



THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
September 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 9

DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

By early September it's hard to Come to Church without noticing something about Greek Fest! From September 18-20 we will host a few thousand of our new and old friends. Faith, food, and culture will give us the opportunity to showcase the love-for-strangers (φιλοξενία) for which Greek Americans are known. And we will do this all while working side by side.

Amidst all the food and fellowship, I wonder how many of us still consider Greek Fest as nothing more than a means to supplement our Church's budget? Or even as existing primarily for that purpose? It's easy to overlook the beauty that comes from working in lock-step as a parish family. It's easy to forget that the festival is an opportunity to "Let brotherly love continue... (and)...show hospitality to strangers." - St Paul.

Old friends and first-time guests come to our festival seeking an authentic glimpse of Greek Culture. We know that they have come to the right place. But guests coming to our Church at any point throughout the year may also be seeking Jesus Christ. Our job is to make it clear that they are, once again, in the right place. And their first indication should be how we greet them and make them feel at home, whether at Greek Fest or any time they Come to Church.

May brotherly love grow among us during the festival and all year round. May the Lord grant us the opportunity to welcome one another and any guests He sends us with love and thanksgiving, not as sojourners but as natives. I look forward to greeting each of you with the love of Christ.

See you at Church! Fr. Dean 

LOADS OF LOVE: A LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

Second Monday of Every Month
from 5-6:30 pm



**SEPTEMBER 11 -
OCTOBER 13**

We will help pay for washing, drying,
and detergent.

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Two Washers per person/
Four Washers per family.

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Pastoral Assistant

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

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THE ANNUNCIATION
129 S. Union Street
Akron, OH 44304
330-434-0000

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Steve Parianos
Vice President

Christopher Morris
Secretary

Maria Detorakis
Treasurer

Christine Salem
Past President

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jonathon Bollas

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Bill Farmakidis

Karen Horattas

Christina Manousos

Mary O'Connor

Susan Pappas

Diane Popovich

Nick Stavrakis

Christina Tharp

Maria Williams

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
September 9, 5pm

**Monthly
PREP**

Wednesday
September 10, 7:30am

**Monthly
DISTRIBUTION**

TABLE

**MEAL PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm



**Meal PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm

September 11 & 23: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - July 2025

Present - Jon Bollas, Maria Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Elena Economou-Zwisler, Bill Farmakidis, Karen Horattas, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, John Matheos, Christopher Morris, Mary O'Connor, Steve Parianos, Diane Popovich, Christine Salem, Nicholas Stavrakis,

Priest's Report - Fr. Dean Kokanos

Welcome Manny! Akron Snow Angels having an event on July 20. Schedule finalized for September 2025 - August 2026.

President's Report- John Matheos:

Thank you to all who have helped at the festival workshops. Church attendance on Sundays has been amazing!

Motion for our parish to make a \$5,000/year donation over the next six years to reach the \$30,000 requested by the Metropolis Center Project. Seconded by Christine Salem · This will go before the General Assembly for a final vote if passed by the council · Motion carries

Treasurer's Report

June 2025 Actual Budget			Account Balances	
Income	\$410,000	\$415,000	General Operating	\$147,000
Expenses	\$438,000	\$461,000	General Savings	\$78,000
Profit/Loss	\$(28,000)	\$(46,000)	Payroll	\$6,800

Motion to accept the checks by Jon Bollas. Seconded by Maria Williams. Motion Carries.

Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler:

2025: pledges ~\$684,000; Collected \$343,000 YTD; 328 pledges

Financial - Maria Detorakis:

Trust Fund- \$906,000; Building Fund- \$143,000

Building and Grounds - Michael Detorakis/Bill Farmakidis/Frank Pangas:

Parking lot sinkhole was filled at no cost to the church

Outreach and Ministries - Mary O'Connor/Diane Popovich/Karen Horattas -

Dates are published on the Parish Calendar for events in July-September 2025.

Collection for backpack supplies is ongoing. Loads of Love - 174 loads

Youth - Christina Manousos:

Sunday school teacher orientation - Aug 17. VCS first week of August

Security/Ushering - Christine Salem/Elena Economou-Zwisler/Debra Gynn/Maria Williams:

New number signs for the doors, New AED received. Security Mtg in August.

Social Media/Communications - Nick Stavrakis/Christine Tharp:

Facebook: 4 New followers / 0 Unfollow. YouTube: 462 Subscribers. Website: 1,132 Unique visitors.

Hall Committee - Jonathan Bollas/ Maria Williams:

Total amount due for April: \$1,241. Total amount due for May: \$2,697.00.

Church Directory - Christine Tharp: Will be working with Rob Bobner.

Personnel - John Matheos: Mark filling in for Chad.

New Business - Christopher Morris:

Update on Metropolis Center Project

Good of the Community - John Matheos

Thanks to Christine Salem for dinner. Thanks to committee for farewell to Fr. Nick and welcome to Manny.

Thanks to Graduates Dinner committee.

Benediction and Adjournement: Fr. Dean

YOUTH CORNER WITH EMMANUEL SALEM

I had a moment today that was really remarkable. I paged through a Thesaurus then looked up at the wall of icons in my home, and the dissonance between the two was real.

Does anyone even remember what a Thesaurus is anymore? I barely do- it's basically like a dictionary- it sorts through words and offers a concise definition to them, pairing them together based on their meanings.

Even though they've become irrelevant lately, the idea behind a Thesaurus is alive and well- the idea of a system- that we can track things down and label them, form them into a framework that can explain everything.

But where is the love of God to be found in those pages, in these systems we like to make? The love that the saints in the icons had for Him, the love they would have (and often did) die for? The love that connects everything? The love we were meant for, the love only found in Christ?

And if we look deep within ourselves, amongst this world of ideas and definitions, we can often find a yearning, a thirst, completely unexplainable- one beyond the grasp of all definition. That's where relationship with Christ begins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 7th. We will be bringing the Kona Ice Truck! Please join us!

Any new Sunday School students or any students with a change in contact information or allergies should fill out a Sunday School registration form, available online at:

<https://forms.gle/KqrKBoNzo429KML56>

Families of registered students, please check your email for more information regarding the Sunday School year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our classrooms!



◀ [SUNDAY SCHOOL FORM](https://forms.gle/KqrKBoNzo429KML56)

PHILOPTOCHOS MELISSA

Welcome to "The Hive": Philoptochos News!



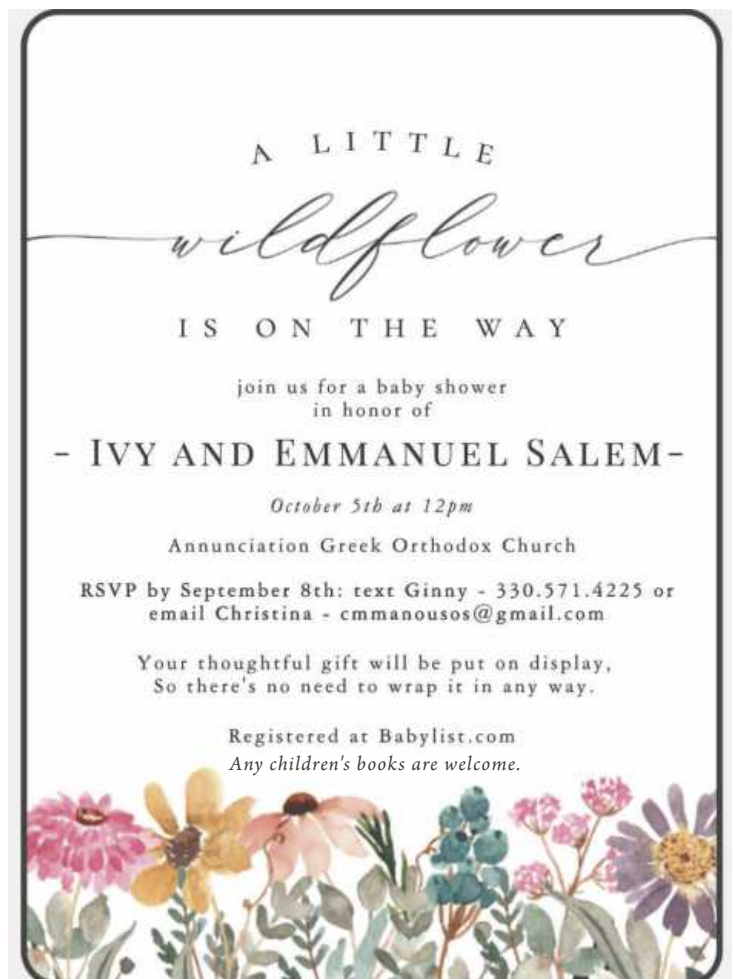
Philoptochos Melissa donated over \$13,000 last year and we are looking to do more this year!

We all enjoyed our first meeting and making plans for this year.

THANK YOU to all who donated to the Back to School drive! You donated enough for 216 filled backpacks plus extra supplies for local schools.

Bouzouki Night is Saturday, November 8th. We welcome you to join us for an "all Greek Night" featuring "Sotiri and The Filarakia". Tickets are \$30 and include substantial mezethes, two drinks and a fabulous night of dancing at the panagi. Tickets on sale Oct 5 after church. Sponsorships available- please see Joyce Lagios. Come get your "Greek On"!

Next Philoptochos meeting Monday, October 20th at 7pm. Come join us for fun, fellowship, philanthropy!



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6pm Men's Basketball	FESTIVAL PREP 9am KOULOURAKIA 11am Rotary Club	630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	6pm JOY NIGHT	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
820am Matins 930am Liturgy SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS + KONA Ice Truck 11AM Epistle Class 11am Dance Practice	820am Matins 930am Liturgy Nativity of the Theotokos 5pm LOADS OF LOVE 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	11am Rotary Club 530 Parish Council 430pm Good Samaritans PREP	630pm Choir Rehearsal 730am Good Samaritans Distribution	11am-2pm NO GYRO LUNCHEON 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE	FESTIVAL PREP 8am BAKLAVA	6pm Great Vespers
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
820am Matins 930am Liturgy The Elevation of the Holy Cross 11am Dance Practice	FESTIVAL PREP 8am SOUZOUKAKIA 6pm Men's Basketball 630pm COCA St. Nicholas VOICE ARTICLES DUE	FESTIVAL PREP 8am POTATOES 11am Rotary Club	830am Orthros 930am Liturgy Feast of Saints Sophia, Faith, Hope & Love 630pm Choir Rehearsal	ANNUNCIATION AKRON GREEK FESTIVAL		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
820am Matins 930am Liturgy		11am Rotary Club 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE	530pm GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm NO GYRO LUNCHEON	820am Matins 930am Liturgy St. John the Theologian Falling Asleep	
28	29	30 PAPA GYRO DAY	OCTOBER 19 - STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25 - COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL DECEMBER 2 - PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 7 - ST. NICHOLAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST 			
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1030am AHEPA MEMORIAL 430pm GOYA FIRESIDE CHAT	6pm Men's Basketball	11am Rotary Club				



FESTIVAL UPDATE

2025 FESTIVAL CHAIRPEOPLE

Alex Dickos Pete Manousos John Matheos Steve Parianos

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer sign-up IS available on the Church website starting in July or approach one of the Festival Chairs to indicate where and when you'd like to volunteer.

www.osvhub.com/greek-orthodox-church-of-the-annunciation/forms/festival-volunteer

► **BUFFET ROOM SERVERS** needed Thursday, Sept 18, 4-8pm. Call **Mary O'Connor** (330-338-5858)

SPONSORSHIP

Be a **FESTIVAL 2025 SPONSOR** & help us help our Akron community!

Many levels of support and recognition are available.

Contact: **Steve Parianos**.

FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION BASKETS NEEDED

We would be grateful for your support by contributing the following ASAP.

Donations of completed specialty baskets and gift certificates.

Monetary contributions payable to the festival and marked for Silent Auction.

ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED! Thank you.

Please bring your items to the church office or contact

Renee Croskey [330-760-5880] or **Irene Gunnerson** [281-773-2814]

VINTAGE JEWELRY

Vintage Jewelry contributions accepted in July and August. Drop off **ONLY** in the church office.

Any questions contact **Torie Crockett** (330-696-4941) or **Susan Wilcox** (330-686-9390).

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUNCIATION AKRON CHURCH

**BOUZOUKI
NIGHT** 

presented by Philoptochos Melissa

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