



THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
January 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 1

Dear Parish Family,

By the time you receive this letter, I will have broken my New Year's resolution to become a Cleveland Browns fan. I gave it a shot. I really did. But the allure of the black and gold was more appealing.

This month I'm guessing many of us will be making New Year's resolutions. We will look back at 2024 and consider things we could have done better. Will we resolve to find a better job? Will we resolve to finally beat an addiction? Maybe we will resolve to make realistic resolutions. Whatever the goal, changes are best accomplished little by little.

And the same goes for our life in Christ. Maybe this is the year that we will resolve to fast for the first time, maybe just once a week. Or perhaps this is the year we will start arriving for Liturgy by 9:30. Or maybe by 9:45! For others it might be the year we join a new ministry, or expand our role in another.

Whatever the case, the new calendar year is a great time to reevaluate our life in Christ, and deepen our involvement. Let's all flip through the pages that follow, consider the opportunities, and resolve to Come to Church!

Fr. Dean *FRED*

LOADS OF LOVE: A LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

Second Monday of Every Month
from 5-6:30 pm



2025
JANUARY 13 FEBRUARY 10

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

LIMITED:

Two Washers per person/
Four Washers per family.

LOCATION:

1713 W. Exchange Street
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Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

Paula Chotlos
Office Manager

Chad Hay
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Steve Hadgis
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THE ANNUNCIATION
129 S. Union Street
Akron, OH 44304
330-434-0000

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Karen Horattas

Christina Manousos

Mary O'Connor

Diane Popovich

Nick Stavarakis

Maria Williams

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
January 7, 5pm

**Monthly
PREP**

Wednesday
January 8, 7:30am

**Monthly
DISTRIBUTION**

Thursday
January 16

**Meal PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm

TABLE



Tuesday
January 28

**Meal PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm

January 28: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - November 2024

Present: Maria Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Penny Dickos, Elena Economou-Zwisler, Bill Farmakidis, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, Fr. Nick Manuel, Christopher Morris, Mary O'Connor, Christine Salem, Gus Tsesmelis, Denis Van Doros, and Maria Williams

Absent: Jon Bollas, Karen Horattas, Angela Jumbert, John Matheos, and Nicholas Stavrakis

Priest's Report: Fr. Dean Kokanos Thank you for being here. Thank you for prioritizing Good Samaritans packing. Plan to attend General Assembly and Adult Education.

President's Report: Christine Salem: General Assembly on Sunday for Parish Council Elections

Treasurer's Report

	Nov. 2024 Actual	Budget	Account Balances	
Income	\$709,000	\$686,000	General Operating	\$60,000
Expenses	\$731,000	\$706,000	General Savings	\$63,000
Profit/Loss	\$(22,000)	\$(20,000)	Payroll	\$5,000

Old Business: None

New Business - Fr. Dean Kokanos Swearing in of Maria Williams

Christine Salem - Capital Improvement Project Updates; \$10,000 in the last week contributed to the campaign since the General Assembly; Received a card from Larry Foreman and his family as a thank you; Thank you to Denis for all of his work with Ushering

Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler:

Collected: ~\$603,000; Pledges: ~\$699,000; 354 pledges; 2025 Pledges: ~\$221,000

Financial- Denis Van Doros, Penny Dickos: Trust Fund- \$823,000; Building Fund- \$117,000

Building and Grounds - Michael Detorakis, Christine Salem: HVAC Control system is complete, bugs are being worked out

Security/Ushering - Elena Economou-Zwisler, Denis Van Doros: Church was asked to sponsor a 2-hour session for a self-defense class. Working to get this set-up for January 12th. Need to know how many people from the parish would like to attend. Cost would be \$75 a person.

Social Media/Communications - Maria Detorakis/Susan Papas [liaison] : No Report

Internet Security/IT Security/Technology - Nick Stavrakis/Gus Tsesmelis: No Report

Coffee Hour - Denis Van Doros, Mary O'Connor: Need people to make sure they are cleaning up afterwards.

Church Directory - Angela Jumbert/ Elena Economou-Zwisler: Directory desperately needs updated. Will have instructions for people on how to update their information at the Vasilopita Dance Table.

Personnel - John Matheos - No Report

Schools - Christina Manousos: Everything is running splendidly. Thank you to Dn. Mark for his current teaching for adult Sunday School

Youth - Fr. Nick, Christina Manousos: Going well. New advisors are being trained by the current ones.

Outreach and Ministries - Mary O'Connor, John Matheos, Karen Horattas: November 26th there is the Thanksgiving Meal To-Go and a hot meal for Dine-In. December 12th is the soup meal. ~\$5,400 raised through the mission walk. Thank you to Mary O'Connor for organizing it.

Good of the Community: Christine Salem, Denis Van Doros - Thanks to Karen for Dinner and Maria for dessert. Thank you to Christine Salem for getting us out early today.



Benediction and Adjournment: Fr. Dean

ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ

Third Annual
VasilOPA–pita Dance
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025
6 to 11 p.m.

Annunciation Akron, 129 S. Union St.
Live music by the George Karras Band

Cash Bar and Heavy Appetizers
Cost: \$35 adults/\$20 Students
Tickets available on the church website
or Sundays after liturgy.

Golden GREEKS

**MERRY
HAPPY NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION
LUNCHEON**

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - NOON

Annunciation Community Center
RSVP TO Shelly by January 14
330-607-7973

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN [OCW]

Orthodox Christian Women (OCW)
**Annual Winter Mini-Retreat
& Continental Breakfast**

Saturday, January 25, 2025 9:30-Noon
St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church
555 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333

**JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF WARM FELLOWSHIP AND
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A panel of
Convert Orthodox Clergy
present their faith journeys.

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For more information call:
Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			OFFICE CLOSED 830am Matins 930am Liturgy St Basil Feast No Gyro Prep No Choir Rehearsal	NO GYRO LUNCHEON 4pm GOYA Laser Zone	900am Royal Hours	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1030am Great Water Blessing 1130am Dance Practice 430pm Great Vespers	830am Matins 930am Liturgy Holy Theophany 11am Philoptochos Meeting	830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of St John the Baptist 11am Rotary Club 5pm Good Samaritans PREP	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal 730am Good Samaritans Distribution	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	10am Backpacks 6pm JOY Night	10am Philoptochos Board Meeting
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES	13	14	15	16	17	18
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Memorial Service George Giovas 1 yr Christian Melik 40 days Vasilopita Cutting Parish Council Oath 1130am Dance Practice 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat	5pm Loads of Love	930am Quilting 11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal VOICE ARTICLES DUE	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE	GOYA BBall Campbell 830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of St Anthony the Great	GOYA BBall Campbell
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1130am Dance Practice GOYA BBall Campbell	630pm COCA - AGOC	11am Rotary Club Noon Golden Greeks Merry New Year Party 530pm Men's Club	8am Gyro Prep 530pm Greek School 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 530am Matins 630am Liturgy Feast of St Xenia of Petersburg	10am Backpacks 6pm VIGIL St Gregory	5pm Vasilopita Community Dance
26	27	28 PAPA GYRO DAY	29	30	31	FEB 1
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Adult Education Memorial Service John Lagios 2 yrs John Stergiades 5 yrs Eleni May 5 yrs		11am Rotary Club 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	GOYA BBall Canton	GOYA BBall Canton

ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL NICOLE PAPAS & ELYSE DECKARD, CO DIRECTORS

Hello, Sunday School Families!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

On December 22nd our students presented a beautiful Christmas program to our congregation under the direction of Christine Salem and accompanied on the piano by Ginny Dickos. We thank these wonderful ladies for their time and commitment to our program!

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday January 5th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 12th.

Wishing everyone a blessed New Year!

AKRON ANNUNCIATION YOUTH

January 10 - 6pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

January 12
4:30pm - 6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Farmakidis Home

What would you do if danger found you today?

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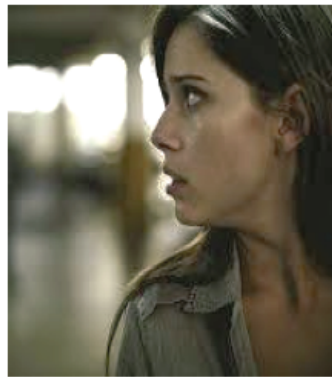
- **Practical Self-Defense Techniques:** Learn how to defend yourself with proven effective moves.
- **Situational Awareness:** Discover how to read your surroundings and avoid dangerous situations before they escalate.
- **Real-Life Scenarios:** Practice techniques in a safe, supportive environment and prepare for real-world challenges.

Why Attend?

- Learn from **Mr. Al Petrosino (Petrosino Personal Protection Training Center, President/Senior Instructor):** Master Tactical Instructor, Counter Terrorist Tactical Specialist, Executive Protection Specialist, Instructor for Rape Prevention & Drug Awareness, Executive Protection Specialist
- **Connect** with a community of like-minded individuals committed to personal safety.
- Leave with **safety tips and techniques** you can use immediately.

This is your chance to gain the skills, confidence, and knowledge you need to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Take the first step toward a safer future.



This seminar is more than just a class—it's an investment in your security and peace of mind.



Petrosino Personal Protection Training Center: www.petrosinoUS.com

Join our Personal Protection Safety Seminar:

Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 129 S. Union Street, Akron 44304

Cost: *Early registration discount \$75 (register by Friday, January 10)
or \$100 at the door (cash, check, credit card accepted)

Contact: Debra Gynn at Church to register
or call (561) 716-4188 /email debragynn@gmail.com

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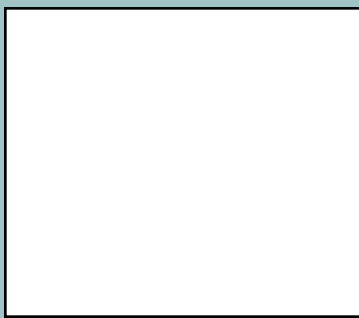
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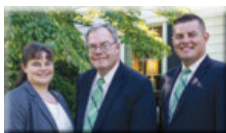
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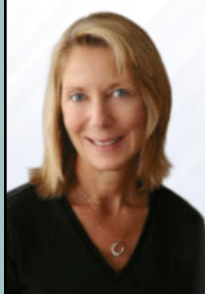
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AXIOS!

As we celebrate the new year 2025, we are devoting our January story to honoring our entire Annunciation community.

Everyone at our Annunciation deserves to be named "AXIOS" as every one of us plays an important role in making our parish a shining example throughout our Metropolis and beyond.

Everyone at our Annunciation deserves to be named "AXIOS" as every one of us plays an important role in making our parish a shining example throughout our Metropolis and beyond.

We come to our beautiful church to worship, to participate in the sacraments, to study and learn, to sing to the glory of God, to serve others who are not as fortunate as ourselves, to play and socialize and support each other as we strive to live our faith every day.

So we say "AXIOS" to every one of our parishioners who help make our Annunciation the vibrant, loving, and giving parish that it is today.

Let's make 2025 a great year for everyone!



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