

THE TRUE VINE

Published by Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Dayton, Ohio

August 2023

http://www.daytonannunciation.org

THE MEDICINE OF THE SOUL

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

Beloved in the Lord,



I pray that the intercessions of our all-holy Lady, Mary the Theotokos, may sustain you all as we commemorate her Koimisis (Dormition/Falling Asleep), her partaking in the Resurrection, and her enthronement in the Divine Council on

high. Please remember that these first fourteen days of August are a period of strict fasting (as in Great Lent) and prayer (we will offer the Paraklesis services for the health and salvation of the living on August 1st and 8th).

Parish Informational Booklet

In the meantime, we continue to work on a new informational booklet for the parish, using this space to draft some of its elements. Our current focus is on basic introductions to & explanations of the services and sacraments of the Church, as a guide to what the clergy can offer to the Faithful. We began with the services and prayers that are done when a child is born, and have continued with a discussion of the Sacraments of the Church. Last time, we talked about Holy Unction, and noted that this Mystery of the Church is one of two Sacraments in which we encounter the Lord as Healer, as the Physician of our souls and bodies, sustaining us in the Eucharistic life into which we have been initiated by baptism & chrismation.

The Sacrament of Confession

The second Sacrament in which the Lord grants us healing and sustaining help is Confession. This sacrament is known in Greek as 'E $\xi o\mu o\lambda \delta \gamma \eta \sigma \iota_5$ (exomologesis), a word which can be used both for the affirmation of faith, and for the acknowledgment of failures (literally, the word means something like "speaking out in harmony"). The point, in both cases, is a spoken acknowledgment in harmony with reality, whether the deep reality of the universe and its Creator, or the more personal reality of one's self and one's inner life, sins, and struggles.

The Medicine of the Soul

To do the latter, to confess our sins & struggles, is not easy. We spend our lives doing the opposite, projecting to those around us an image of what we think they want to see. The most common example of this is the ubiquitous exchange: "How are you?" "Oh, just fine." The problems begin when we start to forget that this is just a social convention, and either think that we ARE in fact fine, or that we ought to be, or that everyone else is fine, and only we are uniquely broken. Still worse, we often come to believe that God expects us to project that same image of false and superficial wholeness. This latter problem is ubiquitous; our churches around the world SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:15 am – Orthros 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Please see included calendar for details, meetings, feeast-day services, and any other schedule variations.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Baptisms July 13, 2023 Petros Kalamaras

<u>Funerals</u> July 21, 2023 Katina Staios

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

IMPORTANT LINKS

True Vine Bulletin Board <u>https://www.daytonannunciation.org/</u> parish-bulletin-board

We urge you all to keep this website open on your phones or computers; it will always have the latest update on current events and activities for the various ministries and organization of the parish.

> Service Texts https://dcs.goarch.org

Parish Life Stream (Youtube) <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> <u>@daytonannunciation6868</u>

Parish Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/ 1355887314468422

Stewardship/Online Giving <u>https://www.daytonannunciation.org/</u> <u>stewardship</u> Weekly Bible Study Texts

https://theruleoffaith.typepad.com/rei

are full of people who are desperately pretending to be sound and substantial, whole and healthy. But as the Lord Himself said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). Confession, then, is first of all a discipline of honesty about what troubles and ails us, owning this truth in our own heart, and then seeking healing from the Lord in His Church.

The Order of the Sacrament

Confession begins with preparation, with a careful examination of one's self. Sometimes we meditate upon the Ten Commandments to prepare; sometimes we reflect instead on the health of our relationships (with our own self, with the Lord, with intimate family, with friends and neighbors, and even with our enemies). Sometimes we do both; regardless, we focus on what is most troubling to us, what is disrupting our inner peace and our capacity to be in honest and right relationship with ourselves and with those around us. Preparation is not unlike the selfexamination we might do prior to a doctor's appointment, considering what it is that ails us, what it is that we seek to have healed and set right.

Once we have prepared, we go to the priest, and stand with him in front of the icon of the Lord, where we say prayers of repentance, and then make our confession (not to the priest, but to the Lord, as the priest stands by us). Once we have said what we have prepared, the priest may ask questions to clarify, to help us to distill more exactly what troubles us, and after that, he will often give some guidance in how to address these struggles. At the end of the Sacrament, the priest will pray for the Lord to grant us forgiveness and healing, will assure us of the Lord's mercy and love for all who repent in truth, and then we will depart in peace.

It should be noted that what is revealed in Confession is kept in the strictest confidence by the Priest. Revealing what he hears in Confession is grounds for removal from the Priesthood; for this reason, the Faithful may be confident that what they confess will be kept sacrosanct and secret.

Scheduling Confession

Confession is scheduled individually, as we would schedule a doctor's appointment. To schedule Confession, we can go through the Church office, or can contact the priest directly. As for how often we should confess - it should be once a year, at a minimum, but may be as often as we feel the need. The Fasting periods of the Church are good times to take stock of our life and to consider seeking the healing that the Lord offers to us in this Sacrament. But if we are planning to make our Confession during Great Lent, as many do, it is important to schedule it as early as possible, as the priest's time during the Great Fast is limited, and becomes more and more limited as Holy Week approaches, and by the time Holy Week arrives, there is usually no more time available.

Confession, as the Sacrament of Repentance and reconciliation, is the healing that our Lord offers to every Orthodox Christian. It is a blessing that we should all seek as a fundamental anchor point of our lives. With love in Christ,

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

<u>Clergy</u>

Fr. Anthony Cook franthony@daytonannunciation.org

2023 Parish Council

Jim Haubrock - President Andrea Casey - Vice President Stavro Ververis - Secretary Nick Regopoulos - Treasurer

Linda Bouris Louis Castleman Christina Day Mary Haritos Vassilios Karras Linda Kididis Dirk Lackovich Van-Gorp Matt McAlpine Stacey Tipler Isidora Tsonis Athena Zayakos

Office Staff

Erin Caldwell Office Manager/Rental Coordinator Email: <u>erin.caldwell@daytonannunciation.org</u>

Brenda Day Bookkeeper Email: <u>accountant@daytonamunciation.org</u>

Deborah Stringfield Parish Administrative Assistant Email: <u>office@daytonamunciation.org</u>

Building Staff

Ty Lambert Facilities Specialist Email: <u>maintenance@daytonannunciation.org</u>

Renda Humphreys/Bernie Clair Housekeeping

Fr. Anthony Cook

	July 30- August 5	August 6-August 12	August 13-August 19	
Sunday	30 8th Sunday of Matthew Image: Constraint of the second sec	6 Transfiguration of our 🗜 «- Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Luke 9:28-36 / II Peter 1:10-19 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy (Blessing of Grapes for any who bring them) 11:30am Coffee Hour	13 10th Sunday of₩MatthewJohn 21:1-14 / I Corinthians 4:9-168a Orthros/9:30a LiturgyMemorial - Kathy McAlpine11:30am Coffee Hour	
Monday	31 Forefeast of the Precious Cross I Corinthians 11:31-34;12:1-6 Matthew 18:1-11 NO Adult Catechism	7 Afterfeast of the Transfiguration I Corinthians 15:12-19 Mark 9:2-9 9am Dolmathes making 7pm Adult Catechism	14 Forefeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos II Corinthians 2:3-15 Matthew 23:13-22 7pm Adult Catechism	
Tuesday	 1 The Holy Seven Maccabee	 8 Emilian the Confessor & Bishop of Cyzikos I Corinthians 15:29-38 Matthew 21:23-27 9am Dolmatthes making 6pm Great Paraklesis 	15 Dormition of theTheotokosLuke 1:39-49, 56; Philippians 2:5-118:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy11:30am Reception6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday	2 Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-60 Mark 12:1-12 7pm Transformative Christianity Webinar	9 The Holy Apostle Matthias Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 Matthew 21:28-32 7pm Zoom Bible Study	16 Translation of the Image of Our Lord I Timothy 3:13-16;4:1-5 Luke 9:51-57, 10:22-24, 13:22 9am Pastitsio (contact Stavro to help) 7pm Zoom Bible Study	
Thursday	3 Isaacius, Dalmatus, & Faustus I Corinthians 14:6-19 Matthew 20:17-28 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	10 Laurence the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Rome II Corinthians 1:1-7 Matthew 21:43-46 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	17 Myron the Martyr of Cyzicus II Corinthians 4:1-12 Matthew 24:13-28 9am Pastitsio (contact Stavro to help) 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	
Friday	4 Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus I Corinthians 14:26-40 Matthew 21:12-14; 17-20	11 Euplus the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Cantania II Corinthians 1:12-20 Matthew 22:23-33	18 Floros & Lauros the Monk-martyrs of Illyria II Corinthians 4:13-18 Matthew 24:27-33, 42-51	
Saturday	5 Forefeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ★I Peter 1:1-25;2:1-10 Matthew 15:32-39>5pm Great Vespers for Transfiguration	12 The Holy Martyrs♥Photius and Anicetus of♥NicomediaRomans 15:30-33Matthew 17:24-27; 18:1-4	19 Andrew the General & Martyr & his 2,593 soldiers I Corinthians 1:3-9 Matthew 19:3-12	

• Fast Days Shaded ★ Liturgy ♦ Other Service ≪ fish/wine/oil allowed ♦ wine/oil allowed

	August 20-August 19	August 27-September 2	September 3-9
Sunday	20 11th Sunday of Matthew John 21:14-25/ I Corinthians 9:2-12 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Memorial - Alice Sabty 11:30am Coffee Hour	27 12th Sunday of Matthew Matthew 28:16-20/ Ephesians 6:10-17 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Festival set-up	3 13th Sunday of MatthewI Corinthians 16:13-24; Matthew 21:33-428:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy11:30am Coffee Hour12pm GOYA Book Club
Monday	21 The Holy Apostle Thaddaeus II Corinthians 5:10-15 Mark 3:13-21 7pm Adult Catechism	28 Moses the Black of Scete II Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 3:6-12 NO Adult Catechism	4 Babylas the Hieromartyr Moses the Prophet & Godseer II Corinthians 12:10-19; Mark 4:10-23 Labor Day-Office Closed
Tuesday	22 The Holy Martyr & AgathonicusII Corinthians 5:15-21Mark 1:16-229am Baklava prep	29 Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner Matthew 14:1-13; Acts 13:25-33 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy	5 Zacharias & Elizabeth Urban, Theodore & Medimnos II Corinthians 12:20-21;13:1-2; Matthew 23:29-39 9am Pastry Cupping/Packing
Wednesday	23 Apodosis of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28 9am Baklava prep 7pm Zoom Bible Study	30 Apodosis of the Feast of the Forerunner II Corinthians 9:12-15;10:1-7 Mark 3:20-27 7pm Zoom Bible Study	6 Miracle at Colassai Martyr Calodote Hebrews 2:2-10 Luke 10:16-21 9am Pastry Cupping/Packing 7pm Transformative Christianity Webinar
Thursday	24 Eutyches the Hieromartyr & Disciple of St. John the Theologian II Corinthians 7:1-10 Mark 1:29-35 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	31 The Placing of the Honorable Sash of the Most Holy Theotokos Hebrews 9:1-7;Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28 6pm Philoptochos Meeting(Chop House) 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	7 Forefeast Nativity of Theotokos; Martyr Sozon Galatians 1:1-3; 20-24; Mark 5:1-20 9am Pastry Cupping/Packing 6pm Orthros 7pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Friday	25 Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle Titus 1:1-5;2:15;3:1-2,12-15 Matthew 5:14-19	1 Ecclesiastical New Year ↔ ♂ Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 4:16-22 6pm Small Blessing of the Water	8 Nativity of the#<
Saturday	26 The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalie Hebrews 10:32-38 Matthew 20:29-34	2 Mammas the Martyr Romans 8:28-39 Mark 2:18-22	9 Joachim & Anna, Severianos of Sebaste I Corinthians 2:6-9 Matthew 10:37-42, 11:1 11am-8pm Fall Greek Drive-Thru

• Fast Days Shaded ★ Liturgy ◆ Other Service ≪ fish/wine/oil allowed ♦ wine/oil allowed

FESTIVAL NEWS

Fall Greek Drive Thru: Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for our Fall Drive-Thru for **Friday**, **September 8**, **Saturday**, **September 9**, **& Sunday**, **September 10**. If you have not signed up as of yet and are available to help us out, please contact one of the booth chairs listed below with your availability as well as Maria Powers or Leah Derksen. We are in great need of volunteers for all shifts. We will also be signing up after Church during the month of August. Please help out to make this a successful drive-thru for our parish.

Booths/Chairs							
Cheese/Spinach Pies	Harry & Linda Bouris	harryandlinda@earthlink.net	937.903.5571				
Drive-Thru/Outside	Tony Argue	targue@mitlift.com	937.371.1780				
Outside Grills	Andrew Ball	to_aball@hotmail.com	678.230.6106				
Gyro Booth	Maria Powers	Makapo1971@gmail.com	937.562.1094				
Kitchen	Michael Jannides	msjannides@gmail.com	937.726.3183				
Pastries	Charrie Regoupoulos	charrie.rego@gmail.com	937.623.2794				
Pastries	Sharon Liapis	skayliapis@gmail.com	937.269.6054				
Quality Control/Packers	Ariana Milanese	derksen.1194@gmail.com	937.602.3229				
Salads	Susie/Rachid ElGani	pvasiliki@aol.com	937.623.8607				
Volunteer Room	Linda Kididis	LLK1962@outlook.com	937.836.1526				
Condiment Table	Bill Alimonos		937.426.9708				
Hot Foods	Chris Day	cday2578@gmail.com	937.510.1280				
Frozen Foods	Cindy Keiholz	cinlamkeil@gmail.com	937.974.8841				
Volunteers	Leah Derksen	ldbamse@aol.com	937.271.9061				
Volunteers	Maria Powers	makapo1971@gmail.com	937.562.1094				

Baking/Work Schedule

The baking/work schedule can be found below - all events begin at 9am.

- Dolmathes: August 7 & 8 All are welcome to come help
- Pastitsio: August 16 & 17 To help, please contact Stavro Ververis 513-464-3851 or email no2sonververis@gmail.com
- Baklava: August 22 & 23 All are welcome to come help.
- Pastry Cupping/Packing: September 5, 6 & 7 All are welcome to come help.
- Hall Set-Up: August 27 (after church)
- Tear-down: September 11, 12 & 13

Leah Derksen/ Christopher Milanese *Co-chairs Fall Festival 2023*



PRE-ORDER/PRE-PAY

Our Fall 2023 drive-thru festival will offer some of your favorites, plus some *NEW* items for pick-up.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 500 Belmonte Park N., Dayton, Ohio 45405 937.224.0601

FRIDAY, September 8, 2023; 11:00am – 8:00pm SATURDAY, September 9, 2023; 11:00am – 8:00pm SUNDAY, September 10, 2023; 12:00pm – 6:00pm

Orders can be placed starting Monday, August 21, 2023, and will last through Sunday, September 10, 2023.

Order online at: <u>daytongreekfestival.com</u>

Visit us on Facebook: **1** Dayton Greek Festival

MENU:

Chicken Souvlaki, Lamb Chops, Gyros, Dolmathes, Spanakopita,

Tiropita, Greek Style Green Beans, Greek Potatoes, Rice

Greek Salads (Chicken or Gyro), Hummus Plate, Sausage Plate

Pastry Variety Box, Various Pastries, Greek Salad Dressing

Frozen Items: Moussaka, Pastichio, Dolmathes, Spanakopita, Tiropita

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Dormition Service & Reception: August 15

Following the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos on **Tuesday**, **August 15**, Philoptochos will be sponsoring a reception in the Community Center. Please consider bringing something to share with others on this special day. Some ideas are:

- Mini-meat sandwiches
- Fresh fruit
- Dips with fresh vegetables and/or crackers
- Cheese and crackers
- Pitas
- Breakfast rolls/desserts

Contact Mary McDonald (937-272-5962 or <u>mcgreek99@aol.com</u>) on what you are bringing so we can be sure to have a nice variety.

August Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting will be **August 31st** at 6pm at the The Chop House in Centerville. There is no set menu. You order off the full menu and are responsible for your own meal. RSVP to Nikki Burns at <u>nburns3278@gmail.com</u> by Friday, August 25 if you plan to attend. Thank you!

Blue Star Mothers Collection

In support of our service men and women, we will be collecting items at the August 31st 6pm meeting at the Chop House. Mary McDonald will deliver the items to the Blue Star Mothers location. Please bring regular or travel size of the following items:

- Deodorant
- Body wash and shampoo (2 in 1)
- Foot powder
- Body Powder
- Lotion (no pumps, please)
- Sunscreen
- Dental floss
- Lip balm

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Once again, we are volunteering at Hannah's Treasure Chest during the month of August. All ages are welcomed ... a great volunteer opportunity:

Thursday, August 10 from 1:00-3:00 pm **Thursday, August 24** from 9:00-11:00 am

Volunteer one day, two times...whenever you are available. There is something for all! Students, if you are looking for volunteer opportunities, join us! With questions call Maria McFarland at 937-409-9876.

College Student Info Needed

Please send addresses of your college age children to church office/Maria McFarland (<u>maroudapap80@gmail.com</u>) by **September 10**. With support from AIF, we mail college care packages twice a year and need to have our students college addresses.







HANNAH'S TREASURE CHEST

AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

On behalf of our AHEPA Family, thank you to all for attending the annual church community picnic on 7/16. It's a pleasure to give back to you all in this way!

Thank you to our Sisters that represented our Dayton DOP Polydama Chapter #111 at the District Convention held in Warren, Ohio and our National Convention held in Las Vegas! Congratulations to Our Sister Nicole Bacas, for being re-elected to our Buckeye District #11 Lodge!

Meetings resume Thursday, 9/14, time and location TBD.

Thank you to all committee chairs and Sisters that continue the work of DOP, such as at Ronald McDonald House, sharing Sunshine, and even our coffee hour!

All ladies of our parish are invited to become a member of our long standing Polydama Chapter. Please contact Alexis Brun, Chapter President, if you are interested and to learn more about our wonderful AHEPA family: agrkblsng22@gmail.com, (937) 219-0463

CATECHISM SCHOOL NEWS

It's time to register for Sunday Catechism School! Use the following link below to register each child in your family: <u>Catechism School Registration 2023-2024</u>.

Sunday, September 24th - first day of class & Ice Cream Social

10 Reasons to Bring Your Child To Catechism School

Have you considered the benefits of Sunday School attendance for your child? Here are 10 reasons to make it a priority in your family.

1. **Age Targeted Teaching**: Where else can your kids get Biblical instruction that's focused toward their developmental abilities?

2. **Friends**: In Sunday School, your child will build positive friendships with their peers by discovering God's Word together.

3. It's Fun: Sunday School is not Disney Land, but our teachers do work hard to teach the Bible in ways that are relevant and fun for kids.

4. **Spiritual Mentors**: A dedicated teacher can be a Christian role model who supports you and helps inspire the faith of your child.

5. **Systematic Bible Learning**: Our curriculum is designed to give a broad foundation, so children will understand how all the parts of Scripture point to Christ.



6. **Praying Teachers**: Our teachers consistently pray for your child's faith to grow. Coming to Sunday School gives another occasion for God to answer those requests.

7. **Big Reward For a Small Investment**: If you're already coming to church, just come a little earlier. That one change will equal over 800 hours of additional Christian teaching before your child graduates.

8. Send the Right Message: Making Sunday School a priority shows your kids that God's Word really does matter more than pillow-time.

9. Adult Fellowship: While the children enjoy their class, you can fellowship with other adults in the Community Center.

10. You'll Be On Time: Families who come to Sunday School always get to worship on time. It's the easiest way to avoid being late.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Greek school registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Greek school is a Greek language and culture education program for children ages four through thirteen. There are nine levels of learning including preschool. Curriculum goals include developing vocabulary and confidence in speaking/ writing skills, as well as exposing the students to various topics of the Greek culture. Students also attend the computer lab to support classroom learning. Classes take place in the classrooms of the Community Center of our church on



Monday evenings, from the end of September to the end of May. Classes meet from 5:30 to 7:30 pm with a brief recess period. To contact the Greek School director, email <u>annunciationgs@gmail.com</u>. Register here for Greek School: <u>Greek School Registration 2023-2024</u>.

ANNUNCIATION INVESTMENT FUND

AIF 2024 Budget Requests

Requests for the 2024 Annunciation Investment Fund Budget are due no later than September 30, 2023. <u>The Funding Request Form</u>, located on the Church website should be used. It can be found under Organizations – Annunciation Investment Fund (AIF). Additional pages can be added for justification as needed. Requests can be emailed to <u>AIF@daytonannunciation.org</u>, placed in the AIF mailbox at the Church, or mailed to the church to the attention of AIF. Please make requests as detailed as possible. If you have any question, please contact Keith McFarland at 937-232-0989 or send an email to the AIF mailbox. Requests after the deadline may not be considered.

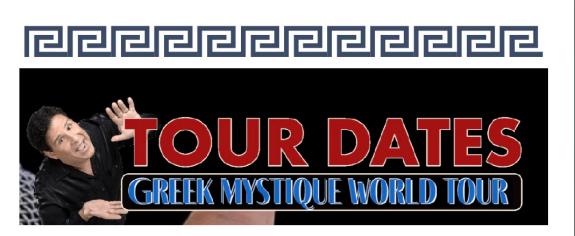
AUGUST TRANSFORMATIVE CHRISTIANITY WEBINAR

Join the August Transformative Christianity Webinar on **Wednesday, August 2** at 7pm. The topic is "Bringing the Jesus Prayer to the Parish" with Fr. David Smith. Use following zoom link below to join: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2p96eepw;</u> Meeting ID: 880 9611 8808; Passcode: 3



BASILE COMEDY SHOW: TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Sponsored by AIF, Annunciation is hosting Greek comedian Basile on **Saturday, October 14**. Tickets are on sale now! The prices are \$50/person or \$350 for a table of 8 and include admission, light hors devours, and two drinks. Cocktails & hors devours begin at 6:30pm; the show starts at 8pm. Please contact Stavro Ververis (513-464-3851) or Christina Panagouleas-Stephens (937-260-2773) to order your tickets!



BASILE THE COMEDIAN IS COMING TO:

THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN

DAYTON OTHO ON:

OCTOBER 14

With this Greek Comedian Show

The Greek Mystique





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PARISH PHOTOS: JULY 2023



















RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE HOME

A Reflection from Fr. Anthony

As we prepare for the new year of Church ministries, we want to encourage everyone once again to take the time to register your young people for Catechism School, Greek School, and the other ministries and organizations of our parish community. You can find the Catechism School registration, and other information, on page 8, and the Greek School registration and update on page 9. Our program leads, and all our teachers, are deeply devoted to the care and instruction of your young people, and to strengthening their connection with our Lord Jesus Christ, with our heritage, and with our community, both here and throughout the world.

It must be acknowledged, however, that the work of religious education, the formation of the mind of our Lord Jesus Christ in our young people, cannot be successfully accomplished by our teachers and our ministries alone. Even at the most intense level of involvement, participating in every ministry and activity the Church offers, our young people would not be able to spend more than 2 or 3 hours each week attending to the things of God at the Church. That simple math makes clear that, if a child only engages with matters of Faith AT Church, the vast majority of their formation will come from the influences of the world at large, whether they encounter those influences at school, in their neighborhoods, or at other extracurricular activities.

The best efforts of religious educators at Church cannot hope to compete with these influences, and it is for this reason that we at the Church constantly remind ourselves that our role in your children's lives is NOT to teach them how to be Christians, but rather to support YOU, their parents, grandparents, and godparents, in doing so. When their Church attendance and participation in Catechism School and Greek School are not the sum total of their religious education, but rather are just the tip of the iceberg, as it were, helping YOU to establish and sustain a deep and vibrant Christian life in the home, then we can, together, hope to prepare them to live as Faithful Orthodox Christians for the entire course of their lives.

We know that all of you are attending to this sacred work with devotion and dedication; our hope and prayer in the months and years to come is that we can more intentionally set up our programs and curricula in a way that actively engages with your efforts and provides support and encouragement to you all. This is, and will remain, our goal and commitment to you.

In addition to this, however, over the past few years we have been preparing and testing another approach to Religious Education in the home, an actual "curriculum" which families can use multiple days each week. We offer this to all of you for your consideration, although it remains a work in progress. You can find it online at:

https://theruleoffaith.typepad.com/rei

The essential model is this: we provide three readings each week, excerpted from Scripture and from the larger tradition of the Church. In general, we keep these readings fairly brief, between 2 and 4 minutes long. Along with these readings, we provide a set of discussion questions, as well as some basic information about the reading, to empower parents to guide their families through a conversation about these readings.

In each family, at three different points each week, someone will read the appropriate selection aloud, and then the family will discuss it, each taking a turn to observe something that they noticed about the passage. Whoever takes the lead can then provide the basic information that we include on the website to conclude the discussion. The entire conversation should take about ten minutes.

To be clear, none of these readings or discussions, by themselves, should be expected to fix any "problem." The benefit is in the discipline, in the consistency, as the members of the household set aside a small, dedicated time, multiple times each week, to engage together with a small piece of our Christian Faith. Over the course of months and years we believe this discipline will provide a lynchpin for our Faith, and that of our children. If nothing else, our children will see their father and mother taking time to read and discuss our Christian Faith in the home. At the most, they will learn how to read Scripture, how to engage with our deep and vibrant heritage, and will carry with them a habit that will serve them well as they leave home and establish their own families.

We encourage you all to look at some of the archived readings, and see whether this program might be useful for you. We pray that it will be a blessing to all of you.

https://theruleoffaith.typepad.com/rei/2021/09/year-2-week-4-september-26-october-2.html

2023 Stewards of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

We express our deepest gratitude to the many Faithful who are supporting our parish community with their time, talent, and treasure this year. As of July 31, 2023 we have 20 fewer stewards than last year, as well as \$45,000 less pledged. If you would like to To become a Steward, please fill out a pledge card at <u>https://www.daytonannunciation.org/stewardship</u>.

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Dr. Nicholas & Nadine Shamma

SERVICES & EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Please see the weekly bulletin or the website for the full schedule

August 1, 2023Small Paraklesis, 6 pmAugust 5, 2023Great Vespers for Transfiguration, 5 pmAugust 15, 2023Orthros/Liturgy for the Dormition, 8:15; reception followingAugust 29, 2023Orthros/Liturgy for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, 8:15 amSeptember 1, 2023 - Ecclesiastical New YearSmall Blessing of the Water, 6pm