



# THE TRUE VINE

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March 2024

<http://www.daytonannunciation.org>

## A SEASON OF REPENTANCE



Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

Beloved in the Lord,

A blessed March to all of you! We have had a very busy February with the Fr. Nicholas Louh Retreat, the Night with Basil the Comedian, and the GOYA Basketball Tournament, but as we enter this month of March, we have settled into our normal routine. Even now, however, that norm is about to change; the first full week of March is Meatfare (Apokreas), the second is Cheesefare, and on the 18th, Great Lent begins. I pray that the Lord will protect and guide you and your families as we all prepare for the Great Fast.

In the meantime, of course, there are other special events coming up. On March 10th, we will hold our Spring General Assembly. On March 17th, we will celebrate Greek Independence Day with our Greek School's annual program. On March 24th & 25th, we will celebrate our parish's Feastday. But all of these come together with the preparation for Great Lent, and even the joy of these celebrations is colored with the sobriety of repentance and the renunciation of fasting.

### *The Church Year*

The Church Year is built around the great feast of our Lord's Resurrection at Pascha. We spend ten weeks preparing for Pascha, and another eight weeks afterward celebrating the Resurrection and then preparing for and celebrating the Feast of Pentecost which completes what Pascha has begun. In these annual observances, and the fasting and feasting that attend them, we are renewed each year in the freedom from sin and death that the Lord has granted to us in His Resurrection, and in the gift of the Holy Spirit that we have been granted by Him at Pentecost. The services for this period are found in two books: the Triodion until Pascha, and the Pentecostarion afterward.

After Pentecost we move into the "Normal Time" of the Church year, in which we who have been delivered from bondage and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit live as the people of God in this world. This Normal Time, then, is not separate from Pascha and Pentecost, but rather flows directly out from these great feasts, as we who have been baptized into Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit are called to bear Christ into the world, sustained every Sunday by the very Bread of Life in the Eucharist.

Throughout the Church Year, however, during both the period built around Pascha, and throughout Normal Time, we also observe the other great feasts of the Lord's economy of our salvation, beginning with the birth of His Mother on September 8th, and concluding with her Falling Asleep on August 15th. Over the course of the year, we celebrate the Holy Cross (September 14), the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 21), the Lord's Birth (December 25), the Lord's Baptism (January 6), the Lord's Dedication in the Temple (February 2), the Annunciation (March 25), and the Transfiguration (August 6). These, together with the other celebrations that move with Pascha (Palm Sunday one week before Pascha, and Ascension 40 days after Pascha), along with the commemoration of the saints on each day of the year, comprise the remainder of the Church Year.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday

8:15 am – Orthros

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### Monday

6:00 pm – Great Compline

### Wednesday

6:00 pm – Presanctified Liturgy

### Friday

6:00 pm – Salutations

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

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Funerals

February 9, 2024

Argiro Fronista Willaims

### 40 Day Blessings

February 4, 2024

Olivia Grilliot (Jordan & Alexandria)

February 25, 2024

Elaina Huff (Nicholas & Vasiliki)

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

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### Service Texts

<https://dcs.goarch.org>

### Parish Life Stream (Youtube)

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

### Parish Facebook Page

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

### Stewardship/Online Giving

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

### Religious Education Initiative

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

In the midst of all these celebrations, there are three other seasons of fasting besides Great Lent. We fast, of course, for 40 days before Christmas, and for 14 days before the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos in August, but we also fast from the end of the Pentecostarion until the Feast of the Apostles on June 29th. These fasts serve to sustain us in the disciplined path of faithfulness to the Lord, and as reminders that the path of salvation is a path of repentance.

#### *The Season of Repentance*

Great Lent, then, fulfills the same purpose. From the earliest days of the Church, those who were about to be baptized fasted strictly to prepare for the complete transformation of their life. Even the length of the fast signifies this preparation; the six weeks of preparation indicates the expectation of a seventh week, a Holy Week, even as the seventh day of the week of Creation is the day in which God rests, enthroned in glory, having completed His work of Creation. For catechumens, this Fast is a discipline by which they turn their back on the things of this world, and turn their hearts and minds and entire being toward the Lord Who grants everlasting life to those who hope on Him.

For the rest of us, the Fast is a time for us to be renewed in this, to remember our own Baptism and to offer ourselves to the Lord, turning with discipline and fervor to the Faithfulness to which He has called us. For all of us to keep this fast together is for us to engage our will and intent in participating in God's work in our lives together, and in the entire world, and to become more truly what we already are: the Body of Christ.

#### *How to Begin a Fast*

As we prepare for this effort, the Church provides us with an almost-literal on-ramp. We begin with a week of no fasting at all (which began on February 25th this year), and continue with a week of normal fasting (only on Wednesday and Friday). This week, starting March 3rd, is the last week for meat, called Meatfare or Apokreas. The following week, starting March 10th, we remove meat from our diet, but fish, cheese, and all other dairy are eaten all week long. This serves a dual purpose; the plenty that is allowed to us before the Fast strengthens our bodies for the spiritual labor that is to come, but it also allows us to empty our pantries and refrigerators of the rich food that we are setting aside for this time of spiritual effort..

Along with these guidelines, we are given four themed Sundays to prepare us for the Fast. The first presents us with the vainglorious Pharisee contrasted with the repentant Publican; the second with the story of the Prodigal Son; the third with the Lord's account of the Last Judgment, and the fourth, the Sunday of Forgiveness, with the Lord's explicit instructions for how to fast: not so that we may be seen and praised by others, but in secret, so that our Heavenly Father alone may see, and reward both our effort and our humility with His grace and love.

#### *Repentance and Forgiveness*

On the Sunday of Forgiveness, we have the opportunity to actually begin this spiritual effort together. Following the Divine Liturgy, in the early afternoon, we celebrate Forgiveness Vespers, in which the lights are dimmed, the altar covers are changed from light to dark colors, and we begin to sing the penitential hymns of the Great Fast. And when the service is finished, everyone present, old and young, rich and poor, clergy and lay, asks personally the forgiveness of everyone else that is there. For we are a family indeed, on the journey of salvation, and the first and most essential thing that we must do is to repent of our own sins, and to offer forgiveness to one another. In this way, leaving both sin and resentment behind, we may begin this blessed journey together.

I pray that I will see many of you at these services. If you have questions about how to Fast, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

With love in Christ,  
+Fr. Anthony Cook

## **ANNUNCIATION**

### **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

500 Belmonte Park N  
Dayton, OH 45405

Office: (937) 224-0601

Fax: (937) 224-0173

Office Hours: 10am-4pm M-F

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

#### **Clergy**

Fr. Anthony Cook

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

#### **2024 Parish Council**

Andrea Casey - *President*

Jim Haubrock - *Vice President*

Sophia Angelopoulos - *Treasurer*

Christina Day - *Secretary*

Linda Bouris

Louis Castleman

Mary Haritos

Vassilios Karras

Linda Kididis

Dirk Lackovich Van-Gorp

Isidora Tsionis Margioras

Athena Zavakos

Bill Alimonos

Nick Tolia

Connie Zavakos

#### **Office Staff**

Margaret Clinch

Parish Administrator

Email:

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

Brenda Day

Bookkeeper

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

Deborah Stringfield

Parish Administrative Assistant

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

#### **Building Staff**

Ty Lambert

Facilities Specialist

Email:

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

Renda Humphreys/Bernie Clair  
Housekeeping

	March 3-9	March 10-16	March 17-23
Sunday	<b>3 Sunday of the Prodigal Son/Stewardship Sunday</b> ✠ Luke 24:36-53; I Corinthians 6:12-20 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30a Coffee Hour 12p Catechism Teacher & GOYA meetings	<b>10 Judgment Sunday</b> ✠ John 20:1-10; I Corinthians 8:8-13;9:1-2 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30a Spring General Assembly 11:45a Greek Dance Practice	<b>17 Forgiveness Sunday</b> ✠ ⚡ John 20:11-18; Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11:30a Greek Independence Day Program & Lunch 1pm Forgiveness Vespers
Monday	<b>4 Gerasimus the Righteous of Jordan</b> I John 2:18-29;3:1-8; Mark 11:1-11 5:30p Greek School 7p Adult Catechism	<b>11 Cheesefare Monday</b> ⚡ C III John 1:1-15; Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39 5p Tutoring Program 5:30p Greek School 7p Adult Catechism	<b>18 Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem</b> ✦ Isaiah 1:1-20; Genesis 1:1-13 5:30p Greek School 6p Great Compline 7:15p Adult Catechism
Tuesday	<b>5 Conon the Gardener</b> I John 3:9-22; Mark 14:10-42	<b>12 Theophanes the Confessor</b> ⚡ C Jude 1:1-10; Luke 22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1 6p AHEPA/DOP Meeting	<b>19 The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria</b> Isaiah 1:19-2:3; Genesis 1:14-23 6p Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	<b>6 42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia</b> I John 3:21-24;4:1-11; Mark 14:43-72; 15:1 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>13 Removal of the relics of Nicephorus</b> ⚡ C Joel 3:12-21; Joel 2:12-26 7p Zoom Bible Study	<b>20 Righteous Fathers slain at the Monastery of St. Savas</b> ✠ Isaiah 2:3-11; Genesis 1:24-2:3 6p Presanctified Liturgy 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
Thursday	<b>7 The Holy Martyred Bishops of Cherson</b> I John 4:20-21;5:1-21; Mark 15:1-15 10am Philoptochos Meeting 6:30p Choir	<b>14 Benedict the Righteous of Nursia</b> ⚡ C Jude 1:11-25; Luke 23:1-31, 33, 44-56 11:30a Young at Heart Luncheon 6:30p Choir	<b>21 James the Confessor</b> Isaiah 2:11-21; Genesis 2:4-19 6:30p Choir
Friday	<b>8 Theophylact the Confessor, Bishop of Nicomedia</b> Hebrews 12:1-10; Matthew 20:1-16	<b>15 Agapius the Martyr &amp; His Companions</b> ⚡ C Zechariah 8:7-17; Zechariah 8:19-23	<b>22 Basil the Holy Martyr of Ancyra</b> ✦ Isaiah 3:1-14; Genesis 2:20-3:20 6p Salutations
Saturday	<b>9 Saturday of Souls</b> ✠ Luke 21:12-19; I Thessalonians 4:13-17 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy	<b>16 Cheesefare Saturday-Saturday of Souls</b> ✠ ⚡ Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2; Matthew 6:1-13 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 10a Greek School Program Rehearsal 3p HOPE/JOY event	<b>23 First Saturday of Lent-Saturday of Souls</b> ✠ 🕯 II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy

• Fast Days Shaded ✠ Liturgy ✦ Other Service ⚡ fish/wine/oil allowed 🕯 wine/oil allowed

	March 24-30	March 31-April 6	April 7-April 13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24 Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> ✠ 🕯 John 20:19-31; Heb. 11:24-26,32-40 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy 11:30a Coffee Hour 12:15p Sixth Full Practice - Holy Wed Kids 6p Great Vespers - Annunciation 7p Annunciation Reception	<b>31 Sun. of St. Gregory</b> ✠ 🕯 <b>Palamas</b> John 21:1-14; Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School after communion 11:30a Coffee Hour	<b>7 Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> ✠ 🕯 John 21:14-25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy Catechism School Early Start 11:30a Coffee Hour 12p AHEPA hosted Speaker Luncheon 12p GOYA meeting
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25 Annunciation of the Theotokos</b> ✠ ↵ Luke 1:39-49, 56; Hebrews 2:11-18 8:15a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy NO Tutoring Program 5:30p Greek School No Adult Catechism	<b>1 Mary of Egypt</b> ❖ Isaiah 8:13-9:7; Genesis 6:9-22 5p Maids of Athena bake koulourakia 5:30p Greek School 6pm Great Compline 7:15p Adult Catechism	<b>8 Holy Apostles of the 70</b> ❖ Isaiah 14:24-32; Genesis 8:21-9:7 5p Tutoring Program 5:30p Greek School 6pm Great Compline 7:15p Adult Catechism
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26 Synaxis in honor of the Archangel Gabriel</b> 🕯 Isaiah 5:7-16; Genesis 4:8-15	<b>2 Titus the Wonderworker</b> Isaiah 9:9-10:4; Genesis 7:1-5	<b>9 The Holy Martyr Eupychius of Caesarea</b> Isaiah 25:1-9; Genesis 9:8-17 6pm AHEPA/DOP Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27 Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica</b> ✠ Isaiah 5:16-25; Genesis 4:16-26 6p Presanctified Liturgy 7:30p Zoom Bible Study	<b>3 Nicetas, Abbot of the Monastery of Medicium</b> ✠ Isaiah 10:12-20; Genesis 7:6-9 6p Presanctified Liturgy 7:30p Zoom Bible Study	<b>10 Terence and his Companions beheaded at Carthage</b> ✠ Isaiah 26:21-27:9; Genesis 9:18-10:1 6p Presanctified Liturgy 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28 Hilarion the New</b> Isaiah 6:1-12; Genesis 5:1-24 6:30p Choir	<b>4 George the Righteous of Maleon</b> Isaiah 11:10-12:2; Genesis 7:11-8:3 10a Philoptochos Meeting (off-site) 6:30p Choir	<b>11 Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum</b> Isaiah 28:14-22; Genesis 10:32-11:9 11a Young at Heart Luncheon 6:30p Choir
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29 Mark, Bishop of Arethusa</b> ❖ Isaiah 7:1-14; Genesis 5:32-6:8 6p Salutations	<b>5 Monk-Martyrs Claudius, Diodore, Victor, Victorinus</b> ❖ Isaiah 13:2-13; Genesis 8:4-21 6p Salutations	<b>12 Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium</b> ❖ Isaiah 28:14-22; Genesis 10:32-11:9 6p Salutations
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30 Second Saturday of Lent</b> 🕯 Hebrews 3:12-16; Mark 1:35-44	<b>6 Third Saturday of Lent</b> 🕯 Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 2:14-17	<b>13 Fourth Saturday of Lent</b> 🕯 Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:31-37

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

# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## *Bookkeeper's Corner*

### *The mountains are calling...again.*

Spring hits home in March. Whether it's a late spring or early spring our yard screams SPRING! with the yellow and white of the daffodils and crocus'. The mountains of Tennessee are beginning their annual call to come and see all she has to offer; wildflower walks, streams, waterfalls, sunrises and sunsets on the mountains and hiking trails. I'm not going to the mountains until early April this year. Until then I'll make do with what's around my neck of the woods. Whatever gets you out of the house and into all that Mother Nature has to offer, just do it. Your mind, body and soul will appreciate it.

### *Thank you AHEPA!*

My sincerest thanks to the members of our AHEPA Dayton Chapter #113 for providing me with a brand new laptop for my use while working from home or on the road. The old one had seen better days, was cantankerous, refused to play nice if it was raining, took its sweet time to open programs vital to my job and was older than dirt. I'm not one to put anything out to pasture, but it's time had come. Thank you for making my job easier and more productive!

### *Envelopes put in the baskets with no name.*

If you place cash in one of the Stewardship Envelopes but do not put a name on the outside, please write CANDLES on the outside of the envelope as that is where the money will be deposited. Otherwise I need a name on the outside of the envelope in order to credit those monies to Stewardship.

### *Easter Flower and Easter Offering Donations – 5 ways to donate!*

The opportunity to donate for Easter flowers and an Easter Offering is now available on the church website, using the church I-Pad available in the office or in the Narthex before/after services, on your phone if you have downloaded the Vanco Mobile App, by writing a check to the church, and paying with cash in the office or while attending church services. Use an Easter Envelope and please be sure to put your name on the outside. Thank you!

### *General Assembly Rules*

Everyone should have received their 2023 Donation Statements in the mail or by email if you requested one. If you see that you still owe 2023 Stewardship please pay that as soon as possible. Want to vote at the Spring General Assembly this month? You must:

- Be an Orthodox Christian
- Have paid your 2023 Stewardship Pledge in Full
- And made a 2024 Stewardship Pledge

If you have questions about your voting status, please contact me by phone or email: [accountant@daytonannunciation.org](mailto:accountant@daytonannunciation.org) is my email, or you can call 937-224-0601 and leave a message.

### *In Closing...*

Be the change we need today....

"One moment can change a day, one day can change a life, and one life can change the world." - Buddha



## GREAT LENT AND PASCHA FLOWERS

During this blessed season of the Triodion, of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, we have many occasions for which we traditionally adorn our Temple with flowers. We have always requested the financial support of our Faithful to defray the cost of this adornment of our Church. The occasions that we need to cover are as follows:

- Donations for Fridays Salutations, Rose Petals, Candelabras, etc. - \$75
- Donations for Palms & Bay Leaves - \$700
- Donation for 500 Daffodils - \$500
- Donation for the Kouvouklion flowers - \$2,500
- Donations for flowers for the Iconostasis - \$500
- Donation for the Wreath for the Cross - \$250
- Donation for the Pussy-willow bouquet - \$100
- Donation for the Priest's Pascha Candle - \$250

Please call the Church office to make your donation, OR use the church website.

If our donations for flowers exceed our needs, any additional funds raised will be rolled over into the Altar Fund and used for the more permanent adornment of the Holy Place.

Thank you, and God bless you all!

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS - MARCH 2024

### *March Membership Meeting:*

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 7 at 10am in the Athenagoras Room. We will have a special guest from the 4 Paws For Ability, our March CCM.

### *Membership Dues:*

We have 112 members and we welcome Erin McAlpine and Lin Paslosky as our newest members. 2024 membership fees are \$30 payable to Philoptochos. Part of the dues go for National and Metropolis commitments. Please put 2024 Dues on the memo line of your check. Kathy Spyrou is the Membership Chair, mail to 856 Princewood Ave, Dayton 45429 or put your check in the membership box outside of the Athenagoras room.

### *March CCM:*

Philoptochos CCM charity for March 2024 is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization called "4 Paws For Ability". Located in Xenia, they breed, raise, train, and place service dogs locally and nationally and have placed over 1,800 service dogs since 1998.

The dogs are trained with specific tasks to serve as service dogs, facility dogs, and hearing dogs as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act. They enrich the lives of children, adults, and veterans with disabilities. These dogs help with tasks that help those with diabetes, seizures, mobility issues, autism, deafness, and multipurpose assistance. They also help veterans with physical, emotional, balance issues, deafness and injuries from combat.

They have a very large well-organized facility with a multitude of volunteer opportunities (individual or groups) available to work with dogs and puppies. One of our church members has a service dog from 4 Paws for Ability. For any questions about 4 Paws For Ability, please ask Pia Kanistros- [PiaKan99@aol.com](mailto:PiaKan99@aol.com)

All donations should be given or mailed to CCM treasurer, Connie Zvakos at 3437 Dahlia Dr., Dayton, OH 45449 or donations can be placed in the Red CCM Philoptochos box outside of the Athenagoras room. Checks should be made payable to Philoptochos with the "4 Paws For Ability" in the memo box.

### *March 24th Vespers:*

Philoptochos will host a reception in the Community Center hall on March 24 immediately following the church service. Please contact Mary McDonald to sign up to bring a Lenten food item. Set up is March 22 at 10am. Mary McDonald, Diane Briggs, Ruthann Zavakos and Mary Caudell, Chairs.

### *Annual Spring Charity Luncheon:*

Saturday, May 11th is the day of our popular Philoptochos Spring Charity Luncheon which will be held at the Presidential Banquet Center. Invitations will arrive later this month. Ladies of all ages are welcome! The committee is accepting monetary donations and/or auction items. If you are not on the invitation list or wish to add someone to the invitation list, contact Michelle Zois at [matinazois@gmail.com](mailto:matinazois@gmail.com). Chairs, Sandy Alex and Michelle Zois.

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### *Hannah's Treasure Chest Volunteer Opportunities in February*

Join us at Hannah's Treasure Chest on Thursday, March 14(1:00-3:00) and Thursday, March 28 (9:00-11:00)

Need more information? - Maria McFarland 937-409-9876



## AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

### *Daughters of Penelope*

On March 25, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, and this date also commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821! In observance of Greek Independence Day, and to promote Hellenic awareness, we encourage our church family to attend the Greek School GID program on Sunday, March 17, and luncheon sponsored by our Brother AHEPAns. In addition, please be on the lookout for our Greek School that will be marching in the GID Parade in Cleveland!

At our monthly outreach, on 2/17/24, at the Ronald McDonald House, we prepared breakfast and dinner for the families staying there. Thank you to our volunteers and those that support this outreach.

Please be on the lookout for our Maids of Athena upcoming Lenten fundraisers and how you might be able to support their efforts.

For our members, just a reminder, that on 1/9, we returned to meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Our March meeting is on Tuesday, 3/12, 6:00pm at church. Please look in your email on details of upcoming news. And please remit your 2024 dues of \$45.00 to our Treasurer, Thomai Bessler.

All ladies are warmly invited to join our Chapter and share in our social events being planned, and the outreach that we are doing locally and beyond. We welcome you to become a part of our AHEPA Family.

Please contact Alexis Brun, (937) 219-0463

[agrkblesng23@gmail.com](mailto:agrkblesng23@gmail.com)

<https://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/>

<https://www.maidsofathena.org/>

<https://ahepa.org/>

## MAIDS OF ATHENA

### *Hygiene Fair Thank-You*

Thank you for all who donated to the MAIDS hygiene fair on February 4. We collected 50 razors, 10 shaving creams 40 toothpastes ,50 toothbrushes , 40 bars of soap, 100 shampoo/conditioner bottles , 25 body wash bottles ,15 lotion bottles , 10 hand sanitizers, 15 tissue packs and a variety of other hygiene products. And we used the collected donations to buy more shampoo, conditioner and lotions ( the most requested products ) We filled all the bins at Hannah's Treasure Chest. Thanks!



### *Lenten Koulourakia*

Looking for a sweet Lenten treat? The MAIDS will be

baking Lenten koulourakia and will have them for sale April 7 after church. Thanks for supporting the MAIDS.



*Koulourakia with orange are a Greek  
vegan cookie. perfect for dunking!* 43 --

## CATECHISM SCHOOL NEWS

### *Eulogy for Connie Mellas*



Always with a smile and a lovely demeanor, Connie Mellas was a devoted communicant of our Annunciation. Her life-long diakonia/service to the church and specifically to our Orthodox youth has been inspirational.

Connie began her tenure as Superintendent of the Annunciation Sunday School in 1977. She led the school for 40 years in this capacity, touching the lives of generations of teachers and students. Her dedication to our parish youth is unprecedented - she volunteered innumerable hours each week in the Sunday school office researching and preparing curriculum materials...her organized filing cabinets and file folders are still used to this day.

Connie was a trailblazer and aimed high! She sought to bring the newest curriculum resources published by the Archdiocese and even brought the Director of Religious Education, to speak at the annual Sunday School Teachers' Seminar. In her first year as Superintendent, she rallied to host our diocese's 7th Annual Sunday School Conference, in 1982, she and Fr. Jerry Tasikas instituted 'Youth Sunday' and in 1996, she was instrumental in bringing Mother Gabriella of the Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery for Sunday School's Lenten Retreat. During her 40 years as Annunciation's Catechism school superintendent, Connie worked respectfully and harmoniously with 6 priests. In 2017, Connie was bestowed the title of 'Superintendent Emeritus' and our parish hosted a beautiful luncheon in her honor.

But most of all, she led by example, reflecting Christ's love to everyone with whom she came in contact. This was her life's vocation and all of us who were blessed to know and work with Connie are enriched and motivated by her example.

The Annunciation Catechism School will forever be grateful for her leadership and love.

May her memory be eternal and may God rest her soul!



# GREEK SCHOOL

## GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Our students are gearing up for the Independence Day Program to take place on Sunday, March 17th. Come celebrate with us our Greek heritage!

Thank you

## HOPE/JOY ACTS OF KINDNESS

All HOPE/JOY children - Join us on Saturday, March 16 in the Athenagoras Room for a lesson on confession, an opportunity for the children to go to confession with Father Anthony, and to fly kites in the Greek tradition of celebrating Clean Monday (March 18).

Need more details - Maria McFarland 937-409-9876



## ATTENTION YOUTH WORKERS

If you are involved in Catechism school, Greek school, Greek dance , GOYA, HOPE/JOY, adult in the altar or Parish Council - YOU NEED to make sure your background check and training videos are completed. If you have any questions- Maria McFarland 937-409-9876 or Angie Lander - 937-901-2271. We will be contacting those who are not compliant individually starting in March.

## AIF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ATTENTION:

- high school juniors & seniors
- college students who are eligible for the continuation scholarship.

### High School 11th/12th graders:

Download 'AIF High School Scholarship Application' from [daytonannunciation.org](http://daytonannunciation.org). ('Organizations' tab)

### College Students:

Download 'College Renewal Application' from [Daytonannunciation.org](http://Daytonannunciation.org) (Organizations tab)

### Deadline:

Completed applications must be submitted to Fr. Anthony Cook or Nick Xenos by 5PM EST May 1, 2024. No exceptions. For any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all the best as you wrap up this semester. Please reach out if you have questions!

## ANNUNCIATION ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our parish oratorical festival was held **Saturday, March 2nd**. We congratulate all the young people who participated, and the finalists from our parish, who will advance to the District Festival in Cincinnati on April 20th. The Senior Division finalists were Lidija Lackovich-Van Gorp & Antonios Tipler, and the Junior Division finalists were Jamie Zois & Demetri Cook.

## YOUNG AT HEART - MARCH 14 @ 11:30 AM

Hope you will attend our first luncheon in 2024 on Thursday, March 14th. We will play Bingo, have a delicious lunch prepared by The Spot, and enjoy our fellowship. The luncheon is sponsored by AIF.

In April we will meet on Thursday, April 11 instead of April 18. Note that this is a change of date from the schedule given out in December. AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope will sponsor the luncheon.

## 2024 GREEK FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

Our 2024 Full Greek Festival planning is underway and we will be having our first (of many) booth chair meetings on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Community Center. This meeting is for all booth chairs, but if you are not a booth chair and want to become more involved we welcome you! We heard parishioner disappointment when we did not have a full festival in 2023, so we are back and need everyone's help to make this a successful festival for our parish and the community!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Andrea Casey, 937.414.0613, [andreacasey6789@gmail.com](mailto:andreacasey6789@gmail.com), or Linda Kididis, 937.657.2572, [llk1962@outlook.com](mailto:llk1962@outlook.com)

Look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

## CHURCH DOORS FUNDING DRIVE

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

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

## SATURDAYS OF SOULS


During this Pre-Lenten period, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Saturdays of Souls on March 9th, March 16th, and March 23rd. You may submit the names of the Departed (as well as any of the living for whom you wish prayers to be offered in the Divine Liturgy) using the sheet below. These names will be commemorated at the Preparation of the Gifts during the Orthros, and the names of the Departed will be commemorated aloud during the Memorial Service at the end of the Liturgy.

Please note that, unless requested, names will be commemorated aloud only on the day they are brought. If you would like your names to be commemorated aloud all three Saturdays, please make a note to that effect. You can simply write: "All three Saturdays, please," and that will suffice. The reason for this is that our prayer for our departed loved ones is not a technical or legalistic reality, but is rather personal and immediate. On the Saturdays of Souls, we come, in person, to pray for our departed loved ones in the Divine Liturgy. If we CANNOT come, then of course the priest is happy to pray on our behalf. But we must never forget that the prayers that are offered are OUR prayers, together with the entirety of the Lord's Church.



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 25th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>MARCH 3rd</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>MARCH 10th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 17th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 24th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 31st</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 7th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 21st</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 28th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>MAY 3rd</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>MAY 5th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Venmo:  
AHEPA127\_chapteraccount



# AHEPA GREEK Independence Day Dance

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd**

**Holy Trinity St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
7000 Winton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Appetizers 5:30pm - Dinner 6:30pm - Dance 8:00pm  
\*Open Bar\***

LIVE MUSIC BY:

**Hors d'Oeuvres**

• **GEORGE KARRAS** •

**TICKETS: \$50 Adults, \$30 Under 18; Free Under 5**

**Dinner Reservations Deadline: March 20th. Contact:  
Peter Rodish Tel 859-512-8550 /peter.rodish@gmail.com**



23ND ANNUAL  
**GREEK**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024**  
**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**2187 W 14TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44113**

**12:00 PM - DOXOLOGY**  
**1:00 PM - PARADE FOLLOWED BY FESTIVITIES IN THE BANQUET HALL**

\*LENTEN FOOD AND SNACKS IN HALL FOR PURCHASE  
\*AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AFTER THE PARADE,  
INCLUDING ONE FOR THE BEST FLOAT.

**CONTACT: EMMANUEL ERMIDIS (216) 323 - 4092**  
**ELENI PAPOURAS-JENKS (216) 965-8131**



**RSVP YOUR GROUP AT NO COST BY FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH**

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

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

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

To be paid:  Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Our Church ...  
Our*

*Spiritual Home*

**Did you know?**

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

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

**Stewardship is faith in action.**

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

Please fill out the following information for our records

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

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

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

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





## SERVICES & EVENTS FOR MARCH

### March 7

Philoptochos meeting @ 10 am

### March 9 - Saturday of Souls

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

### March 10 (Meatfare Sunday)

Spring General Assembly 11:30 am

### March 14

Young at Heart Luncheon

### March 16 - Saturday of Souls

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

HOPE/JOY Confession event @ 3 pm

### March 17 (Cheesefare Sunday)

Greek Independence Day Program @ 11:30

Forgiveness Vespers afterward ~ 1 pm

### March 18

Great Compline @ 6 pm

### March 19

Parish Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm

### March 20

Presanctified Liturgy @ 6 pm

### March 22

Salutations @ 6 pm

### March 23 - Saturday of Souls

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

### March 24 (Orthodoxy Sunday evening)

Great Vespers of the Annunciation @ 6 pm

### March 25 (Feast of Annunciation)

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

### March 27

Presanctified Liturgy @ 6 pm

### March 29

Salutations @ 6 pm

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

### Sunday, March 10

Spring General Assembly

### Sunday, March 17

AHEPA/Greek School Luncheon

### Sunday, March 24

Hosted by: DOP

### Sunday, March 31

Hosted by Parishioner Group 1

### Sunday, April 7

AHEPA Luncheon

### Sunday, April 14

Hosted by Parent Team 2

### Sunday, April 21

hosted by Parent Team 3

### Sunday, April 28

Palm Sunday Lunch