



# THE TRUE VINE

Published by Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Dayton, Ohio

December 2023

<http://www.daytonannunciation.org>

## THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS



Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

Beloved in the Lord,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Χριστὸς γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε!

A blessed season of the Nativity! In this period of fasting, we abstain from richer foods in preparation for the Lord's Birth, and then we feast in celebration of His Birth until Theophany Eve. The truth that we learn in this is that fasting and feasting go together. Feasting without fasting quickly becomes simple gluttony, but fasting without feasting falls quickly into an even more troubling error, the false idea that this Creation, and the good things that God has given to us, are in fact all tainted and sinful, and that matter itself is something to be despised. The Lord's Incarnation itself is proof against this idea, for He assumed physical matter, and took upon Himself our nature, and has made matter itself holy and glorious and beautiful, worthy of honor. It is this that we confess and celebrate when we feast on the great and holy days of the Church. We pray, then, that our preparatory fasting and our celebratory feasting may be blessed.

### *Sacramental Summary So Far*

We have discussed the "Seven Sacraments" over these past several months; in all of these services, we encounter the Son of God Who became flesh and dwelt among us, our Lord Jesus Christ. He reveals the Father to us, and sends us the Holy Spirit. He is the One we encounter in humble glory within the cave in Bethlehem. He is the One Who comes to us in our brokenness, and raises us up to be with Him. Because Christ is in our midst, every action of the Church is sacramental, and every faithful Orthodox Christian is a living mystery & sacrament of His presence in this world.

As an extension of this, the Orthodox Church recognizes other Sacraments beyond the Seven. These include the Blessing of the Waters, the Services of Burial, the Consecration of a Church, the Tonsuring of a Monastic, and the Anointing of a Monarch. This month, we will consider the Blessing of the Waters, and how it reflects the extended reality of the Lord's Incarnation and presence with us, as this is simultaneously an appropriate reflection for this Christmas season, and a fitting preparation for the coming celebration of the Blessing of the Waters at Theophany on January 5th and 6th.

### *God is with Us*

We remember, of course, that in St. Matthew's account of the Lord's birth, an angel comes to Joseph and assures him that the child being carried by the Theotokos is holy and will save His people from their sins. St. Matthew continues with a quote from the prophet Isaiah, that "a virgin will be with

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday

8:15 am – Orthros

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

*Please see included calendar for details, meetings, feast-day services, and any other schedule variations.*

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Funerals

**November 1, 2023**

Kay (Kathryn) Brown

**November 21, 2023**

Gus Daskalakis

**November 28, 2023**

Harry Houpis

### 40 Day Blessings

**November 13, 2023**

Violet Elise, daughter of Tyler & Drew Selby

*If you have announcements that you would like for us to include in the Community Updates above, please call or email the Church Office by the 20th of the month.*

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### True Vine Bulletin Board

<https://www.daytonannunciation.org/parish-bulletin-board>

### Service Texts

<https://dcs.goarch.org>

### Parish Life Stream (Youtube)

<https://www.youtube.com/@daytonannunciation6868>

### Parish Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1355887314468422>

### Stewardship/Online Giving

<https://www.daytonannunciation.org/stewardship>

### Religious Education Initiative

<https://theruleoffaith.typepad.com/rei>

child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23). This reality is the unceasing confession, celebration, and comfort of the Church. We commune with the Lord every time we celebrate the Eucharist, and we encounter Him in all the Sacraments. In the Blessing of the Waters, we even bless and consecrate the physical matter of the world in which we live.

### *The Blessing of the Waters*

This sacrament is a part of our celebration of the Lord’s Baptism at Theophany on January 6th. There is a triple significance to this Feast. First of all, the Lord’s Baptism begins His ministry, as the Child we see incarnate in the cave in Bethlehem comes to John the Baptist as a grown man, and commands His herald to baptize Him, and is proclaimed as the Beloved Son of the Father even as the Holy Spirit rests upon Him like a dove. With His baptism, He begins His visible and public work of salvation for us. Second, in His descent into the water and His coming out again, the Lord gives us a sign and token of His Life-giving Death and Resurrection. As He is baptized, the Lord exorcises the waters and blesses them, making this first fruit of the Creation good and holy, our first taste of the New Creation, even as in His Death and Resurrection, He brings death itself under His authority and power, so that those who die in the hope of the Resurrection pass in death from death to life. And third, by making the waters Holy, a first fruit of the New Creation, He gives to us a means with which to bless and sanctify our homes and the other things of this world to His service.

### *How To Use Holy Water*

This being the case, then, Holy Water is not a matter to be treated lightly. It is used to bless people, physical objects, vehicles, homes and businesses, physical spaces and even animals by sprinkling. It is also consumed by the Faithful, but only after fasting, as with Holy Communion, and it is therefore usually consumed first thing in the morning, after Morning Prayers. This drinking is reserved for Orthodox Christians, but it may be consumed by the Faithful when they are unable to receive Holy Communion. It is also appropriate to anoint one’s self with Holy Water in the sign of a cross when one is sick, or if one is awakened by a bad dream, along with a prayer for the Lord’s help. Holy Water is the Sacrament that we can take home with us!

### *Celebrating Theophany*

We are all accustomed to scheduling our lives around the Christmas and Easter celebrations, and in both cases the Church provides us with several options for services to attend. We are less used to making the Feast of Theophany a priority, but in this, we are truly missing out. The services for Theophany are some of the most meaningful and beautiful services of the year. I therefore urge every family to consider making these services a priority. If you come for the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, January 6th, and then stay for the Blessing of the Waters, the children will take great joy in the sprinkling of the waters, while the adults may marvel and weep at the prayers and hymns and readings which proclaim the Lord’s transformation and healing of the entire Creation. These services (as well as the Friday morning Royal Hours, or the Friday evening Vespertal Liturgy) are simply magnificent. I pray that we will see many of you there!

With love in Christ,  
+Fr. Anthony Cook

## **ANNUNCIATION**

### **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

500 Belmonte Park N  
Dayton, OH 45405

Office: (937) 224-0601

Fax: (937) 224-0173

Office Hours: 9-4:30 M/T/Th;  
12:30-4:30 W/F

Website: [www.daytonannunciation.org](http://www.daytonannunciation.org)

### **Clergy**

Fr. Anthony Cook

[franthonyc@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:franthonyc@daytonannunciation.org)

### **2023 Parish Council**

Jim Haubrock - *President*

Andrea Casey - *Vice President*

Nick Regopoulos - *Treasurer*

Linda Bouris

Louis Castleman

Christina Day - *Acting Secretary*

Mary Haritos

Vassilios Karras

Linda Kididis

Dirk Lackovich Van-Gorp

Matt McAlpine

Stacey Tipler

Isidora Tsonis

Athena Zavakos

### **Office Staff**

Brenda Day

*Bookkeeper*

Email: [accountant@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:accountant@daytonannunciation.org)

Deborah Stringfield

*Parish Administrative Assistant*

Email: [office@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:office@daytonannunciation.org)

### **Building Staff**

Ty Lambert

*Facilities Specialist*

Email:

[maintenance@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:maintenance@daytonannunciation.org)

Renda Humphreys/Bernie Clair

*Housekeeping*

	December 3-9	December 10-16	December 17-23
Sunday	<b>3 14th Sunday of Luke</b> ✠ ↵ Luke 18:35-43 Ephesians 5:8-19 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 12pm GOYA Meeting & Christmas Party	<b>10 10th Sunday of Luke</b> ✠ ↵ Luke 13:10-17; Ephesians 6:10-17 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion Stewardship Sunday - 2024 Campaign 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>17 11th Sunday of Luke</b> ✠ 🕯 Luke 14:16-24; Colossians 3:4-11 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30am Greek & Catechism School Christmas Program & Lunch No Coffee Hour
Monday	<b>4 Barbara the Great Martyr</b> ↵ Matthew 25:1-13 Galatians 3:23-29;4:1-5 5:30pm Greek School 7pm Adult Catechism	<b>11 Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople</b> ↵ II Timothy 2:20-26; Mark 8:11-21 5pm Tutoring Program 5:30pm Greek School 7pm Adult Catechism	<b>18 Sebastian the Martyr &amp; his Companions</b> Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19; Mark 9:42-50; 10:1 5:30pm Greek School 7pm Adult Catechism
Tuesday	<b>5 Sabbas the Sanctified</b> ↵ Luke 6:17-23 Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2 6:30pm Great Vespers AT Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church in Cincinnati	<b>12 Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous</b> 🕯 John 10:1-9;Ephesians 5:8-19 6pm AHEPA/DOP Christmas Dinner	<b>19 Martyrs Boniface, Probus, Ares, Timothy, Polyeuktos</b> Hebrews 4:1-13; Mark 10:2-12 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	<b>6 Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra</b> ✠ 🕯 John 10:1-9 Hebrews 13:17-21 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 7pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>13 Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Greater Armenia</b> John 10:1-9; Hebrews 13:17-21 7pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>20 Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch</b> 🕯 JHebrews 10:32-38; Mark 9:33-41 7pm Zoom Bible Study
Thursday	<b>7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan</b> ↵ I Timothy 6:17-21 Luke 21:28-33 10am Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon 6:30pm Choir	<b>14 Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Asia Minor</b> Titus 1:5-14;Mark 9:10-15 11:30am Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon 6:30pm Choir	<b>21 Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ</b> Hebrews 7:1-6; Mark 10:17-27 6:30pm Choir
Friday	<b>8 Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> II Timothy 1:1-2;8-18 Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8	<b>15 Eleutherios the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Illyricum</b> 🕯 II Timothy 1:8-18;Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5	<b>22 Anastasia the Great Martyr</b> Hebrews 7:18-25; Mark 10:24-32 9am Royal Hours of Christmas
Saturday	<b>9 The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> ↵ Galatians 4:22-27;Luke 8:16-21 11am GOYA at Kettering Backpack	<b>16 The Holy Prophet Aggaeus (Haggai)</b> 🕯 Ephesians 1:16-23 Luke 14:1-11 5pm Winter Family Gala	<b>23 Ten Martyrs of Crete; Paul, Archbishop of Neo-Caesarea</b> 🕯 Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:19-29

• Fast Days Shaded ✠ Liturgy ❖ Other Service ↵ fish/wine/oil allowed 🕯 wine/oil allowed

	December 24-30	Dec 31-Jan 6	January 7-13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24 Sunday before Nativity</b> ✠ 🍷 Matthew 1:1-25; Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy No Catechism School No Coffee Hour 6pm Great Vespers of Christmas Eve	<b>31 Sunday after Nativity</b> ✠ Mark 1:1-8; II Timothy 4:5-8 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy No Catechism School 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>7 Synaxis of John the Baptist</b> ✠ John 1:29-34; Acts 19:1-8 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30am Vasilopita Luncheon 12pm GOYA meeting (tentative)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25 The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ</b> Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4-7 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy NO Adult Catechism Office Closed-Christmas Day	<b>1 Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</b> John 10:1-9; Colossians 2:8-12 9am Orthros--w/Typika (St. Basil) NO Adult Catechism Office Closed-New Years Day	<b>8 Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</b> Romans 6:3-11; John 3:22-33 5pm Tutoring Program 5:30pm Greek School Vasilopita 7pm Adult Catechism
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26 Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos</b> Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23	<b>2 Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Seraphim of Sarov</b> Hebrews 5:4-10 John 3:1-15	<b>9 Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</b> II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 1:9-15 6pm AHEPA/DOP Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27 Stephen, Archdeacon &amp; First Martyr</b> Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-60 Matthew 21:33-42 NO Zoom Bible Study	<b>3 Malachi the Prophet</b> I Timothy 3:13-16;4:1-5; Matthew 3:1-6 10am Philoptochos Meeting 7pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>10 Gregory of Nyssa</b> Ephesians 4:7-13; Luke 3:19-22 7pm Zoom Bible Study
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28 20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia</b> Hebrews 10:35-39;11:1-7 Luke 14:25-35 6:30pm Choir	<b>4 Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</b> I Corinthians 4:9-16; John 1:18-28 10am Philoptochos Meeting (Athenagoras Room) 6:30pm Choir	<b>11 Theodosius the Cenobiarch</b> Luke 6:17-23; Hebrews 13:7-16 6:30pm Choir
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29 14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem</b> Hebrews 2:11-18 9am Royal Hours of Christmas Service	<b>5 Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</b> ✧ I Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18 9am Royal Hours of Theophany 6pm Vespertal Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters	<b>12 Tatiana the Martyr of Rome</b> Acts 18:22-28 John 10:39-42
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30 Anysia the Virgin-martyr of Thessaloniki</b> I Timothy 6:11-16 Matthew 12:15-21	<b>6 The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</b> Mark 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11am Great Blessing of the Waters	<b>13 Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus</b> Ephesians 6:10-17 Matthew 4:1-11

• Fast Days Shaded ✠ Liturgy ✧ Other Service ⇐ fish/wine/oil allowed 🍷 wine/oil allowed



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

As we move past the month of November and Thanksgiving and turn our focus onto the Nativity of our Lord, we are thankful for another successful year of stewardship. Through your faithful dedication, we have now met our budgeted goal for pledged stewardship. Thank you all!

On Sunday November 19, stewardship pledge cards were distributed after church. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2024 and remember the church's expenses are increasing as everyone's are at home. On December 10, we will have a second stewardship Sunday where we ask all stewards to return their pledge cards for the 2024 stewardship campaign. If you still need a Stewardship Card, you can find it online at <https://www.daytonannunciation.org/stewardship>, or later on in this newsletter.

Thank you!

*-Demetri Inempolidis for the Stewardship Committee*

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*Save the Date: Christmas Luncheon December 7*

The Philoptochos Christmas luncheon is **Thursday, December 7** at the Moraine Country Club. Chairs: Maria Castleman and Mary Caudell.

*Next Membership meeting*

The January meeting will be held on Thursday, **January 4** at 10 a.m. in the Athenagoras Room. Please stay after the meeting to help set up for Vasilopita Sunday.

*Welcome New Philoptochos Members*

- Elizabeth Fote
- Anna Jackson
- Stefani King
- Tina Vogel

*Vasilopita Sunday*

Save the date, **January 7**, 2024 for the Vasilopita luncheon sponsored by Philoptochos. Proceeds go to St. Basil Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. The Academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood. The Vasilopita commitment provides funding for the Academy's operating expenses. You can make your reservation after church \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 17. Dena Inempolidis and Stacy Bambakidis, chairs.

*Calling all Bakers*

After so many years of Matt Boosalis' generosity and talent of baking Vasilopitas for each table, we need 3 or 4 bakers to fill that role. If you would like to help, please contact Stacy Bambakidis at [stacybam@kw.com](mailto:stacybam@kw.com) or Dena Inempolidis at [dena.inempolidis@gmail.com](mailto:dena.inempolidis@gmail.com). This is a STRONG need, so we repeat it on the next page for emphasis.

We also need bakers to make Vasilopitas for the auction. We need adult and children cakes. Please contact Chris Makaritis at [cmakaritis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmakaritis@sbcglobal.net) or 937-433-0703 if you are able to donate to the auction.

*Young at Heart*

We will be sponsoring the Young at Heart Luncheon on Thursday, **December 14** at 11:30. Please arrive at 9:30am if you can help with set up. We will also need help with clean up, we would appreciate it if you can stay to help. Sandy Alex, chair.

## *92nd Anniversary*

On Sunday, November 5, baskets were passed in honor of our 92nd anniversary. With the generosity of our parish, we sent **\$1,123.00** to the Patriarchate which benefits the philanthropic programs and charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

## *2024 Membership fees*

Renew your Philoptochos Membership! Consider gifting a membership! Our goal is to receive all 2024 membership by mid-January. Opportunities to hand-deliver your \$30 dues to Membership Chair, Kathy Spyrou, are at the Christmas Luncheon, January Vasilopita Luncheon or on Sundays through January. You may also place your check in the Philoptochos box in the Community Center lobby or mail to Kathy Spyrou, at 856 Princewood Avenue, Dayton, OH, 45429. Please make sure to include Philoptochos Membership 2024 in the memo line of your check.

## *2023 Food Drive*

Philoptochos extends our deep thank you to the Parish for supporting our 2023 food drive. Over 650 pounds of food was delivered to three food banks. Together we do great things!



## *Vasilopita Luncheon*

The Greek word "Vasilopita" is translated as "Basil Bread" (a sweet bread, in this case) and we gather every year, as a church family, to celebrate this beautiful tradition. We eat, we cut the breads and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Please join us for the Annual Vasilopita Luncheon to be held on Sunday, **January 7, 2024**, immediately following Liturgy. This cherished event raises money for Saint Basil Academy through a silent auction of delicious homemade Vasilopitas and donations. Tickets will be sold after church on Sundays until **December 17th**. Tickets for Adults are \$20 and children 12 & under are \$12. Please let us know if you have any allergies.

**Bakers Needed!** For those of us who have never baked a Vasilopita bread or those of us who have baked year after year, we are in need of bakers. Please contact Chris Makaritis at 937-433-0703 to sign up.

Also, after many years of Matt Boosalis's generosity and talent of baking the Vasilopitas that are shared at each table, we are looking for 3-4 bakers to fill that role. If you are able to help make the table Vasilopitas, please reach out to Dena or Stacy.

We hope to see you there!

Your Vasilopita Co-Chairs,

*Cindy Keilholz, [cinlamkeil@gmail.com](mailto:cinlamkeil@gmail.com)*

*Dena Inempolidis, [dena.inempolidis@gmail.com](mailto:dena.inempolidis@gmail.com)*

*Stacy Bambakidis, [stacybam@kw.com](mailto:stacybam@kw.com)*

## YOUNG AT HEART

*THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 11:30 am.*

Looking forward to seeing you at our annual Young at Heart Christmas luncheon sponsored by Philoptochos and catered by The Spot. The Kettering Senior Show Choir will perform their Christmas program. A couple of our members are part of this group so come and see who they are!

## AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

### *Upcoming Events*

- Please look in your email on details of our November meeting, our annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, **December 12**, at Kohler's and an additional holiday get-together, wine tasting, at the Rumbleseat on Saturday, **December 2**.
- On Saturday, **December 16**, there will be a Christmas dinner-dance, coordinated by AHEPA. Please see the flyer!
- We have a fun evening planned for our annual wine and craft beer tasting, "Cheers and Beers" Friday, **January 19, 2024**.
- DOP is hosting for our community a guest speaker, Dr. Nickolas Pappas, professor of philosophy, to present on the Three Holy Hierarchs, on **Sunday, January 28, 2024**. Please see the flyer for more details.

At our monthly outreach at the Ronald McDonald House, we prepared breakfast and dinner with our Maids, for the families staying there. Please be on the lookout for our Maids of Athena upcoming fundraisers and how you might be able to support their efforts.

For our members, effective **January 9, 2024**, we will be returning to meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Lastly, please remit your 2024 dues of \$45.00 to our Treasurer.

All ladies are warmly invited to join our Daughters of Penelope. Please contact Alexis Brun, (937) 219-0463, [agrkbalsng23@gmail.com](mailto:agrkbalsng23@gmail.com).

## CATECHISM SCHOOL UPDATE

During this season of thanks, we want to express our gratitude for sharing your love of Christ with our students!

The next several weeks are busy!

Please support Rebecca & Rita with practice sessions

Stay tuned for details/instructions re: **Christmas Program Rehearsal (12/10) & Christmas Program (12/17)**

Older classes will be partnered with younger classes to assist on Program Day

The Nativity Fast begins November 15th, with the last day of fasting being Christmas Eve. We have many resources that are available in the Catechism School office, but you can find some at the following link:

<https://www.parousiapress.com/blogs/resources/observing-advent-the-nativity-fast>

## ATTENTION YOUTH WORKERS

It is that time of year - renewal of training is around the corner as well as some of us will have to renew our background checks. Please watch your email mailboxes for emails with instructions. They will not be from our local church - they will be from Safety Platform with Sterling Volunteers. Please pay attention to the directions in the emails and complete the training / background checks in a timely manner.



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### *Hannah's Treasure Chest in November*

Only one Thursday of volunteering at Hannah's Treasure Chest this month - Join us **Thursday, December 14** (1:00-3:00 pm). Any questions ? Maria McFarland 937.409.9876

## GIVING ANGELS A JOINT PROJECT OF M&O AND PHILOPTOCHOS

Giving Angels is a program which helps local families living at or below the poverty level during the holidays. Missions and Outreach and Philoptochos would like to thank our generous parishioners for their money donations , grocery gift card donations OR buying presents for a child/ family. We sponsored FIVE families - 14 children and MAIDS sponsored a family with 4 children. We are blessed to have a caring community. And our Dayton community will benefit from all your generosity.



## CHURCH DOORS FUNDING DRIVE

At the General Assembly last week, the Building & Maintenance Committee presented a plan for renewing the current doors of the Church for a cost of \$15,000. A generous family in our community has offered matching funds to cover half the expense of this work, so we are now soliciting donations from the rest of the community. We need to raise \$7,500, and our donor will then provide the other \$7,500. Please make your checks or donations payable to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, and note "Church Doors" in the memo. We thank you all for your generosity! This will free up parish funds for our many other pressing needs.

The [Church Door Restoration Fund](#) is now available through our Church website. You can use the direct link provided above, or go to <https://www.daytonannunciation.org/> and find the Church Door Restoration Fund under the Donate/Make-a-payment tab at the far right of the top menu bar.



## ADVENT RETREAT AT ST. PAUL'S

On **December 2**, from 1 till 4:15 pm, St. Paul Orthodox Church will be hosting an advent retreat with Fr. Stephen Freeman. Participation is free, and all are welcome! The topic of the Retreat is "The Unseen World & the Orthodox Life. The two sessions will be:

✠ **Session 1, 1:00-2:30 pm Coldness of Heart and the Perception of God:**

Christ said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." This is an indication that "seeing" God goes to the very core of our being. What is the heart? How can it be hot or cold? How do we nurture a pure heart and the vision of God?

✠ **Session 2, 2:45-4:15pm The Unseen Hand of God and the Work of Providence:** The LXX version of the book of Exodus tells us: "Now Moses built an altar and called its name The-Lord-My-Refuge; for with a secret hand the Lord wars with Amalek from generation to generation." (Exodus 17:16 LXX) What is the "secret hand" of God and how does it work in the world. This is an understanding that is utterly essential for peace of mind and steadfastness in Christ.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/8waGYxeziPL6f6Qs9>

## WINTER FAMILY GALA

On December 16, 2023, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, with support from the AIF, proudly presents a Winter Family Gala. Doors open at 5 pm with appetizers, dinner served at 6 pm, with fresh carved prime rib, seared salmon & pasta buffet, along with lots of Greek desserts and an open bar. Music & dancing to follow, with music by The George Karras Greek Band, & Michael Dow as DJ.

20 years and under are free; for ages 21 & up, tickets are \$25, and must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold on the night of the event. Table reservations are encouraged & available. Order Tickets at [daytonannunciation.org](http://daytonannunciation.org) by clicking on the "Donation/Make a Payment" tab, or contact Nick Regopoulos at [rego4nick@aol.com](mailto:rego4nick@aol.com) for more information. Tickets can also be paid with a check during coffee hour. Make checks payable to: "Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church" w/"Winter Family Gala" on the memo line. Please specify who will be attending, including all free guests under age 20.

IT WILL BE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER! WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

## FEATHER PARTY THANK-YOU!

The Feather Party Committee thanks all those that attended, donated, and supported this year's Feather Party. It was a great night that combined fun and fellowship for the parish. Thank you again for all your support!"

– *Evan Bambakidis for the Feather Party Committee*

2023 Daughters of Penelope Christmas Tsoureki

In partnership with **16 Bricks Bakery**

Cost: \$11.00 Each (1 1/2 lb. Loaf)

Deadline for orders: December 10th, 2023

Orders may be picked up at the:

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Community Center

**Saturday December 16th or Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm**



To place an order, please contact:

Charrie Regopoulos 937-623-2794

or email: [charrie.rego@aol.com](mailto:charrie.rego@aol.com)

Checks Payable to DOP

Please note the change in price is due to a larger loaf size and baker's cost.

*The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church proudly presents:*



THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH HALL :: 500 BELMONTE PARK NORTH, DAYTON, OH 45405

**LIVE GREEK MUSIC BY  
GEORGE KARRAS <sup>AND HIS</sup> BAND**

ALONG WITH A MIX OF AMERICAN HITS FROM D.J. MICHAEL DOW

**PACKAGE INCLUDES**

COCKTAILS & APPETIZERS :: 5 - 6 pm

CARVED PRIME RIB, SEARED SALMON AND PASTA BUFFET DINNER :: 6 - 7 pm  
w/ OPEN BAR & GREEK DESSERTS

**\$25 PER PERSON : AGE 21 & UP  
NO COST : 20 YEARS AND UNDER**

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED :: NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR  
TABLE SEATING AVAILABLE

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [DAYTONANNUNCIATION.ORG](http://DAYTONANNUNCIATION.ORG) via the "Donation/Make a Payment" tab,  
or CHECKS CAN BE MADE TO "ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH" w/ "Winter Family Gala" on memo.  
PLEASE SPECIFY WHO WILL BE COMING, INCLUDING ALL FREE GUESTS UNDER AGE 20.

*For more information contact: Nick Regopoulos at [rego4nick@aol.com](mailto:rego4nick@aol.com)*

*Winter Family Gala Committee Members: Bill Karras, Linda Bouris, Nick Regopoulos, Nick Zois & Voula Zois*





The  
Dayton Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
Catechism School and Greek School  
present...

# The Annual Christmas Program

Co-Directed by Rebecca James and Margarita Ronayne

Join us immediately after Divine Liturgy on  
Sunday, December 17, 2023  
for a luncheon and in-person performance

# Grow Our Philoptochos Membership in 2024



Did you know, our Dayton Philoptochos Chapter has donated over \$208,000 to local and national charities over the past 5 years? In 2022 alone, we donated over \$21,000 to local Dayton charities.

Philoptochos is a group of like-goaled women who participate in worthwhile efforts to help others in need. We raise awareness of a different charity each month through hands-on work, financial support and spiritual involvement. This is in addition to the numerous charities we support through the National and Metropolis Philoptochos organizations.

We encourage you to become a part of what we do! We seek Orthodox women from our parish, 18 & older, willing to make a difference in the Dayton Community and beyond. The mission of Philoptochos is to lessen human suffering and minister to those impoverished financially, emotionally and spiritually. Even if you work full time or are busy with family, there are many ways you can be active and help those in need. We communicate by email – if you can't attend the meetings, you can still be informed and involved, as much as you are able.

Membership fees are \$30 per year. You can mail your 2024 dues to Kathy Spyrou, Membership Chair, 856 Princewood Ave, Dayton, OH 45429 OR give it to her at church. Please write *2024 Philoptochos dues* in the memo line on your check. We encourage you to fulfill dues by mid-January 2024.

We look forward to a rewarding year of philanthropy. At present, we have 128 members in our Dayton Chapter of Philoptochos. It takes each and every one of us to make a difference in the lives of others. Please join us in fulfilling our goals in 2024 and beyond.

***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)***

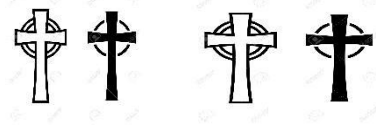
**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR  
TO CELEBRATE OUR VASILOPITA LUNCHEON  
ON JANUARY 7, 2024.  
Bakers are needed to make the Vasilopitas  
for our silent auction.**

**Last year we had 37 pitas and it was a fantastic  
fund-raiser.**

**Please notify Chris Makaritis 937-433-0703 or  
[cmakaritis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmakaritis@sbcglobal.net).**

**Have a great Holiday Season!**





January 28, 2024

Join Greek School, AHEPA and DOP to celebrate

**THE THREE HIERARCHS**

Patron Saints of Education



Following Divine Liturgy and a complimentary lunch

Dr. Nickolas Pappas will be speaking on

A workout for the Soul

**Γυμναστική για την ψυχή**

Dr. Nickolas Pappas received his PhD from Harvard University in 1987, was a professor at Hollins College and currently is at City College of New York as a professor of Philosophy.

**Invite your church friends and enjoy lunch and a speaker!**

This event is possible by the generosity of AIF



## A Spiritual Weekend Retreat

*Strengthening  
Our Families  
Our Parish  
Our Faith*

*featuring*

**Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh**

***Friday, February 9, 6:00 pm***

**Dinner – Session I**

***Saturday, February 10, 9:30 am***

**Coffee/Donuts/Bagels – Session II**

**Lunch – Session III**

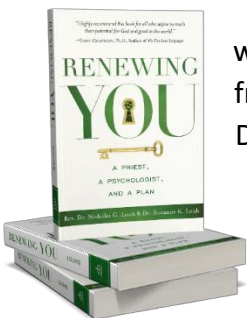
**Dayton Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
500 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, Ohio 45405**

**Sponsored by Annunciation Speaker Committee and funded by AIF**

**Inviting our Dayton Parish Members, as well as Sister Parishes**

**To ensure food preparation, please RSVP your interest of each session attending to  
Cindy Keilholz, [cinlamkeil@gmail.com](mailto:cinlamkeil@gmail.com) or cell number 937-974-8841**

**No later than February 2, 2023**



Father Nick will bring some books for signing. He and his wife, Dr. Roxanne Louh, have written the book, [Renewing You A Priest, a Psychologist and a Plan](#). Half of the proceeds from their books go to the American Cancer Society and half to his church, St. John the Divine GOC in Jacksonville, Florida.

Together, Fr. Nicholas and his wife co-host a weekly radio show on Ancient Faith Radio entitled “Live with the Louhs” on Tuesday at 8 p.m. In addition, they co-author daily inspirational messages through email and social media. You can register to receive these messages by going to their website [thelouhs.com/subscribe](http://thelouhs.com/subscribe). Visit and subscribe to their YouTube channel to discover sermons and more [www.youtube.com/@TheLouhs](http://www.youtube.com/@TheLouhs)



## **A Spiritual Weekend Retreat With Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh**

### **Who is Father Louh?**

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh was born in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was raised as a member of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, the same church he has served as a senior pastor since 2007.

He has two weekly podcasts on **Ancient Faith Radio**. Healthy Souls and Live with the Louh's, where he is joined by his wife Dr. Roxanne, a licensed clinical psychologist. Together they have written the book, *Renewing You; A Priest, a Psychologist and a Plan*.

His daily inspirational messages on social media have attracted thousands of followers from all over the world. Father Louh is a dynamic speaker who will host three sessions on February 9 and 10, 2023. He will discuss how to strengthen our families, our parish and our faith. This is a retreat you don't want to miss.

Want to learn more about Father Louh? Click on the link to his website where you will be directed to Ancient Faith Radio podcasts and a link to subscribe to messages.

**<https://thelouhs.com/>**

Please see the attached flyer for more information and to make reservations.



**The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Stewardship Campaign Card**  
500 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, OH 45405 – Tel: 937-224-0601 – Web: [www.daytonannunciation.org](http://www.daytonannunciation.org)

**My/Our pledge to the 20<sup>24</sup> Stewardship Campaign is:**

- \$100 monthly / \$1,200 annually (one day of supporting our parish)  
 \$200 monthly / \$2,400 annually  
 \$400 monthly / \$4,800 annually  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid:  Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

Preferred method of payment:  Electronic funds (EFT)  Credit Card  Check  
 Cash  Dayton Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the FRONT and BACK of this card. Thank you

*Our Church ...  
Our*

*Spiritual Home*

**Did you know?**

**It is the Lord Who gives you power to get wealth.** (Deuteronomy 8:18)

**The Lord calls us to give Him 10% of our Income.**

**Stewardship is faith in action.**

**The first \$250 of each pledge goes to the Archdiocese.**

Please fill out the following information for our records

	Orthodox Christian?	Date of birth:	Email:	Cell phone:
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Spouse:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICES & EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

### ***December 2***

Fr. Stephen Freeman Advent Retreat “The Unseen World & The Orthodox Life” AT ST PAULS  
@ 1 - 4:15 pm

### ***December 3***

GOYA Meeting/Christmas Party AT CHURCH @  
12/1 pm

### ***December 5***

Great Vespers AT HTSN CINCINNATI @ 6:30 pm

### ***December 6***

Orthros/Divine Liturgy at 8:15/9:30 am

### ***December 7***

Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon @ 10 am

### ***December 9***

GOYA at Kettering Backpack @ 11 am

### ***December 10***

Stewardship Sunday - bring your completed 2024  
Stewardship Cards to Church!

### ***December 12***

AHEPA/DOP Christmas Dinner AT  
PRESIDENTIAL @ 6 pm

### ***December 14***

Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon @ 11:30 am

### ***December 16***

Winter Family Gala @ 6 pm

### ***December 17***

Christmas Program (Catechism & Greek Schools) @  
12:30 pm

### ***December 19***

Parish Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm

### ***December 22***

Royal Hours of Christmas @ 9 am

### ***December 24***

Great Vespers of Christmas Eve @ 6 pm

### ***December 25***

Orthros/Liturgy of Christmas @ 8:15/9:30 am