



# THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH  
February 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 2

## DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

My college mentor used to remind me, almost daily, that success happens when preparation meets opportunity.

“Mr. A.,” as we called him, had no belief in luck or happenstance. If you work at something long enough, eventually there will be an opportunity to succeed to some extent or another. But you had to prepare for the success ahead of time.

Preparation and opportunities for success intersecting might look different in the spiritual world, but the idea is the same. Work now pays off later. So let’s get started. On Sunday, January 26 we begin a four-week adult education program that will walk us through preparing for Great Lent. Then, Sunday on March ninth, we will be better prepared to embark on our annual Lenten Discussion series.

Combined with countless other services and projects, this all leads us to the joy of the Resurrection on Pascha Sunday.

But the preparation begins now, so **COME TO CHURCH!**

Fr. Dean *FRED*

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### COUNCIL OFFICERS

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**Christine Salem**  
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### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Michael Detorakis

Elena Economou-Zwisler

Bill Farmakidis

Karen Horattas

Christina Manousos

Mary O'Connor

Diane Popovich

Nick Stavarakis

Maria Williams

## OUTREACH

## GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

**Tuesday**  
February 11, 5pm

**Monthly  
PREP**

**Wednesday**  
February 12, 7:30am

**Monthly  
DISTRIBUTION**

**Thursday**  
February 20

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

**TABLE**



**Tuesday**  
February 25

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

**February 25:** Groceries & Clothes Available

# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - December 2024

**Present:** Maria Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Penny Dickos, Elena Economou-Zwisler, Bill Farmakidis, Karen Horattas, Angela Jumbert, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, John Matheos, Fr. Nick Manuel, Christopher Morris, Christine Salem, Nicholas Stavrakis, Denis Van Doros, and Maria Williams

**Absent:** Jon Bollas, Mary O'Connor, and Gus Tsesmelis

**Priest's Report:** Fr. Dean Kokanos Thank you for being here. Thank you for help setting up Good Samaritans.

**President's Report:** Christine Salem: General Assembly on Sunday December 22 for Parish Budget, thank you to Philothon and all the volunteers for the St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast

**Treasurer's Report**

	Dec. 2024 Actual	Budget	Account Balances	
Income	\$764,000	\$754,000	General Operating	\$53,000
Expenses	\$808,000	\$772,000	General Savings	\$78,000
Profit/Loss	\$(44,000)	\$(18,000)	Payroll	\$5,000

Capital Campaign: \$364k pledged / \$219k collected through 62 families

**New Business** - Christine Salem: Vasilopita Dance: January 25th 6pm – 11pm

**Stewardship of Church Resources** - Elaina Economou-Zwisler:

2024: 354 pledges for ~\$700,000; Collected: ~\$622,000.

2025: pledges ~\$472,000;

Letter going out for the end of January for those who have not filled out a card yet.

**Financial-** Denis Van Doros, Penny Dickos: Trust Fund- \$816,000; Building Fund- \$118,000

**Building and Grounds** - Michael Detorakis, Christine Salem: Ongoing; Couple days for salt already, no plowing required.

**Security/Ushering** - Elena Economou-Zwisler, Denis Van Doros: Hosting a self-defense class. Working to get this set-up for January 12th. New Ushering schedule from Denis

**Hall Committee** - Jon Bollas: Signed contract from Tangiers. Events listed through the end of 2025.

**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.

**Youth** - Fr. Nick, Christina Manousos: Going well. Fireside Chat going well. Ramping up for GOYA Basketball season. JOY night continuing

**Outreach and Ministries** - Mary O'Connor, John Matheos, Karen Horattas: December 12th is the soup meal (Chicken Noodle). Giving Tree for Charity Village this Saturday. Next hot meal is scheduled for December 17th. 1,200 turkey dinners handed out for Thanksgiving. More help is always welcomed.

**Good of the Community:** Fr. Dean Kokanos, Thank you for everyone who has served on Parish Council  
Elena Economou-Zwisler, Thank you to Christine Salem for her fantastic job as president

**Benediction and Adjournment:** Fr. Dean

## GREEK SCHOOL UPDATE

December was a festive month for our Greek School! Our students spread holiday cheer by singing Greek Kalanta and Christmas carols at Vitalia Montrose, along with providing delicious Greek pastries. The students' performances brought joy to all who attended.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming Vasilopita Dance, where Greek School students will perform the New Year's Eve Kalanta and "Ti Xara."

Greek School classes and Adult Conversational Greek lessons will be held on the following dates:

- February 26, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 23, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- June 25, 2025

Adult lessons will be from 5:30-6:30pm for beginners and 6:30-7:30pm for advanced.

We look forward to continuing this enriching educational journey and thank all our families for their support. May the new year bring blessings to all!

In Christ, Anna Tiliakos & Eleni Koundourakis



## SAVE THE DATE

### Feast of the Annunciation/ Greek Independence Day **LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, March 23**

*immediately following Divine Liturgy*

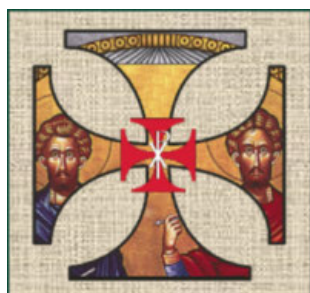
**Net proceeds to benefit the  
Annunciation Scholarship Fund.**

**Food, Information, Entertainment  
& Tickets to be sold after Liturgy  
during the month of March.**

*129 South Union Street  
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### Stewart's Caring Place **FOOD DRIVE**

**Beginning  
February 23**



### **ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS SPRING BAKE SALE**

**APRIL 9 & 10**

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
					GOYA BBall St. Haralambos	GOYA BBall St. Haralambos
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Adult Ed Chapel - Week 2		11am Rotary Club 7pm OCF	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b>		10am Philoptochos Board Meeting
<b>Orthodox Youth and Camp Workers Conference</b>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Adult Ed Chapel - Week 3	5pm Loads of Love	930am Quilting 11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b>	GOYA BBall Oakmont/ Ypapanti 6pm JOY Night	GOYA BBall Oakmont/ Ypapanti
		5pm Good Samaritans PREP	730am Good Samaritans Distribution			VOICE ARTICLES DUE
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Adult Ed Chapel - Week 4 4:30pm - GOYA Fireside Chat GOYA BBall Oakmont/ Ypapanti	630pm COCA - St Demetrius	11am Rotary Club NOON Golden Greeks Valentines Luncheon 530pm Men's Club 7pm OCF	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b> 11am Retired Secretaries		830am Matins 930am Liturgy <b>SATURDAY of the SOULS</b>
				3:30pm Good Samaritans TABLE		
23	24	25	26	27	28	MAR 1
820am Matins 930am Liturgy  MEATFARE SUNDAY		11am Rotary Club  3:30pm Good Samaritans TABLE	8am Gyro Prep 530pm Greek School 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b>		830am Matins 930am Liturgy <b>SATURDAY of the SOULS</b>  Northeastern HOPE/JOY Lenten Mini Retreat Annunciation Akron



# VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - Noon  
Annunciation Community Center  
RSVP TO Shelly by January 14  
330-607-7973

## AKRON ANNUNCIATION YOUTH

February 14 - 6pm  
**JOY Night**  
at Annunciation Church

February 16  
4:30pm - 6:30pm  
**GOYA Fireside Chat**  
at the Fox home

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**FUNDRAISER DAY**  
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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PAPA GYROS PRESENTS  
**FUNDRAISER DAY**  
20% OF LUNCH & DINNER  
SALES WILL BENEFIT:



**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
GOYA**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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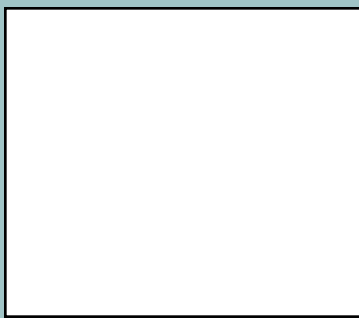
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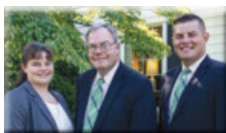
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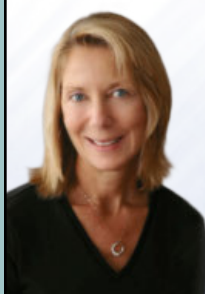
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# AXIOS!

As we approach the Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter, a small but mighty group of parishioners will be swinging into action with lots of practicing and performing in preparation for this high point of our ecclesiastic year.

Yes, we are talking about our Annunciation choir, whose beautiful voices help us worship every Sunday throughout the year, except for the month of July when they get to enjoy a well-deserved break.



Here are a few things you may not know about our choir:

- most of our choir members don't speak Greek- they use phonetics to sing the Greek hymns in the services
- some of our choir members have been singing for over 50 years, and we have several multi-generational choir families where the original members are singing with children and grandchildren
- our choir loves doing fun programs like the amazing holiday Madrigal Dinner of a few years ago and concerts for the community at holidays
- finally, initiation is pretty painless- just show up on Wednesdays from 6:30- 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and you're in!

So let's all join in and sing a big, beautiful, well-deserved **"AXIOS"** to our Annunciation choir!



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**SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 4-8 - VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**