

THE TRUE VINE

Beloved in the Lord,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With this issue of the True Vine, we reach the final month of this anniversary celebration year for our parish, and the end of my first year serving as your parish priest. It has been a joy and privilege to come to know all of you in these twelve months, and I look forward with eager anticipation to what the Lord will bring to us together in the months and years to come. May our Savior bless you all in this holy season, and in the coming New Year.

The Center of our Community Life

Our reflections in this space over the past several months have focused on what it means for us to be Orthodox Christians, Faithful members of the Body of Christ in this parish and city. We have talked about the basics so far, the essential foundation of this life: that we need to come to Church, and that we need to make time and space for our Lord in our homes and daily lives. These two realities are of course connected; we come to Church to offer thanks to God for what He has done for us, and to offer ourselves back to Him as first fruits for the entire creation in gratitude, as living sacrifices of praise and love. When we have received Him in Holy Communion, we are then sent back out into the world, bearing His grace and His love wherever we go, and we are sustained in this newness of life in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, & almsgiving. And then, sustained and prepared by these disciplines, we bring back to the Lord those for whom we have prayed, those to whom we have showed His mercy and love in almsgiving, as well as our failures and brokenness, as we journey once more to the Church the following Sunday and approach the Chalice, and the cycle begins anew.

Seek First the Kingdom of God

Immersing ourselves, individually and as families, in this cycle is the bedrock of our life in Christ, and the cornerstone of the vibrancy and health of our community. Everything else that we do as a parish pales in comparison, in the same way that exercise, work, hobbies, and play (important though they are) pale in comparison to the absolute essentials of breathing, sleeping, and eating. I believe we sometimes forget this truth, and put secondary matters first, preferring attendance at social events or participation in educational ministries to the essential matters of the Faith. (And of course, if we are honest, we all do the same thing with the essentials of sleeping and eating...it is common for us as human beings to borrow from those essentials in order to accomplish other things that we find to be urgent. But we know that we can only do so for so long before we have to face the consequences, and in the end, we cannot remain alive without sleep, food, and air.) But without Christ at the center of our lives, as individuals and as a community, we are living on borrowed time. So please, attend to this priority first, and take the opportunity of this holy season to re-dedicate yourselves to this. As the Lord says in the Gospel of Matthew: "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Church Family Life

With that said, however, it is good that we should turn to the third pillar of community life we had noted in our May reflection. The first two are what we have been discussing the past several months, and what are summed up above:

1. Please come to Church, and please come on time
2. Please make time and space for our Lord Jesus Christ in your home and daily life.

The third is simply: "Please take part in the ministries and life of the Church beyond Sunday."



December 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Philoptochos News.....	3
DOP/AHEPA News.....	5
Calendar.....	6-7
Youth Updates.....	8
Bookkeeper's Corner.....	9
Festival 2023.....	10

At The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church parish, we continue to live out the ancient faith of Orthodox Christianity in a way that is relevant to today. We practice unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials, and charity in all things. We welcome all to come and worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with us as it was done in the first days of Christianity, and has now continued for over 2,000 years in our Lord's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church.



This last pillar is often the easiest for us to attend to, since these ministries and events fulfill needs and priorities that are near and dear to our hearts. Some families focus primarily on Catechism School, or Greek School, while others emphasize HOPE/JOY & GOYA, Greek Dance & Maids of Athena. We have a faithful group of parishioners who are actively involved in our Adult Catechism and Bible Study classes each week, welcoming new members to the parish, and digging more deeply into our Faith. Many of our members are deeply active in AHEPA & the Daughters of Penelope, or in what has long been called GAPA, but is now being renewed as the Fellowship Lunch Group (see page 9).

The entire community turns out to work together for the Greek Festival in September, and smaller groups sustain the effort of the Oktoberfest, the Pumpkin Glow, the Holiday Market, etc. The Ushers, Choir, and Altar Boys have a particular mode of service during our Sunday worship, and of course the Parish Council and the Philoptochos are mainstays of the essential labor of keeping the parish functioning, both in practical matters, and in the philanthropic care for those who are in need. Meanwhile, the Young-at-Heart maintains a convivial social space for those who have “graduated” from these other ministries and are enjoying the well-deserved rest of retirement.

All of these ministries maintain a full schedule and active calendar, but there are still spaces in our community life that are yet to be filled. Work remains to be done to build up and establish an active group of Young Adults, and there are opportunities to build ministry and social communities around the Young Married demographic, as well as a Parents Group. Anyone who is interested in participating in such groups (or others!) should contact me, and we can discuss what we can do together.

It is in these groups and ministries and projects (and the others that we have surely omitted inadvertently) that we find our opportunities to live and work together as a parish family. Even though we no longer live in the same neighborhood, surrounding the Church, as our grandparents once did, each time we gather from the four corners of the greater Dayton area to labor and laugh, to sing and to serve, together, we have a chance to taste that reality once again, and to live and grow together.

Keeping the Doors Open

We are richly blessed to have these ministries, groups, and events to adorn and fill out our shared life together; they provide us a forum in which to grow as a family. They provide us, as well, with a space in which to welcome newcomers, however they come to us, and to make them part of the tapestry of our parish family. They also can greatly ease the return of those who have been raised in the Church and then have wandered further from the center of community life. It is therefore important that we maintain them, not just for ourselves, but as aids to assimilating others to the community.

Part of how we do that is simply in ensuring that it is easy for newcomers (or those who return) to find out what ministries and organizations exist in our community. At present, the clearest place where that information can be found is on our parish website, at the following link: daytonannunciation.org/organizations. It includes a basic introduction to each group, and in some instances at least, guidance for how one might join or participate.

As we prepare to begin the coming new year, however, it is a good time for each organization and ministry to look at these introductions, and to submit updates or edits, as may be appropriate. You can send these through to me or to Erin in the Church office.

A Project for the New Year

Beyond this, however, we are currently working on a new project, a booklet that will summarize, for present and potential members of the parish, who we are, and what we do, and how the Church can and does support and sustain our daily life in Christ. This will include a basic history of the community, an introduction to our staff, an outline of what is most essential to our life in Christ, and a summary of our ministries and organizations, for which we will use the updates that the various ministry leads submit over the coming months, as requested above.

It will also include a basic guide to the sacraments and services of the Church, and a summary of what resources and tools the Church offers to us at each distinct stage of life. This should be helpful to many, as the great and singular events of human life, such as birth, and baptism, and marriage, and sickness, and death, are precisely singular, and most of us do not have long or regular experience in these matters. This parish guide book will provide basic information on what services and prayers the Church offers to new parents, how to choose a godparent and plan a baptism, what resources are available for religious education in the home, how to plan a wedding, how and when to ask the priest to visit a sick relative, what the Church’s practices are surrounding death and burial, how and when to schedule a memorial service, and so forth.

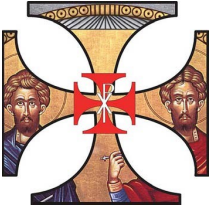
We will make use of this space throughout the New Year to publish drafts of these guidelines, to take advantage of feedback from the community, and also to encourage the submission of other common questions that can be addressed in this space. You can feel free to suggest topics to be included from this time forward; please submit them to me at franthony@daytonannunciation.org.

The process of preparing this booklet will not be a short one, but I am confident that, with time and attention, we will be able to create a resource that will be profoundly helpful both now, and in the years to come. I look forward to working together with all of you.

I pray that the Lord will grant to all of you a blessed and merry Christmas, and a peaceful and happy New Year.

With love in Christ,

+Fr. Anthony Cook



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Membership meeting: The January meeting will be **Thursday, January 5**, at 10 a.m. in the Athenagoras room. Please stay after the meeting to help set up for Vasilopita Sunday.



Philoptochos 91st Anniversary: On Sunday, November 6, baskets were passed in honor of our 91st anniversary. We were able to \$1200 to the Patariarchate which benefits the philanthropic programs and charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Young at Heart: We will again be sponsoring the Young at Heart luncheon on **Thursday, December 8**, at 11:30. Please arrive at 9:30am if you can help with set up. The guest speaker will be Doyle Burke, a member of our parish and retired homicide detective from the Dayton Police Department. Doyle is the author of the book *Death as a Living*, an inside look at Dayton crimes and arrest. He will speak about safety for seniors. Sophie Shissias and Stella Moulas, chairs.

2023 Membership fees: 2023 membership fees are \$30 with part going to National and the Metropolis for commitments. You can mail your dues to Suzanne Zonars-Hambrick at 322 Kenderton Trail Beaver Creek, OH 45430. Please put 2023 Philoptochos dues in the memo line on your check.

The annual membership drive has begun. It is our role as members to recruit new members. This message from our Membership Chair, Suzanne Zonars-Hambrick will help you spread the word:

"We are looking for all ladies (18 & older) willing to make a difference in the Dayton Community and beyond.

Our mission 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 get involved.

Philoptochos is a group of like-minded women who participate in worthwhile efforts to help others in need. We see the benefit of what we do by raising awareness of a different charity each month through hands on work, financial support and spiritual involvement. We welcome you to join our membership."

Artemis Center
Dayton's Domestic Violence Resource Agency



Help us bring HOPE to survivors of domestic violence, allowing them to HEAL

Since 1985, Artemis Center has made great strides in the community, helping more than 100,000 victims and their children through crisis intervention, safety planning, education, and support. The name, "Artemis Center," comes from Artemis the Greek goddess. She is known as the goddess of light and protector of the vulnerable.

Vasilopita Sunday: Save the date, January 8, 2023 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 reservations after church, \$18 for adults and \$10 for children. **The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 18.** Dena Inempolidis and Stacy Bambakidis, chairs.

2023 CCM Donations: There will be 8 CCM charity events in 2023. Many members give one check in January to cover their CCM donations for the entire year. Mail your 2023 Community Care Ministry donation to Connie Zavakos at 3437 Dahlia Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45449 or place it in the red box in the Community Center lobby. Please put "2023 CCM" in the memo line of your check.

Four ways you can help build hope:

Bless our sponsored family with a gift card

Our adopted family has elected for gift cards. For more information and to sign up, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/2kvbe9my>



Donate any of these holiday hope family items



Wrapping Paper

Scissors

Tape

Laundry Detergent

Dish Soap

Please bring your donations to the Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon on December 1st

Send general wishlist items to Artemis Center online

Visit the Artemis Center Amazon wishlist at:
<https://tinyurl.com/5ftbuw44>



Monetary donations

can be made out to Philoptochos with Artemis on the memo line and sent in to the church



Questions can be directed to Amanda Haubrock at 651-792-6476 or Ariana Milanese at 937-602-3229



Please join us for the
Vasilopita Luncheon

Sunday, January 8th 2023

Hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society
Benefitting St. Basil's Academy
Luncheon, Silent Auction & Children's bidding
Monetary Donations are Welcome

For Ticket Sales, Contact:

Dena Inempolidis (937) 371-7035 or
Stacy Bambakidis (571) 277-3802

Cost: ADULTS \$18 / CHILDREN \$10

Deadline for Prepaid Reservations: Dec 18th 2022



PARISH REGISTRY

Baptisms:

11/12, Don King

11/19, Olivia Moran

Chrismations:

11/5, Kate Broderick,
Tom Kelley

11/12, Stefani King,
Kim Moore

Funerals:

11/4, +Harry
Fronista

11/11, +Ameen
Saloom



Join us for a 10-part webinar series to find out what
Orthodox Christianity
really has to offer to us and to the world!

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

7:00 PM ET / 6:00 PM CT

Session 10 ~ Escaping the Haze of Self Deception
A talk about the passion of Pride
with Fr. Michael Marcantoni



TRANSFORMATIVE CHRISTIANITY WEBINAR

The next Transformative Christianity Webinar is Wednesday, **December 7 at 7pm**. The topic is "Escaping the Haze of Self Deception: A talk about the passion of Pride" with Fr. Michael Marcantoni. Join the online group at the link below:

Zoom link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p96eepw>

Meeting ID: 880 9611 8808

Passcode: 3

AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

Daughters of Penelope Christmas dinner will be on **Tuesday, December 6** at the Presidential Banquet Center at 6:00pm. Reservations were required.

We are now taking orders for Tsoureki and Cranberry Bread fundraiser, in partnership with Boosalis Baking. The deadline to order is **December 11**.

Save the date **Friday, January 20, 2023** for our "annual" Wine and Craft Beer Tasting! We have not held this since January 2020 and we are happy to offer this once again! Additional details to follow.

Members please remit your dues of \$45.00 before 12/31/22, checks payable to Daughters of Penelope. New members are always welcome! If you are interested, please contact, Alexis Brun, Chapter President, at (937) 219-0463. Thank you!

Daughters of Penelope Christmas Tsoureki or Cranberry Bread Sale!

In partnership with Boosalis Baking and Café we are offering tsoureki or cranberry bread for \$8.00 each (1lb. loaf). The deadline for orders is December 11th.

Orders may be picked up at the:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
**Saturday, December 17th or Sunday,
December 18th from 11am-1pm**

To place an order, please contact:
Charrie Regopoulos at 937-623-2794 or email:
charrie.rego@aol.com
Please make checks payable to DOP.

MAIDS OF ATHENA FUNDRAISER

Please join us for a fundraiser DIY class at AR Workshop Centerville on **Sunday, December 4 from 4pm-6pm**. There are several wood or canvas projects to choose from. During the workshop, we will walk you through color selection and techniques with your choice of designer paints and non-toxic stain colors. Let's Raise Money for the MAIDS of ATHENA! 20% of all registrations go back to your organization. To register for this event, visit arworkshop.com/event/?loc=centerville&ev=341182 and use the passcode "DIY."



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

We will be volunteering only on **December 8 (9:00-11:00 am)**. Join us at Hannah's Treasure Chest. With any questions, see Maria McFarland.

Thank you!

Our parishioners were so generous with their support of our four Giving Angels families. Our four families will receive clothes for all eight children and toys (from their wish lists), cleaning supplies, lamps, pots and pans, gift cards for Christmas dinner, wrapping paper. Thank you for such support!!



YOUNG AT HEART DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The next Young at Heart Luncheon is December 8, at 11:30. The guest speaker will be Doyle Burke, a member of our parish and retired homicide detective from the Dayton Police Department. Doyle is the author of the book *Death as a Living*, an inside look at Dayton crimes and arrest. He will speak about safety for seniors. Sponsored by Philoptochos.

	November 27-December 3	December 4-10	December 11-17
Sunday		4 10th Sunday of Luke ✕ ← Barbara the Martyr/Youth Sunday <i>Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5 Luke 13:10-17</i> Orthros, 8:15a/Divine Liturgy, 9:30a Catechism School after communion, Coffee Hour, GOYA Book Study Iconography Class Maids Fundraiser @ AR Workshop, 4pm	11 11th Sunday of Luke/ ✕ ← Stewardship Sunday <i>Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-24</i> Orthros, 8:15a/Divine Liturgy, 9:30a Catechism School Coffee Hour/Festival Town Hall Mtg Iconography Class
Monday		5 Sabbas the Sanctified ← <i>Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2</i> <i>Matthew 11:27-30</i> Greek school, 5:30p Vespers @ HTSN in Cincinnati, 6:30pm	12 St. Spyridon ✕ ↵ <i>Eph. 5:8-19; John 10:9-16</i> Orthros & Typika w/Communion @ 9:00a Greek school, 5:30p Adult Catechism, 7p
Tuesday		6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker ✕ ← <i>Hebrews 13:17-21</i> <i>Luke 6:17-23</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9:30a	13 Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Armenia ← <i>I Timothy 5:11-21</i> <i>Mark 8:22-26</i>
Wednesday		7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan <i>I Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15</i> <i>Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24</i> Transformative Christianity Webinar, 7pm	14 Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius & Callincus <i>I Timothy 5:22-25; 6:1-11</i> <i>Mark 8:30-34</i> Parish Council Mtg., 6pm Zoom Bible Study, 7:30/8p (?)
Thursday	1 Nahum the Prophet <i>II Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:1-5</i> <i>Luke 20:9-18</i> Philoptochos Christmas Lunch @ Moraine CC, 11a Choir rehearsal, 6p	8 Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Theotokos ← <i>I Timothy 3:1-13</i> <i>Luke 21:28-33</i> Young at Heart Luncheon, 11:30a Choir rehearsal, 6p	15 Eleutherios the Hieromartyr ↵ <i>II Timothy 1:8-18</i> <i>Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5</i> Choir rehearsal, 6p
Friday	2 Habakkuk the Prophet <i>Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5</i> <i>Mark 5:24-34</i> GOYA Christmas Party @ Washington Twp. RecPlex, 5pm	9 Conception by St. Anna of the Theotokos ↵ <i>Galatians 4:22-27</i> <i>Luke 8:16-21</i>	16 Holy Prophet Haggai <i>II Timothy 1:1-2; 8-18</i> <i>Mark 9:33-41</i>
Saturday	3 The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah) <i>Galatians 1:3-10</i> <i>Luke 12:32-40</i> Greek Holiday Market 10a-6p	10 Means, Hermogenes & Eugraphos ← <i>Galatians 3:8-12</i> <i>Luke 13:19-29</i> GOYA @ Kettering Backpack, 11am	17 Daniel the Prophet & Ananias ↵ <i>Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2</i> <i>Luke 14:1-11</i> Tsoureki pick up, 11a-1p

Fast days are shaded ✕Liturgy ✧Other Service ←fish/wine/oil allowed ↵wine/oil allowed

	December 18-24	December 25-31	January 1-7
Sunday	18 Sunday before Nativity ✕ <i>Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9:30a Tsoureki Pick Up Christmas Program & Lunch Iconography Class	25 The Nativity of Our Lord ✕ <i>Galatians 4:4-7</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9:30a	1 Circumcision of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ/St Basil ✕ <i>Colossians 2:8-12</i> <i>Luke 2:20-21, 40-52</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9:30a NO Catechism School Iconography Class
Monday	19 Martyrs Boniface, Probus, Ares, Timothy, Polyeuktos, Eutychios and Thessaloniki <i>Ephesians 5:8-19</i> <i>John 10:9-16</i> Adult Catechism, 7p	26 Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos <i>Hebrews 2:11-18</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>	2 Forefeast of Theophany <i>Hebrews 5:4-10</i> <i>John 3:1-15</i> Greek school, 5:30p Adult Catechism, 7p
Tuesday	20 Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch <i>I Timothy 5:11-21</i> <i>Mark 8:22-26</i>	27 Stephen, Archdeacon & first Martyr <i>Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60</i> <i>Matthew 21:33-42</i>	3 Forefeast of Theophany <i>II Timothy 4:5-8</i> <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
Wednesday	21 Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord <i>II Timothy 4:9-22</i> <i>Mark 10:11-16</i> Zoom Bible Study, 7p	28 20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia <i>Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8</i> <i>Luke 14:25-35</i>	4 Forefeast of Theophany <i>I Corinthians 4:9-16</i> <i>John 1:18-28</i> Transformative Christianity Webinar, 7pm
Thursday	22 Forefeast of the Nativity ✕ <i>Titus 1:5-14</i> <i>Mark 10:17-27</i> Choir rehearsal, 6p	29 14,000 Infants Slain by Herod in Bethlehem <i>Hebrews 2:11-18</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>	5 Eve of the Theophany ❖ ✕ <i>I Corinthians 9:19-27</i> <i>Luke 3:1-18</i> Royal Hours, 9am Philoptochos Meeting, 10a Vespertal Liturgy & Blessing of Waters, 6p
Friday	23 Forefeast of the Nativity <i>Titus 1:15-16; 2:1-10</i> <i>Mark 10:24-32</i>	30 Anyisia the Virgin-Martyr of Thessaloniki <i>Hebrews 7:18-25</i> <i>Mark 12:1-12</i>	6 The Theophany ✕ <i>Titus 2:11-14; 3:14-17</i> <i>Matthew 3:13-17</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9a
Saturday	24 Eve of the Nativity of Christ ✕ <i>Galatians 3:8-12</i> <i>Luke 13:19-29</i> Orthros, 8:15a Divine Liturgy, 9:30a Vespers of Christmas, 6pm	31 Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior <i>I Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5</i> <i>Matthew 3:1-6</i>	7 Synaxis of John the Forerunner ✕ <i>Acts 19:1-8</i> <i>John 1:29-34</i> Orthros & Typika w/Communion @ 9:00a

CATECHISM SCHOOL NEWS

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

The Annual Christmas Program

Co-Directed by Rebecca James and Margarita Ronayne

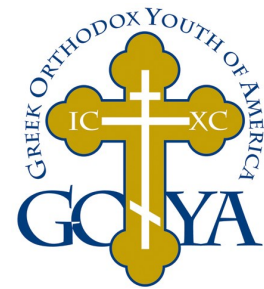
Join us immediately after Divine Liturgy on
Sunday, December 18, 2022
for a luncheon and in-person performance

UPCOMING GOYA EVENTS

December 2—Christmas party @
Washington Twp Rec Center and Wood-
land Lights, 5p

December 4—Meeting and book club
after
Sunday school

December 10—Kettering backpack
program

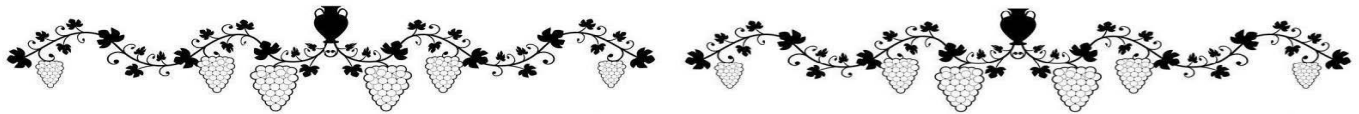


This is Your Invitation to join the Daughters of Penelope – Dayton Chapter for

The Annual Cheers and Beers Tasting Friday January 20, 2023 at 7 pm

500 Belmonte Park North (next to the Dayton Art Institute)

\$35 per person (advance purchase not necessary, but will include a ticket to win a gift basket at the event)



Presenting:
3 Wines & 3 Craft Beers

Offering:
An abundant menu

Featuring:
Greek desserts

Also available:
Flavored sparkling water and
coffee



Music and Drinks:
~provided throughout the
evening
~sale of full bottles of wines
and beers available for
purchase

Drawing for:
~A 50/50 Raffle
~Gift Prizes throughout the
night

Contact Voula Jois (937)266-4029 OR Thomai Bessler (937)422-4887 for ticket information



BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

My article for the Bookkeeper's Corner is due before the December True Vine gets published. You'll need to wait until January to see how my hike with my granddaughter went to Mt. LeConte in November. I'll be praying we made it up and down the mountain with no injuries and only stories to tell.

On November 8th we witnessed a Full Moon and a total Lunar Eclipse. There will be a Super New Moon on Dec. 23rd, just before the Christmas holidays. I recently read that the full moon offers an opportunity to sit in the fullness of your life. It is a time to feel deep gratitude for the many blessings you have and experience. It is also a powerful time to recommit yourself to the projects and relationships that mean the most to you. Let the light of the full moon illuminate what is working for you and amplify those areas by being intentional about the ways you will move forward in your life. The practice of gratitude is both simple and profound, and the beauty and brightness of a full moon can encourage a heightened experience of joy as you bask in all of the goodness that surrounds you.



I have much to be grateful for. A wonderful supportive family. A good job with co-workers who always go above and beyond what is expected and are a blessing to work with. Father Anthony and the whole of the Parish Council who are there for help or advice when needed. And last but certainly not the least, the parish community. You greet me with a smile and make my days so much better. I look forward to 2023 and all it has to offer from strengthening my personal and professional relationships to recommitting to those pesky projects that did not get finished in 2022. Oh yes, I have pesky projects...many...pesky...projects.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee has asked that I remind anyone who has not paid their 2022 Stewardship in full to make every effort to do so before the end of the year. Don't forget that by the time you read this you should have received your pledge request for 2023. Didn't receive one? Call the office and they will get one to you.

Stewardship Sunday will be on **December 11**. Annual Statements will go out the 2nd or 3rd week in January. Many thanks to all of our Stewards who paid their 2022 Stewardship Pledge in full. Your support of the Parish Community is greatly appreciated!

The Dayton Annunciation website (daytonannunciation.org) DONATE page has been updated to allow payments for the 2023 Stewardship year. I encourage everyone to check their online donations to make sure you are changing your payments to coincide with the proper year. Questions? Just let me know by emailing me at accountant@daytonannunciation.org or calling 937-224-0601 and leaving me a message. I still work most days from home but access my emails regularly and can listen to my voicemails as well.

In Closing during this holiday season... *"If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one."* — Mother Teresa

GAPA WOMEN UPDATE

GAPA, which stands for Greek American Progressive Association has been a long existing group that started for men, women, and young women of our parish. Over the years, it became our GAPA women's group. GAPA women was a very active group that held such events as the Mother's Day Tea, cooking shows, many years of the White Christmas Ball and then held several New Year's Eve dances. For 25 years, GAPA women made 150 pans of pastitsio for the festival. They also made and sold trigona each fall. With those proceeds they were able to purchase the draperies for the stage, nurse furniture, kitchen oven, round tables for the community center, lobby furniture and items for the altar. The biggest undertaking was the Athenagoras Room. It took six years of making 500 pans of spanakopita and tiropita to raise money for this major renovation project which cost \$61,000.

GAPA Women numbers have declined over the years and the remaining members have decided to disband the group and use the treasury money to purchase 15 new resin rectangular tables to replace heavy, beat-up tables in the community center. President Stella Moulas presented the check to the parish council at the General Assembly.

The remaining ladies agreed to become the Fellowship Lunch Group which is open to any women in our community. We will be meeting for lunch once a quarter for fellowship & a nice meal together.

The first luncheon of the Fellowship Lunch Group is scheduled for **January 11, 2023, at 11:30am** at Ray's Wine, Spirits & Grill on N. Main Street. We have booked the party room for our group. We will need to call in an attendance number so if you plan to attend, please contact Linda Kididis or Liz Limber. If you need transportation, please let us know.

GREEK FESTIVAL UPDATES & TOWN HALL

Please join us for a Greek Festival Town Hall **Sunday, December 11th** during coffee hour. The agenda will include:

- Financial report
- Open Forum
- Recap of November Town Hall
- Opportunities/Challenges upcoming
- Future sustainability of our festival

2023 Festival leadership opportunities:

- Director of Operations - oversight of all operations - decision control for menu pricing, projects, contracts vendors, layout and runs meetings.
- Communications Team - will handle PR both internal and external, parking arrangements for visitors and volunteers, coordinator first-aid services, band and sound system services.
- External set up - Will handle coordinating external rentals, such as tents, waste & trash and pre-festival services such as landscaping, electrical and traffic management
- Quality Control - Responsible for overall compliance with health department, liquor control, permits and required documentation
- Administrative Coordinator - provides clerical support during festival, handles rental radios, administers name tags, wrists bands and parking passes.
- Product (food supplies) management - Pre and during festival responsible for food delivery distribution to appropriate storage location and responsible for relocating products as needed during festival
- Equipment management: David Casey is the lead but will help him coordinate and handle inventory, cleaning and safety checks, repairs of equipment, rental equipment, pre & post festival moving to and from storage
- Staffing coordinator - responsible for coordinating scheduling of church staff, ROTC, high school program workers and security
- Booth set ups/tear down - Responsible with working with booth chairs to ensure booths are setup with needed projects, electrical needs, volunteers, ensure proper procedures for set up/tear down and post festival clean up
- Post festival clean up - will coordinate with booth chairs return of equipment/supplies, truck equipment removal and scheduling of parking lot clean up.

The deadline to fill the open Festival Leadership Positions is **JANUARY 1, 2023**. Please note this is a hard deadline and that spots need to be filled for us to have a successful, quality event. If you are interested in one of the leadership positions, please contact Deb Pulos immediately at debrapulos@mac.com or 937-478-2367.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CLERGY, STAFF & PARISH COUNCIL

Clergy

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook
Presiding Priest
franthy@daytonannunciation.org

Parish Council

Jim Haubrock
President

Isidora Tsonis-Margioras
Vice President

Stavro Ververis
Secretary

Demetri Inempolidis
Treasurer

Members:

Linda Bouris
Andrea Casey
Christina Day
Mary Haritos
Linda Kididis
Matt McAlpine
Chris Pulos
Nick Regopoulos
Kenya Smith
Stacey Tipler
Athena Zavakos

Office Staff

Erin Caldwell
Office Manager/Rental Coordinator
erin.caldwell@daytonannunciation.org

Brenda Day
Bookkeeper
accountant@daytonannunciation.org

Deborah Stringfield
Parish Administrative Assistant
office@daytonannunciation.org

Building Staff

Ty Lambert
Facilities Specialist

Renda Humphreys/Bernie Clair
Housekeeping

SAVE THE DATE! **Saturday, February 4th, 2023**

A PAN-ORTHODOX EVENING WITH IOCC

For All Orthodox Parishes in Central- Southwest Ohio & Eastern Indiana

Come and learn about IOCC's programs around the world and how your support makes a difference in places like Ukraine, the Middle East, Ethiopia, Greece, Uganda & the USA

Vespers 430pm | Reception 515pm | Dinner 6pm | Entertainment

Guest Speaker: Constantine Triantafilou, IOCC Executive Director & CEO

Constantine M. Triantafilou has been leading International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for over two decades. As Executive Director and CEO, he manages all facets of IOCC's relief and development programs, including its international headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and 10 field offices in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the US. Triantafilou began his career in humanitarian assistance in the early 1990s with community-development projects for the Orthodox Church, working in Kenya and Tanzania. The international and ecumenical experience Triantafilou brings to the table has earned the respect of numerous government and private organizations, as well as recognition for IOCC. In 2006, he was elevated to the office of Archon, Orphanotrophos, by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

Hosted By

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

**Complete
Event
Information
Will Be
Provided
Soon!**



For More Information Contact: dlackovichvangorp@gmail.com or (937) 554 4452



Holiday Market *Drive Thru*

December 3, 2022

10 AM-6PM

FROZEN ITEMS, GREEK PASTRIES, FRESH
GYRO DINNERS, GREEK SALAD, ORZO
SALAD & LOUKOUMADES

CHECK SPECIFIC MENU ON FACEBOOK:
DAYTON GREEK FESTIVAL
OR

www.daytongreekfestival.com



HELD AT THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
500 BELMONTE PARK NORTH
DAYTON OHIO 45405