

# THE TRUE VINE

Beloved in the Lord,

*Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!*

As we begin the month of June, we come to the end of the Paschal period. On Thursday, June 2nd, the Feast of Ascension celebrates the enthronement of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully Man, at the right hand of the Father. On Saturday, June 11th, we will celebrate the final Saturday of Souls for 2022 at Woodland Cemetery, and will offer Memorial prayers for the departed there. And on Sunday, June 12th, 50 days after Pascha, we will celebrate the Sunday of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and the beginning of the active life of the New Testament Church.

Thus, even as we leave behind the celebrations of the parish's 100th anniversary, we prepare to leave behind the celebrations of the Lord's Resurrection as well, and to return to "normal" liturgical time and normal life. This period of transition corresponds with the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer, and thus provides for us an opportunity to reflect on one of the normal challenges of parish life - how to live the Christian life when nothing special or significant is happening, when there is no other reason to go to Church than simply to participate in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist on the Lord's Day.

This is sometimes a struggle for us, but it is something that our forebears in the Faith understood very well. The gathering on the First Day of the week by the earliest Christians marked them apart from both the Jews and the idolaters of the Greek and Roman world in the 1st century, and was sustained even in the face of persecutions, tortures, and death. The earliest Christians would truly rather die than forsake the celebration of the Eucharist; many died indeed, exchanging the tawdry things of this world for the Kingdom of Heaven with a song on their lips and unconquerable Faith in their hearts.

After the persecutions ended and the peace of the Church arrived under Sts. Constantine and Helen, honoring the Lord's Day was considered so important that even the work week was changed, and the 1st Day of the week was set aside as a day on which no labor was done, so that all the Faithful throughout the Roman world could fulfill the call of the Lord to "do this in remembrance of Him." It must be recognized as remarkable that this change in the work week persists even to the present day.

Even under the Turks, the Christian people of Greece and Asia Minor did not forsake the Eucharistic celebrations; instead, they paid the *jizya* tax to the Turkish overlords, accepting *dhimmitude* as the cost of Faithfulness, and held fast to the Lord and the observance of His Day. Understanding of *what* & *who* they were being Faithful to sometimes waned, but they held fast nonetheless, until the day of independence finally arrived.

When the grandchildren of the first free generation of Greeks first arrived in the United States, then, it is no surprise that among the first things they did



## June 2022

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The Annunciation  
Greek Orthodox Church

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was to establish Churches, so that they, and their children, could continue to gather to celebrate the Eucharist, maintaining the thread of Faith that had begun with the Apostles. And so it is that we, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have a Church today.

What has changed for us, perhaps, is simply that we are more free, more prosperous, and more independent than any generation that has preceded for 1700 years. More than that, we live in a society that actively denies the need for worship, and invites us to take part instead in countless alternative past-times on the Lord's Day. For us to choose the path of Faithfulness involves real loss and genuine sacrifice; to be present Sunday morning with Christ is to be absent from opportunities and activities that are important and precious. If we choose to follow the Lord, we truly have to take up our Cross.

The question that we must ask ourselves, then, is how we will choose. Do we desire the things of the world too much to lose them? Or will we hold fast to the Lord? In our celebrations of Pascha and Pentecost, we affirm unequivocally that the Lord has chosen us, has emptied Himself in love for us, and invites us to walk in communion with Him in newness of life. Will we receive the gift, and rise to meet Him?

If we decide to do so, then we must have a clearer idea of what it is that we are doing when we come to the Divine Liturgy. It is not enough for us any longer simply to be present ( although it is always a good place to start); we need learn how to come with purpose and intent to offer ourselves to the Lord, with understanding and knowledge. So next time, as we continue to reflect on what it is that we are undertaking to do when we commit to ourselves and one another to come to Church faithfully each Sunday, and to come on time, we will discuss what it is that we offer, and what it is that we receive, when we celebrate the Eucharist.

May the Lord bless you all richly in this summer month of June.

With love in the Risen Lord,

+Fr. Anthony Cook

## PARISH REGISTRY

### *Baptisms*

5/1, D. Haubrock

5/31, L. Pitcock

### *Funerals*

5/10, G. Dannes

5/27, J. Searles

### *Weddings*

5/14, Selby

### *Memorials*

6/5, +M. Demitriou

6/19, +J. Karras

6/26, +C. Stavrides

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## SATURDAY OF SOULS LITURGY AT WOODLAND

The Saturday before Pentecost, Saturday, **June 11th**, is the final Saturday of Souls for 2022. In keeping with longstanding tradition, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service that day AT Woodland Cemetery, at the Altar Table that is established in the old Greek Orthodox section of the cemetery. The Liturgy will begin at 9:30, but Fr. Anthony will begin the preparation of the gifts around 9am.

After the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Anthony will read the memorial prayers at individual gravesites for anyone who wishes to stay. As this is Fr. Anthony's first time performing memorial prayers at Woodland Cemetery, please either wait nearby at the end of the Liturgy, so that you can lead him to your loved one(s)' gravesite, or let him know that you will be waiting for him, and make sure he knows where to find you.

## VESPERAL-LITURGY FOR SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Annunciation parish is invited to celebrate the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul with a vesperal-liturgy at St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church on **June 28 at 6pm**. There will be a light reception following the liturgy.



# PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



**Membership Meeting:** There will be no Philoptochos meetings in June or July.

**Membership Dues:** If you haven't paid your membership fee of \$30, please do so now. Send it to Suzanne

Zonars-Hambrick, 322 Kenderton Trail, Dayton, Ohio 45430



**June CCM Crayons to Classroom:** Chairs –

Leah Derksen and Ariana Milanese

For students to succeed, they must first have the tools to thrive. Crayons to Classrooms is committed to providing those tools to at-risk children in the Greater Dayton Region. They encourage community donations while also leveraging an extensive collection of supply chain partners to secure essential school supplies at significantly reduced costs. Then, they distribute those items at no cost to teachers in their Dayton store. This committed collaboration between business leaders, individual donors and volunteers helps to assure equal access for students in our community and fuel their love of learning. Please consider making a monetary donation to the CCM Treasurer Michelle Zois at 111 Diamond Drive, Centerville 45458. Please make checks out to Philoptochos and write "June CCM" in the memo line of your check. Thank you for your consideration.

**Oasis House** outreach bags: at our May meeting, twelve "outreach" bags were packed for Oasis House. Kathy Spyrou and Theona Russell have offered to spearhead assembling more "outreach" bags as they are needed. This will be an ongoing outreach program for Philoptochos. Oasis House offers hope and support to women survivors of sexual exploitation and trauma by promoting healing, restoration, and empowerment through Christ's unconditional love, teaching practical life skills, and mentoring through a transformational process.

**Spring Charity Luncheon Thank You:** What an amazing day it was on Saturday, May 7th for our 15th annual event. 251 lovely ladies celebrated together at the Presidential Banquet Center. Shoes for the Shoeless and the Fisher House at the VA are the two major charities benefitting from this event. Thank you to the co-chairs, Sandy Alex and Michelle Zois and everyone who helped make this such a memorable event. Thank you to all Philoptochos members for supporting the event and for bringing your family and friends.

**Comedy Night in Cincinnati:** Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 24** for Greek Comedy night in Cincinnati featuring comedian Ellen Karis. Let's support our sister Church Holy Trinity Saint Nicholas. More details to come.

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## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE & AHEPA NEWS & UPDATES

**Next meeting** will be Thursday, June 9, at church at 6:00, light refreshments beginning at 5:30pm. We will have elections. Members please look for additional details in your email.

**Congratulations, Polydama #111, Dayton Ohio!** We won two (District Governor's) awards: Best DOP/MOA relations and Most Outreach Activity. Nicole Bacas represented the Dayton chapter at the convention and accepted both awards. She would be honored to present them to the chapter at the June Meeting. Congratulations again - way to go! I give thanks for each of you and for your support. Special thanks extended to Thomai Bessler and Maria McFarland, our Maids advisors and Maria for coordinating our outreach for Ronald McDonald House. We strive to lift up and empower our Maids. Our hearts are with the families that are guests at the RMH. We also collected additional donations for Water With Blessings. We do all of this out of love. But, it's so nice to hear that our efforts were noticed! Nice work ladies! Congratulations!

**Please bring or mail your check to pay your membership dues of \$35.00 for 2022!** If you still owe for 2020 and/or 2021 it is understandable. Please mail your checks payable to Daughters of Penelope to Tracy Gearon, Chapter Treasurer, 5385 Oakton Cir., Dayton, Oh 45440. Thank you!

**We are always welcoming new members!** To join or learn more about DOP and the AHEPA Family, feel free to contact Alexis Brun, DOP President, agrkblsng22@gmail.com or (937) 219-0463

# ANNUNCIATION HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES 2022: CONGRATULATIONS!

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**Zoya Eleni Bessler**  
*Bellbrook High School*

Zoya graduated summa cum laude will be Attending Ohio University Public Health and Health Administration.



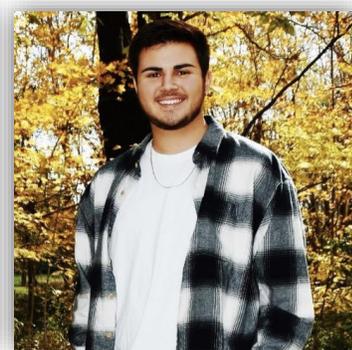
**Kalliope Marie Bessler**  
*Loyola University  
Chicago*

Kalliope graduated magna cum laude from Loyla with her Bachelor of Arts in Theater and minor in Journalism.



**Joseph Thomas Hodson**  
*Emory University*

Joseph graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Business & Quantitative Sciences from Emory. He will be joining Deloitte as an Analyst in Washington, D.C.



**Panayiotis Taki Karras**  
*The Miami Valley School*

Panayiotis will be attending The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business.



**Tia Karras**  
*University of Cincinnati*

Tia graduated from the University of Cincinnati summa cum laude with her Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences.



**Carrie Langendorf**  
*The Ohio State University*

Carrie graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech & Hearing Science from The Ohio State University. In the fall, she will begin graduate school at Cleveland State University to pursue her Master's in Speech-Language Pathology.



**Thomas Anthony Retzios**  
*The Ohio State University*

Thomas Graduated from The Ohio State University with a Degree in Business Administration in Finance. Thomas will be employed by AT&T in their sales program this fall.

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## GREEK FESTIVAL DANCING 2022

Attention all Greek dancers! We are preparing for our festival and we have lots to practice! Please join us during the summer months on Sundays before we add Wednesdays to our practice schedules. It has been a while since we have worked on our dances and our routines, so make an effort to join us!

Practices on Sundays will be right after church in the Community Center on **June 26, July 17, and July 24.**

Evzonakia - ages 5-9 (elementary)  
Levendopeda-ages 10-13 (middle school)  
Nisiotes - ages 14-18 (high school)  
Aegeans - ages 18-24 (college)  
Ellas- 25+ Adults

Attention all dancers in college/graduate schools: **YOU CAN** still dance at our Greek festival and we want to keep you involved in our community. We can practice during the summer a couple times and you will be performing on Saturday of the festival but you need to let us know you are interested. Please call/text Athena Zois Solomon at (937) 207-2546 by June 20!



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**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Dayton, Ohio**

**Please join us**

**IN PERSON/LIVE**

**AT THE 64TH DAYTON GREEK FESTIVAL**

**THE WEEKEND AFTER LABOR DAY**

**SEPT 9, 10 & 11**

Hours:

Sept 9 Friday 11am-10pm  
Sept 10 Saturday 11am-10pm  
Sept 11 Sunday 12pm-4pm

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# Vacation Church School

## SUMMER VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!

*Calling all children ages 3-11!*

Who wants to spend an amazing week learning about saints, singing hymns, doing arts & crafts and playing games? Oh and did I mention the free lunch? Children from St. Paul's Orthodox Church will also be joining us. If this sounds like something amazing that you would like to do, then make sure to sign up using the registration link that was emailed out. The registration deadline is **June 5**.

Please text Missy Fote at 937-219-4211 or email her at mace10@earthlink.net with questions!



- **Week of June 20th**
- **Monday-Thursday from 10:30-2:00**
- **On Friday there will be a family celebration after Divine Liturgy**
- **Lunch will be served daily**
- **Theme: Saints of the Church**



## YOUNG AT HEART: JUNE

Hope you can join us for lunch, fun, fellowship and **BINGO on Thursday, June 16 at 11:30** sponsored by Parish Council.



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Missions and Outreach - We are continuing our volunteer work at Hannah's Treasure Chest this summer. Join us:

Thursday, **June 9** 1:00-3:00 p  
Thursday, **June 23** 9:00-11:00a

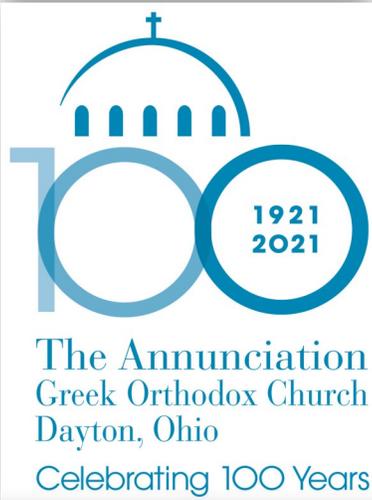
All are welcomed ... questions?

Contact Maria McFarland 937-409-9876

## CONSTANTINE MANOS: VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Longtime Annunciation parishioner Constantine A. Manos who fell asleep in the Lord just before the pandemic in 2020, has been accepted to the Vietnam War Memorial and will be honored at the 2022 "In Memory Ceremony" on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on June 18. For more information about this event, contact Steven Manos at [stevencmanos@gmail.com](mailto:stevencmanos@gmail.com). As the entire community was unable to gather to grieve his passing due to covid, please consider adding to the memories at the Honor Roll website: [vvmf.org/Honor-Roll/501505/Constantine-A-Manos/](http://vvmf.org/Honor-Roll/501505/Constantine-A-Manos/)





*Thank you to all who celebrated the 100th anniversary of our parish this month. Thanks also to the committee, volunteers, and all who helped with the picture displays. Thanks as well to everyone who worked behind the scenes. You all made this a wonderful event. It was a month and weekend to remember! You all did the founders of our community proud. May our efforts bear as much fruit for the future as theirs did for the past 100 years.*



*Photography credit:  
Dan Cleary  
Cleary Creative  
Photography*

## ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH EVENTS: JUNE 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 <b>6:30p</b> Transformative Christianity Webinar	2 <b>ASCENSION</b> <b>8:15a</b> Orthros <b>9:30a</b> Divine Liturgy	3	4
5 <b>8:15a</b> Matins <b>9:30a</b> Liturgy Memorial: + M. Dimitriou Coffee Hour	6 <b>6:30p</b> Choir rehearsal <b>7pm</b> Adult Catechism Class	7	8	9 <b>5:30p</b> DOP/ AHEPA Meeting	10	11 <i>Saturday of Souls</i> <b>9:30a</b> Liturgy at Woodland/ Memorial Prayers
12 Pentecost <b>8:15a</b> Matins <b>9:30a</b> Liturgy <b>11:15a</b> Kneeling Vespers Recognition Sunday & Luncheon	13 <b>6:30p</b> Choir rehearsal <b>7pm</b> Adult Catechism Class	14	15 <b>6:30p</b> Parish Council Meeting	16 <b>11:30a</b> Young at Heart Luncheon	17	18
19 <b>8:15a</b> Matins <b>9:30a</b> Liturgy for All Saints Memorial: +J. Karras Coffee Hour	20 <i>Apostle's Fast Begins</i> <b>10:30a-2:30p</b> Vacation Church School <b>6:30p</b> Choir rehearsal <b>7pm</b> Adult Catechism Class	21 <b>10:30a-2:30p</b> Vacation Church School	22 <b>10:30a-2:30p</b> Vacation Church School	23 <b>10:30a-2:30p</b> Vacation Church School	24 <b>10:30a-2:30p</b> Vacation Church School	25
26 <b>8:15a</b> Matins <b>9:30a</b> Liturgy Memorial: +C. Stavrides Coffee Hour Greek Dance Practice	27 <b>6:30p</b> Choir rehearsal <b>7p</b> Adult Catechism Class	28 <b>6p</b> Vesperal- Liturgy at St. Paul OCA (fast from noon for communion)	29 Feast of the Apostles—Peter & Paul	30		

### ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CLERGY, STAFF & PARISH COUNCIL

#### **Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook  
*Presiding Priest*  
franthony@daytonannunciation.org

#### **Office Staff:**

Deborah Stringfield  
*Parish Administrative  
Assistant*  
office@daytonannunciation.org

Erin Caldwell  
*Office Manager/Rental Coordi-  
nator*  
erin.caldwell@daytonannunciation.org

Brenda Day  
*Bookkeeper*  
accountant@daytonannunciation.org

#### **Parish Council**

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook  
*Proistamenos*  
Jim Haubrock  
*President*

Isidora Tsonis-Margioras  
*Vice President*

Stavro Ververis  
*Secretary*

Demetri Inempolidis  
*Treasurer*

#### *Members:*

Linda Bouris  
Christina Day  
Mary Haritos  
Linda Kididis  
Matt McAlpine  
Christina Panagouleas-  
Stephens  
Chris Pulos  
Nick Regopoulos  
Kenya Smith  
Stacey Tipler  
Athena Zavakos