

The Voice



A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
January 2024 | Volume 61: Issue 1

Dear Parish Family,

In January of 2023, we asked the question, “What does the average person in Akron think of when they hear the word church? Do they think of our Annunciation and everything we have to offer? If not, then why?”

In the past year we have worked towards making the answer to the question a resounding “yes!” We have opened the doors of our Church to all of God’s people. We hosted a successful festival. We have launched new outreach ministries. Our Good Samaritans group has led us in serving nearly 9,000 individuals, including over 1,000 loads of laundry through our newest ministry. We have organized dances and potluck meals to bring us together as a family in Christ. We have welcomed new Orthodox Christians into the fold. Most of all, we have come together each Sunday to receive His Body and Blood.

As we begin 2024, let’s call all that a good start. We have offered our time, talent, and treasure to God, and He has offered it back to us multiplied. God gives these gifts back to us with the expectation that we continue to do His work.

2024 will offer opportunities for expanded and new ministries, including new youth and family events over the summer. Most of all, it will offer us many opportunities to come together to worship Him and ask His blessings on the work of our hands. Take a few minutes to flip through The Voice and consider where you can become more involved each time you Come to Church!

See you at Church!
Fr. Dean



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Presiding Priest

Fr. Nick Manuel
Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

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129 S. Union Street
Akron, OH 44304
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Mary O’Connor

Nick Stavarakis

Gus Tsesselis

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PACKAGING - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Saturday
January 6, noon

Monthly
PACKAGING

Wednesday
January 10, 7:30am

Monthly
DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday
January 30

Meal
PREP
2-7pm

Meal
DISTRIBUTION
5-6:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - November 14, 2023

*As always, the minutes in The Voice are edited for length.
Minutes in full are available on the table outside of Fr. Dean's office.*

Members Present:

Fr. Dean Kokanos and Fr. Nicholas Manuel

Christina Barry

Bill Farmakidis

Christopher Morris

Nicholas Stavrakis

Jonathon Bollas

Angela Jumbert

Mary O'Connor

Gus Tsesmelis

Penny Dickos

Christina Manousos

Susan Pappas

Denis Van Doros

Elena Economou-Zwisler

John Matheos

Christine Salem

Members Absent:

Mike Detorakis

Maria Williams

- 1.) **Priest Report:** Thank you for being here. Ministries are proceeding as scheduled.
- 2.) **President Report:** Thank you for attending General Assembly. Lots of new things this month. Stay tuned.
- 3.) **Treasurer Report:**

<u>October 2023</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Account Balances</u>	
Income	\$652,800	\$672,400	General Operating	\$31,000
Expenses	\$695,300	\$693,200	General Savings	\$100,000
Profit/Loss	(\$42,500)	(\$20,800)	Payroll	\$4,000

Presented 2024 Budget - Motion to Accept: Bollas; Second: Pappas. Carries

- 4.] **Stewardship:** Economou-Zwisler - 2023 - 388 Pledges: \$650,000; Average: \$1,675
2022 - 376 Pledges; \$537,000, Average: \$1,428
- 5.] **Financial:** Van Doros - \$899,000 in trust fund. Building - \$161,000
- 6.] **Security and Ushering:** Barry - Working to set up Alice Training.
- 7.] **Social Media/Communications:** Pappas - Vasilopita dance - January 20, 2024 - planning is going well. Tickets on sale after Thanksgiving.
- 6.] **Hall:** Bollas - Good Meeting with Angelica and Tangiers. Expecting \$8,000-\$10,000 in income from these events through the end of the year.
- 7.] **Technology:** Tithe.ly will be discontinued at the end of the calendar year.
- 8.] **Youth:** Youth programs all running according to schedule. Youth safety course will be sent out to all Parish Council members soon.
- 9.] **Outreach/Ministries:** O'Connor. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Mission Walk. We raised \$6,000 for local charities.
- 10.] **Good of the Community:** Salem: Thank you to Penny for putting in all the time required to prepare the budget proposal. Thank you to Mary O'Connor for chairing the Mission Walk
 - Matheos: Shannon Pangas for doing the Loads of Love last night, which was the highest one yet (est. 18-20 families). After church on Sunday, cooking begins for the Thanksgiving hot meal.

GOOD SAMARITANS

**Packing and Distribution needs your clean plastic grocery bags.
PLEASE drop them off at church.**

PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY

Akron Children's Hospital - Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders

Annunciation Akron Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society provided the new stocked prize box for our outpatient clinic. The kids are going to love it!



THANK YOU

On December 3rd, the St. Nicholas Breakfast was a success because of you and the following members of our church:

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 Oscar & Melanie Morris
 John, Mary, & Katie O'Connor
 Justine Nicolacakis
 Frank & Shannon Pangas
 Chris & Shelly Partis
 Larry & Karen Poulos
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 Kalman & Cindy Toth
 John & Del Marie Tsores
 Denis & Jeanne Van Doros
 Myron & Kim Vernis
 Elena Economou & John Zwisler

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 Diamond Marcum
 John Matheos
 Shelly Partis
 George Paterakis
 Paul Perantinides
 Christina Pirovolos
 Larry Poulos
 Georgia Stathopoulos
 Christina Tharp
 Cindy Toth
 Denis VanDoros

WE THANK YOU

Torie Crockett,
 Joyce Lagios, and
 Mary O'Connor
 St. Nicholas Pancake
 Breakfast Chairpeople,
 for Philoptochos

OCW

Orthodox Christian Women present

WINTER MINI-RETREAT

Saturday, January 20, 2024 - 9am-noon

St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church
64 West Wilbeth Road, Akron 44301

Free Event - Everyone Welcome
Continental Breakfast Provided

“QUESTION THE CLERGY”

Featuring a panel of our beloved local priests.

Advance questions encouraged!
Please send your queries to:
info@stteoc.com by January 17th

All questions to remain anonymous.
Questions may also be submitted at the event.

Contact:
Nancy Studebaker - 330.665.9638 or nlstudebaker@gmail.com
Sandy Graham - 330.988.8107 or sgraham@bright.net

VASILOPITA DANCE



The 2nd Annual Parish Council VASILOPITA DANCE



Saturday, January 20, 2024
Annunciation Church Hall

129 S Union Street, Akron, OH

BUY YOUR TICKETS AFTER LITURGY.

Bring Friends!

Live Music by Karizma



JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Years Day Office Closed 830am Matins 930am Liturgy	6pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 8pm HUMS Book study - ZOOM	8am Gyro Prep 6pm GOYA BBall 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon	9am Royal Hours of Theophany 11am Philoptochos Mtg 430pm Vespersal Liturgy w/ Blessing of the Water	Holy Theophany, 830am Matins 930am Liturgy St. John Blessing of Water 1pm Good Samaritan Packing
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
830am Matins 930am Liturgy John the Baptist ----- Vasilopita Cutting ----- 11:15am Adult Ed. -----	5pm Loads of Love 7pm Men's BBall	9am Quilting 530pm Parish Council	730am Good Samaritans 8am Gyro Prep 6pm GOYA BBall 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Intro to Orthodoxy	6pm JOY Night GOYA BBall Tournament - COLUMBUS	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
830am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. -----	6:30pm COCA Mtg Annunciation 7pm Men's BBall		8am Gyro Prep 830am Matins 930am Liturgy St Anthony 6pm GOYA BBall 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon		6pm Vespers VASILOPAPITA Dance - Annunciation
GOYA BBall						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
830am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. ----- 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat	7pm Men's BBall	6pm Men's Club	8am Gyro Prep 6pm GOYA BBall 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm Gyro Luncheon 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Intro to Orthodoxy		
					NEED PARISH VOLUNTEERS	
					GOYA BBall Tournament - AKRON	
28	29	30	31	<div style="background-color: #1a3a5a; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SAVE THE DATE</h2> <h1 style="margin: 0;">GOLDEN GREEKS</h1> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Lunch Meeting</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Monday, February 12, 11:30am</h2> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Speaker: Sheri Bevan Walsh</h2> <p style="margin: 0; color: #f0e68c;">Annunciation Buffet Room</p> <p style="margin: 0; color: #f0e68c;">Register with Diamond Marcum</p> </div>		
830am Matins 930am Liturgy 11:15am Adult Ed. -----	NO Men's BBall	PAPA GYRO DAY 830am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of the Three Hierarchs 2pm Good Samaritans TABLE	8am Gyro Prep 6pm GOYA BBall 630pm Choir Rehearsal			
GOYA BBall						

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello, Sunday School Families!

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

On December 17th our students presented a beautiful Christmas program to our congregation under the direction of Christine Salem and accompanied on the piano by Ginny Dickos. We thank these wonderful ladies for their time and commitment to our program!



Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 7th. This month we will be learning about The Cherubic Hymn, The Creed, and The Holy Anaphora.

Wishing everyone a blessed New Year!
Nicole Papas & Elyse Deckard
Sunday School Co-Directors

YOUTH

January 12 - JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

January 21 - GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Markakis home - 4:30-6:30pm

**AKRON GOYA
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**
January 26-28, 2024
ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LOADS OF LOVE: A Laundry Love Ministry

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of Every Month at 5-7 pm

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Four Washers per family.

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2024
January 8
February 12



HUMS

The Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society, Akron Chapter wrapped up a successful 2023 and has plans for 2024 to be even more successful.

Our focus for 2024 is to increase awareness of and membership in HUMS. To that end, you will be seeing our name and scheduled events frequently. PLEASE consider joining. As healthcare providers we are constantly giving of ourselves, on and off the clock, and we need time together with others who hold the same beliefs and understand what we experience every day to refill our cups. Let us be there for you.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT INCLUDE:

Book study:

First Tuesday of every month at 8pm through Pascha. We are reading "Suffering and the Nature of Healing" by Dr. Daniel Hinshaw. Book study is open to all healthcare providers. It's never too late to join in. Contact Dr. Alex Nicolozakis to be added to the Zoom link.

- **July 27** (Saturday) Divine Liturgy for St. Panteleimon then go to brunch as a group
- **October 13** (Sunday) Blessing of the Hands after Divine Liturgy
- **November 2** (Saturday) Annual Retreat and general membership meeting with elections

Parish Lectures quarterly at 11:45am after adult Sunday School:

- **February 11** – Dr. Alex Nicolozakis speaking on Heart Health (for heart month)
- **May 19** – someone speaking on trauma prevention/sports injuries (for trauma month)
- **August TBD** – Dr. John Bober and Dr. Georgette Constantinou speaking on youth mental health
- **Nov/Dec TBD**

Blood Pressure checks quarterly for Good Samaritans Table last Tuesday of the month:

March 26th, June 25th, September 24th, November 26th

In the fall we will be holding elections for new board members. Nominate yourself. We are all busy professionals and although the calendar is full, no one is expected to be at every event. We respect Your time and other commitments. Please consider refilling your cup by joining HUMS.

May 2024 bring a multitude of blessings, including health, to you and your family.

▶ **Melanie Morris, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN, NPD-BC**
President 2023-2024

OFFICERS

President:

Melanie Morris

Vice President:

Dr. Jason Papas

Treasurer:

Dr. Georgette Constantinou

Secretary:

Dr. John Bober

Past President:

Dr. Costas Kefalas

Board of Directors:

Dr. Alex Nicolozakis

Dr. Jim Salem

Dn. Dr. Mark Studebaker

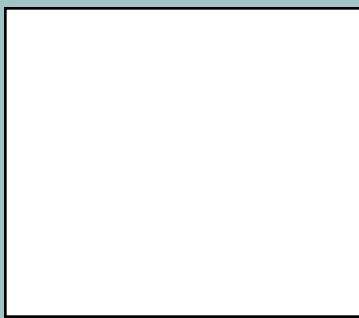
Dr. Julie Tsirambides



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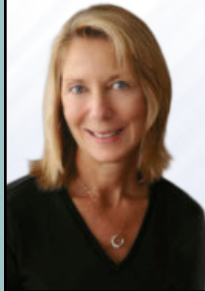
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AXIOS

The members of HUMS have been busy serving our parish and our community in many ways. HUMS President Melanie Morris cited the quarterly Parish Talks for parishioners on current medical issues, updating our church's AED lifesaving equipment, providing medical support at this fall's Mission Walk, and free blood pressure checks and information provided for guests attending our monthly Good Samaritans Table.

How many of us have walked past the open doors of our Saints Cosmas and Damien Chapel and noticed this beautiful icon displayed inside?



The icon of the Holy Unmercenary Brothers, written by iconographer George Lagonis, was commissioned and donated by this month's AXIOS honorees, the members of our parish's Holy Unmercenary Medical Society, more commonly known as HUMS.

HUMS was organized by Dr. Costas Kefalas as a fellowship of the many healthcare professionals here in our Annunciation community. HUMS mission is "to give freely unto others the love, mercy, and healing ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through fellowship, education, service, and philanthropy."

Dr. Alex Nicolozakes shared that HUMS will be honoring the new icon annually on the Feastday of Saint Panteleimon in July, and added that HUMS has arranged to have relics of Saint Panteleimon come here to be venerated at our Annunciation this coming July.

Our Pittsburgh Metropolis is so enthused by the work of HUMS that they are encouraging our group to establish chapters throughout the Metropolis (with three local churches already expressing interest!)

Annunciation HUMS members, you are all truly AXIOS and may God continue to bless your hands in service to others.



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