

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
November 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 11

Dear Parish Family,

Since 1863, our great American nation has set aside the fourth Thursday of November as a day to give thanks. This year, before we fire up the ovens and turn on the football games, I invite us all to give thanks to God for the great abundance He has bestowed upon us. May we be especially thankful for the many opportunities to share our gifts with others, because when we share with those in need we are sharing with Him. The late Father Alexander Schmemmann listed many things for which we can be thankful in his sermon on Thanksgiving Day 1983 at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. Before breaking bread with our loved ones on Thanksgiving Day, I invite all of us to read this together and continue the list on our own!

See you at Church! FRDK *FRDK*

"Thank You, O Lord!"

By Father Alexander Schmemmann
Thanksgiving Day, 1983
at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary

Everyone capable of **thanksgiving** is capable of salvation and **eternal joy**. **Thank You, O Lord**, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the **joy, peace and righteousness** of the **Holy Spirit**. **Thank You, O Lord**, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom. **Thank You, O Lord**, for having **united** us to one another in **servicing** You and Your Holy Church. **Thank You, O Lord**, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the **communion** of the Holy Spirit. **Thank You, O Lord**, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the **"one thing needed;"** Your eternal Kingdom. **Thank You, O Lord**, for having given us this country where we are free to **worship You**. **Thank You, O Lord**, for this school, where the name of **God** is proclaimed. **Thank You, O Lord**, for our **families**: husbands, wives and, especially, **children** who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in **joy, movement and holy noise**. **Thank You, O Lord**, for **everyone** and **everything**. **Great** are You, **O Lord**, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles. **Lord, it is good to be here! Amen!**

LOADS OF LOVE: A LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

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



LOADS OF
LOVE

2024
NOVEMBER 11
DECEMBER 9

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Two Washers per person/
Four Washers per family.

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Nick Stavrakis

Gus Tsesmelis

Maria Williams

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
November 12, 5pm

**Monthly
PREP**

Wednesday
November 13, 7:30am

**Monthly
DISTRIBUTION**

Thursday
November 14

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

TABLE



Tuesday
November 26

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

November 26: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - September 2024

Present: Jon Bollas, Mike Detorakis, Penny Dickos, Elena Economou-Zwisler, Bill Farmakidis, Karen Horattas, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, Christopher Morris, Mary O'Connor, Christine Salem, Nicholas Stavarakis, Gus Tsesmelis, Denis Van Doros

Absent: Christina Barry, Maria Detorakis, Angela Jumbert

August 2024 Meeting Minutes: approved

Priest's Report: Fr. Dean: thanks to those who came early to set up for Good Samaritans; Sunday School kicked off Sept. 8; Adult Sunday School starts Sept. 15

President's Report- Christine Salem: Salem asked for nominations to fill the vacant parish council seat held by Christina Barry; nominations for John Chames, Kitsa Fuchi, and Maria Williams; Maria Williams was elected.

Treasurer's Report

	Jul. 2024 Actual	Budget	Account Balances	
Income	\$562,000	\$581,000	General Operating	\$51,000
Expenses	\$597,000	\$571,000	General Savings	\$62,000
Profit/Loss	\$(35,000)	\$10,000	Payroll	\$7,000

Old Business: None

New Business - Christine Salem: past Sunday had presentation on Capital Improvements Project following liturgy; 50 families pledged total of \$330,300 with \$77,800 collected to date; atrium and stairwells need to be started; lighting issues being worked on

Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler: 343 pledges for \$683,000; November 10 is Stewardship Sunday; Stewardship brochures will be mailed out the beginning of October

Financial- Denis Van Doros, Penny Dickos: Trust Fund- \$791,000; Building Fund- \$115,000

Building and Grounds - Michael Detorakis, Christine Salem: projects still ongoing

Coffee Hour - Denis Van Doros, Mary O'Connor: still need help with clean-up

Personnel - John Matheos: we have hired Dan Clemon to help us in the kitchen

Schools - Christina Manousos: Sunday School has started; Greek School had 45 students for the first session

Youth - Fr. Nick, Christina Manousos: OCF started this past week; JOY and Goya kick off this weekend

Outreach and Ministries - Mary O'Connor, John Matheos, Karen Horattas: help is needed for Hot Meal Thursday; Good Samaritans set-up went very well; October 19 Mission Walk registration is open, 25 people have signed up, raised \$4,500 last year

Good of the Community: Denis Van Doros - festival help is needed everywhere; Christina Manousos- need to have back rooms cleaned out at least once a year; Denis Van Doros- Woodridge Elementary School was thrilled with our donation of excess school supplies; Christine Salem- thanks to Frank, Alex and Nick for the presentation on the Capital Improvement Project

Benediction and Adjournment: Fr. Dean

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ELECTION
 The next General Assembly is November 17.
 Deadline for Parish Council nominations is November 3.
 All candidates must attend a meeting with Fr. Dean on November 3 at noon.

PHILOPTOCHOS - 2023-24 END-OF-YEAR DISBURSEMENTS

The Annunciation Philoptochos Society Melissa works each year to raise money for the purpose of giving it away. After thinking up the many events for fundraising, these focused women jointly work to make the chosen events a success. Their season runs from September to May, each year ending with a Board Meeting specifically to choose which charities get to share this money. The list below are who will receive part of the spoils.



- \$2,500 - Good Samaritans Program
- \$2,500 - Stewart's Caring Place
- \$2,000 - Mission Walk
- \$2,000 - Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery
- \$2,000 - St. Gregory Palamas Monastery
- \$1,500 - Access Inc.
- \$1,500 - Allergies Shaped My Life Foundation
- \$1,500 - Caring for Kids
- \$1,500 - Grace House
- \$1,500 - Lift Up Ministries
- \$1,500 - Mollie's Missions
- \$1,500 - The Eftychia Project
- \$1,500 - The Porchlight Project
- \$1,000 - Annunciation Akron's Capital Campaign
- \$5,000 - Pittsburgh Metropolis Center



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN [OCW]

OCW: Fall Book Study

JOURNEY TO REALITY:

Sacramental Life in a Secular Age
by: Zachary Porcu

November 12, Tuesday - 10am-12pm

DAYTIME

In Person at St. Thomas

Easter Orthodox Church & on ZOOM

with Fr. Vladimir Bakurdzhiev

<http://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089786521>

Information: Annie Fry - 330.714.9844

OCW: Fall Book Study

Special Evening Presentation for working people.

JOURNEY TO REALITY:

Sacramental Life in a Secular Age
by Zachary Porcu

November 12, Tuesday - 7pm-8:30pm

ZOOM with Fr. James Waltenberger

<http://us06web.zoom.us/j/81149455841>

Information: Annie Fry - 330.714.9844

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday,
December 1**
after Liturgy

Tickets being sold

November 10, 17, and 24
after Liturgy

Adults - \$10

Sunday School Students - \$4

5 and under - free

**Bring an unwrapped gift
for a child or teenager**

Chairs

Torie Crockett, Joyce Lagios, Mary O'Connor,

Adult Education:

**INTRODUCTION TO
THE BIBLE AND HOW
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Curious about how we got the Bible? Find it difficult to read? Come join us for 6 weeks of learning about the Bible together!

We'll explore such questions as:

- What is the Bible? Who were its authors? What is its message?
- How was it recorded and transmitted? What about different translations - Is one best?
- Is the text reliable? What about errors or contradictions in the text?
- Why do the Old Testament and the New Testament seem so different?
- How is the Bible interpreted in the Orthodox Church?
- How & why should an Orthodox Christian read the Bible? What are reliable reading & study methods and helps?



**TIME: SUNDAY
MORNINGS 11:15
PLACE: CHAPEL
DATES: NOVEMBER
3, 10, 17, 24 AND
DECEMBER 8 & 15**

NOVEMBER 2024

NOVEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CHRISTMAS PAGEANT</h2> <h1 style="margin: 0;">SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">AFTER LITURGY</h2> <h1 style="margin: 0;">#COMETOCHURCH</h1> </div> <p style="margin-top: 20px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">THIS IS A "DO NOT MISS" EVENT</p>					1	2
					<p>830am Matins 930am Liturgy Chapel Feast Day - Feast of Ss Kosmas and Damianos</p>	<p>9am-12pm HUMS Retreat 5pm PHILOPTOCHOS FUNDRAISER Taso & Toula's BIG FAT Greek Wedding</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1115am Adult Education Katy Jumbert 40 day Memorial George Jumbert 1 Year Memorial</p>		<p>11am Rotary Club 6pm Philoptochos</p>	<p>8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON</p>	<p>830am Matins 930am Liturgy Archangel Michael and Gabriel</p>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>820am Matins 930am Liturgy Stewardship Sunday Philoptochos Memorial and Second Tray 1115am Adult Education</p>	<p>5pm Loads of Love</p>	<p>11am Rotary Club Noon Golden Greeks Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Lunch 5pm Men's Club</p>	<p>8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON</p>	<p>Nativity Fast Begins 6pm JOY Night 6pm Vigil Feast, Vespers, Matins, & Liturgy of St Matthew</p>	<p>4:30pm Great Vespers</p>
		<p>5pm Good Samaritans PREP</p>	<p>730am Good Samaritans Distribution</p>	<p>3pm Good Samaritans TABLE</p>	<p>VOICE ARTICLES DUE</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>820am Matins 930am Liturgy T. Georgakopoulos 1 Year Memorial General Assembly ELECTIONS 1115am Adult Education 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat</p>	<p>630pm COCA - Presentation of Christ</p>	<p>11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council 7pm OCF</p>	<p>8am Gyro Prep 530pm GREEK School 630pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>830am Matins 930am Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple 11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON</p>	<p>GOYA Fall Retreat Golden Greeks BASILE @ the Funny Stop <i>1757 State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH</i></p>	<p>GOYA Fall Retreat 4:30pm Great Vespers</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1115am Adult Education GOYA Fall Retreat</p>	<p>830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of St Katherine</p>	<p>9am Quilts 11am Rotary Club 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE</p>	<p>8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	

**AKRON
ANNUNCIATION Y O U T H**

**November 15 - 6pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church**

**November 17
4:30pm - 6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Diamond Home**

SAVE THE DATE!
The Third Annual
VasilOPA-pita Dance
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



SAVE THESE DATES

Tuesday, November 12, noon
THANKSGIVING Lunch
@ Annunciation
Park in the back lot and enter thru the Chapel Door

Friday, November 22, Dinner 6:00pm
BASILE @ the Funny Stop
1757 State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
*We have an amazing price for show tickets
\$13.00 per person*

**ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL
NICOLE PAPAS & ELYSE DECKARD, CO DIRECTORS**

Hello, Sunday School Families!

October was a great month for our students. They enjoyed a special lesson about Godparents. Some were even able to enjoy the lesson with their Godparents and enjoy a special luncheon afterwards!

Our Pre-K through 6th graders also began practicing for our Christmas Program, led by Christine Salem. This month we will hold practices on November 10th, 17th and 26th in the Multipurpose Room. The program will take place after Liturgy on December 22nd.

This month we will be collecting donations for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. This year we are again supporting Street Outreach Services (SOS). SOS assists at-risk and homeless youth, ages 15-22, through the operation of a drop-in center and a variety of outreach services. The purpose of the program is to help youth escape homelessness and secure safe, stable housing. We will be collecting non-perishable items for their emergency shelter. Please see the following assignments for your child's classroom, and bring donations to the Atrium. A special blessing for these donations will take place after Sunday School on November 17th.

CLASS	SUGGESTED DONATION
2 year olds	canned vegetables, canned ravioli, Spaghetti O's, fruit cups, bottled water
Pre-K - K	ramen noodles, instant potatoes, rice packets, cracker packets
1st - 2nd	snack bars, pancake mix, syrup Slim Jims, shelf stable milk
3rd - 4th	canned chicken, canned tuna, tuna helper, hamburger helper
5th - 8th	spaghetti, noodles, pasta sauce, mac-n-cheese, baked beans
High School	toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, tooth brushes, toothpaste

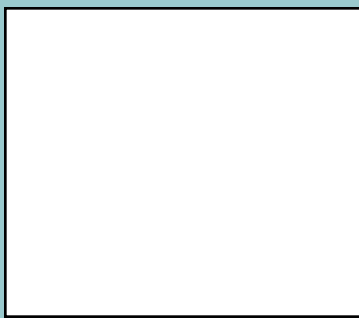
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outreach services



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AXIOS!

This month, AXIOS is recognizing four familiar gentlemen who we see every Sunday bright and early as we enter our church.

Known by some as the “**Fantastic Four**”, they are John Tsoras, George Koukies, Dee Manuselis, and Lou Poplos, and they serve as our church ushers whose duty it is to take care of our church narthex during Sunday orthros and liturgy.

Arriving early every Sunday, our Fantastic Four take care of the candle stands in the narthex, take the glass candles for parishioners to the candle stands at the front of the church, pass the regular and special collection trays, help serve coffee after liturgy, and offer greetings and friendly smiles as they keep order in the narthex.

As a group, these four dedicated gentlemen have served as church ushers collectively for a total of nearly 120 years!

In addition to serving as ushers on Sunday, all four have served on Parish Council at various times, have

worked our festivals, are faithful members of our local AHEPA chapter, and individually have served as treasurer for various parish organizations, worked at

our weekly GYRO lunch, assisted Philoptochos at their pastry workshops, and served as bartender for parish social events.

Let’s all join in a hearty “AXIOS” to these four gentlemen who have given so much for so many years to our Annunciation parish.



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