

THE TRUE VINE

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE ALIVE

As a Christian, I believe it is an exciting time to be alive. I feel this way because it is becoming more challenging to be a traditional, biblical-believing person of faith. As society becomes more anti-Christian and godless, I, as a Christian, am called by Christ to imbue a faith that is well-informed and to struggle to live according to divine truth. In one major respect concerning this matter, I believe Christianity as a whole has failed and has vast room for improvement during this pandemic. Why? Taken to the logical conclusion... Christians live in fear of suffering and death, and this fear often paralyzes our needful action. The source of this fear arises from a lack of faith in God's loving goodness and the eternal immortality of the soul. How do we look upon the Cross, sing "Christos Anesti!", and truly believe in the God who incarnated from the transcendent and uncreated realm, became Man, and destroyed death for us for the rest of existence and fear death? Do we believe that God has created us in His image and likeness by endowing us with the freedom to choose Him and His truth over all other things on this earth for the sake of true love to exist, OR do we believe in the absolute and sheer chaos, insanity, madness, wokeness, and unforgiveness that is rising in America with the spirit of Baal, Moloch, and Lucifer? Do we believe in Christ, or do we believe in nothing?

One question that must be asked: Why is Christianity a threat to modernity? In short, we believe in an ultimate Power, Reality, and Authority that all of creation is to be ordered towards. We know this is true justice. Modernity now holds to the materialist and utilitarian belief there is no reality beyond sense perception. There is no transcendent dimension or the metaphysical realm. Taking from Marxism, modernity believes that if social conditions can be changed, human nature can be changed. God and Christianity believe human nature is fixed. The many and vast human problems we see throughout sacred and secular history always reoccur due to the reality that humans can be wickedly evil people because we can freely choose to be so. Image, Likeness, and Love demand free choice.

One of the reasons Marx hated Christianity so much is that it believes in sanctified suffering out of our fidelity and love for God and neighbor. Christ and the martyrs are the proof in that they forever changed the course of history through the shedding of blood. Our ascetical theology also testifies to this reality. Holy Great Lent witnesses to it as well. Marx, on the other hand, wanted to destroy whatever led to suffering through violent revolution. He wanted to destroy God's justice in order to create a "utopia" on earth where history has shown dystopian "justice" prevails. For the record, and it should go without saying, there will never be heaven on earth.

I think most want a truly just world. The problem with justice as understood by some atheists and most radical secularists of today is that it has come to mean that freedom of choice must guarantee equality of outcome regardless of the decisions an individual or collective makes. Modern "justice" believes one is morally obligated to oppress and pathologize vast segments of society in order to be ideologically pure. And while I sincerely believe many Americans would not embrace this aspect of Marxism, we are seeing princi-



May 2021

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ples of it redefined as “justice” and accepted as such. Justice is the ordering of everything to God. Justice is the reception of what one deserves according to his or her actions. Marxism seeks to control all aspects of people’s lives: choice, finances, occupation, education, beliefs, etc. and enforce uniformity in the name of “justice.” This type of “justice” is injustice. It smacks in the face of being made an eternally free being imbued with the image and likeness of God.

How is this happening in America when we have Constitutional freedoms given to us by God and not government? In short, there are those in positions of power who are controlling language, narrative, and perception. They do not want to play by the rule of law. Speech is being forbidden and silenced. People are being categorized as oppressors and oppressed when there is no true oppression. Concepts and words that have been clearly defined and understood for years are now being redefined in order to fit new narratives steeped in unscientific social theories. In colleges and universities, students are demanding they never be offended or have their ideas and theories challenged. Many adults seek the same today as well. For some, they want the entire world to be an emotionally safe space from everything they disagree with. I could go on. Suffice it to say that living in such fear is not only unhealthy, it is not based on reality. It certainly does not lend itself to a diverse world where people can coexist and agree to disagree. It does not allow for the free exchange of ideas. In the name of fighting oppression, it allows for people to become oppressors. This is modern “justice.”

I know I believe it is an exciting time to be alive because I am a Christian in an era of American history where many openly and proudly stand against Christ and His Church. They hate my Saviour, His Mother, the Saints, and mock them. I’ve been mocked as well. They hate what they claim does not exist which is cognitive dissonance. My response to all of this, in the spirit of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, is to pledge to refuse to cooperate with those who accept untruth as truth. I will choose to instill doubt in false narratives. I will choose and try, to lovingly bring people to the Good, True, and Beautiful by whatever means I have. I will pray to always have a humble willingness to suffer for the Truth and say, “I will not believe in this...I will not sign onto that...I will be oriented to God and His justice alone.” I will choose to suffer for the faith once and forever delivered to the Apostles by my Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, because He suffered all things for me. I may never be a saint on earth, but I at least want to try and live as my Christian brothers and sisters did from pagan Rome to modern Communist China. They suffered and continue to suffer for Christ. The only thing I stand to lose is my immortal soul if I choose not to (Jesus in Mark 8:36).

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.” Chapter 2:20-21 of St. Paul’s letter to the One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church of the Galatians

In Christ’s Loving Truth, *Fr. Joseph*

PARISH REGISTRY

Funerals

March 29:

+Sandy Panagouloueas

April 2:

+James Gersos

April 12:

+Margie Polites

Memory Eternal!

Upcoming:

May 15:

Moran Baptism

May 16:

Kordalis Baptism

May 22:

Ryan/Mitropoulos-
Rundus Wedding

May 23 -

+Xidas Memorial

YOUTH MESSAGE: CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

On the Second of May we celebrate the Feast of feasts, the Festival above every festival, the Resurrection of Christ!

The biggest feast of the Church is that of Pascha or “Easter” as it is known in the U.S. It is so big, that it is not actually counted among the 12 major feasts of the Church because, again, it is the “Feast of feasts,” it is the most important day in human history.

This is what we need to remind ourselves when we think about Pascha, that nothing more important has happened for human beings, ever! Before Christ Jesus died for our sins on the Cross and resurrected we could not be with God when we died. We had fallen away from Him when we disobeyed Him by eating the forbidden fruit - the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. So when our lives here on earth were over, we went to hades, a place not like



heaven, but not like hell either. It was a place where everyone went, but God was not there.

That is, not until the resurrection. When Christ died on the Cross death thought it had won, but what was really happening was God, in the second person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus, was coming to put an end to death. He broke the bars of hades and “trampled down death.” He went to the place everyone was, but to destroy it! But what does that mean?

It means that when Jesus died on the Cross for us and rose from the dead he made it possible for all human beings to be with God again, for all eternity. He gave us the ability to be with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom forever!

Every time you sing “Christ is Risen/Christos Anesti” this month, remember that Christ Jesus loved you so much that he allowed Himself to hung on Cross, remember of His victory over death, and remember He did it so that we no longer had to be separate from Him, but can spend all eternity in the presence of God!

- Jonathan

PHILOPTOCOS NEWS



May Membership Meeting:

The May membership meeting will be held virtually on **May 6 at 10am** Please note the time change. Elections will be held at this meeting. In order to be eligible to vote you have to be 1) a paid member of Philoptochos and 2) a member in good standing of the church. Please plan to attend. A Board meeting will follow the regular membership meeting.

15th Annual Spring Charity Luncheon, Saturday, May 8th

The annual Philoptochos Spring Charity Luncheon will be **Saturday, May 8** at the Presidential Banquet Center (4348 Presidential Way, Kettering 42429).

If you chose the “Shop Early and Box Lunch to-go” option, you may arrive and shop the auction from 10:00 -11:00am and then take a box lunch to go. Only those who purchased tickets for the to go option will be allowed in from 10-11am for shopping. Masks are required and all CDC recommendations will be followed while you shop. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Cash and credit cards will be accepted.

For those who made reservations for the dine-in option please arrive no earlier than 11:15am for social hour and time to shop the auction. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Cash, credit cards and cash will be accepted. Lunch will be served at 12:15pm. At socially distanced tables, you will be seated only with the chosen guests you identified when you made reservation. No changes can be made on the day of the event. Masks are required and all CDC recommendations will be followed. Please call Michelle Zois or Sandy Alex for any questions.

May CCM: Miami Valley Meals

Miami Valley Meals began their organization as an emergency response to the pandemic last March. Bill Evans and Chef Matt DeAngulo activated a team of recently unemployed chefs and culinary professionals to quickly prepare bulk nutritious food. Bill and Matt, along with Amanda DeLotelle and a team of volunteers have built an inventory of bulk meals to be distributed free of charge to organizations that feed the hungry. In only one year, they have served 123,000 meals, recovered 113,000 pounds of food and served 16 zip codes in the Miami Valley region. Part of our proceeds from our Spring Charity Luncheon on May 8th will also be donated to this worthwhile organization. Thank you for your support!



Saint Nicholas Shrine Challenge

Philoptochos sisters in Christ, we have an opportunity, and a blessing, to participate in a special philanthropic project – the completion of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center in New York City. This is a landmark project for our Archdiocese, and one that we must see through to completion. Let us not forget that we were the only ones who lost a house of worship in the attacks of September 11, 2001. This Church will stand in remembrance of all those who perished on 9/11, and it will be a place for prayer, comfort, and peace. We also have the unique opportunity for this Shrine to become a beacon of our faith and to show the world the beauty and fullness of Orthodoxy.

How can you participate? It's simple! Every Philoptochos member in the United States is being challenged to make a \$20 donation. Send your \$20 donation directly to the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos, c/o Debbie George, 37618 Cherry Hill, Farmington Hills, MI 48331, who will forward the collective donations to our National Philoptochos office. We can make an impact and be a part of History!

2021 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos is hosting the 18th Biennial National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Established in 1989, the Children's Medical Fund Luncheons have distributed over \$4,000,000 in grants to provide funding for equipment, programs and research to benefit children with serious medical or surgical diagnoses, as well as health care needs throughout the country. The funds raised from the luncheon will be distributed only to organizations within our diocese. The luncheon is the largest fundraiser for the National Philoptochos Society.

Tickets for the luncheon will be available in June. We would like to have one or two tables representing our chapter attend. This promises to be a lovely event and a fun day. Indianapolis is about a 2.5hr drive and can be easily done in a day. Please see Evanthis Valassiades or Nikki Burns for more details.



Christos Anesti!

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." -Albert Einstein

Spring has sprung at my house! The gardens have been raked and new mulch put down. Down the drive and up the hill the daffodils are just starting to bloom. Fitting since the March birth flower is the daffodil. The Resurrection lilies are up and green, the hosta are peeping through the mulch with the daylilies not far behind. Yes, spring has definitely sprung. April birth flowers are the snow pea and the daisy. Daisies are such a happy flower - you can't help but smile when you see them. I know life has been challenging for us all. Spring flowers give us that extra little boost of happiness watching nature renew itself. Enjoy a drive and soak in the sunshine, take a walk in nature and see how many spring flowers you can name. But above all, social distance and wear your masks when necessary. We aren't out of the woods yet with this pandemic but we will get there!

It's all about timing!

"My name isn't on the Stewardship List published in the True Vine! I know I sent in my pledge. Why isn't my name there?" What many don't understand is there is a cutoff date that we have to adhere to because of time constraints when it comes to publishing the True Vine. It is quite an undertaking with so many of us wanting to be heard (me included). The cutoff date for the Stewardship List is the 10th of each month. Pledges received by the 10th are compiled and sent in to the church office. Those names are the published *the following month*. So if your pledge is received between the 11th of February and the 10th of March it is published in the April True Vine. I make every effort to assure that all pledges are updated as they are received. But please know that for now I am working from home. The mail comes to me from the church office once a week. If your pledge did not get to me in time it can be delayed in getting published on the Stewardship list. See an error in spelling? Want your name (s) published differently? Let us know and we will get the changes done as quickly as possible.

Statements

First Quarter Donation Statements went out in mid-April. Please review your statement carefully and let me know if there are any discrepancies. Call the church office and leave a message with Carol or Erin and I will call you back. Or feel free to send me an email to my new email address below. And please, if your statement shows that you still owe for a prior year Stewardship Pledge, your payment is greatly appreciated!

Brenda Day
accountant@daytonannunciation.org
937-224-0601

OFFICE & PROTOCOL REMINDERS

- **Office Mailboxes**

The mailboxes in the Church Office Hallway have slots for different individuals and organizations. Please check the mailboxes and pick up your mail as soon as you can. Thank you!

- **Funeral Covid Reminder**

During Covid, we still have to follow the Metropolis directives and rules set by our Reopening Committee. A reminder that even though we have increased the numbers allowed for funerals, we still must follow these Covid rules. The funeral directors will be notified of these rules as well. Social distancing is still in effect and sitting together is only for those from the same household or families. Family and friends attending the funeral will be made aware of these rules. Thank you all for understanding and for your cooperation during this difficult time.

- **Reopening Committee Covid Protocol Compliance**

Although it may feel like we are coming to the end of the pandemic and many are still covid-weary, please remember to continue to follow our church's covid protocols for social distancing and masking as set forth by our Metropolis and the Safety Committee. We encourage all to remain personally responsible during this time so that we can continue our efforts to end this pandemic. The protocols are for the safety & comfort of all and it shows love & consideration when we willingly comply & follow the guidelines. We value your health & safety and pray the pandemic draws to a close soon.

DEAR CHRISTINA...

Well, spring is here and God gives us so many blessings during spring! Not only does he resurrect, but he graces us with beautiful flowers, sunshine and the squirrels start scurrying about. For this month, I think I would like to focus on



God's blessings from the eyes of children. Not only does he grace them with the fun of Easter egg hunts and Easter treasures, but he allows them to see the beauty of seasons changing. We hear children playing outside and the children are starting to embrace the warmer weather. Just the other day, my little boy said that tulips were so, "boo-ti-ful!" At this

moment, I reminded him that the "bootifull" tulips were God's blessings. Another appreciation is the beautiful songs and chirps of the birds. My mother used to take my children outside when they were younger and they would sing and talk to the birds. The sweet songs of birds are another blessing from him. As the days grow longer, the flowers start blooming, the trees start blossoming, and the blades of grass and dandelion stalks start aggravating you; take the time to remind your littles of how many blessings God gives us. Remind them that the "bootifull" days full of sunshine is why we pray. Embrace them while they smell a flower. I suggest you open the windows, let the breeze blow through your home and smell the beauty of Spring. Spring through the lens of children's eyes is just magical. Children have a perspective and get to see God's art gallery and I am sure their imaginations spark questions. Take the time to remind them of why we have such blessings and why we do what we do for Lent. I wish you all a Happy Easter.

With the 100-year celebration being just around the corner I wanted to focus on one of our Parish members that lived a lot of his years at our church and he lived to be 100.

Charles (Charlie) Krandall. His legacy lives on in our church first, through his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Ted and Helen Anton and second through his daughters, Diane Briggs and Ruthann Zavakos and grandchildren Aaron Briggs, Demetri Zavakos and Dena Inempolidis. What was so interesting about Mr. Krandall was his achievements within the military. Charlie was in the U.S. Army and served in North African and Europe. He was wounded and captured in the Anzio Invasion by the Germans and was a P.O.W. for 21 months. Charlie loved his family and had a love for his faith. His daughter, Ruthann, discussed her father so gently and said that her father was a family man like no other. He loved their mother and made a change at the Dayton Veteran Hospital. Mr. Krandall spent his last years at the Dayton Veteran's Hospital and it sounds like his military journey didn't end with war. Ruthann said that Mr. Krandall had such an impact at the hospital and was an excellent storyteller that the hospital would use him in therapeutic situations and that everyone knew him like he was a celebrity. I knew Mr. Krandall, but was young and didn't have the appreciation that I have for him today. Our church has so many valuable people and so many pieces to our 100-year-old puzzle. It has been so exciting to research the beauty within. Let's continue to pray for our celebration to be this year and be full of glory.

- Christina



MAY 2021 Liturgical Schedule

Holy Saturday, May 1

- Vespers Divine
Liturgy, 10am
- Vigil Service, 11:30pm

PASCHA, May 2

- Agape Vespers, 12pm
- Easter Egg Hunt, 1pm

Bright Monday, May 3

Paschal Matins &
Divine Liturgy, 9:30am

Sunday, May 9

Divine Liturgy, Thomas Sunday,
9:30am

Sunday, May 16

Divine Liturgy, Myrrhbearing
Women, 9:30am

Saturday, May 21

Divine Liturgy, Constantine &
Helen, 9:30am

Sunday, May 23

Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the
Paralytic, 9:30am

Sunday, May 30

Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the
Samaritan Woman, 9:30am

MY JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY

It's been a long journey to get to where I am currently. I started my path when I was little as a Catholic child in Catholic school. I had a rough time, rejected by my peers and feeling uncared for in the organizations in the Church, school, and otherwise. My parents tried, but it seemed the school insisted the bullying was my fault though I was the victim. The fact that my parents divorced when I was 10 got me out of the school at least, but not the Church where the people my age still gave me grief. I felt that nowhere I turned would have a friendly face, let alone a family in the Church.

I really broke away from the faith a while because I felt unwanted, that somehow God had rejected me too. I was about 13 when that happened, after I'd been bullied horribly by the students and unaided by the staff for years. Along my old ways I went through Middle and High School, along with getting my Associates Degree. I lost my Father 5 years ago, before I got the Associates Degree, which started me questioning my life and where I was meant to me.

I followed a more agnostic path from there until about 2 years ago. We had what are called by Wright State students as "Quad Gods" on campus - you know the type. They usually are screaming "You're a bunch of sinners going to Hell, women are subject to men," and so on and so on. I took one of the pamphlets off their hands since it seemed that they were trying to convert people through insulting them. I read through it and though the tactics they were using were fear-mongering, I saw something I'd never really seen before. Maybe despite the negative press they were giving Christianity maybe they'd had a point about God being real or caring.

I looked for on campus the Campus Ministry, since I knew they existed and that they might have some useful tools to use. I met with a campus minister who I spoke with for roughly six months between debate, reading of the Bible, and other religious philosophers like Aquinas. He convinced me to try and pray again after having dropped that habit for years.

That night I had a panic attack, and I begged God for help. After I did, the panic ceased. I was shocked, since I hadn't had a clue it would truly work, since I had prayed for many things as a child and none came to fruition. I started looking into types of Christianity based on what I could research and who was around the local area. I had found Orthodoxy quite fascinating, but was a bit hesitant due to its majesty and the fact that most of the information I could find was either in Russian or Greek. I went into Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on the first day of Advent in December of 2019. I started to feel moved toward the faith from there, figuring if God truly did care and exist that I would feel him there.

I went every week until the pandemic started shutting down services, wanting to join this family. In that time I made friends and learned more, along with getting a certain kindness extended I hadn't had before. I remember one time Matins was not being served on a cold March morning but I hadn't received the email about it. I was brought out of the rain into the hall until it would be time for service. In the time waiting I was even offered coffee and donuts early so I could warm up.

I finally was able to be Chrismated in August since the pandemic had pushed me off, with my godmother being a friend from High School. I remember that day, it was the feast day of the beheading of John the Baptist. It was a lovely day, I felt myself on fire that day from the ceremony of the service. I finally was able to say I was not just catechumen but an Orthodox Christian.

I know this wasn't quite brief, but it's my journey. It may be a bit of an odd path to have taken, but my path is my own, and I doubt I'd change a thing. God led me here for a reason, and I'm still finding my way through, but now I know where at least I'm supposed to start.

Sincerely, Madeline Mobarry

CATECHISM SCHOOL UPDATES

We want to express our sincerest appreciation to our parents and students for your incredible patience and flexibility as we conclude the 2020-2021 school year.

Popsicles on the Parking Lot

It's time to celebrate! We invite all students and parents to...Popsicles on the Parking Lot!

When: Sunday, May 16th

Time: 11:00-12:00

Where: Our church parking lot

*Teachers will be giving students their certificates while enjoying a popsicle and outdoor socially distant fellowship!



2021 Graduates

On Sunday, **May 16th**, we will be honoring our Catechism school high school graduates! Please join us in congratulating Sarah Andebrhan, Madison Argue, Alex Papakirk, Persephone Powers, Anthony Retzios, and Peter Tsatalis. It has been a joy to teach you and watch you grow up! May God's richest blessings and the protection of the Theotokos be upon you as you embark on the next phase of your lives.

Fall Classes

We are looking forward to resuming in-person instruction in September...be sure to register!

STEWARDSHIP 2021: THE TIME IS NOW

The Stewardship Committee is so grateful to all of you who were faithful stewards of our beloved church in 2020! Through Stewardship and the Tiered Pledge program we were able to keep our church functioning through a pandemic, the likes of which none of us have seen in our lifetime.

That being said, we are looking to continue forward as a community and build upon what we were able to accomplish last year. Our parish currently needs \$1,200 a day to operate (\$8,400 per week). This accounts for salaries, bills, and the like - it is all encompassing. While in years past we have been able to count on the Greek Festival for a large chunk of income, we have had one "good" festival (in terms of income) over the last three years, and we don't yet know what 2021 holds.

So we, the Stewardship Committee of Annunciation Dayton, are humbly asking all of you who are able to consider a minimum Stewardship pledge of \$100 per month (\$1,200 per year) to secure one day of our financial needs as a parish. We ask that members of our parish not give based on what they have given in the past, or what they see at the parish now, but rather to look towards the future. We ask that your Stewardship reflect what you WANT to see at and from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church here in Dayton, Ohio.

If you have already pledged for the year 2021 we thank you for your support. If you have pledged and find you are able to bring yourself up to the \$1,200/year mark we would consider that a great blessing! And if you have yet to pledge for 2021, now is the time as we are approximately \$40,000 behind where we were this time last year.

We believe in this community and know that all of you wish to see this community flourish, and this starts here and now!

May God continue to bless your families!

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Stewardship Committee



2021 FLOWER DONORS

Thank you so much for your donation towards helping to decorate the church for the Lenten services as well as the celebration of Pascha. Your generosity is appreciated by all.

Friday Evening Services (flowers for the Icon of the Theotokos)

- 3/19/21 - 1ST Salutation - Dr. James and Leah Derksen
- 3/26/21- 2ND Salutation - Dr. James and Leah Derksen
- 4/2/21 - 3RD Salutation - Dr. James and Leah Derksen
- 4/9/21- 4TH Salutation - Chris and Deb Pulos
- 4/16/21- Akathist - Chris and Deb Pulos

Sunday Services (flowers for the altar)

- ♦ 3/21/21 - Harriet and George Argue In memory of our parents Anthony and Mary Massalas and Clifford and Xenia Argue.
- ♦ 3/28/21 - Gus and Sharon Liapis
- ♦ 4/4/21 - Chrisoula K. Morris In memory of James W. Morris
- ♦ 4/11/21 - Chris Makaritis
- ♦ 4/28/21 - Anonymous
- ♦ 4/25/21 - Nick and Teddi Xenos

Extra flowers:

- ♦ 3/24/21 - Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation - David and Andrea Casey
- ♦ 4/4/21 - Daffodils for the Feast of the Holy Cross - Nick Demetre, Anna Mullins in memory of her parents Ray and Cleo Mullins
- ♦ 4/24/21 - Lazarus Saturday - Thomas and Angela Retzios

Holy Week Flower donations:

- 4/25/21 - Palms for Palm Sunday - Mark Bliss, Terry Bliss, Matina Waggoner in memory of Betty Spyridoula "Speed" Bliss, Lily Williams, Connie Xarhoulacos
- Rental of 8 palms for Palm Sunday - James and Ruthann Zavakos, Deno and Phyllis Davell In memory of the Davell and Stathes families, Terry Karras and family
- 4/25/21 - Bridegroom Service - Anonymous
- 4/26/21 - Bridegroom Service - Christina Stiakakis
- 4/27/21 - Bridegroom Service - Tina Fote in memory of Mother Cleo Stamas
- 4/29/21 - Flowers for the Icon of the Last Supper - Elias & Kathy Spyrou In memory of parents Apostolos/Angella Spyrou and Themistokle/Helen Stephan
- 4/29/21 -
 - Holy Thursday candelabra flowers - Nick and Michelle Zois & Dr. Fayez & Maria Abboud
 - Wreath for the head - Nick and Michelle Zois
 - Wreath for the feet - Dr. Fayez & Maria Abboud
 - No-drip candles - Bob and Diane Briggs
- 4/30/21 -
 - Flowers for the kouvouklion: Keith & Maria McFarland, Maria Mavrouleas, Taki & Tina Parker, Terry Karras and family, John & Maria Tsalas
 - Priest's Large Pascha Candle - Harry & Linda Bouris
 - Priest's Pussy Willow bouquet - Harry & Linda Bouris
 - Flowers for the Iconostasis - Connie Hodson/Gary & Sharon Cunagin, Maria Mavrouleas
- 5/1/21 -
 - Flowers for the Altar Saturday night - Dessine Friconi in memory of husband Albert Friconi
 - Flowers for the icon of the Resurrection - Dr. John & Evanthia Valassiades
 - Flowers for the Resurrection banner - Dr. Fayez & Maria Abboud
 - Red eggs - Terry Karras & family
- 5/2/21 - Potted lilies for Pascha - John and Mary McDonald; Maria Mavrouleas, Mary Caudell; James and Ruthann Zavakos; Deno & Phyllis Davell in memory of Don Hanel; Mike Mokas In memory of wife Joan Mokas and son Evan Mokas; Bob & Diane Briggs; Terry Karras and family; Lily Williams, Zachary Miller, John & Maria Tsalas



2021 STEWARDSHIP LIST

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the following Stewards who have made their **2021** Stewardship Commitment or contributed to their **2021** Stewardship Commitment as of **April 10, 2021**. We invite you to join with them and support, joyously, the ministries of the Church. You may obtain information and Stewardship Commitment Cards from the Church Office, or you can speak to a Parish Council Member or Fr. Joseph.

Fayez & Maria Abboud
Christina Abboud
Kally Adams
AHEPA Chapter #113
Sandy Alex
Lawrence & Susan Andrews
Paul & Sandy Angelopoulos
George & Harriet Argue
Anthony & Jennifer Argue
Anastasia Sue Bacas
Evan & Stacy Bambakidis
Juanita Bartlett
Michael & Thomai Bessler
Eric & Christa Bishop
Mark & Kristen Bliss
David & Leah Boosalis
Gloria Borod
Wendy Boucuvalas
Harry & Linda Bouris
Lou & Tina Bouris
James & Cynthia Brandenburg
Michael & Violetta Breed
Robert & Diane Briggs
Bessie & Jim Brooks
Kathrine Brown
Stamatis & Karyl Bulugaris
Doyle & Nicole Burke
Nikki Burns & Bob Feldman
Stephan Calondis
Mrs. Maria Caras
David & Andrea Casey
Louis Castleman
Mary Castleman
Mrs. P. Stanley Castleman
Mary Caudell
Dimitri & Kay Chagares
Andreas & Panyiota
Charalambos
Terry & Marthea Christ
Dan & Maria Cleary
Nicki Cochran
George & Salwa
Constandinidis
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Jonathan & Elyse McClish
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Athena Zavakos
James & Ruthann Zavakos
Andrew & Dessine Ziehler
Nick & Michelle Zois
+Athanasia Zois
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Zois
Vasilis Zois
Nikki Zonars
Suzanne Zonars-Hambrick

WITH GRATITUDE...

Greek Mini-Fest Thanks from Maria & Christina!

On behalf of the chairs of the Spring Mini Greek Festival, Maria Powers and Christina Stephens, we would like to THANK all of our cherished volunteers who helped us make this first EVER event a success. The rain was a hurdle and vicious, but we persevered. First thanks goes to our amazing husbands, Todd Powers and Kyle Stephens for tolerating their lovely wives not being home throughout this process and having to be single parents for weeks at a time. David & Andrea Casey: thank you for your guidance, answering all our questions, preparing the walnuts for our delicious pastries and making the “famous Greek Festival salad dressing.” You both are such assets to our community and we are blessed to have you. We appreciate all of the work of Libby Stamas, from ordering and picking up items to cleaning the kitchen. Erin Caldwell for always being flexible and available anytime of the day for us to enter/exit the building. All of our baking ladies and gentlemen for showing up and making the pastries. We also wanted to thank Father Joseph and David Casey for making close to 140lbs of the delicious hummus. Michael Jannides for ordering our onions and slicing pounds and pounds of tomatoes for the gyros. Mark and Cindy Keilholz for your box donations and baking. Jim Haubrock for roughing the rain and handling the outside debacles. Toni Moraites & Jonathon McClish for being so willing to let the people in and out of the building. Carol McDougale for putting up with the numerous incoming phone calls from customers. Alison Cron, for your tireless efforts and keeping things clean. Mysa and Murad Constantinidis, at such a young age you are such hard dedicated workers and we are so thankful. Maria Panagouleas, Susie and Rachid you are so loyal, we truly appreciate how much time you gave us and your extreme organization. Bill and Pete Alimonos for your muscles and hard work. Sophie Shissias, thank you for your knowledge with the Pasta Flora and bringing the recipe to Dayton. To our baking gurus we thank you from the bottom of our hearts: Connie Yorgen, Mary Caudell, Liz Limber, Diane Briggs, Sandy Alex, Drew Selby, Nikki Burns, Mary Haritos, Michelle Zois, Ruthann Zavakos, Debbie Urse, Mary Haritos, Evonna Hurst, Michael Tsocaris, Susan Manos, Catherine Tran, Cron triplets, John Moriates and Phyllis Davell. Chris & Deb Pulos, who came early and set up tents for the grills Special thanks to the outside crew that handled customers in the pouring rain: Persephone Powers, Amanda Haubrock, Elaine Gounaris and Mark, Zoya Bessler, Mina Busch and Tony Tipler. To our grill master extraordinaries, we thank you: Demetri Inempolidis, Bill Breed, Louis Castleman, Tyler Sylvester and Mike Polites. To our inside crew that baked our spanakopita and tiropita: Terry Smith and Bill Mokas, thank you! Without these people we couldn't get the food out: Renee Nicholas, Bernie and Tracey Gearon, Connie Zavakos, Thomai Bessler, Nick Panson, Dr. John & Debbie Urse and Chelsea, Dr. Jim & Leah Derksen, Christopher & Ariana Milanese, Michelle Moraites, Stavros Ververis, Gigi Dimitroula, Catherine Tran Vo, Catherine McNamara and Tony and Awad Halabi. Dena Inempolidis for jumping in where we needed her. Harriet Argue, we realize your commitment, you stood in the rain to help the traffic issues! A Big Thank You! Lastly to our neighbors, Dayton Art Institute and Masonic Temple, we couldn't have done it without your flexibility, we appreciate all you do for us throughout the year. Our first Spring Greek Mini-Fest is in the books!

Parish Council & Father Joseph thank yous!

The Parish Council wants to extend a much-deserved THANK YOU to all who helped make the Greek Spring Mini-Fest on April 10 a success. Gratitude is extended to all who volunteered their time and talents to prepare food, direct traffic, fill orders, and all the other tasks involved in putting on this event. A special thank you goes to our event chairs Maria Powers & Christina Panagouleas-Stephens for their tireless leadership and efforts in bringing all of the details and manpower together. Your time & efforts are evident and much appreciated. Thank you!

- Fr. Joseph & Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council

Many thanks also to the Daughters of Penelope, GOYA, & Maids of Athena who gave of their time and talent to clean the church during April. We truly appreciate your good works!



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Liturgical Calendar

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10am , Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30pm , Vigil Service
2 12pm - Vespers 1pm - Easter Egg Hunt	3 9:30am - Paschal Matins & Liturgy	4	5	6 10am , Zoom Philoctocos Meeting	7	8
9 9:30am , Liturgy - Thomas Sunday	10	11 7:30pm , Zoom Prayer Group	12	13 7pm , Zoom Adult Catechism Class	14	15
16 9:30am , Liturgy - Myrrhbearing Women	17	18 7:30pm , Zoom Prayer Group	19	20 7pm , Zoom Adult Catechism Class	21 9:30am , Liturgy - Constantine & Helen	22
23 9:30am , Liturgy - Paralytic	24	25 7:30pm , Zoom Prayer Group	26	27 7pm , Zoom Adult Catechism Class	28	29
30 9:30am , Liturgy - Samaritan Woman						

At The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church parish, we continue to live out the ancient faith of Orthodox Christianity in a way that is relevant to today. We practice unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials, and charity in all things. We welcome all to come and worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with us as it was done in the first days of Christianity, and has now continued for over 2,000 years in our Lord's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!



The Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church

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