

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
April 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 4

Dear Parish Family,

Our Capital Campaign committee recently met to discuss the repainting of the inside of the Church. There was debate about the best approach to fix plaster. We considered numerous shades of blue. After the eighth or ninth version, it was getting hard to tell the difference.

Then, one member of the group suggested a fairly bright blue. This would be the one to freshen up the church. The sample color highlighted how much the old paint had darkened and cracked over years of exposure. The stark contrast between the fresh look and the older, worn color brought to mind the following text from the Matins of Holy Monday:

“O my Savior, now I see Your wedding hall decorated, and I have not the garment needed for me to enter in. Make this vesture of my soul brightly shine, O Giver-of-Light, and save me.”

Over the course of the year we experience spiritual wear-and-tear. The world hardens our heart and the brightness of our soul discolors. But the process of prayer, fasting, and repentance, and especially the Lenten services, offers us the opportunity to repair the cracks and freshen the paint. If we allow it, the journey through Lent will chip away the shell around our hearts like old plaster. In the end, our souls can be left renewed and brightly shining.

The walls of the church need scaffolding, brushes, rollers, plaster, and paint. Our souls need prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Both can be found at Church in the month of April.

Come see the amazing renovations to our facility, and let the Lord spiritually renovate you!

See you at Church,

Fr. Dean

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

We are wishing you all a blessed Lenten season!

This month we will explore the senses of touch, smell, and taste as they relate to the Divine Liturgy.

Don't forget to bring the following items to the Atrium this month in support of our parishwide Lenten Project, supporting Stewart's Caring Place. We thank you for your contribution!

2 Yr Olds	rice, pasta, quinoa, pasta sauce
Pre-K & Kindergarten	oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, nut or trail mixes
1st/2nd	canned soup, canned vegetables, canned or jarred fruit
3rd - 5th	canned black beans, chickpeas, lentils, or pouches of chicken and tuna
6th - 8th	nut butters, jelly, fruit preserves, popcorn, chips
High School	macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, ramen noodles

SAVE THE DATE! We will be having one **Sunday School** lesson over the summer for all students. This will take place on Sunday, July 21st. More information to follow!

In Christ,

Nicole Papas & Elyse Deckard
Sunday School Co-Directors

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Presiding Priest

Fr. Nick Manuel
Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
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Mary O'Connor

Nick Stavarakis

Gus Tsesselis

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PACKAGING - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Saturday
April 6, 9am

Monthly PACKAGING

Wednesday
April 10, 7:30am

Monthly DISTRIBUTION

Thursday
April 11

TABLE

Tuesday
April 30

Meal PREP AND SERVE
3-6:30pm



Meal PREP AND SERVE
3-6:30pm

Apr 30: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - February 2024

*As always, the minutes in The Voice are edited for length.
Minutes in full are available on the table outside of Fr. Dean's office.*

Members Present:

Fr. Dean Kokanos and Fr. Nicholas Manuel
 Christina Barry Jonathon Bollas Maria Detorakis Penny Dickos Elena Economou-Zwisler
 Bill Farmakidis Karen Horattas Angela Jumbert Christina Manousos John Matheos
 Christopher Morris Mary O'Connor Christine Salem Gus Tsemmelis Denis Van Doros

Absent

Mike Detorakis, Nicholas Stavrakis

Jan. 2024	Actual	Budget	Account Balances:
Income	\$8,300	\$7,100	General Operating: ~\$100,000
Expenses	\$87,000	\$83,000	General Savings: ~\$100,000
Profit/Loss	\$9,400	\$6,900	Payroll: ~\$4,000

Motion to accept the checks by Denis Van Doros, Seconded by Christina Barry, Motion Carries

- **New Business:** None
- **Old Business:** None
- **Stewardship:** 2024 – 237 Pledges - ~\$545,000, Goal of collecting 400 cards by Pascha.
- **Financials:** Van Doros: Trust Fund - \$931,000, Building - \$234,000.
- **Security and Ushering:** Barry: APD Officer inside building during services. Working to determine hours.
- **Hall Committee:** Bollas: Working on revision to contract beginning in 2025.
- **Technology:** Tsemmelis: Looking to upgrade how files are stored and records are kept.
- **Coffee Hour:** Barry/O'Connor/ Van Doros: Mary and Kitsa F. are baking homemade items for coffee hour.
- **Youth:** Thanks for helping with the tournament. Ministries proceeding as planned.
- **Good of Community:** Many congratulatory remarks for Campaign kickoff.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
 9am - 12pm
 AUGUST 5TH-9TH

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

- Register for Vacation Church School
- Grades K-6 welcome! (ages 5-12)
- Kids 13 and up are welcome to register to be helpers!

FEE REGISTRATION \$10
 REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.ANNUCIATIONAKRON.ORG
 129 SOUTH UNION STREET, AKRON, OH 44304

Our Church
 Our Home
 Our Future

2024-26 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLEDGE

TURN IN YOUR
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLEDGE.

Forms are available online
 or in the church office.

GOOD SAMARITANS

Packing and Distribution needs
 your clean plastic grocery bags.
PLEASE drop them off at church.

PASCHA CARD

The Annunciation Choir is preparing the church Pascha card.

Please turn in \$15 a line to add your family name.

All info is due by Sunday, April 21.

See Choir members during coffee hour to reserve your lines.

Make checks to AGOC Choir.



YOUTH

April 12- 5pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

April 21 - 4:30-6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Farmakidis home

2024 GRADUATES

Attention Graduates (and families)!

Our annual Annunciation/AHEPA Graduates Dinner will be taking place this year on Sunday, June 2 after church at 11 a.m. in the church hall. We will be recognizing our parish graduates from high school, college, and graduate school as well as awarding scholarships from our church, AHEPA, and a number of family scholarships.

Graduation Information Forms for the event program are available on the church website www.annunciationakron.org and need to be submitted by April 26 (hard deadline) to be included in the program. Information on scholarships is also available on the website as well as in the church atrium.

Tickets for the event will be available after church during coffee hour on April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19, and May 26.

Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins and on the church OneCalls.



GOOD SAMARITANS OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our Good Samaritans Outreach Ministry holds four outreach events per month. The first event is a drive-thru or walk-up style food pantry on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Clients are provided a standard box of shelf stable goods as well as frozen meats, fresh produce, hygiene items, and more.

The second event is a sit-down hot meal on the second Thursday of each month. Clients enjoy our hospitality, and can even get meals to go.

The 3rd event is a sit-down hot meal and choice-based food pantry on the last Tuesday of each month. Clients come to enjoy our hospitality, get groceries, and can even get meals to-go. This event also hosts a small clothing pantry with seasonally appropriate items for children and adults.

In 2022 we hosted our inaugural night before Thanksgiving event. In 2023, on the day before Thanksgiving, over 1,000 Thanksgiving meals were given out to our brothers and sisters in need. 262 pans of fully cooked, ready-to-heat meals for four were all handed out in just 45 minutes!

In addition to feeding the needy, our newest offering, "Loads of Love" helps our low-income neighbors maintain the dignity that comes with having clean clothing. This is on the second Monday of the Month in Akron's west side.

2023 Statistics

- Number of pantry visits: 2,143 visits
- Number of prepared meals served: 2,798 meals
- Pounds of food distributed: 77,911 lbs
- Over 1,000 loads of laundry done.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and treasure. You are feeding God's sheep!

Questions?

Email: goodsamaritans@annunciationakron.org

Want to volunteer? Sign up here: <https://www.annunciationakron.org/volunteer-opportunities>

LOADS OF LOVE: A Laundry Love Ministry

Second Monday
of Every Month at 5-7 pm

2024
April 8

We will help pay for washing, drying, and detergent.

LIMITED:

Two Washers per person / Four Washers per family.

LOCATION:

1713 W. Exchange St.,
Akron



APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5:30pm Great Compline 7pm Men's BBall	11am Rotary Club 12pm Book Club 8pm HUMS Book study - ZOOM	8am Gyro Prep 5:30pm Presanctified Liturgy + Pot Luck Dinner 630pm Choir Rehearsal	1am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 7pm OCF	9am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos	9am Good Samaritan Packing 430pm Great Vespers 4:30pm YAL- St. Kyranna's Cooking Class @ Annunciation Akron
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Holy Cross 11:15am Adult Ed. 12:45pm Myrrh bearing girls practice 5pm Sunday Vespers St. Elias	5pm Loads of Love 5:30pm Great Compline 7pm Men's BBall	9am QUILTING 11am Rotary Club 12pm Book Club 530pm Parish Council	730am Good Samaritans 8am Gyro Prep 5:30pm Presanctified Liturgy + Pot Luck Dinner 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 7pm OCF Book Study 3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE	9am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 5-6:30pm JOY Night 6:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos YAL Spring Retreat - Camp Naz	10am Philoptochos Board Meeting 430pm Great Vespers
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. 5pm Sunday Vespers St. Thomas YAL Retreat	9am - Gym Better Together 5:30pm Great Compline 6:30pm COCA Mtg @Archangel Michael 7pm Men's BBall	11am Rotary Club 12pm Book Club	8am Gyro Prep 5:30pm Presanctified Liturgy + Pot Luck Dinner 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 7pm OCF Book Study 7pm Philoptochos Mtg	9am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:30pm Akathist Hymn	GOYA Weekend of Service 430pm YAL Vespers, Pot Luck, and Social - Atrium Annunciation
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat 5pm Sunday Vespers St. Nicholas	5:30pm Great Compline 7pm Men's BBall	11am Rotary Club 12pm Book Club	8am Gyro Prep 5:30pm Presanctified Liturgy + Pot Luck Dinner 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9am Canon of St. Andrew 11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 7pm OCF Book Study	9am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6pm GOYA Lenten Retreat	830am Saturday of Lazarus 430pm Great Vespers 5:30pm Movie & Potluck
28	29	30 PAPA GYRO DAY	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. 5:30pm Bridegroom Matins	No Men's BBall 630pm Bridegroom Matins	11am Rotary Club 12pm Book Club 3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE 7pm Bridegroom Matins	9am Presanctified Liturgy 4pm Holy Unction 6:30pm Matins of Holy Thursday	9am Vesperal Liturgy 6:30pm Service of the Holy Passion	9am Royal Hours 3pm Vespers of Unnailing 6:30pm Matins of Holy Saturday - Service of Lamentations	Noon - GS Packing 9am Vesperal Liturgy 11pm PASCHA Matins Midnight Come Receive the Light
HOLY WEEK SERVICES						

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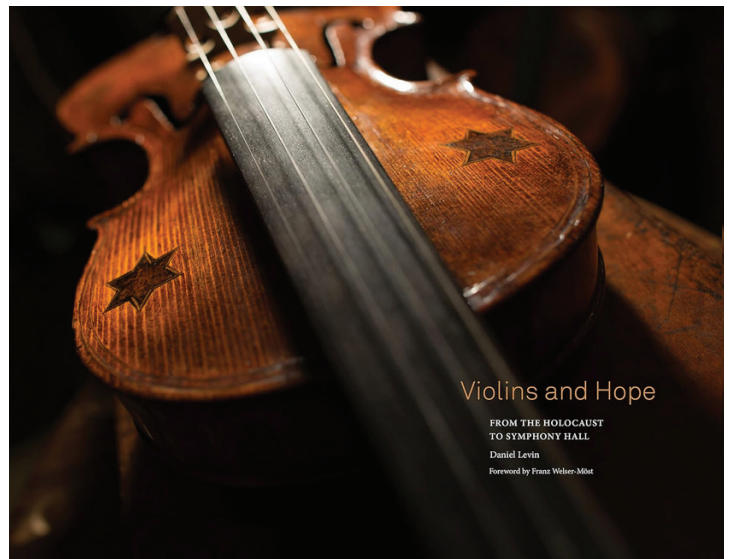
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Violins and Hope

FROM THE HOLOCAUST
TO SYMPHONY HALL
Daniel Levin
Foreword by Franz Weber-Mat

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING WITH
AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER DANIEL LEVIN
& OUR ANNUAL DESSERT DASH

APRIL

THURSDAY

18

AT 7 PM

2024

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 129 S. UNION ST., AKRON, OH 330.434.0000

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN PRESENTS

ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

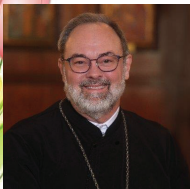
SATURDAY APRIL 20TH

9:30AM – 3PM

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FR. BARNABAS POWELL
AUTHOR AND SPEAKER

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Fr. Barnabas Powell was born and raised in Atlanta, GA. His journey to Orthodoxy came as a result of many years searching for a “lifestyle” that would be truly Christian. After years in Evangelical Protestant ministry and serving in Christian media, both radio and television, he launched Faith Encouraged Ministries to use what he learned in sharing faith through media for the Orthodox Faith. Fr. Barnabas is an author, pastor, podcaster, and teacher committed to offering a credible witness of the timeless Orthodox faith for this culture.

\$20 TICKETS INCLUDE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST,
MORNING SESSION, LENTEN LUNCH, AND AFTERNOON
SESSION

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OCW AND REMIT TO:
SUSAN EVANOFF

404 19TH STREET NE, MASSILLON, OHIO 44646
RSVP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
SANDY GRAHAM 330-988-8107 OR NANCY STUDEBAKER
330-655-9638

Golden GREEKS

**SAVE THE DATE:
MONDAY, MAY 13, NOON**

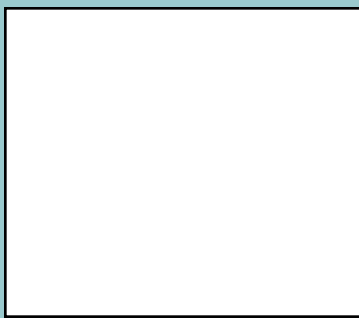
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FOR LUNCH ... and ...
a SPEAKER from the
Akron Fire Department.**



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14-0901

AXIOS

It's April! Time for flowers, showers, springtime activities...and time to start thinking about summer camp for the kids.

Our Metropolis is fortunate to have a wonderful summer camp program at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, Pennsylvania. The Metropolis summer camp program was started in the 1960s, and our Annunciation parish has been involved from the beginning, sending parish kids between the ages of 8-18 to spend a week at camp with other Greek Orthodox kids from all over Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Many of the adults in our parish have great memories of their time at camp.

What many parishioners may not know is that our beloved late Father George Bartz, his Presvytera Zafera, and many members of the extended Bartz family have played a huge role in making sure our parish's young people have the opportunity to attend Metropolis Summer Camp.

In the late 1960's Father Bartz and a team led by Ted Theodore led a crusade to get our kids to camp, and it proved to be very successful.

After Father Bartz' passing in 2008, his family decided to honor his memory and his dedication to summer camp

with the establishment of the Father George and Presvytera Zafera Bartz Camp Scholarship Fund. With the goal of covering 50% of the cost [the other 50% provided by an anonymous donor] for every young person from our parish who wants to go to camp, members of the extended Bartz family have worked tirelessly through the years with fundraising campaigns, events, and generous donations from parishioners to ensure every young person in our parish has the opportunity to go to camp and build their faith as well as build lifelong friendships from all over the Metropolis. Through their work, we can proudly say that every young person from our parish who wanted to go to camp was given that opportunity.



To the extended Bartz family, we say **"AXIOS"!**



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