

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
October 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 10

Dear Parish Family,

I wonder how many of us grew up confused about our faith. Maybe we had questions nobody could answer, not even our parents or Sunday School teachers. Maybe those questions are still with us as adults? I don't necessarily mean complicated theological issues, although we might wonder about those as well. How many of us understand how and when we should pray? Do we know how and when an Orthodox Christian should read the Bible? What about applying those topics to our lives broadly?

This semester our Adult Sunday School program will feature these two topics. Aris Spirtos' six-week class, which continues through October, will teach us the important role that prayer and stillness play in our lives. His class will feature discussions and lectures based on two classic Orthodox texts, "The Way of the Pilgrim" and "The Philokalia."

In November Deacon Mark Studebaker will begin a six-week class on reading the Bible. The Bible holds a preeminent position in the Orthodox Holy Tradition. But do we know how to read it? Have we ever considered why the Old and New Testaments sound so different? Once we read it, how do we make it applicable to our lives? Deacon Mark will delve into all of this and more!

Adult Sunday School meets in the Chapel on Sundays at 11:15. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to deepen your faith and get answers to questions new and old.

See you at Church

FRDK

Orthodox Christian Women [OCW]

ANNUAL WELCOME AND FELLOWSHIP TEA

Sunday, October 13, 2pm

St. George Orthodox Church
3204 Ridgewood Road, Fairlawn

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from 5-6:30 pm

2024
OCTOBER 14

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Nick Stavrakis

Gus Tsesmelis

Maria Williams

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
October 8, 5pm

**Monthly
PREP**

Wednesday
October 9, 7:30am

**Monthly
DISTRIBUTION**

Thursday
October 10

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

TABLE



Tuesday
October 29

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

October 29: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - August 2024

Present: Jon Bollas, Maria Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Penny Dickos, Bill Farmakidis, Angela Jumbert, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, Christopher Morris, Mary O'Connor, Christine Salem, Nicholas Stavrakis, and Elena Economou-Zwisler.

Absent: Christina Barry, Denis Van Doros, Karen Horattas, Fr. Nick Manuel, and Gus Tsesmelis.

July 2024 Meeting Minutes: approved

Priest's Report- Fr. Dean: Summer Adult Education series complete; Successful backpack drive; Prepping for the fall ministry schedule; Aris Spiritos and Dn. Mark Studebaker will be hosting two classes; Good Samaritans is redoing their procedures to more of a "choice pantry" model

President's Report- Christine Salem: Thank you to Elizabeth Bartz for representing us; Attic Treasures will be this weekend (Thurs-Sat); Festival sign-up was sent out today; Vacation church school has grown and was very successful; Greek program is being developed; A lot of guests have been coming to services

Treasurer's Report

	Jul. 2024 Actual	Budget
Income	\$481,000	\$513,000
Expenses	\$533,000	\$507,000
Profit/Loss	\$(52,000)	\$6,000

Account Balances	
General Operating	\$50,000
General Savings	\$77,000
Payroll	\$4,000

New Business - Elizabeth Bartz: Represented the parish at the Clergy-Laity conference - Member of the metropolis finance committee

- Money we are paying to the archdiocese is increasing; Looking for a 5.9% increase, but was voted down
 - After 6 hours, an increase of 0% was passed for the next two years; It was modified and came back later at a 2.3% increase
 - More information will be determined at the metropolis level of this meeting; The pension fund is being worked-Another million dollars has been put into the fund; Funded about 60% as of now
 - Motion to have priests retire when they are 75; Some priests are unable to retire; Motion did not pass
 - Nothing was put forth that would change the UPR
- Thank you for letting me represent us.

Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler: Pledges for \$683,000; November 10 is Stewardship Sunday

Financial- Denis Van Doros, Penny Dickos: Trust Fund- \$791,000; Building Fund- \$116,000

Building and Grounds - Capital Improvement: Michael Detorakis, Christine Salem:

Interior Paint/Repair: In Progress	Railing/Step Repair: Not Started	Security Cameras: Completed
Replace Nave Lighting: Completed	Atrium Wall Fabric: Not Started	Parking Lot: completed
Automatic Doors: Completed	HVAC Controls: In Progress	Bathrooms: In Progress
Nave Candle Stands: Completed	Roof Stucco Repair: Completed	Chapel Altar Doors: In Progress

Security and Ushering - Elena Economou-Zwisler/ Denis Van Doros: Festival Security Covered AED issue, Alarm has been going off/Is outdated; Ushering --split duties - counting money and cleaning the hall

Social Media/Communications - Maria Detorakis/Susan Papas [Liaison]: 20 new Facebook followers; Three new YouTube subscribers; Free Backpack flyer had the most community engagement

Hall Committee - Jonathan Bollas: Amount due for June: ~\$2,500

Technology - Gus Tsesmelis/Nick Stavrakis: Quickbooks updated

Coffee Hour - Christina Barry, Denis Van Doros, Mary O'Connor: A lot of memorials; Need to impress on people that we need help cleaning up; Will follow up with memorial letters not being sent to families

Church Directory - Angela Jumbert: Will open up directory again for the fall with the option for pictures

Personnel - John Matheos: Employee handbook has been updated

Schools - Christina Manousos: Schedule is set for the year. Teachers orientation is this Sunday; 40 students enrolled in Greek School

Outreach and Ministries - Mary O'Connor, John Matheos, Karen Horattas: Hot Meal Tuesday, help needed; Oct 19 Mission Walk - Registration open

Good of the Community -

- Christine Salem- Thank you to Christina Manousos for handling all of the Youth Safety responsibilities
- John Matheos- Butch, Thelma, Debbie for all their work in the kitchen
- Christine Salem- Weeding and mulching by Kathy Lekas
- Penny Dickos- Thank you to our new security guard who is doing a fantastic job
- Mary O'Connor- Thank you to Kitsa Fuciu for all of her work on coffee hour

Benediction and Adjournment: Fr. Dean

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN [OCW]

Orthodox Christian Women [OCW]

ANNUAL WELCOME AND FELLOWSHIP TEA

Sunday, October 13, 2pm
St George Church
3204 Ridgewood Road, Fairlawn

Christianity in China

by Fr. Dcn. James Gresh

He will discuss his experience with mission work in China.

Information:

Sandy Menhorn - 330.354.7792

Nancy Studebaker - 330.655.9638

OCW: Fall Book Study

JOURNEY TO REALITY:

Sacramental Life in a Secular Age

by: Zachary Porcu

Tuesdays - 10am-12pm
October 8 - October 29 - November 12

DAYTIME

In Person at St. Thomas

Easter Orthodox Church & on ZOOM

with Fr. Vladimir Bakurdzhiev

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

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

Information: Annie Fry - 330.714.9844

OCW: Fall Book Study

Special Evening Presentation for working people.

Pre-registration required.

JOURNEY TO REALITY:

Sacramental Life in a Secular Age

by Zachary Porcu

Tuesdays - 7pm-8:30pm
October 8 - October 29 - November 12

ZOOM with Fr. James Waltenberger

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

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

Information: Annie Fry - 330.714.9844

ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

NICOLE PAPAS & ELYSE DECKARD, CO DIRECTORS

Hello, Sunday School Families!

Our Sunday School year is currently off to an excellent start. We have seen great attendance and enthusiasm!

Sunday, October 20 we will begin practicing for our Christmas Program during the last 15 minutes of class for PreK through 6th grade only.

Sunday, October 27 we invite all Godparents to come to class with their Godchild for a special lesson and also enjoy a luncheon afterwards.

Have you wondered where your Sunday School offering goes?

100% of Sunday School offering money goes towards missions and outreach. This year we will choose a local outreach project to donate to. The children will vote and choose where the money will go!

If you are able, please support this important work by placing an offering in the Sunday School offering tray near the Atrium kitchen upon dismissal from Liturgy.

In Christ,
Nicole Papas & Elyse Deckard



OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>MANY THANKS to this community for your dedication to our Festival!</p>		830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of the Holy Protection 11am Rotary Club	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON		10am Philoptochos Board Meeting
		820am Matins 930am Liturgy National Church Music Sunday		11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council 6pm Philoptochos 5pm Good Samaritans PREP	730am Good Samaritans Distribution 8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Helen Menegos 2 Year Memorial HUMS Blessing of Hands 2pm OCW WELCOME and FELLOWSHIP TEA 3pm - Family Fun Day Szalays Farm	5pm Loads of Love	11am Rotary Club 11:30am Golden Greeks Lunch Meeting Papa Gyro - Canton 7pm OCF VOICE ARTICLES DUE	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	YAL Conference in Pittsburgh 830am Matins 930am Liturgy St Luke the Evangelist and Apostle	YAL Conference in Pittsburgh 8am MISSION WALK
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
820am Matins 930am Liturgy St. Gerasimos Haralambos Papas 2 Year Memorial Pageant Practice 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat YAL Conference in Pittsburgh	630pm COCA - St Elia	11am Rotary Club 6pm Men's Club	8am Gyro Prep 530pm GREEK School 6pm GOYA Basketball 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 11am OCW	YAL Retreat at Camp Nazareth	YAL Retreat at Camp Nazareth 10:30am Philoptochos Board Meeting
27	28	29	30	31	NOV 1	NOV 2
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Godparent/ Newborn Sunday Antigone Avouris 10 Year Memorial Dionysius Avouris 8 Year Memorial 11:30am OXI Day Program after Sunday School YAL Retreat at Camp Nazareth		830am Matins 930am Liturgy St Anastasia of Rome 11am Rotary Club 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE 7pm OCF	8am Gyro Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	830am Matins 930am Liturgy Chapel Feast Day - Feast of Ss Kosmas and Damianos	9am-12pm HUMS Retreat 5pm PHILOPTOCHOS FUNDRAISER Taso & Toula's BIG FAT Greek Wedding



SAVE THESE DATES

Lunch Meeting - Tuesday, October 15, 11:30am

PAPA GYRO's Belden Village

4760 Everhard Road NW, Canton, OH 44718

Friday, November 22, Dinner 6:00pm

BASILE @ the Funny Stop

1757 State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

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\$13.00 per person



RSVP to Shelly 330.607.7873 by 10/07

AKRON GREEK SCHOOL

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR GREEK HERITAGE



We would love to welcome you and your family to our school. We have an exciting program planned for the 2024 – 2025 year. Below is the curriculum for our Greek Orthodox children coming from both Greek and non-Greek speaking homes. Our focus is on Greek language and culture.

Speaking/Oral Conversation (Preparatory Level)

Reading and Writing (Elementary Level)

Application/Usage in Church (Intermediate Level)

All who are interested in this program, please contact Anna Lea Tiliakos & Eleni Koundourakis, Directors at (330) 414-2158 or greekschool@annunciationakron.org

<https://www.annunciationakron.org/gls>

AKRON ANNUNCIATION YOUTH

October 11 - 6pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

October 20
4:30pm - 6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Anzevino Home

HUMS HAPPENINGS

Sunday, October 13 - **BLESSING OF THE HANDS** at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, October 19 - **MISSION WALK AT 0800** – first aid support needed

Saturday, November 2 - **ANNUAL RETREAT**

Retreat information:

- Who: **All Healthcare Providers and Students in NE Ohio**
- What: **ANNUAL RETREAT: "HONOR AND CONNECTION"**
- Where: **Atrium, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**
- When: **Saturday, November 2, 9am-1230pm**
- Speaker: **Laurie Miller-Patterson, MA, PCC**
- Cost: **Free (Free Will offering will be accepted)**
- **Registration REQUIRED by Friday, October 25, 2024 at HUMS@AnnunciationAkron.org**



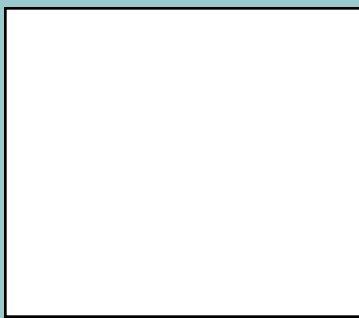
SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who has donated towards the AED at church. We have been able to locate batteries for the current AED and are using the remaining funds towards the purchase of a second AED to be kept near the Narthex. Any remaining monies will be used to update the first aid kits for the church.



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AXIOS!

Now that we have competed another successful festival, let's learn a bit about one of our favorite parts of the festival, our **GREEK DANCE TROUPE**. For nearly 60 years, our parish's children have entertained large audiences at our annual festivals. In the 1970s, Mrs. Helene Patitsas revitalized the program with a passion and energy that inspired a large number of students (including all six of her children) to learn Greek dancing.

Teresa Fox, who now co-directs the program with her sister Christina Tharp, says "I remember being so inspired by watching them do the sailor dance and saying I wanted to learn to do that. Athina Bellios and I were so excited when we got to lead the Ikarian dance. Mrs. Patitsas always made it fun."

The Annunciation dancers are now comprised of three groups: the **KOUKLAKIA** (ages 3- second grade), the **JUNIOR DANCERS** (third to sixth grade), and the **SENIOR DANCERS** (seventh to twelfth grade).

Though the festival (and practices) take place during a busy time of year for students, they show up to

practice and are committed to the dance ministry. As Teresa Fox noted, "they understand this is service to their community in addition to being a fun activity!"



Our parish is proud of our young parshioners for their wonderful dedication and dancing. We join in saying **AXIOS!** and thank you to them all!



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