



# THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH  
August 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 8

## DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

When I was younger, my parents would often use the phrase, “don’t do that, it will become a habit.” Some habits, such as over eating or staying up too late, can be bad for our health and safety, so we have to be mindful of not letting them form. However, other habits such as regular exercise or healthy eating can benefit us greatly.

Whether good or bad, a new habit takes time and repetition. Motivational speakers often cite studies explaining that this process takes 21 days. In the month of August, the Church offers us an opportunity to form new habits, or strengthen existing ones, concerning our prayer life and service attendance.

In the first 15 days of the month, we will gather at the Church almost daily to pray the Paraklesis Service. We will ask the Mother of God for Her intercessions, both for ourselves and our loved ones. This is in addition to the celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and our usual Sunday worship!

If we were to attend each of these 15 services, we would be two-thirds of the way to a new or strengthened habit of daily prayer. Attending half would put us one-third of the way there. With so many unhealthy temptations in the world, why not take this opportunity to make prayer a new or stronger habit?

This month, let’s commit as a family in Christ to prioritize prayer and attendance. Let’s build a habit together that our parents wouldn’t want us to stop! A schedule of these services is included in the Current, as well as a form to submit the names of friends and family in need of prayer. Please mark your calendars, and Come to Church!

*FRD*

### DIRECTORY

**Fr. Dean Kokanos**  
Presiding Priest

**Emmanuel Salem**  
Pastoral Assistant

**Dn. Mark Studebaker**  
Deacon

**Paula Chotlos**  
Office Manager

**Chad Hay**  
Neochoros & Custodian

**Steve Hadgis**  
Choir Director

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

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### COUNCIL OFFICERS

**John Matheos**  
President

**Steve Parianos**  
Vice President

**Christopher Morris**  
Secretary

**Maria Detorakis**  
Treasurer

**Christine Salem**  
Past President

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jonathon Bollas

Michael Detorakis

Elena Economou-Zwisler

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**  
August 12, 4:30pm

**Monthly  
PREP**

**Wednesday**  
August 13, 7:30am

**Monthly  
DISTRIBUTION**

#### TABLE

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



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

**August 21 & 26:** Groceries & Clothes Available

# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - June 2025

**Present** - Jon Bollas, Maria Detorakis, Mike Detorakis, Elena Economou-Zwisler, Bill Farmakidis, Karen Horattas, Fr. Dean Kokanos, Christina Manousos, Fr Nick Manuel, Christopher Morris, Mary O'Connor, Susan Pappas, Steve Parianos, Diane Popovich, Christine Salem, Christina Tharp, and Maria Williams.

**Absent** - John Matheos and Nicholas Stavrakis

## **Priest's Report - Fr. Dean Kokanos**

Thank you for being here and for helping with Good Samaritans' set-up. Summer is in full swing. 30 kids signed up for Vacation Church School. Adult Education starts mid-July.

## **President's Report - VP Steve Parianos**

Thank you for all that you (Fr. Nick) have done for our parish.

## **Treasurer's Report**

	June 2025 Actual	Budget	Account Balances	
Income	\$325,000	\$353,000	General Operating	\$162,000
Expenses	\$426,000	\$373,000	General Savings	\$78,000
Profit/Loss	\$(101,000)	\$(20,000)	Payroll	\$18,500

Motion to accept the checks by Mary O'Connor. Seconded by Jon Bollas.  
Motion Carries.

## **Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler:**

2025: pledges ~\$680,000; Collected \$293,000 YTD; 322 pledges

## **Financial - Maria Detorakis:**

Trust Fund- \$839,000; Building Fund- \$143,000

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

Collection for backpack supplies begins this week

May Numbers: 250 Families for a total of 713 people served at the food pantry;

405 Hot meals served; 50 tie-up blankets made for Children's Hospital for Mitzva Day

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

Ordered big numbers to put on the entrances so people know which door is which.

Two handmade wooden signs are being made for the entrances

## **Social Media/Communications - Nick Stavrakis/Christine Tharp:**

Facebook: 11 New followers. YouTube: 463 Subscribers.

Website: 824 Unique visitors. New marketing strategy presented.

## **Hall Committee - Jonathan Bollas/ Maria Williams:**

Total amount due for May: \$?.

## **Good of the Community**

Mary O'Connor - Thank you to Christina Manousos for the fabulous meal.

Fr. Nick Manuel - Thank you for everything that you have done for me. Come to the Festival.

Fr. Dean Kokanos - Thank you to Steve for running the meeting.

**Benediction and Adjournment:** Fr. Dean

## LOADS OF LOVE: A LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

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



**AUGUST 11 -  
SEPTEMBER 8**

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

### **LIMITED:**

Two Washers per person/  
Four Washers per family.

### **LOCATION:**

1713 W. Exchange Street  
Akron, Ohio

## SAVE THE DATE!

Get ready for a night of music, dancing  
and Greek hospitality! Opa

## ± BOUZOUKI NIGHT ±

presented by Philoptochos

**Saturday, November 8, 2025**

Annunciation Akron Greek Orthodox Church

Featuring  
Sotiri Tsourekis &  
"The Filarakia" of Pittsburgh

Details to follow



## YOUTH CORNER WITH EMMANUEL SALEM

This month we celebrate the death of the Virgin Mary. Someone who lived a life so holy, even the event of her death radiated with God's love.

But what does that mean- that Mary was holy? Most of us make the mistake of thinking that she was just another one of those really "churchy" people, a member of that small percentage of the human race that lived long ago, and were naturally nice. Who loved God more than all of us.

How often do we neglect to stop and see how wrong that is? How often do we fail to see that holiness can seep into every moment of our lives, could fill us up, could even fill up those around us? That holiness is accessible to all of us, that we are called to become today's saints? How often do we neglect that holiness that Mary had simply because we fail to look for it?

But if holiness is in the here and now, what does that imply for us today? What does it mean to become a saint, to be holy like Mary? What does it mean for our church of Annunciation? For the people we encounter in our day to day? What does it mean for those people right outside the doors of our church? What does it mean for our city, the people of Akron?

For one, it means we have no excuse. We can't say we're dirty or impure without hope. Being like Mary isn't outside or beyond us, and the minute we tap into God and His love, we are a little closer to being like her, to being what we are meant to be. We are called to abide in and share that holiness.

For another, when we ponder that human beings can connect to God, human potential is infinitely unlocked. That a human being can bear the God of the universe- can become holy- flips the whole of our understanding human existence on its head. But that is a topic for our fireside discussions this month, which you should come to.

## PHILOPTOCHOS



Philoptochos/VCS  
Back to School Drive  
Now thru August 3

- ☐ Backpacks - 200
- ☐ Crayola Crayon 24 Packs - 200
- ☐ Crayola Marker 8 Packs - 200
- ☐ Glue Sticks (no glitter) - 400
- ☐ Spiral notebooks - one subject wide lined. - 200
- ☐ 3x5 index cards, 100 pack - 200
- ☐ Pencil Boxes - 200
- ☐ Kid Friendly Scissors - 200
- ☐ Pens 800      ☐ Pencils 800
- ☐ Erasers 600

Prefer to shop online?  
Use the QR Code





### PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ***WELCOME BACK PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL***



***MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025  
AT 7:00PM***

**COME AND SEE WHAT FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND  
PHILANTHROPY WE'RE PLANNING THIS YEAR!**

Call **Mary O'Connor** (330-338-5858)

AUGUST 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<div> <b>SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 7</b>  <b>First Day of Sunday School with the Kona Ice Truck!</b> </div>					9am Backpacks 6pm Paraklesis	
3	4 <b>VCS</b>	5 <b>VCS</b>	6 <b>VCS</b>	7 <b>VCS</b>	8 <b>VCS</b>	9
8:20am Matins 9:30am Liturgy MEMORIAL 40 day John Pappas Stavros Catsoulakis  40 DAY BLESSING Erminia and baby Nicholas Sellas  11am Dance Practice	6pm Paraklesis	11am Rotary Club 6pm Paraklesis	9am Liturgy <i>Transfiguration</i> 6pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b> 6pm Paraklesis	6pm Paraklesis	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:20am Matins 9:30am Liturgy  11am Dance Practice  <b>FESTIVAL PREP</b> 11am <b>SPANAKOPITA</b> <b>PREP</b>	<b>FESTIVAL PREP</b> 8am <b>SPANAKOPITA</b>  5pm <b>LOADS OF LOVE</b> 1713 W. Exchange St. Akron, Ohio 6pm Paraklesis	11am Rotary Club 5:30 Parish Council 6pm Paraklesis  430pm Good Samaritans <b>PREP</b>	6pm Paraklesis 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal  730am Good Samaritans Distribution	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b> 6pm Great Vespers <i>Dormition of the Mother of God</i>	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Liturgy <i>Dormition of the Mother of God</i>  <b>VOICE ARTICLES DUE</b>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:20am Matins 9:30am Liturgy 10:30am Philoptochos Oath of Office 11am Dance Practice  11:30am Sunday School Teach Orientation	7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	<b>FESTIVAL PREP</b> 8am <b>KOULOURLAKIA</b> 11am Rotary Club	630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b>  3pm Good Samaritans <b>TABLE</b>	9am Backpacks	<b>GOMOPALOOZA</b> St. Demetrios Community Center - Warren, OH  12-5pm <b>GOLDEN GREEKS @ GOMOPALOOZA</b> 
24	25	26 <b>PAPA GYRO DAY</b>	27	28	29	30
8:20am Matins 9:30am Liturgy 11am Dance Practice  31  8:20am Matins 9:30am Liturgy 11am Dance Practice		11am Rotary Club  3pm Good Samaritans <b>TABLE</b>	6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm <b>GYRO LUNCHEON</b>	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Liturgy <i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>	





# FESTIVAL UPDATE

## 2025 FESTIVAL CHAIRPEOPLE

Alex Dickos Pete Manousos John Matheos Steve Parianos

## FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS [current schedule]

Spanakopita	August 10 - 11am	August 11 - 8am	
Koulourakia	August 19 - 9am		



## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer sign-ups will become available on the church website at:

<https://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 are available. Contact: **Steve Parianos** (330-715-1770). **DEADLINE EARLY AUGUST.**

## FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION BASKETS AND ITEMS

Please bring in any donations for the Festival Silent Auction Room!

### IDEAS

- a basket of related items
- Gift certificates for a service, restaurant, or experience
- Sports Tickets
- Cash/Check donations made out to:  
**ANNUNCIATION FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION**
- Items to be added to a basket

**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).

## FESTIVAL CARRYOUT

This year Carryout is focusing extra marketing efforts on college students and staff, as well as local businesses and offices. If you work nearby the church please consider Festival Carryout for your corporate lunch or help spread the word to your co-workers by handing out one of our flyers, which will be available soon!

We also are in need of festival volunteers for various positions within Carryout. Come join our team in our fast-paced, yet quiet work environment! Sign up online to volunteer or contact **Tanya Kefalas** directly at 330-204-1011 or [tmkefalas@gmail.com](mailto:tmkefalas@gmail.com)





**PAPA  
GYROS**  
GREEK GRILL  
AKRON 1 NORTH HAWKINS AVE. 330.247.2475



DELTA  
ASPHALT  
COMPANY, INC.  
1286 Eastwood Avenue  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
**Office: 330-633-2506**  
Fax: 330-376-7595



Blank space for advertisement.

Compliments Of  
**PAPAS & ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
**William A. Papas, LUTC**  
Agency Principal  
(330) 836-1234  
(330) 864-4388 fax  
Bill@WallhavenGroup.com  
www.WallhavenGroup.com  
**The Wallhaven Building**  
1650 W. Market St., Ste. 21  
Akron, OH 44313



**Rose Hill  
Funeral Home & Burial Park**

Burial  
Cremation

- Flexible event space
- Celebration of Life center
- Large capacity chapel
- Veterans cemetery section

330-665-1700 • [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)  
3653 W. Market St.  
Akron, OH 44333 *Every Detail Remembered* 

**Jeanne Thomarios**  
Professional Real Estate Service  
For Buyers and Sellers Since 1999  
**330-714-5556**  
[jeannethomarios@howardhanna.com](mailto:jeannethomarios@howardhanna.com)



2603 W. Market St.  
Ste 100  
Akron, OH 44313  
**330-836-9300**  
Real Estate Services



**DOES YOUR NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION NEED  
A NEWSLETTER?**



Engaging,  
ad-supported  
print and digital  
newsletters to reach  
your community.



Scan to  
contact us!

Visit [lpicommunities.com](http://lpicommunities.com)

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Place Your Ad Here  
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME  
Kelly Sweeney**

[ksweeney@4LPi.com](mailto:ksweeney@4LPi.com)  
(800) 477-4574 x6371

**Place Your Ad Here and  
Support our Community!**

Instantly create and  
purchase an ad with

**AD CREATOR STUDIO**




[lpicommunities.com/adcreator](http://lpicommunities.com/adcreator)

**WE'RE HIRING!** 

**AD SALES EXECUTIVES**

BE YOURSELF.  
BRING YOUR PASSION.  
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training
- Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at  
[careers@4lpi.com](mailto:careers@4lpi.com) or  
[www.4lpi.com/careers](http://www.4lpi.com/careers)





**Elizabeth Z. Bartz**  
President and CEO

222 South Main St., Ste. 300  
Akron, Ohio 44308

**330-761-9960 Phone**  
ebartz@stateandfed.com  
www.stateandfed.com



**Tom Wackerly:**  
330-697-5561  
www.theKcompany.com

## AKRON MONUMENT & GRANITE CO.

*Helping Families Choose  
Their Monuments Since 1973*

590 E Tallmadge Ave.

**330-252-1746**

**JIM LEONE- OWNER**  
www.akronmonumentgranite.com

## PERANTINIDES & NOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Birth Injury - Brain Injury - Medical Malpractice  
Nursing Home Neglect  
Vehicular Accidents - Wrongful Death

80 S. Summit St., Akron, OH  
**330-253-5454**  
www.perantinides.com



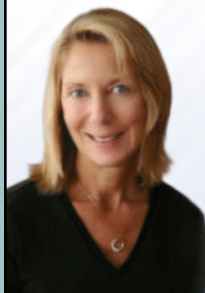
CELEBRATIONS, CREMATIONS & FUNERALS



Stacy Billow, Charles Billow,  
Nathanael Billow

*A Tradition of Dignity and Respect Since 1875*

Fairlawn • Cuyahoga Falls • (330) 867-4141 • www.billowfuneralhomes.com



**RE/MAX  
CROSSROADS**

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

**Nikki Konstanc Relic**

**Mega Million Dollar Producer, ABR, CSP, CRS**

3480 W. Market St. • Ste. 103 • Akron, OH

Direct: (330) 835-4600

E-mail: nikki.k.relic@gmail.com

Website: Nikkirelic.com

## DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?

**OUR COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER**  
OCTOBER EDITION



Scan to  
contact us!

Engaging,  
ad-supported  
print and digital  
newsletters to reach  
your community.

Visit [lpicomunities.com](http://lpicomunities.com)



**On-Site Dialysis Care**

330 Broadway Street East, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

**330.945.9797**

**FallsVillageSNR.com**

24/7 Skilled Nursing • Physical, Speech  
& Occupational • Private Bathroom  
Wi-Fi Access • Flat Screen TV's

### ALL-PRIVATE ROOMS

*Committed to providing quality and  
compassionate care.*

*You can reach us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For  
information, tours and admissions, please give us a call*



708 Moore Road, Akron, OH 44319

**330.409.0345**

**GreenVillageSNR.com**

**CALL TODAY!**  
**330-786-0961**

[www.TheFinalCoat.com](http://www.TheFinalCoat.com)

**THE FINAL COAT**  
Since 1984

Residential & Commercial  
Interior & Exterior

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

*Your Local*  
**GUIDE HOME**

**exp**  
REALTY

*Melissa Millmier*  
REALTOR®

**330-858-2033**



# THOMARIOS®



4-E-5-5

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

14-0901

# AXIOS!

You may see her behind the candle pangari in the narthex on Sunday, or working at the festival, or any number of places at church, but many of us may not know her name.

We are talking about **MARY O'CONNOR**, who notes that she has been "born, baptized, raised, married, and plans to be buried at Annunciation."

Mary has been married to John O'Connor for almost thirty years and has a daughter, Kathryn, who is also known as "Rynie". After having been in pharmaceutical sales for thirty-four years, Mary is currently pursuing an associates' degree as a Veterinary Technician online.

Here at Annunciation, Mary taught Sunday School in the mid-1990s and has returned to teaching Sunday School the past four years. She has served two terms on Parish Council, is a Good Samaritans volunteer, has worked with the backpack program for needy



schoolchildren, and is the new president of our Philoptochos chapter, where she says "come join us for fun, fellowship, and philanthropy".

To top it all off, Mary is getting pumped up to serve as buffet room manager for the Festival this year, and says she really needs more buffet line servers for Thursday- so please come and help!

So join us in saying **"AXIA"** to Mary O'Connor!



129 South Union Street  
Akron, Ohio 44304

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
AKRON, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 143

## GOMOPALOOZA

Saturday, Aug 23, Warren, OH

**MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL - BANDS - SOLO ACTS - ARTWORK - CRAFTS - FOOD - ALL AGES**