

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
May 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 5

Dear Parish Family,
Holy Week was exhausting. It challenged us spiritually, physically, and mentally. Our schedule of services was intense, not to mention our usual schedule of operations and ministries. Yet, as our church family gathered in the darkness of midnight on Pascha, we experienced a renewed energy.



Although we were spent, we united our voices to proclaim to all the world that Christ is Risen! As we took our lit candles home on Pascha, we literally shined the unwaning Light of Christ throughout Akron.

The preparation during Great Lent and the initial celebration of Pascha is behind us. And so there is a temptation to slow down our life in Christ. But, the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection continues through the Feast of the Ascension, and our ministries continue without pause or slow down through the summer.

We are all invited to fill our calendar with the ministries, educational opportunities, and events in the pages to follow. This summer, make it a priority to Come to Church, and bring a friend!

See you at Church, *FRDK*
Fr. Dean

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

Kali Anastasi! We pray this Lenten season has been a meaningful one for you. Thank you for all your support in making our Lenten Project benefiting **Stewart's Caring Place** so successful!

We will not be having class on Pascha, May 5th.

May 19th will be the last day of our traditional Sunday School year. We hope that through our special curriculum this year the students (and parents!) have developed a better understanding of the Divine Liturgy.

Our learning will continue this summer with one special lesson on Sunday, July 21st. We welcome all Sunday School students to join us to learn about various saints whose feast days we celebrate during the summer. We will also enjoy snow cones from the Kona Ice Truck on this day!

SAVE THE DATE!

We will begin the **2024-2025 Sunday School** year on Sunday, September 8th.

In Christ,

Nicole Papas & Elyse Deckard
Sunday School Co-Directors

DIRECTORY

Fr. Dean Kokanos
Presiding Priest

Fr. Nick Manuel
Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

Paula Chotlos
Office Manager

Chad Hay
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OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PACKAGING - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Saturday
May 4, 11am

Monthly PACKAGING

Wednesday
May 8, 7:30am

Monthly DISTRIBUTION

Thursday
May 9

Meal PREP AND SERVE
3-6:30pm

TABLE



Tuesday
May 28

Meal PREP AND SERVE
3-6:30pm

May 28: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - March 12, 2024

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

Present: FRDK, FRNM, Barry, M. Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Dickos, Farmakidis, Horattas Jumbert, Manousos, Matheos, Morris, O'Connor, Salem, Stavrakis, Tsemelis, Economou-Zwisler.

Absent: Bollas, Van Doros

Priest Report: FRDK Thank you for being here. Lent begins a week from yesterday. Church 5 days a week not including Sunday. Please prioritize services.

President Report: Bathroom renovation begins tomorrow (3/13/2024). The stained-glass windows in the chapel are installed. Need to make sure that people are not entering the church when the priest is on the solea. Need to make sure that handicap markers are placed outside. Make sure that the doors are being locked after Communion.

Treasurer Report
 Penny Dickos

	Jan. 2024 Actual	Budget
Income	\$143,200	\$158,200
Expenses	\$157,500	\$149,100
Profit/Loss	\$(14,300)	\$9,100
Account Balances:		
General Operating:		\$116,000
General Savings:		\$75,000
Payroll:		\$5,000

Motion to accept the checks by Mary O'Connor, Seconded by Maria Detorakis.

Old Business: Mary O'Connor: Please sign up to help at 3/24 Luncheon.

New Business: Gus Tsemelis motion to approve \$1,000 to upgrade, replace, configure internet appliance. Second: Horattas. Carried.

Stewardship: 2024 – 256 Pledges: ~\$608,000

Financials, Van Doros Trust Fund – \$955,000, Building - \$159,000. Updating to Quickbooks. Reviewing credit cards.

Security and Ushering: Barry: Medicine collection at Senior Luncheon on May 13. Discussing officer times and drills.

Building and Grounds: Slate on original roof repaired. Stucco roof in the works.

Social Media/Communications: Maria Detorakis/Susan Papas: Followers Facebook 2,100, Instagram 422, YouTube 378.

Technology: Working to close down tithe.ly.

Coffee Hour: Barry/O'Connor/ Van Doros: Mary and Kitsa F. continue to work on healthy alternatives and Lenten treats.

Personnel: Matheos: Everything is "fine and dandy." Maggie Johnson is doing great as our new PT Custodian.

Youth: All proceeding according to plan.

Outreach: The last hot meal had a record number served (190 meals) and record volunteers. The first place people go is the pantry then they get a meal. Thursday is the next hot meal. Loads of Love went well. Mitzva Day: Interfaith day of service June 1st and 2nd. Sponsoring one location for Loads of Love on W. Exchange. Working with "Asia in Action" cleaning up their building and painting. Will be an online link for sign-up.

**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.

All are invited to join us in exploring the development of an **Orthodox School for Akron** with an informational presentation by Jesse Cone, Head of the Pittsburgh branch of the Saint Constantine School.

Sunday, May 19th at 3:00pm

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 129 S. Union St., Akron, OH

Saint Constantine Schools provide classical, Christian education so that students will grow in wisdom, virtue, and joy.

For further information -

Contact Fr. Dean - (330)434-0000 or Mark Horattas (330)592-5921



YOUTH

May 10 - 6pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

May 19 - 4:30-6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the McAninch home

2024 GRADUATES

Attention Graduates (and families)!

Our annual Annunciation/AHEPA Graduates Dinner is taking place this year on Sunday, June 9 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.

Scholarship information is available on the church website as well as in the church atrium.

Tickets for the Graduates Dinner will be available after church during coffee hour on May 5, May 12, May 19, and May 26. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

Sponsorships for the Graduates Dinner are available at several sponsorship levels and are available where tickets are sold. Sponsorships help support the cost of graduates' dinners and graduate gifts.

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

LOADS OF LOVE: A Laundry Love Ministry

Second Monday
of Every Month at 5-7 pm

2024
May 13

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

LIMITED:

Two Washers per person/
Four Washers per family.

LOCATION:

1713 W. Exchange St.,
Akron



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Lou & Margaret Konstan	
Ren & Nicolette Koozer	

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			9am Presanctified Liturgy 4pm Holy Unction 6:30pm Matins of Holy Thursday	No Gyro Lunch 9am Vespereal Liturgy 6:30pm Service of the Holy Passion	9am Royal Hours 3pm Vespers of Unnailing 6:30pm Matins of Holy Saturday - Service of Lamentations	11am Good Samaritan Packing 9am Vespereal Liturgy 11pm PASCHA Matins Midnight - Come Receive the Light
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11am AGAPE Vespers Easter Egg Hunt	7pm Men's BBall	11am Rotary Club 8pm HUMS Book Club	730am Good Samaritans 8am Gyro Prep 5-7pm YAL Bright Week Social. Kiwanis Pavilion Elmwood Park 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE	820am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of the Life Giving Fountain 12pm Philoptochos General Mtg 5-6:30pm JOY Night	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed.	Noon Golden Greeks Lunch 5pm Loads of Love 7pm Men's BBall	9am QUILTING 11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon		4pm 10th Annual Metropolis St. Photios Awards Banquet Mars, PA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 30 yr Memorial Frances Sapharas 40 day Memorial Nikki Bober 11:45AM HUMS Trauma Prevention 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat	9am Festival Baking ▶ 6:30pm COCA Annunciation 7pm Men's BBall	830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of Ss Constantine and Helen 10:30am Festival Baking ▶ 11am Rotary Club	8am Gyro Prep 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon		10am Philoptochos Board Meeting
26	27	28	29	30	31	
820am Matins 930am Liturgy	No Men's BBall	28 PAPA GYRO DAY 9am QUILTING 11am Rotary Club 3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE	8am Gyro Prep 820am Matins 930am Liturgy Mid Pentecost 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon		



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- ✓ Medicine Takeback
- ✓ Receive a Senior Safe Booklet
- ✓ Learn about scams, living alone, falls, and safety measures

MONDAY, MAY 13, NOON

- Lunch will be included
- Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- RSVP by May 7

BRING YOUR OLD UNUSED MEDS



The Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society, Akron Chapter, continues to move forward into 2024 with a desire to increase awareness of and membership in HUMS.

As we move through the Lenten Season toward the glorious Resurrection, we understand even more deeply the importance of a supportive community. We are just completing a book study led by Dr. Alexandros Nicolozakes on Suffering and the Nature of Healing which has created a forum for a rich dialogue among the attendees about the work we do daily in the face of human suffering.

Be on the lookout for other book studies in the future.

Please stop by and check us out at any/all of the 2024 activities:

- July 27 (Saturday)
Divine Liturgy for St. Panteleimon
- August 18 (Sunday)
Dr. John Bober and Dr. Georgette Constantinou speaking on issues of youth mental health
- October 13 (Sunday)
Blessing of the Hands after Divine Liturgy
- November 2 (Saturday)
Annual Retreat and general membership meeting with elections

Have a glorious Pascha!

AXIOS

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the Sunday liturgy on March 24 with Metropolitan Savas witnessed how our Church uses the word "AXIOS" when eight young men who serve in the altar (acolytes) were tonsured by the Metropolitan following the liturgy.

As each of the acolytes stepped forward on the solea, the Metropolitan cut the acolytes hair in a cruciform (just like at baptism) and said "The Servant of God (insert name) is tonsured in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" and then proclaimed the acolyte to be AXIOS, or worthy. The entire congregation then loudly responded "AXIOS" as each of the acolytes were tonsured.

The Church teaches that a change of being occurs following tonsure, and from that moment forward, the acolyte is known as a Reader; so when acolyte Alexios, for example, receives communion he is addressed as "Alexios the Reader" at the chalice instead of "the Servant of God Alexios".



The tonsure of a Reader is the first (lowest) order of our Church hierarchy, with the ascending orders being Ordination to the Deaconate, to the Priesthood, and to the Bishop's office. Each of these ordinations is also concluded with the AXIOS response.

Historically, a Reader of the church was, you guessed it, a reader! They were known to read psalms and other liturgical texts within the life and rhythm of the liturgical life of the Church.

We'll conclude with again saying "AXIOS" to the following acolytes who were tonsured that day: Alexios Avouris, Athanasios Farmakidis, Jeremy Griffin, Peter Kokanos, Alexander Parianos, James Plevris, Alex Tsesmelis, and Dean Williams.

[Many thanks to Father Nick for providing the background information that made this story possible.]

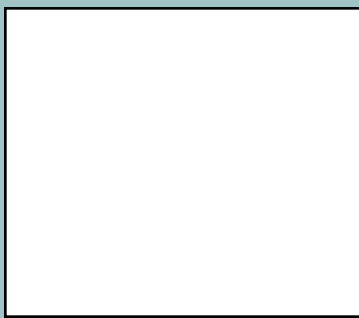




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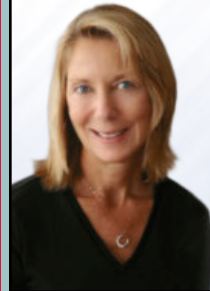
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