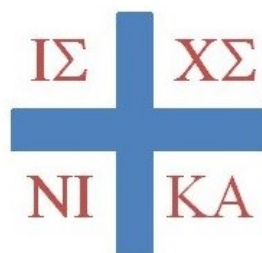
5. Church attendance is our offering to God and in communion with one another our faith is strengthened.

The simple act of coming to church involves sacrifice and effort on our part. When someone asks us to visit them, they would be very disappointed and maybe offended if we answered them saying, Let's set up a Zoom call, or I'll send you an email. No! What they are really asking for is for physical closeness, one to one conversation, a display of love. It is the same with God. He deeply desires that we make the effort to visit His House and to be in communion not only with one another but also in communion with He who is the Author of our life.

But there is also another important reason to come to church. Church is where our sacraments happen. Except for Holy Confession, the Church has required that all the sacraments be performed before the entire community of the faithful, the Body of Christ, so that all can share in the joy (baby blessings and baptisms, and Eucharist), devotions (weddings, ordinations, and Paraklisis) and the sadness (funerals).

And there is the healing and comfort received in the sacraments of Holy Unction and Holy Confession. Confession requires priest and penitent to speak in a private and personal way that cannot be replicated by any kind of technology. This personal contact provides the opportunity to bring to light the things that have been holding us back and to break free from the things that are holding us back from living a life in Christ (James 5:16).

So, to repeat what I said at the beginning, I am confident that once we can return to church there will be no shortage of people waiting to be back in communion with one another. It is in our nature, placed in our heart by God. And as I said, there will still be people who will continue to enjoy the livestream service so that technology becomes another outlet for God's Grace to flow and not a replacement for Church.





PARISH REGISTRY



40-Day Blessing:

Child of God: Pavlos Anestis Panitsidis

Parents: George & SarahAnn Panitsidis

Child of God: Joseph Zaov

Parents: George & Jennifer Zaov



Baptisms:

8 March - Pavlos Miles Theodorou

Parents: Chris & Andrea Theodorou

15 March – Asher John Mitrousis

Parents: Nicolaos & Kristina Mitrousis



Wedding:

22 February -Nicholas J. Padulo and Despina Stathopoulos



Memoriam:

Theodore Spiros Vangellow Interred March 11, 2020

Stavroula “Voula” Mitrakos Interred March 18, 2020

Dorothy G. Yovanoff Interred March 30, 2020

George Stathopoulos Interred April 21, 2020

Nikolette Palermo Interred May 9, 2020





ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

May 24, 2020

Location – On-Site GA Cancelled due to COVID-19 Order

PC Members: Jim Stathopoulos, Peggy Votsis, Eric Vangellow, Demetri Kolokouris, Alan Makovsky, Helen Eisenberg, Mike Naselaris, Ron Wiegand, and Karen Balta

Election of GA Chairman and Secretary – N/A

Fall 2019 GA Minutes—See Annunciation website under the “Parish” tab under “about.”

Treasurer Report/Stewardship (Please see the two attachments in this newsletter)

The first attachment provides a summary of our operating results for 2019 as compared to both 2018 and 2017. The second attachment compares our approved 2020 budget to a revised 2020 budget. A column showing actual results for 2019 is included for reference.

Regarding the operating results comparison, we are pleased to report that the last three years have been profitable. Your generosity and the success of our annual festival have allowed us to fund various capital improvement projects that will benefit the community for years to come. Highlights of the various improvements include:

1. A new front driveway, which has been expanded to two lanes, and resurfacing the rear parking lot.
2. New festival infrastructure (gas piping, electrical wiring, and water lines) installed throughout the rear parking lot.
3. Landscaping and sprinkler upgrades.
4. Within the church, we remodeled the altar storage rooms and added a new sound system. We’re also putting the finishing touches on the hall renovation project. A summary of the hall project along with an update on our hall rental program will be available in the next few months.

Operating Results for 2019

Notes on operating results for 2019 follow. Please refer to the operating results attachment.

1. The operating results do not include donations or expenses for major capital improvement projects – specifically the parking lot and hall renovations.
2. Stewardship commitments have room for improvement – although they have held steady dropping roughly 2% per year over the last three years.
3. The festival had a record year with \$138,000 in net income after our charitable contributions.
4. All staff positions are part time personnel. This includes our Secretary, Finance Support, Greek School, and Organist. Father Angelo is our sole full-time employee.
5. The general maintenance account for 2019 included some \$22,000 in costs for landscaping, festival infrastructure, and boiler re-work associated with our capital improvement projects.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

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6. The resulting net income is typically allocated by the Board to offset capital improvement projects.

Revised 2020 Budget

The revised budget attempts to gauge our financial performance as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sure you are all aware that due to the pandemic we have decided to postpone our annual festival and reschedule it – tentatively – in August. The festival committee along with the board will make a final call toward the end of June to determine if we can hold the festival safely at that time. The revised budget would allow us to continue operations without any festival income.

Notes on the revised 2020 budget follow:

1. Changes to the approved budget are highlighted in orange.
2. Although a worthy goal, we have dropped our Stewardship income to \$260,000.
3. In addition, we have dropped candle receipts, donations, and flower receipts to reflect our current operations.
4. While the estimate for net festival income was reduced to zero (assuming we may not be able to hold a festival in 2020) we are hoping to revive both the Golf Outing and the Christmas Festival for 2020.
5. Conventions and travel related expenses were reduced to zero.
6. Choir organist and candle expenses were reduced to reflect current operations.
7. Utility expenses were reduced to reflect current operations and the most recent natural gas pricing.

The result is a breakeven operating budget. This revised budget analysis shows that we can survive without the festival, but all other revenue components must remain intact. As an example, we are not selling candles, collecting tray income, and earning rental income from our parking lot and hall. With the implementation of Phase 1 reopening in New York we are hopeful that we can resume operations by this Summer.

We have applied for relief funds through the Federal CARES Act and our Parish was granted a \$20,215 PPP loan, the bulk of which will be forgiven, and it has been funded. We will continue to keep operating costs down to an absolute bare minimum while still maintaining our beautiful Church and grounds. Please reach out to Father Angelo or any member of the board with questions or ideas that will help us move forward.

Maintenance and Improvements

Hall Renovation Presentation – The Hall Renovation project was completed in Feb of 2020 and has transformed the Hall into an elegant banquet hall that stands in harmony with our beautiful church. Many thanks to two young men of our parish who led this effort; Andrew Bouquin and Van Yannas. Their extensive construction backgrounds have been indispensable for the timely completion of this project.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

May 24, 2020

While there are a few releases of payments that are being withheld until resolution of some final issues, there is attached the final budget summary for the Hall Project. This summary report will also be posted on our website.

The plan moving forward is that the Hall will not only be a beautiful event space for community events throughout the year but also serves as a revenue source from both parishioners and non-parishioners. Through consultation and recommendation with local event planners who own banquet facilities, we are investigating a partnership with a local catering company who has the capability of managing our Hall. They would be able to provide all the equipment, place settings, and staff, as well as administrative support to handle non-parishioner rentals. Our parishioners would still be able to contract with our local parishioner owned restaurants for their events such as funeral Makarias, Baptism or Wedding receptions, etc. We would also reserve the right to specific blackout dates during the year for church events such as Holy Week, Christmas parties, Ministry gatherings, etc.

Our Treasurer, Eric Vangellow, is in the process of finalizing the Lease Agreements for both parishioner and non-parishioner use of the Hall and they will be available on our website upon approval by the Parish Council.

Hall Challenge Pledge

As many of you know, in January of this year one of our long-time parishioners and supporter of this community, Nick and Katherine Sfikas, offered a challenge to our parish to match Hall renovation donations up to \$50,000 with the caveat that the challenge would only continue to the end of March 2020. We are very pleased to announce that thanks to everyone taking up this challenge we were able to exceed the pledge amount. As of March 31, we collected \$52,700 and Nick and Katherine have sent us their matching check for \$50,000. Many thanks to them for their continuing generosity and to everyone who helped make this challenge a success.

Landscaping. Through a generous grant from the estate of one of our recently departed parishioners, we have contracted to have a landscaping plan developed for the church property. This will be done in three (3) phases (which will be posted on our website) with the first phase to be the front area of the church with a scheduled start date of late Spring 2020. Unfortunately, the large Beech tree in the front of the church was declared diseased and needed to be removed. We had five (5) independent tree experts render their diagnosis and they agreed that the tree could not be saved and is a potential fall hazard. Many thanks to Alan Makovsky for his hard work with the quoting process for landscaping and for his thorough investigation of the condition and options for the Beech tree and coordination of the removal.

Ministry and Organization Reports

Religious Ed (RE) — RE is under the direction of Sarah Ann Panitsides and Soutana Swain. They graciously accepted the position of Co-Directors of Youth Religious Education (Sunday School) together with Rhonda Stamatis who is serving in the new position of Teacher Recruitment and Teacher Mentorship. Please take a moment to look over the Religious Education organization chart and Job Descriptions for Sunday School positions on our website under the "Education" tab.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

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Also, if you are interested in teaching or participating in another way with our youth, PLEASE contact the church office and we will help get you involved.

Although the onset of the restrictions from COVID-19 and the closing of the church and church facilities, has dramatically impacted progress in Religious Education, our directors and staff continue to look for innovative ways to implement directives that we previously identified. This includes:

- **Continuing to publish the entire year's schedule of activities** in August so parents can plan ahead for all education and activities. This schedule is included in the August issue of the Good News and is also under the "Education" tab on our website.
- **Commitment to professional development of all teachers** at least once per year to ensure that they are up to date with the latest developments in education and teaching methods and the latest Archdiocese Education curriculum and training resources. This will take the form of seminars, guest speakers, and workshops along with a 3-week Orthodox education primer to prepare new teachers. This is to ensure that each of our children receive a true, correct and unified understanding of our Orthodox faith.
- **Technology Updates.** The entire facility is now internet (wireless) capable which enables our teachers who want to use on-line teaching resources. Four of the Sunday School classrooms are now equipped with 32" smart TVs to allow teachers in both Religious Ed and Greek School to use on-line educational training plans, courses and educational videos.
- **Organizing youth activities** throughout the year such as cookie baking for the police and fireman, proshphoro baking and the Lenten Passport program.
- **Combining classes** so that now we are operating Kindergarten and 1st grade, Pre-K and 3&4 grade, 2nd and 3rd grade, 4th and 5th grade, 6-8 grade and the teen class.
- **Zoom Adult Ed and Kids Video Lessons** We have also started offering weekly Sunday School video lessons by Fr. Angelo to all our kids on our church YouTube channel and a weekly Adult Education Zoom discussion all of which are on our website under "Zoom Discussions."

Old Business

See Maintenance section above for updates on Hall Renovation and Landscaping.

New Business

Youth Worker Policy

Since September, we have been working hard to bring our parish into compliance with the newly implemented Archdiocese-wide Youth Protection Program. Helen Eisenberg, due to her long experience as Sunday School teacher and Director, was appointed as the Youth Worker Registrar to work with both Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, and Greek Dance to enroll all youth workers in the program. She, together with Lena, our secretary, will maintain the register of our youth workers and serve as the parish liaison to the Metropolis of Detroit and the Archdiocese.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

May 24, 2020

This program requires registering ALL persons who currently work with our youth or would like to work with youth, in any capacity, to register with our Youth Worker Administrator. This program has been in place for all our Orthodox Youth Camps across the Archdiocese for many years and has now been mandated by our Archdiocese at the parish level.

Security and Hazard Response Policy

In the light of recent violent activities directed against churches in this country, we initiated a two-fold campaign. Our first priority was to appoint Lamont Thomas and Peter Gines to assist in developing a Security and Hazard Response Policy for our parish. In 2019, they coordinated with the Rochester Police Department to conduct a security assessment of our entire facility. With these observations and recommendations, Peter investigated what policies are in place at local churches and synagogues and put together a draft Security Response Plan for our parish. This draft policy is currently under review by our Parish Council and our plan is to put this into action by end of Summer, 2020. Upon completion, this policy will be posted to our website.

Outreach

While outreach to the community, both our church community and Rochester, has always been present at this parish, we have undertaken steps to coordinate the efforts of each of the philanthropic organizations at this church through the formation of an Outreach Ministry. The organizational and communication skills and experience combined with a desire for this ministry resulted in my election of Mrs. Aliki Schimopoulou to serve as the chairperson of this ministry. A successful coat drive was held and thanks to our parishioners, over a hundred brand new children's coats, gloves, and hats were donated to elementary Rochester City School students.

Several months ago, Aliki called for the leadership of each of the parish ministries, Philoptochos, St. Paraskevi, Seniors, GOYA, Religious Education, Greek School, and Parish Council, along with interested parishioners, to meet and discuss how best to organize our efforts. Several significant outcomes resulted:

- a) Identify quarterly outreach objectives and to begin immediately by having each ministry choose a particular cause. This would continue throughout the year with each ministry coordinating their projects to the Outreach Committee to ensure that their efforts are being communicated to the entire parish. These ongoing activities are identified in the Sunday Bulletin to ensure our parishioners are aware of which projects are ongoing which gives them the opportunity to not only donate to these causes but also to identify to the Outreach Committee particular causes or projects they feel should be considered.
- b) Develop a long-range strategy focused on discovering how our church can be linked in to ongoing charitable and humanitarian efforts in the Rochester Community and beyond.
- c) Partner with our neighbor, Asbury First Methodist Outreach Minister, Rev. Jacqueline Nelson to explore joint efforts that our parishes can collaborate on.

Communications and Internet Ministry



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

General Assembly Spring 2020 Summary

May 24, 2020

Recognizing that a complete parish outreach ministry necessitates an vibrant and constant internet presence we have formally established a Communications Ministry that is staffed by two well-experienced members of our parish with the objectives of a) establish and maintain a robust church website which reflects all the happenings in our church and community, b) maintain a visible presence in the most popular social media outlets.

WEBSITE The intent of our website is to be the one-stop location for all events, activities, services, and documents of our parish. This includes not only a listing of upcoming events but also a repository of pictures of events which have occurred. Equally the website allows access to important documents such as the Sunday Bulletin, Good News, Parish Council and General Assembly documents and administrative policies and procedures and is the platform from which parishioners can access our YouTube channel.

Social Media While we have an active presence on Facebook, we have had great success with our Church's presence on YouTube. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, we had achieved about 400 subscribers on our YouTube channel. With the closing of the churches we began doing weekly livestreams of our services (to include the entirety of Holy Week) to help reach our community during this time of need and spiritual healing.

In the last two months since, we have grown to nearly 1,100 subscribers from around the world with our channel achieving 30,000 views in the last month alone. Our Holy Week streams reached viewers in the thousands with our videos typically ranking in the Top 10 worldwide under the search term "Greek Orthodox" (many days, we were #1)! The most distinct area of growth, however, is that the largest percentage of our engaged audience (27.2%) is the sought-after age demographic of 25-34 – the future generation of our church and faith.

Having thus achieved the threshold of over 1,000 subscribers we have captured an overlooked niche within the YouTube and Internet communities and have now achieved the status of **YouTube Partner**. This status allows us even greater advantages and tools to reach more people and expand our community as well as monetization of the platform. There is very little media available online about Orthodoxy in comparison with other Christian denominations (and much of that available media is dry and noncontemporary). People are hungry for information and a fulfilling outlook.

Our videos have received positive comments and questions from people of all faiths – some who have just begun their journey to Orthodoxy and others from different denominations or beliefs who are simply seeking honest answers. What has become evident is that there are many with passion who simply do not understand Orthodoxy and we are now in a proper position to educate and inspire with the Holy Word.

Under the leadership of our new Communications staff, we fully expect to grow this new and important avenue of Orthodox Evangelism.

Fr Angelo Maggos
Parish Priest

Demetrios Stathopoulos
President, PC

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Approved, Revised 2020 Budget

	Revised 2020 Budget	Approved 2020 Budget	Actual Income & Expense 2019
Income			
STEWARDSHIP	260,000	280,000	246,644
CANDLE RECEIPTS - Sunday Services, Holy Week, Altar Candles	34,000	47,000	41,398
DONATIONS - Tray Collections, Hall Rental, Parking Revenue, ZUTE'S Maint.	70,000	90,000	72,216
FLOWER RECEIPTS - Lent, Easter & Christmas Flower Donations	4,000	6,000	3,567
GREEK SCHOOL TUITION	20,000	20,000	22,358
MEMORIAL DONATIONS - Unrestricted Memorial Donations	14,000	14,000	22,346
OTHER INCOME - Community Christmas Card, Bookstore, Calendar Sponsorship	2,500	2,500	15,263
SPECIAL FUNCTIONS - Net of Expenses - Includes Apokreatiko Dance	1,000	1,000	1,394
FESTIVAL INCOME - Net of Expenses & Charitable Contributions	-	80,000	138,000
Total Income	406,600	640,600	683,128
Expense			
SALARY CLERGY - Proestaminos	60,000	60,000	65,092
BENEFITS CLERGY - Health Insurance, Housing & Automobile Allowance, Moving (72,000	72,000	74,914
CLERGY - Part Time Second Priest	-	-	-
CONVENTION/TRAVEL/GIFT/AWARDS - Clergy Laity Congress	-	4,000	2,668
ARCHDIOCESE PARISH PENSION	8,800	8,800	8,450
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE	68,000	68,000	66,280
DIOCESE OF DETROIT	-	1,000	-
VISITING CLERGY & CANTOR	800	3,000	-
SALARY - Sexton & Youth Director	-	-	-
STAFF - Office, Accounting Support	32,000	32,000	34,536
BENEFITS & PAYROLL & FICA TAXES - all Personnel	10,000	10,000	9,445
GREEK SCHOOL - Salaries & Expense	16,000	16,000	15,644
SUNDAY SCHOOL & GOYA/YOUTH - Oratorical Festival	7,500	7,500	6,213
CHOIR - Salaries & Expense	4,000	6,000	4,075
CANDLE EXPENSE	8,000	12,500	10,660
CHURCH SUPPLIES	4,000	4,000	5,324
COMMUNICATIONS/POSTAGE - Website, Postage, Postage Permit, Calendar	15,000	15,000	18,132
FLOWER EXPENSE - Lent, Easter & Christmas Flowers	6,000	6,000	4,897
GENERAL MAINTENANCE - Church & Grounds - Snow Plow & Lawn/Landscape	25,000	25,000	50,513
INSURANCE - Building & Property, General Liability, Workers Compensation	16,000	16,000	15,299
OFFICE SUPPLIES & EXPENSE - VISAIMC Expenses, Bookstore	8,000	8,000	16,708
OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & REPAIR - Copier Maintenance	4,000	4,000	3,042
PROFESSIONAL & CONSULTING - Payroll Processing & Video Production Fees	9,000	9,000	11,164
TAXES - Property Taxes	3,900	3,900	3,354
TELEPHONE - Answering Service, Phone, Cellular & Internet Services	6,500	6,500	9,638
UTILITIES - Gas & Electric, Water, & Refuse Service	20,000	25,000	19,788
Total Expense	404,600	423,200	466,328
Net Income	1,000	117,300	107,360

Our Youth giving Valentine's cards to the Rochester Police officers.





ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presbyter
962 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607
585-244-3377 website: annunciationrochester.org

May 18, 2020

Dear Greek School Families,

Our 2019-2020 Greek School year has come to an end. I want to congratulate all the students and teachers for their efforts while in the classroom and during remote learning. We saw resilience from the students as they continued with their studies.

During remote learning, the teachers continued to engage with their students in multiple formats. Zoom classes were held, teachers made google classrooms, Quizlet, and Kahoot programs were used and instruction continued with email and phone conversations.

The engagement from our students and families this school year showed the importance and love of the Greek language and culture. It showed the dedication that the teachers and families have for our children's education and appreciation of being a part of Greek School community.

Συγχαρητήρια για τους μαθητές της σχολικής χρονιάς 2019-2020. Πρέπει να είμαστε περήφανοι για τις προσπάθειές τους στην τάξη και στο σπίτι. Οι προσπάθειες έδειξαν συνεχή αγάπη για την Ελληνική γλώσσα και τον πολιτισμό μας.

Ευχαριστούμε όλους τους δασκάλους για την επιμονή και υπομονή που έδειξαν και τελείωσαν επιτυχώς την σχολική χρονιά κάτω από τις δύσκολες συνθήκες.

Καλές διακοπές. Εύχομαι η καινούργια σχολική χρονιά να μας βρει και πάλι στα θρανία του σχολείου μας.

Με υγεία,

Maria Dembeyiotis

Maria Dembeyiotis
Greek School Director





Philoptochos News

We find ourselves in thought and prayer as to what outcome will prevail from this most important time period in our lives. None of us would have imagined such a pandemic in our lifetime. As these last ten (10) weeks have passed and we await to see what will happen during the summer. Though we are physically social distancing we are connected in so many ways. Together we thankfully consider all the blessings around us. We have homes and families that are supportive and loving. We have technology at our fingertips. Most SKYPE, ZOOM, FaceTime, in an attempt to use all social media platforms to communicate with everyone. We are grateful and thankful to Fr. Angelo, Presvytera Teri, Johnny Dedes, Sammy Dragos, Juan Linares, and Laurie and David Soures-Woosters for keeping our spirits engaged via YouTube Church Liturgy. Also, special thanks to the hard work of our communications officer, Demos Euclid, for his skill in arranging and broadcasting all our services. A big thank you to our secretary, Lena Livechi, for keeping the office open and running during this time of lockdown. To the first responders, doctors, nurses, and front line workers that continue to work tirelessly on our behalf. Philoptochos, too, is striving to do its part.

Our whole church should be proud of all the hard work that has been accomplished in philanthropy. Despite the renovations the 2019-2020 year has certainly been a very fulfilling one. Philoptochos participated in the Metropolis Spring Luncheon raffle of which \$340.00 was raised. Winner of that raffle was our very own Cathy Stark. The fashion show would not have been such a success if it wasn't for the dedication of our Annunciation Family that attended and supported the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality House (RAIHN), a charity organization that assists homeless families to achieve their independence through sustainable avenues. As Mrs. Kim Hunt-Uzelac (Executive Director of RAIHN) said, the three thousand dollars (\$3000) will surely help those in need and get them on their feet. Thank you to the fashion show committee Andrea Vangellow, Jennifer Stanek, and Helen Eisenberg and most of all to Anthi Georgiou Graham and Edward Zachary Graham for their generosity and use of Arbor at the Port. We also would like to thank our very own parishioner Demetra Bouquin whose son attends CP Rochester, the "Giving Tree" Christmas Party along with the ladies of Agia Paraskevi raised approximately three hundred dollars (\$300). Demetra hand delivered classroom supplies that teachers needed for our special-needs children.

Let's not forget the famous Philoptochos bake sale that raised over four thousand dollars (\$4000). As you are reading this, you can sense that our Annunciation Philoptochos continues to reach those less fortunate than ourselves. We are pleased to announce that the proceeds from this bake sale (\$4,000) will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I hope you all had the opportunity to view our Zoom interview with Benjamin D. Marchione, Regional Director, Make-A-Wish of Western New York following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 7th where he discussed how these donations are used by Make-A-Wish. Despina Georgantopoulos, Sofia Demkos, Akrivi Bitsas, Effie Kapatos and all the ladies from our Annunciation family that come out and dedicate their true talents to making all the delicious desserts.

Lastly, Philoptochos also donated canned items to the Rochester City Schools and we thank Tom Pappas for bringing the needs of the Rochester community to our attention. Therefore, I would like to take this time along with Vice-President Despina and our entire Philoptochos board to sincerely thank you for the dedication and support that you give Philoptochos. Though we are under these COVID conditions, Philoptochos must march on for it is "the right hand of the church."

We thank those that have continued to pay their Philoptochos dues even in a time of crisis. Since we are unable to gather in person please reach out to Maria Economides should you wish to pay your dues or are unsure

(Continued on page 16)

Philoptochos News

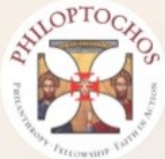
(Continued from page 15)

of your status (585-671-4034). We welcome Mr. Juan Linares to the Philoptochos Society. Thank you for joining this philanthropic organization. “Yes” men can join!


Not only does this thank you extend to what was mentioned above but to the fellowship and coffee hour that “You” hold so dear along with the memorials that are celebrated in memory of your loved ones. We thank you for entrusting us and inviting us to celebrate the life of your loved one. With that said, Philoptochos participated in the Metropolis No Show Event Celebrating Women and a two hundred-dollar (\$200) donation was made in celebrating the life of our own Mrs. Florence Stefanou. This fellowship that we share here at the Annunciation far reaches beyond our doors. The grand opening of our beautiful hall and blessing that was done marked the first philanthropic endeavors that we took in 2020. The Vasilopita luncheon raised two thousand seven hundred and seventy five dollars (2,775.00). The coming together and the “breaking of bread”, literally the Vasilopita bread, placed food at the doorsteps of another home called St. Basile’s Academy; a national not-for-profit orphanage part of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. When Philoptochos asks of your time and talents “Your” true genuine compassion is shown time and time again. As I have frequently quoted Mr. Rogers’s Neighborhood, I continue to embrace the fact that though we are not in the pews “We” are still gathered together as a family. The neighborhood looks different, but the spirit of togetherness is within all of us.

God Bless America and the Annunciation on East Avenue.

Niki Chamberlain



Dear Philoptochos Members:
It's that time of year again where we review our records and prepare our membership list.



Annual dues are \$30 for those under the age of 65 and \$25 for those members over 65

Please make your check payable to the
Philoptochos Society
and mail it to our membership chairperson:
Maria Economides
23 Blue Pine Circle
Penfield, NY 14526

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Maria at 671-4034

We appreciate your continued support of our philanthropic programs

Modern Miracle

Deer Park Fire Department
Deer Park, Texas
Sunday, March 8, 2020

Around noon time today the Deer Park Fire Department was dispatched to a vehicle fire on Battleground Rd. The dash was completely burned up and dissolved into ash and melted plastic as was the engine compartment and passenger compartment.

This Bible was sitting on the dash, and as you can tell from the pictures only the back cover was damaged. Only a little water on the pages other than that all were untouched by the fire.



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HALL RENOVATION PLEDGE DONORS TO DATE

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Diane Stathe-Streber	John & Elaine Vangellow
Peter & Catherine Stark	John & Jeanette Boardman
Estate of Evangelos Bourtis (Spiro Bourtis, Executor)	Richard & Jean Scott
AGOC Seniors Club	Karen Amico
Rikis Fairport Hotel Inc.	James & Jane Mickles
Chris & Andrea Theodorou	Florica Petsos
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Demitrios Kolokouris	Philoptochos Society
Eric & Andrea Vangellow	Peggy Votsis



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 these 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 .

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 _____

<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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CLERGY:

Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos, Presiding Priest

Email: frangelo@agocroc.org

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

Secretary: Lena L. Livecchi

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