

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
March 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 3

Dear Parish Family,

The month of March ushers in Great and Holy Lent. This season of the Church year is marked by additional services that invite us to consider the condition of our souls and turn closer to God.

During these 40 days, we have the opportunity to prioritize worshipping the Lord at Church as many as five times a week. However, many of us lead busy lives and may not be able to do this. But it's Lent. We are supposed to try to do more. So, where do we begin?

Hopefully, we can all Come to Church for Liturgy on Sunday. But the splendor of that service stays largely the same throughout Lent. However, from February 25, even before Lent begins, the service of Matins contains hymns that highlight the themes of prayer, fasting, and repentance.

During these 40 days, we have many chances to prioritize coming to Church a little more often. But, if nothing else, arriving before liturgy begins on Sundays allows us to experience magnificently sung texts that will energize us throughout this spiritual race.

Lent is a time to increase the intensity of our spiritual lives. Come to Church as often as you can. But, at the very least, set the alarm backward an hour for 40 days and Come to Church for Matins!

See you at Church

Fr. Dean

From the Service of Matins, February 25th:

"Brethren, let us not offer prayer as did the Pharisee, for he who exalts himself will be brought to humility. Let us humble ourselves in the presence of God, as did the Publican, and through fasting cry to Him, 'God, be merciful to us sinners.'"

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

This month begins Great Lent, and we will celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy on March 24th. Please have your child bring an icon to carry in our annual procession.

This year we are supporting Stewart's Caring Place: Cancer Wellness Center in Fairlawn for our Lenten Project. This is a parish-wide project that will begin on March 18th and run through Pascha on May 5th. Please bring the following non-perishable items to the Atrium anytime during Lent.

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

Thank you so much for your support!

Nicole Papas & Elyse Deckard
Sunday School Co-Directors

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Presiding Priest

Fr. Nick Manuel
Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

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Akron, OH 44304
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OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PACKAGING - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Saturday
March 9, noon

Monthly PACKAGING

Wednesday
March 13, 7:30am

Monthly DISTRIBUTION

Thursday
March 14

Meal PREP
3-7pm

Tuesday
March 26

Meal DISTRIBUTION
5-6:30pm

Mar 26: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 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	Mike Detorakis
Penny Dickos	Elena Economou-Zwisler	Bill Farmakidis	Karen Horattas
Angela Jumbert	Christina Manousos	John Matheos	Christopher Morris
Mary O'Connor	Christine Salem	Nicholas Stavrakis	Gus Tsemmelis
Denis Van Doros	Maria Williams		

1.) **Priest Report:** Fr. Dean - Thank you for being here. Ministries are proceeding as scheduled. Attendance of Parish Council members at events and meetings is very important.

2.) **President Report:** Welcome. Icebreaker.

3.) **Treasurer Report:**

<u>January 2024</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Account Balances</u>	
Income	\$815,900	\$835,700	General Operating	\$100,000
Expenses	\$822,900	\$835,700	General Savings	\$100,000
Profit/Loss	(\$7,000)	(\$0)	Payroll	\$4,000

Motion to Accept: Denis Van Doros, Seconded by Maria Detorakis, Motion Caries

4.) **New Business:** Economou-Zwisler: Vasilopita Dance: PC Members encouraged to attend and volunteer.

5.) **Capital Improvement Project:** Bids being collected. Feb 11 General Assembly. Please attend and support.

6.) **Stewardship:** 2024 – 171 Pledges: ~\$490,000, Average: \$2,865, 2nd Stewardship mailing end of month. Goal of collecting 400 cards by Pascha.

6.) **Financial:** Trust Fund - \$927,000, Building - \$166,000

7.) **Security and Ushering:** ALICE Training on February 4.

8.) **Hall:** Bollas Last Check for 2024 should be dropped off Jan 15. Current Tangiers contract ends 2/2/25.

9.) **Technology:** Tsemmelis. Tithe.ly still has 20 users. Working to upgrade quickbooks.

10.) **Coffee Hour:** Barry/O'Connor/ Van Doros: Ushering teams should help clean up. Parishioners need to help clean up.

11.) **Youth:** Tournament upcoming. Please sign up to help.

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.ANNUNCIATIONAKRON.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.

THE SAINT PHOTIOS AWARD - time for nominations

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh each year asks the parishes throughout the Metropolis to name one or two parishioners to be honored with the prestigious Saint Photios Award.

The award honors “the unsung heroes of the parish” for their dedicated stewardship, those faithful parishioners who have served the community in so many unsung ways without seeking recognition or glory.



We encourage all our parishioners here at the Annunciation to nominate a worthy fellow parishioner for the 2024 Saint Photios Award. Our parish recipients will be honored at the 10th annual Metropolis Saint Photios Award banquet in Pittsburgh on May 18th.

Nomination forms are available in the church office during the week as well as at the candle stand in the Narthex on Sundays. There is also a link to the nomination form in the weekly parish e-mail.

All nominations must be turned in to the church office by March 17th!

Past Annunciation Saint Photios Award Winners

2014- Pam Kessler and Manny Lampos

2015- Joyce Lagios and John Karnoupakis

2016- Katherine Stiliaras and Larry Poulos

2017- Thelma Paleudis and Miriam (Butch) Farmakidis

2018- Debbie Lucas and Bess Morris

2019- Diamond Marcum and Jim Bartz

2020- John Tsoras and Dell Marie Tsoras

2021 and 2022- no awards

2023- Nikki Bober and Denis VanDoros

2024- ??



The Surgeon General of the United States has found that there is an epidemic of loneliness in the United States. The causes are multifactorial. The rise of digital communication and media – we text and email, instead of calling, writing letters by hand and gathering in one another’s homes. Demanding jobs and employers trying to squeeze the last bit of productivity from us, as well as our over-packed schedules that leave us drained, without the margin in our lives to invest in one another. The pandemic added to physical isolation and a change in habits that has created additional layers of physical and psychological distance between one another.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 10:24 & 25, “24 and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” This is part of what Fr. Dean frequently reminds us, by saying ‘come to church.’ We need one another to worship together, to fellowship and encourage one another, and to serve together.

And for anyone in the health professions, this is what our HUMS (Holy Unmercenary Medical Society) is all about. We meet periodically for fellowship and to support one another sharing not only our common profession of healing, but our common faith as well. We have opportunities to hear speakers from among our fellow parishioners and from outside, to not only learn health related information, but to hear how that person brings their faith to their work every day. We have health-related spiritual book studies to help us grow. And there are opportunities to serve, through educating our community and through such things as blood pressure reading checks during our food ministries to the poor.

If you are involved in a healing profession (physician, nurse, pharmacist, mental health professional, rehab therapist or medical social worker), please join our group and take advantage of the support that you can both receive, and provide to fellow Christian healers.

Dcn Mark Studebaker M.D.

LOADS OF LOVE: A Laundry Love Ministry

Second Monday
of Every Month at 5-7 pm

2024
March 11

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

LIMITED:

Two Washers per person / Four Washers per family.

LOCATION:

1713 W. Exchange St., Akron



MONDAY
MARCH 11
NOON

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 20px; border: 2px solid black; text-align: center;"> <p>March 17 GOYA Fireside Chat at the Melik home 4:30-6:30pm</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #1a4a8e; padding: 20px; border: 2px solid black; text-align: center;"> <p>March 8 JOY Night at Annunciation Church 6pm</p> </div> </div>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed.	7pm Men's BBall	11am Rotary Club 6pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 8pm HUMS Book study - ZOOM	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 7pm OCF	6pm JOY Night	<div style="background-color: #add8e6; padding: 5px;">9am Good Samaritan Packing</div> 500pm YAL- St. Kyranna's Cooking Class @ Ss C&H Cleveland
					GOYA Spring Retreat - Camp Naz	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed.	Noon GOLDEN GREEKS Senior Meeting 5pm Loads of Love 7pm Men's BBall	9am Philoptochos Baking Tsourekia 11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council	<div style="background-color: #add8e6; padding: 5px;">730am Good Samaritans</div> 8am Gyro Prep Noon - Make Baklava Syrup 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 11am OCF Library		830am Matins 930am Liturgy Saturday of the Souls 430pm YAL Vespers and Social - Atrium Annunciation
Spring Retreat				3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat	<div style="background-color: #90ee90; padding: 5px;">CLEAN MONDAY</div> 9am Philoptochos Finikia 5:30pm Great Compline 6:30pm COCA Mtg @St. Thomas 7pm Men's BBall	9am Quilting 5:30pm Compline 6pm Men's Club	8am Gyro Prep 5:30pm Presanctified Liturgy + Pot Luck Dinner 6pm Philoptochos Mtg 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 5:30pm Compline 7pm OCF	9am Baking Baklava 6:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos	830am Saturday of the Souls 430pm Great Vespers
24 Metro Savas Presiding	25 Metro Savas Presiding	26	27	28	29	30
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Independence Day - Feast Day Luncheon 11:15am Adult Ed. 5pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers	<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px;">NO Men's BBall</div> 830am Matins 930am Liturgy Annunciation Noon Philoptochos Workshop 5:30pm Great Compline	<div style="background-color: #1a4a8e; padding: 5px;">PAPA GYRO DAY</div> 11am Rotary Club <div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px;">3pm prep Good Samaritans TABLE</div>	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon	6:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos	Hope & JOY mini Retreat @ Ss C&H Cleveland 430pm Great Vespers
			Philoptochos Bake Sale			
31						
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 5pm Vespers @Pres of the Lord						

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
 MARCH 24, 2024
 Vespers 5pm

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
 129 S. Union St., Akron, OH 443304

Sponsored by:
The Orthodox Clergy Association
Christian Orthodox Council of Akron
Orthodox Christian Women

For donations in support of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, please fill out the following and return to our Parish office or see Lou Poplos by Friday, March 15, to have your name included in the program booklet.

NAME _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

Benefactor \$100 Supporter \$50 Patron \$25 Sponsor \$10

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DATE/TIME FOR PICK UP _____

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PAXIMADIA	\$6.00 doz.		
BAKLAVA	\$2.00 ea.		
GALAKTOBOUREKO	\$2.00 ea.		
KOURAMBIETHES	\$1.50 ea.		
FINIKIA	\$1.50 ea.		
EASTER BREAD	\$12.00 ea.		
MIXED SAMPLER	\$8.00 ea.		
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GALAKTOBOUREKO - FROZEN	\$20.00 doz.		
	TOTAL		



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(Mail your order form, and check
 by Wednesday, March 20.)

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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 SPIRITUAL MATURITY"**

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,
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 SESSION

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

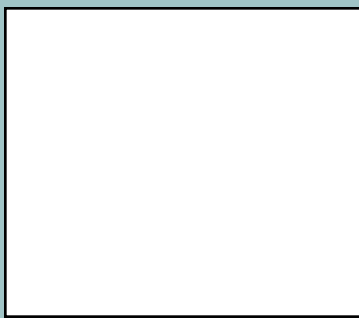
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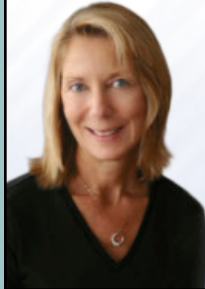
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AXIOS



Many of us know this gentleman as the person who oversees the amazing group of Parish volunteers who work so hard week in and week out to make the Thursday Gyro Lunch the great success that it is.

But that's not the only parish activity that Dr. John

Karnoupakis has been involved with. Prior to his twenty-five years of managing the Gyros Lunch, Dr. John (as many of us fondly call him) chaired our annual Graduates and Scholarship Dinner for thirty-one years, co-chaired our Annunciation Festival in 2000, served on Parish Council for two years, volunteered with the Good Samaritans food distribution program for fifteen years, and even found time to sing in our church choir for twenty-three years.

Dr. John, who served our country in the Navy during the Vietnam War, practiced solo family medicine for over thirty years. He and his wife Tommie have a son Evan and three sweet grandchildren and they will be celebrating sixty years of marriage on June 7 this year.

In addition to his volunteer work, Dr. John has been a faithful steward of our Annunciation Church for nearly sixty years, a member of our local AHEPA, and a member of our parish Men's Club.

Dr. John's quiet dedication to our parish was recognized and awarded in 2015 when he became one of our first parishioners to be honored by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh with the Saint Photios Award.

When asked to share a few words with our parish, he said "the Annunciation Church and our Gyro crew are like a second family. It is a family that cares for each other's well-being and the well-being of their common home (our Church). You can see this expression of love and caring every week, especially on Sundays. God Bless."

We all join in saying thank you, Dr. John, for your love and dedication to our Annunciation.

AXIOS!



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