



# THE TRUE VINE

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May 2025

<http://www.daytonannunciation.org>



## FAITH AND REASON

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

*Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! It is a privilege to continue our journey through the essentials of our Faith with you all, as we continue our journey through life in this world in the wonder and joy of the Risen Lord, Who has trampled death by means of death, and has granted life to us and to all who receive and follow Him.*

We spoke last month about the Christian belief that our God is the Infinite First Cause of all things, and of the alternative idea that the material order is itself infinite. This month, we will consider these conflicting beliefs, and how we can rationally choose between them.

We would, of course, prefer to prove once and for all which option is right - but that is simply impossible. As creatures within the universe, while we struggle to understand how it works, and where it and we come from, we can never see it from the outside. We are like people trapped in a whitewashed room, deprived of all memory and knowledge of the world outside. We can know very little about where we, or the whitewashed room, come from...but we can determine that one of two things must be true: either that whitewashed room is the whole of existence, or it is not - and without being able to leave it, we can't know for certain which is correct.

But this, of course, is only an analogy. We aren't in a whitewashed room - we are in a universe of apparently limitless expanse and complexity. And that is the question we have to ask: is it, in fact, infinite, with no boundaries in time or space? Or is it finite?

We can start by asking where things come from? This isn't too difficult to begin with - whatever we are looking at, all we need to do is observe it very carefully, both zoomed in close, and zoomed out so we can see the big picture, and we can usually find the answer. But if we ask where that answer comes from, and the next answer in its turn, and push into the distant past, or out into far distant space, we eventually get to a question that we can't easily answer. Even if we eventually find an answer to that difficult question (as we have countless times before throughout the history of scientific discovery), we know that whatever answer we find will just become another question in its turn. We have to assume that either this will continue forever, or that we will eventually ask a question for which there is no answer. Either option has implications. If the questions and answers continue forever, then the universe is infinite, with no beginning or end, either in time, or in space. But if there is an end to the questions and answers, then it has boundaries.

The problem with this is that there is simply no way to prove either one. So long as we haven't found a question that can't be answered, the universe looks infinite to us... but it could simply be really, really, really big, bigger than we are currently able to see. On the other hand, if we ever were to hit a wall that we couldn't find our way past, the universe would look like it has boundaries...but we really couldn't know for sure.

What we can say is that either option has an inescapable implication. An infinite, uncreated, self-sustaining universe has no room for God, not as the Christians understand Him. It may have gods, as the old pagans thought, beings of greater power than humanity, what we would more likely call aliens than gods in our modern age. But it can have no First Cause, no Creator, no one or thing that sustains it.

Conversely, a finite, limited world must have a First Cause, a Creator, some thing

## 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

### Baptisms

April 12, 2025

Brian Wilson

Cameron Wilson

### Chrismations

April 12, 2025

Summer Blackshear

### Funerals

April 12, 2025

Bessie Brooks

April 16, 2025

Gemma Adib

April 28, 2025

John Lusa

*If you have announcements that you would like included in the Community Updates above, please submit them by the 20th of the month.*

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### Stewardship/Online Giving

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

### Religious Education Initiative

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

### Service Texts

<https://dcs.goarch.org>

### Parish Bulletin Board (event flyers & signups)

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

*We urge you all to check this web page often; it will always have the latest flyers and signup options for upcoming events and activities*

### Parish Live Stream (Youtube)

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

or one that makes and sustains it. Such a first cause, however, must also be beyond our sight, our understanding - completely and utterly other to everything we know and experience. From a purely rational and observational perspective, there is no way that we could ever examine such a Creator - we are forever on the "wrong" side of the boundary between what is caused and what is uncaused. We cannot use the tools of a finite universe to examine the Infinite First Cause...on our own, constrained by our smallness, we can only guess that It may exist.

The upshot is that, from a purely rational perspective, either the universe is infinite, or it isn't. If it is infinite, there can be no God...not as Christians understand Him. If it is finite, then some infinite First Cause must exist, but we can't deduce anything about it. More to the point, we must admit that either conclusion is more or less rational than the other. Proof for either option lies beyond our sight, our understanding, and our capacity. This point is important enough that it bears repeating: it is impossible to prove either that there is a God, or that there isn't. Either way, the question is too big to fit inside the box of rational thought, and any attempt to stuff infinity inside a logical proof which will limit, constrain, and define it is the height of folly.

The most obvious conclusion to draw from all this is that any discussion of this ultimate, cosmic question requires a great deal of humility. We need to know how little we are capable of knowing - and be gracious to those who disagree with us about these profound questions.

That said, we can and should attend to what we can observe and experience from our limited place inside of this universe, to see what we can conclude. With that in mind, there are two aspects of reality that we can and should consider. The first is the material world, how it works, what laws govern its operations, and how far it goes, in time and space - in short, the option is to continue the experiment of tracing causality as far as we possibly can, and see if we hit a wall. The other option, however, is to turn our gaze inward, and examine ourselves, our nature and purpose, our desires and yearnings, and our experience of this material world. If we look at ourselves through the first lens, we see ourselves as merely complex biological machines - through the other, we see ourselves as something else, something quite different, as persons, beings built for and fulfilled in relationships.

Both aspects have room for deep reflection and study - but they both indicate to us one way in which it might be possible for us to know where the universe comes from. If it is finite, and if there is indeed a First Cause, a Creator, then it is not unreasonable to think that such a First Cause would have impressed upon its Creation something of itself, and that we might see, in the material world, a shadow, as it were, of the nature of the First Cause. And if that is the case, then our own nature, as social persons, beings built for and fulfilled in relationships, may itself be a reflection of the nature of the First Cause. This would make the First Cause is personal, a He, not an It, and if that is true, then He might well have intervened in His Creation. Indeed, it would only stand to reason that He would have, since the universe can only exist so long as He sustains its existence. If these points stand, then it is rational to not only study the laws and operations of the material universe, but also to watch closely for any aberrations to the normal laws of science, signs of intervention from outside the bounds of the universe, indications of infinity acting within the finite world - and more than that, we should not dismiss the possibility of Infinity revealing Himself Personally, Relationally, for such interventions and revelations are the only way we could ever know an Infinite God.

It should not be surprising that it is precisely such a revelation that is at the foundation of the Christian Faith. The Church proclaims to us just such a phenomenon, contrary to every natural norm, united with a Voice speaking things beyond human imagination or comprehension - and not just once, but time and again. So next time, we will consider how it is that the Infinite God Who Exists has revealed Himself to us.

*The above is the eighth installment of the basic Catechetical Program with which we ask all our Catechumens to engage. As these matters are certainly of general interest, we will be publishing them here for the next several months; comments and questions are welcome, and may be directed to Fr. Anthony.*

## **ANNUNCIATION**

### **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

500 Belmonte Park N  
Dayton, OH 45405

Office: (937) 224-0601

Fax: (937) 224-0173

Office Hours: 10am-4pm M-F

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

#### **Clergy**

Fr. Anthony Cook

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

#### **2025 Parish Council**

Andrea Casey - *President*

Jim Haubrock - *Vice President*

Sophia Heckler - *Treasurer*

Harry Bouris - *Secretary*

Bill Alimonos

Linda Bouris

Louis Castleman

Nick Demetre

Melissa Holland

Bill Karras

Linda Kididis

Don King

Ike Maxis

Nick Tolia

Connie Zavakos

#### **Office Staff**

Margaret Clinch

*Parish Administrator*

Email:

[margaret.clinch@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:margaret.clinch@daytonannunciation.org)

Brenda Day

*Bookkeeper*

Email: [accountantl@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:accountantl@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*

# 2025 STEWARDSHIP – STEWARDS AS OF APRIL 22, 2025

**List includes only those who have submitted a 2025 Stewardship Card!**

Dr. Fayez Abboud & Mrs. Maria Abboud	Rachid El Gani & Vasiliki Panagouleas	Jeremy & Hope Leamon	Nickolas & Sophie Shissias
Kally Adams	Tom & Lisa Federle	Chrisoula Liakos	Kenya & Melissa Smith
Nicholas Adams	Danielle Floreani	Gus & Sharon Liapis	Tessy Smith & William Flemming
Drs. Abdulla & Malek Adib	Alex Fote	Anthony Magnaterra & Naomi Torres Alvarado	Jesse & Athena Zois
Sandy Alex	Chuck & Missy Fote	Chrisoula Makiaritis	Solomon
Helen Alex-Karkadoulis	Photini S. Fote	Arhontia Audrey Makris	John & Patricia Sotiropoulos
Bill Alimonos	Dessine Fricioni	Gary Manos	Jane Speros
Cole Allen	Anastasia Gabbard	Susan Manos	Elias & Kathy Spyrou
James & Elizabeth Allen	Arthur Gardikes, M.D.	Dean & Isidora Margioras	Col. Alex Stathopoulos & Mrs. Maria Stathopoulos
Paul & Sandy Angelopoulos	Bernie & Tracy Gearon	George T. Marinakes	James & Elizabeth Stamas
George & Harriet Argue	Christopher & Katelin Glyptis	Michael Mastromichalis	Debbie Stamas
Sue Bacas	Robert Golden & Elizabeth Limber	Ike & Christine Maxis	Evanthia Steffens
Andrew & Megan Ball	Harriet Gounaris	Greg & Erin McAlpine	Kyle Stephens & Christina Panagouleas-Stephens
Evan & Stacy Bambakidis	Joan Gounaris	Jay McAlpine	Christina Stiakakis
John & Cynthia Barron	Bronte' & Cara Graham	Matt & Laura McAlpine	Nathaniel Stohr
Juanita Bartlett	Dr. Jordan Grilliot & Alexandra Grilliot	John & Mary McDonald	Roger & Fofy Sylvester
Alexandra Bartley	Awad & Barbara Halabi	Keith & Maria McFarland	John & Stacey Tipler
Annette Bauer	Mason Hall & Janice Gillis	Christopher & Ariana Milanese	Nick & Theodora Tolia
Thomai & Mike Bessler	Mike Hall	Rev. Fr. Frank & Presvytera Cynthia Milanese	Dr. James & Catherine Tsatalis
Eric & Christa Bishop	Zackary R. Hall	Rawlin Mills & Sandrea Breeden	Dr. John & Evanthia Valassiades
Summer Blackshear	Mary Haritos	Gregory & Nancy Milstead	Dr. Lori Vavul-Roediger and Mr. Gus Stroplos
Mark Bliss & Kristin Rummel-Bliss	Sophia Harner	Domingo & Kaley Molina	Christine Vogel
Harry & Linda Bouris	Carole Haubrock	David & Kimberly Moore	Chrisoula Vradelis
James & Cynthia Brandenburg	James & Martina Ann Haubrock	John & Barbara Moraites	Timothy Welker & Haley Fair
Bob & Diane Briggs	Michael & Amanda Haubrock	Michelle Moraites	Nicholas & Teddi Xenos
Logan & Tristen Bullman	Melodye Hayes	Chrisoula Morris	Peter & Hayley Yorgen
Doyle & Nicole Burke	Jim & Sophia Heckler	Stella Moulas	William & Connie Yorgen
Nikki Burns & Bob Feldmann	Nicholas Hjellming	Rickey L. Newman	Andre & Britt Young
Stephan A. Calondis	Charlie Hogue	Renee Nicholas	Connie Zavakos
Christina Casey	Evonna Hurst	Mark & Leigh Ording	Demetri & Crystal Zavakos
David & Andrea Casey	Demetri & Dena Inempolidis	Maria Panagouleas	James & Ruthann Zavakos
Father Bill & Presvytera Anastasia Cassis	Mike & Anna Jackson	Panagiotis & Jen Panagouleas	Julia Zavakos
Louis Castleman	Amelia & Rick Jaime	Taki & Christine Parker	Louis & Maureen Zavakos
Maria Castleman	Alan & Rebecca James	Paul & Irene Parsons	Renea Zavakos
Mary Castleman	Michael Jannides	Paul J Paslosky	George W. Zois
Mary Caudell	Jordan Johnson	Paul & Linda Paslosky	Jim & Voula Zois
Dimitri & Kay Chagares	Johnny & Jamileh Kaissieh	Kristos and Kristen Pericleous	Nick & Michelle Zois
Andreas & Panayiota Charalambos	Christine Kambas	Drs. Pothitos Pitychoutis & Katerina Tsouma-Pitychouti	Sia Zois
George & Harriet Cheliotis	Pia Kanistros	Kate Argue Poeppelman	Suzanne Zonars-Hambrick
Dan & Maria Cleary	George & Joanne Karras	Alan & Vassiliki Price	
Father Anthony & Presvytera Elisabeth Cook	George J. Karras	Nicholas Protos	
Kathleen Cooney	Terry J. Karras	Judith A. Psihountas	
Larry & Christine Couchot	Vasilios (Bill) J. Karras	Chris & Deb Pulos	
Barry & Allison Cron	Richard & Cleo Keighley	Jennifer Reeves	
Gary & Sharon Cunigan	Mark & Cindy Keilholz	Solomon Reeves	
Tom & Dori Daskalakis	Andrew & Linda Kididis	Nick & Charrie Regopoulos	
Deno Davell	Donald & Stefanie King	Franz & Amalia Reckziegel	
Whitney Davis	Helen Kirbabas	Dr. Thomas Retzios & Mrs. Angela Retzios	
Chris & Tina Day	Agapi Kokovidis	+Manuel "Mel" Rozakis	
Dayton AHEPA Chapter 113	Gus Kontonickas & Diane Margioras	Theona Russell	
David & Cynthia DeLon	George K. & Kathy Kordalis	Joe & Heather Saloom	
Nick Demetre	George H. & Sarah Kordalis	Ben & Brooke Sawyer	
Vanessa Demetriades	Kiriakos & Kasey Kordalis	Walter & Gail Schroeder	
George & Georgina Demosthenous	Peter Kossoudji	Kate M. Scott	
Dr. James Derksen & Mrs. Leah Derksen	Roy A. Kouts	Michael and Kate Sheffer	
Janine Elash	Harry & Christina Krukenberg	Dr. H. Nicholas Shamma & Mrs. Nadine S. Shamma	



	April 27-May 3	May 4-May 10	May 11-May 17
Sunday	<b>27 Thomas Sunday</b> ✠ Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School After Communion 11:30a Coffee Hour 8p GOYA Book Club	<b>4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> ✠ Acts 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School After Communion 11:30a Coffee Hour 11:45a Catechism School Teacher's Meeting 12p GOYA Meeting	<b>11 Sunday of the Paralytic</b> ✠ Acts 9:32-42; John 5:1-15 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School After Communion 11:30a Coffee Hour
Monday	<b>28 2nd Monday after Pascha</b> Acts 3:19-26; John 2:1-11 5:30p Greek School 7p Adult Catechesis	<b>5 3rd Monday after Pascha</b> Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60; John 4:46-54 10a Parish Golf Outing (offsite) 5p Tutoring Program 5:30p Greek School 7p Adult Catechesis	<b>12 4th Monday after Pascha</b> Acts 10:1-16; John 6:56-69 5:30p Greek School final exam 7p Adult Catechesis
Tuesday	<b>29 2nd Tuesday after Pascha</b> Acts 4:1-10; John 3:16-21 6pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>6 3rd Tuesday after Pascha</b> Acts 8:5-17; John 6:27-33	<b>13 4th Tuesday after Pascha</b> Acts 10:21-33; John 7:1-13 6p AHEPA/DOP meeting
Wednesday	<b>30 James the Apostle and brother of St. John</b> ☩ Acts 12:1-11; Luke 9:1-6 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>7 3rd Wednesday after Pascha</b> ☩ Acts 26:1, 12-20; John 6:35-39 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>14 4th Wednesday after Pascha Mid-Pentecost</b> ⏏ Acts 26:1, 12-20; John 6:35-39 7p Zoom Bible Study
Thursday	<b>1 2nd Thursday after Pascha</b> Acts 4:23-31; John 5:24-30 10a Philoptochos Meeting 12p Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30p Choir	<b>8 Synaxis of the Holy Powder (or manna)</b> I John 1:1-7; John 19:25-28, 21:24-25 6:30p Choir	<b>15 Pachomius the Great</b> Acts 10:34-43; John 8:12-20 11:30a Young at Heart Luncheon 6:30p Choir
Friday	<b>2 Removal of the Relics of St. Athanasius the Great</b> ☩ Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19	<b>9 3rd Friday after Pascha</b> ☩ Acts 8:40; 9:1-19; John 6:48-54	<b>16 Theodore the Sanctified</b> ☩ Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-10; John 8:21-30
Saturday	<b>3 2nd Saturday after Pascha</b> Acts 5:21-32; John 6:14-27	<b>10 Simon the Zealot &amp; Apostle</b> I Corinthians 4:9-16; Luke 6:12-19 10a Philoptochos Spring Luncheon (offsite)	<b>17 The Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junia</b> Acts 12:1-11; John 8:31-42

• Fast Days Shaded ✠ Liturgy ❖ Other Service ⏏ fish/wine/oil allowed ☩ wine/oil allowed

	May 18-May 24	May 25-May 31	June 1-June 6
Sunday	<b>18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> ✠ Acts 11:19-30; John 4:5-42 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School Early - Last Day 11:30a Coffee Hour 12:30p Catechism School Teacher Appreciation Brunch 4p HOPE/JOY NOVA Jump Outing	<b>25 Sunday of the Blind Man</b> ✠ II Corinthians 4:6-15; John 9:1-38 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11:30a Coffee Hour 8p GOYA Book Club	<b>1 Fathers of the 1st Council</b> ✠ Acts 20:16-18,28-36; John 17:1-13 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11:30a Coffee Hour 12p GOYA meeting 2p AHEPA Hosted Church Picnic at Hills and Dales
Monday	<b>19 Patrick the Hieromartyr and Bishop of Prusa</b> Acts 12:12-17; John 8:42-51 5:30p Greek School Awards Dinner 7p Adult Catechesis	<b>26 6th Monday after Pascha</b> Acts 17:1-9; John 11:47-54 Memorial Day - Church office Closed 7p Adult Catechesis	<b>2 Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople</b> Acts 21:8-14; John 14:27-15:7 7p Adult Catechesis
Tuesday	<b>20 The Holy Martyr Thalleleus</b> Acts 12:25;13.1-12; John 8:51-59 6p Parish Council Meeting	<b>27 The Holy Hieromartyr Helladius</b> Acts 17:19-28; John 12:19-36	<b>3 Lucillian of Byzantium, 4 martyred Youths</b> Acts 21:26-32; John 16:2-13
Wednesday	<b>21 Constantine and Helen</b> ✠ ☩ Acts 26:1,12-20; John 6:35-39 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>28 Apodosis of Pascha</b> ✠ ☩ Acts 18:22-28; John 12:36-47 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>4 Our Father Metrophanes</b> ☩ Hebrews 7:26-28;8:1-2; John 10:1-9 7p Zoom Bible Study
Thursday	<b>22 5th Thursday after Pascha</b> Acts 14:20-28;15.1-4; John 9:39-10:9 6:30p Choir	<b>29 Holy Ascension</b> ✠ Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 6:30p Choir	<b>5 The Holy Hieromartyr Dorotheus</b> Acts 25:13-19; John 16:23-33 10a Philoptochos Meeting 6:30p Choir
Friday	<b>23 Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada</b> ☩ Acts 15:5-12; John 10:17-28	<b>30 Isaacius, Abbot of the Monastery of Dalmatus</b> ☩ Acts 19:1-8; John 14:1-11	<b>6 The Apodosis of the Feast of the Holy Ascension</b> ☩ Acts 27:1-44;28:1; John 17:18-26 5p Koliva Workshop
Saturday	<b>24 Symeon the Stylite of the Mountain</b> Acts 15:35-41; John 10:27-38	<b>31 Hermias the Martyr at Comana</b> Acts 20:7-12; John 14:10-21	<b>7 The Saturday of Souls</b> I Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 21:14-25 8:45a Preparation of Gifts and Commemoration of Names 9:30a Divine Liturgy AT WOODLAND CEMETERY

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

## BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

*Brenda Day, Bookkeeper*

*Mother's Day – Sunday May 11, 2025*



It's almost here! Mother's Day. If mothers had corporate titles, they would be CFO (Chief Family Officer), Head of Operations, CEO, Communications Specialist, Project Manager, Conflict Resolution Specialist, Head of Nursing and Caregiving, Disaster Recovery Specialist (think forgotten school projects and homework) AND Event Management Specialist. Not only that, but she would likely be all of those inside one day or at the very least, throughout the week. You don't need to go to some huge expense to celebrate the woman in your life who embodies all those lofty titles. She would probably be very happy if someone else stepped in for one whole day to take over those jobs and give her some peace and quiet to do whatever she wants to do. Perhaps A Spa Day to get her hair and nails

done? Maybe a day when she doesn't have to cook or clean up? Whatever you decide to do for this amazing woman in your life, I'm sure she will appreciate it along with a great big hug and most especially a sincere THANK YOU for all she does, for all she is, and for taking such good care of us.

### *Stewardship...*

We have been sending out letters to those individuals/families who have mailed in checks or paid online noting that the payment is for Stewardship for the current year. Unless we have a 2025 Pledge Card on file, these monies are not being put into Stewardship but rather into General Donations. If you want to be considered a Steward of the church, you must have a current pledge card on file. This will be the rule for 2025 and in future years. Filling out the front and back of the pledge card is vital for long-term parish planning. If you received a letter with a blank pledge card enclosed, please fill it out and mail it back. If you read the True Vine and do not see your name on the Stewards list which is published monthly, there are two possibilities.

- We do not have a 2025 Pledge Card on file for you
- You sent in your 2025 Pledge Card and there is an error (omission) on our part.

Please let me know right away if you feel you should be on the Stewards list and your name is not listed. Maybe we don't have your current address. I've had a few letters get lost in the mail. It happens. Remember the list is published as of the 20th of the previous month. The May list published in this True Vine will be Stewards as of April 20th .

There are multiple ways to submit your 2025 Pledge Card. If you are comfortable with using the computer, you can fill in a Pledge Card on the church website at [www.daytonannunciation.org](http://www.daytonannunciation.org), call the office at 937-224-0601 and request one be sent to you, pick one up at church in the Narthex, or pick one up in the church office. Please make sure to fill in both the front and back of the card. It helps us keep your membership information current.

Thank you so much!

### *Donation Statements*

If you donated during 2025 you will be receiving your 1st Quarter Donation Statement soon. The statement covers donations from Jan. 1st to Mar. 31st . Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

### *In closing...*

"I am sure that if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars." — *E. M. Forster*

### **Sunday Church Average Attendance**

#### **2022**

160 each Sunday

#### **2023**

170 each Sunday

#### **2024**

192 each Sunday

### **March 2025 average:**

240 each Sunday

May the Lord grant us to continue to grow in that which matters most!



## GOOD FRIDAY MYRRH BEARERS

### *Thank You*

A special thank you to Mary Lander, Charlotte Skintges, Ana Skintges and Patty Glyptis for serving as our Myrrh Bearers during the Good Friday Lamentation service.



## GREAT LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND PASCHA FLOWERS

### *Thank You Donors*

Thank you to all who so generously donated money to the adornment of the church during this holy season. Names of donors are listed alphabetically:

*Dr. Fayez & Mrs. Maria Abboud*

*Andrew Andrianos*

*Anonymous donor*

*Mike & Thomai Bessler*

*Annika Burns & Bob Feldmann*

*David & Andrea Casey*

*Maria P. Castleman*

*George & Harriet Cheliotis*

*Gary & Sharon Cunigan*

*George & Georgia Demosthenous*

*Tina Fote (in honor of her mother - Cleopatra Stamas)*

*Rebecca Heddings*

*Mike & Anna Jackson*

*Terry Karras and Family*

*Gus & Sharon Liapis*

*Maria Mavrouleas*

*John & Mary McDonald*

*Chris & Debra Pulos*

*Jamil & Maha Shteivi*

*Maria Stamas*

*Demetra Stefanopoulos*

*Dr. John & Mrs. Evanthia Valassiades*

*Christine Vogel*

*Connie Xarhoulacos*

*James & Ruth-Ann Zavakos*

*Nick & Michelle Zois*

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS - MAY 2025

*Christos Anesti!*

### *May Membership Meeting:*

The May membership meeting will be held on May 1st at 10:00am. The 2025-2027 Board elections will be held at the start of the meeting. The new Board will meet following the regular membership meeting. There are no membership meetings in June and July and September. Please help with festival baking during July and August and sign up to work the festival in September. Information will be sent at a later date.

### *August Evening Membership Meeting*

will be on Thursday, August 21 st at 6pm in the Church Community Center. This evening meeting allows members who are unable to attend daytime meetings to attend. A menu TBD.

### *Palm Sunday Luncheon:*

Thank you to Andrea Casey and Connie Yorgen for chairing a very successful and lovely Palm Sunday luncheon. All proceeds go to Hellenic College Holy Cross Theological Seminary. Thank you to Linda Bouris for the beautiful center table floral arrangement, to Christina Casey for the beautiful table centerpieces and Libby Stamas for organizing the Easter basket and flower auction.

### *18 th Annual Spring Charity Luncheon, Saturday, May 10 th*

The annual Philoptochos Spring Charity Luncheon is Saturday May 10th at the Presidential Banquet Center located at 4348 Presidential Way, Kettering 42429. Raffle and Social hour begins at 11:00am. Please arrive no earlier than 11:00am to shop the auction. Those in walkers and wheelchairs may arrive at 10:30am to view the auction items early before the area becomes congested. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Lunch will be served at 12:15 pm at which time the auction will close. Please call Michelle Zois or Sandy Alex for any questions.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

### *Koliva Workshop*

Want to learn how to make koliva? The Speakers Committee with assistance from the Daughters of Penelope will be hosting a workshop on Friday, June 6 5:30-8:00 pm in the community center. Join Presbyteria Cynthia Milanese to learn about the tradition of koliva and make your own bowl for the Saturday of Souls (June 7) Divine Liturgy.

RSVP to

Georgia Cheliotis 937-626-5191

Michelle Moraites 937-272-9525

[nestlecrnch@aol.com](mailto:nestlecrnch@aol.com)

Or look for us in the community center following Divine Liturgy in late April and all of May to sign up.

## AHEPA

### *THE 2025 DAYTON AHEPA CHAPTER 113 GOLF OUTING.*

We are pleased to announce a change in our AHEPA Open from the Fall to the springtime, where more predictable warmer weather can be expected for the AHEPA Open (Golf Outing).

Join us at Miami Valley Golf Club on Monday, May 5, 2025, for the 9th Annual AHEPA Open hosted jointly by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish Council and Dayton Chapter 113 of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). Sponsor and golfer registrations can be completed at the



following link or by visiting <https://birdease.com/30693/register>. You will be guaranteed a day of fun, laughs, and, best of all, great memories!

This year's format is the best ball scramble, with a shotgun starting at 11:30 AM with registration beginning at 10:30 AM. Golfer registration includes a barbecue box lunch, player gift, complimentary cigars, free drinks, and a post-round barbecue banquet meal.

Proceeds from this event will support the Annunciation Greek Orthodox parish and the local AHEPA 113 Chapter's support of several community projects in the Dayton Metro area. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on Monday, May 5! For more information or questions, please get in touch with Evan Bambakidis at [evanbam@hotmail.com](mailto:evanbam@hotmail.com), Dr. John Urse at [jurse3@gmail.com](mailto:jurse3@gmail.com), or Nick Regopoulos at [rego4nick@aol.com](mailto:rego4nick@aol.com)

### *AGOC Family Picnic*

AGOC Family Picnic, sponsored by the Dayton AHEPA/DOP – Sunday, June 1, 2025. The members of the Dayton AHEPA 113 and DOP are pleased to invite the Entire Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Community to join them for the Annual Family Picnic on Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Paw Paw Pavilion in Hills and Dales Park in Oakwood (2471 Deep Hollow Road, Oakwood, Oh., 45419). This event is free to everyone attending. AHEPA and DOP members plan to serve dinner at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to begin arriving at 2 p.m. The Menu will include Pork and Chicken Souvlakia, hot dogs, sausage, Side Dishes, Desserts, and Beverages (Water, Pop, Wine, and Beer). For more information or questions, please get in touch with Nick Regopoulos at [rego4nick@aol.com](mailto:rego4nick@aol.com) or Nick Zois at [nick@zoisfinancial.com](mailto:nick@zoisfinancial.com)

## HOPE/JOY

### *End of Year Celebrations*

Mark your calendars for our end of the year celebration for our HOPE/JOY children. This year we will meet at NOVA Kettering on Sunday, May 18 4:00-5:40 pm. Jumping , pizza , ice cream and a talk with Father Anthony included. Please RSVP by May 10 so Maria can confirm numbers.

## CATECHISM SCHOOL

As we come to the end of another school year, we want to thank all of the parents and grandparents who made it a priority to bring their children to Catechism school each week.

Our volunteer teachers lovingly spend their time and treasure preparing lessons to teach your children about our Orthodox faith and traditions.

Please take the time to thank your child's teacher!

Cherubs & Angels Preschool: Lisa Panson & Amanda Haubrock

PreK & Kindergarten: Missy Fote & Elizabeth Fote

1st & 2nd Grades: Lin Pavlosky & Abeer Kaptan

3rd & 4th Grades: Kim Moore & Christina Casey

5th & 6th Grades: Maria & Keith McFarland

7th & 8th Grades: David Panson

9th & 10th Grades: Harry Bouris & Michael Mastromichalis

11th & 12th Grades: Christa Bishop, Socrates & Christina Manuel

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, May 18 - 9:30 early start in classrooms (last day of class & Awards in church)

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### *May Volunteer Dates*

Join us for our May volunteer opportunities at Hannah's Treasure Chest in Miamisburg:  
2490 Technical Dr, Miamisburg, OH 45342

In May, we will volunteer

- May 8( 1:00-3:00)
- May 22 (9:00-11:00) Join us!

## YOUNG AT HEART

*Thursday, May 15, 2025, 11:30 AM*

Join us for a special May Young at Heart luncheon. Sandy Alex is sponsoring the luncheon in honor of her parents, Nick and Sophie Shissias', 70th Wedding Anniversary. Come join us for this happy occasion.

## THE ROAD BACK TO CHRIST

### *Reflections Continue*

Χριστος Ανεστη! Christ is Risen! "Will we see Pascha more as an end or a new beginning? A new set of reflections is about to begin." (p. 199) We continue The Road Back to Christ, by Father Stavros Akrotirianakis, with a focus on the Scriptures of The Resurrection, The Ascension and Pentecost. If you are behind don't worry, as each reflection offers us hope in understanding our Salvation. It's never too late to go back and catch up! Αληθως Ανεστη! Keep watch for a survey to be sent to readers soon! (Harriet Argue, Renee Nicholas, Kathy Spyrou, Katina Tsatalis)

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCH BUNCH

### *Save the Date*

Our next Ladies Fellowship Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 at Coco's, 250 Warren Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402 starting at 11.30am.

Ladies, you are welcomed to join us for social time and lunch (at your own expense). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other ladies from our community.

Please RSVP to Liz Limber at [937-430-8600](tel:937-430-8600).

## NEW YORK CITY TRIP

*September 15th and 16th*

We have the opportunity for a trip to New York City on September 15th and 16th for a religious and cultural experience! Scheduled events include: a visit to St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, a tour of the 9/11 memorial and museum, a meeting with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, and a group dinner at Carnegie Diner (separate rsvp). Only 50 spots are available, **RSVPs are due to [nyctrip2025@gmail.com](mailto:nyctrip2025@gmail.com) by 8/1/25**. More questions? reach out to Tina Haubrock, Harriet Argue, or Maria McFarland. Support for this trip was generously provided by AIF. If you missed the zoom meeting and you want more information please contact [nyctrip2025@gmail.com](mailto:nyctrip2025@gmail.com). Or if you want a link to the reserved block of hotel rooms, also reach out to [nyctrip2025@gmail.com](mailto:nyctrip2025@gmail.com).

# AIF

## *Summer Opportunities*

Just a reminder that registration for both Ionian Village and MDSC (Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp) have opened for Summer 2025!

AIF affords a scholarship for our parish youth to attend.

### *MDSC Week 1 Full*

Attention all Metropolis of Detroit Camp families! Registration for the 2025 summer camp season opened **Saturday, February 15th**. Week 1 is now full, however Weeks 2-5 are still open for registration. Church members in good standing can use the following code "Dayton2555" when registering for a discount of \$375, which the AIF pays for on our behalf. The code should only be used for 1 week only.

As in the past we will have coach bus transportation arranged from the church for Week 1 on Saturday June 28 and returning campers and staff on July 5.

Staff applications are already open, and the camp is encouraging young adults and adults to apply for staff positions this upcoming summer. For more information, please go to their website [www.gomdsc.org](http://www.gomdsc.org).

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Demetri Inempolidis (313-303-3808) or Dena Inempolidis (937-371-7035).

### *Attention: High School Seniors & College Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors!*

The AIF Scholarship is fast approaching on **MAY 1, 2025**.

In order to be considered, kindly have all completed submissions and required documents emailed by this date. You can find information about the scholarship and the forms required on the church website:

<https://www.daytonannunciation.org/annunciation-investment-fund-aif>

## CROSS-GENERATIONAL QUESTIONS

### *Background*

Over the summer *True Vines* we introduced Elizabeth Keating's book, *The Essential Questions: Interview Your Family to Uncover Stories and Bridge Generations* and we discussed why it was important to ask older family members open-ended questions that would encourage them to give us a broader perspective of their lives and histories. This month, we continue with suggested questions about material culture - the tangible, physical objects that we keep and pass down

### *What physical objects reminding you of your childhood have you kept?*

- Can you tell me the story of one or two things you've kept over the years?
- What is the most important object your parents passed down to you? Who does it remind you of?
- What do you wish you'd kept?
- Can you think of anything that you made yourself as a child or teenager that you've kept to this day?
- What photographs of your childhood do you have around you?
- Are there any letters or newspaper clippings that you've kept?
- What was gift-giving like in your family growing up?
- What would you say is your most valued possession?
- What is your favorite object in your home now? What makes it your favorite?
- What object in your home now would be the hardest for you to do without?
- What differences do you see in the types of material possessions people have now compared to when you were a child?
- What gifts that you gave to others are particularly memorable to you?
- If you were to choose one object for people to remember you by, what would it be and why?



## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

### *Fliers Linked*



Please bookmark and regularly check out our online parish bulletin board, which you can find on our website at: <https://www.daytonannunciation.org/parish-bulletin-board> or by scanning the QR code. Whenever an parish organization sends in a flier to the church, or has a sign-up or registration page, we will post it up on the online parish bulletin board for your convenience. It is a faster way to find the most recent fliers or sign-ups than our monthly newsletters. We will no longer print out fliers in our hard copy version of the True Vine - you can access them either online in the digital version, or by scanning the QR code to go to the Bulletin Board section of our website.

## USHER SCHEDULE FOR MAY

### *Usher Schedule*

Here is the usher team schedule for services in April. Usher teams, please refer to the schedule sent out via email from Harriet for more details on services, arrival times, and other details.

Date	Service	Team
Sunday, 5/4/2025	Matins/Divine Liturgy	Team 3
Sunday, 5/11/2025	Matins/Divine Liturgy	Team 4
Sunday, 5/18/2025	Matins/Divine Liturgy	Team 5
Wednesday, 5/21/2025	Matins/Divine Liturgy	Team 1
Saturday, 5/25/2025	Matins/Baptismal Divine Liturgy	Team 2
Thursday, 5/29/2025	Matins/Divine Liturgy	Team 3

## PARISH PHOTOS



*Fr. Anthony named Protopresbyter*



*Palm Sunday*



*Easter Egg Hunt*



*Decorating the Kouvouklion*



## **AHEPA OPEN – Monday, MAY 5, 2025.**

***The Miami Valley Golf Club, Dayton, Ohio***

We are pleased to announce a change in our AHEPA Open from the Fall to the springtime, where more predictable warmer weather can be expected for the AHEPA Open (Golf Outing).

Join us at [Miami Valley Golf Club](#) on **Monday, May 5, 2025**, for the [9th Annual AHEPA Open](#) hosted jointly by the **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish Council** and **Dayton Chapter 113** of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). Sponsor and golfer registrations can be completed at the [following link](#) or by visiting <https://birdease.com/30693/register>. You will be guaranteed a day of fun, laughs, and, best of all, great memories!

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For more information or questions, please get in touch with Evan Bambakidis at [evanbam@hotmail.com](mailto:evanbam@hotmail.com), Dr. John Urse at [jurse3@gmail.com](mailto:jurse3@gmail.com), or Nick Regopoulos at [rego4nick@aol.com](mailto:rego4nick@aol.com)



**Daughters of Penelope,**  
in coordination with the  
**Speakers Committee,**  
is pleased to offer our  
parishioners a

# KOLIVA

## WORKSHOP & LECTURE



**SPONSORED BY DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE**

with

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**PRESBYTERA CYNTHIA MILANESE**



Friday, June 6, 2025



Doors open at 5:30pm;  
Class starts at 6:00pm  
Class ends at 8:00pm.



The Annunciation Investment  
Fund is covering the cost.  
Lights snacks provided.



The Annunciation Greek  
Orthodox Church

### AGENDA

5:30pm: Snacks

6:00pm: Presentation begins

- History of Koliva
- Instructions
- Make your own Koliva
- Q & A



**RSVP BY SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025.**

**TEXT OR CALL GEORGIA OR MICHELLE**

**Anyone missing the  
May 25 RSVP deadline**

may not be able to participate  
in making Koliva but are  
welcome to attend to listen!

**Georgia Cheliotis** 937-626-5191

**Michelle Moraites** 937-272-9525  
nestlecrnch@aol.com



The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church presents:

*JUNE 7th, 2025*

# **FAMILY DANCE** *party*

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

**LIVE GREEK & AMERICAN MUSIC BY  
GEORGE P. KARRAS**

*Appetizers: 7 – 8 pm*

*Dance: 8 – 10 pm*

*w/open bar & desserts*

**\$30 Per Person 18+**

**\$15 Ages 9 - 17**

Children 8 & under are FREE

ALL NET PROCEEDS WILL BE GOING TO THE CHURCH

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT IS REQUIRED BY MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [DAYTONANNUNCIATION.ORG](http://DAYTONANNUNCIATION.ORG) via the "Donation/Make a Payment" tab,  
or CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO "ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH"  
w/ "Family Dance Party" on memo. PLEASE SPECIFY WHO WILL BE COMING

ANNUNCIATION FAMILY DANCE PARTY organized by THE ALEA SOCIETY:

For more information contact: Nick Zois at [nick@zoisfinancial.com](mailto:nick@zoisfinancial.com)

Committee Members: George N. Kordalis, Nick Zois, Kathy Zois, Voula Zois & Vasilis (Bill) Karras

# JOIN US

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16 FOR A RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

## NEW YORK CITY

# Trip



### SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- VISIT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND NATIONAL SHRINE\*
  - ENJOY SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A PERSONAL TOUR
- TOUR OF THE 9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM\*
- GROUP DINNER AT CARNEGIE DINER
  - SEPARATE RSVP IS NECESSARY
- MEET WITH HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS\*

\*ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

RSVP TO

[NYCTRIp2025@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NYCTRIp2025@GMAIL.COM)

BY 8/1/25

**ONLY 50 SPOTS AVAILABLE**

Interested? Join us for a  
ZOOM meeting on 4/23/25  
at 8:00 pm



**SUPPORT GENEROUSLY  
PROVIDED BY AIF**



MEETING ID: 848 3952 1288  
PASSCODE: 1821

MORE QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO TINA HAUBROCK, HARRIET ARGUE, OR MARIA MCFARLAND.

RESERVE HOTELS ON YOUR OWN FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, A BLOCK HAS BEEN RESERVED AT HYATT CENTRIC TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK 135 WEST 45TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10036.



# MDSC



## METROPOLIS OF DETROIT SUMMER CAMP 2025 SEASON



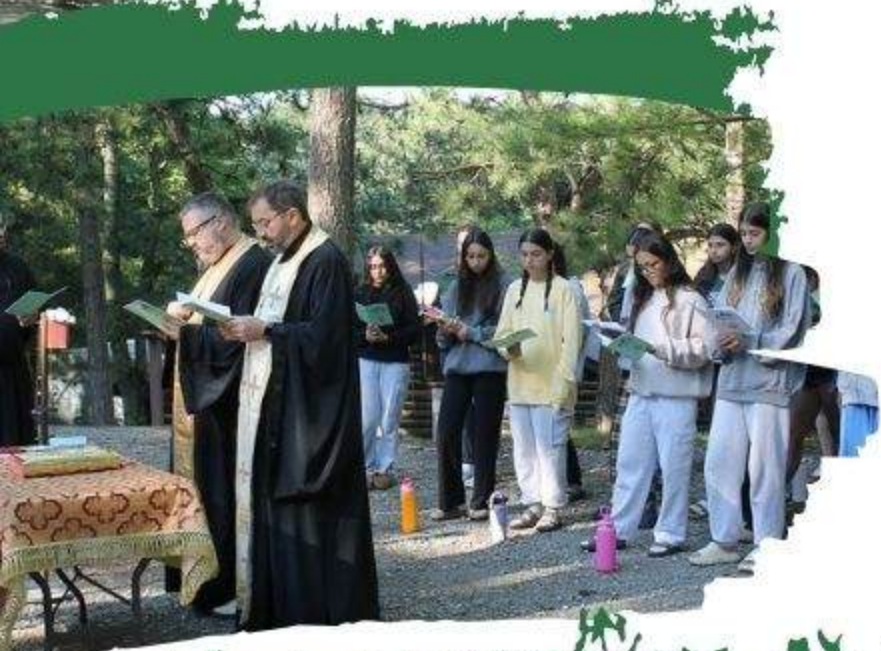
### Week Zero

Camp program for those entering Grade 12  
or entering College  
June 22 – June 28



### Weeks 1-5

Camp programs for youth entering Grades 3-11  
Week 1: June 29 – July 5  
Week 2: July 6 – July 12  
Week 3: July 13 – July 19  
Week 4: July 20 – July 26  
Week 5: July 27 – August 2



Register at [GOMDSC.ORG](https://GOMDSC.ORG)

Financial Assistance Available



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_



# MAY SERVICES & EVENTS

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

**Thursday May 1**  
Philoptochos Meeting @ 10am  
**Sunday, May 4**  
GOYA Meeting @ 12pm  
**Monday, May 5**  
Parish Golf Outing @ 11:30am  
Tutoring Program @ 5pm  
**Saturday, May 10**  
Philoptochos Spring Charity Luncheon @ 10am  
**Tuesday, May 13**  
AHEPA/DOP meeting @ 6pm  
**Thursday, May 15**  
Young at Heart Luncheon @ 11:30am  
**Sunday, May 18**  
Last Day of Catechism School

AHEPA Sunday  
Catechism School Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon @ 12:30pm  
HOPE/JOY Outing @ 3pm  
**Monday, May 19**  
Greek School Awards Dinner  
**Tuesday, May 20**  
Parish Council Meeting @ 6pm  
**Wednesday, May 21**  
Orthros @ 8:15am / Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 am  
**Monday, May 26**  
Memorial Day, office closed  
**Thursday, May 29**  
Orthros @ 8:15am / Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 am

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

**Sunday, May 4**  
Hosted by Catechism School Parent Team 3  
**Sunday, May 11**  
Hosted by GOYA  
**Sunday, May 18**  
Hosted by AHEPA

**Sunday, May 25**  
Hosted by Daughters of Penelope  
**Sunday, June 1**  
Hosted by Philoptochos  
**Sunday, June 8**  
Recognition Luncheon - Parish Council

**Sunday, June 15**  
Hosted by GOYA  
**Sunday, June 22**  
Hosted by AHEPA  
**Sunday, June 29**  
Hosted by Parishioner Group 1  
**Sunday, July 6**  
Hosted by DOP