



THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
October 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 10

DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

From the moment we enter the Narthex, we are ensconced in the beauty of iconography. Nearly every surface of our Church is covered by hand painted images meant to draw us into our worship.

Our Saints Cosmas and Damian chapel also has a hand painted Icon Screen with more to come. But have we considered how these icons fit into the Holy Tradition of our church?

Beyond aesthetic beauty, what are they meant to do? What is their purpose? Incorporating Icons into our prayer is the topic of our October adult education course.

Come To Church on Sunday to worship God in the presence of these icons, then join us in the Chapel at 11:20 to learn about how they enhance our prayer in Church and at home.

See you at Church

Fr. Dean



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Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

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



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NOVEMBER 10

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OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
October 7, 5pm

Monthly
PREP

Wednesday
October 8, 7:30am

Monthly
DISTRIBUTION

TABLE

MEAL PREP
AND SERVE
3-6:30pm



Meal PREP
AND SERVE
3-6:30pm

October 16 & 28: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - August 2025

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

Absent - Jon Bollas, John Matheos, and Maria Williams

Priest's Report - Fr. Dean Kokanos

Akron Snow Angels having an event on July 20. VCS was amazing. Manny is doing awesome. Chad has returned to work. If anyone needs something done at the church, go to Paula, not Chad.

President's Report- Substitute - Steve Parianos: No Report.

Treasurer's Report

July 2025	Actual	Budget	Account Balances	
Income	\$463,000	\$509,000	General Operating	\$123,000
Expenses	\$507,000	\$538,000	General Savings	\$79,000
Profit/Loss	\$(44,000)	\$(29,000)	Payroll	\$4,400

Motion to accept the checks by Susan Pappas. Seconded by Karen Horattas. Motion Carries.

Stewardship of Church Resources - Elaina Economou-Zwisler:
2025: pledges ~\$688,000; Collected \$395,000 YTD; 335 pledges

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

Getting estimates for a new heating system within the next week or two. Frank and Michael are working on getting the grounds ready for the festival.

Financial - Maria Detorakis: Trust Fund- \$906,000; Building Fund- \$138,000

Outreach and Ministries - Mary O'Connor/Diane Popovich/Karen Horattas -
Dates are published on the Parish Calendar for events in August - October 2025.

Backpacks - 208 provided to those in need.	Pantry - 710 people served
Loads of Love - 210 Loads	Hot Meals - 496 served.

Youth - Christina Manousos:

Summer Adult Education through August. Fall programs resume as usual in September.
VCS occurred this past week. JOY and GOYA planning is ongoing

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

Thanks to Building and Grounds, new signs and numbers are being installed.
Sunday School is having a safety day September 28th.

Social Media/Communications - Nick Stavrakis/Christine Tharp:

Facebook: 11 New followers / 3 Unfollow. YouTube: 466 Subscribers. Website: 1,285 Unique visitors.
Please submit pictures to the committee that would be good to post. Work going well for Festival Committee.

Good of the Community - Fr. Dean Kokanos & Mary O'Connor

Thanks to all who helped with VCS.
Thanks to Christina Tharp and Jon Bollas for dinner.

Benediction and Adjournement: Fr. Dean

YOUTH

October 10 - JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

October 19 - GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Anzevino home - 4:30-6:30pm

YOUTH CORNER WITH EMMANUEL SALEM

I wrote last month that a relationship with Christ is something beyond the grasp of any definition - it is a relationship with someone who is so much greater, too beautiful, for words.

Why is that, though? When we talk about God, and say that He is our Judge, our Creator, that He is love, why isn't that simply defining Him like we define everything else? Why isn't saying that God is love as simple as defining anything? Like saying a chair has four legs, or John has braces?

The answer to that question is what happens to our hearts when we come to understand God versus understanding anything or anyone else in the world. When we learn a chair has four legs, it doesn't change us too much. We just know a fact; that's well and good, maybe that'll come in handy later on.

But when we come to really know God - Who He is, just a little better, everything in us begins to change, maybe without us even noticing. We know just a touch better, in the deepest part of ourselves, how vast and mysterious He is, how much He loves us, how wonderful life in Him can be.

PHILOPTOCHOS MELISSA

Greetings from the Philoptochos "Hive"



Philoptochos members played an invaluable role at the **Festival**. They helped make pastries, packed and sold them, as well as leading the cafenio, Vintage Jewelry and Buffet Room.

Quilts will meet on Tuesday, October 14th 9:30am-1:30pm in the Media Room. All are welcome. Please contact Paige Nicholas to volunteer at 330-730-5200.

Backpacks are packing for local school children on Friday, October 10th and October 24th at 9:00am providing food for children to have to eat over the weekend. Contact Pam Kesler with any questions 330-858-2478.

Bouzouki Night, November 8th: tickets to dance, substantial mezethes and 2 drinks for \$30 selling starting October 5th. Sotiri and The Filarakia are playing. NO tickets will be sold at the door. Come get your Greek On at the Panagi!

Excited to announce **Annunciation's own Dr. Costas Apostolis, MD** will be speaking on "**Female Pelvic Health**" at our **Monday, October 20th meeting!** Get all your burning questions answered! Come join us for fun, fellowship and philanthropy!

SAVE THE DATE!
ANNUNCIATION AKRON CHURCH

**BOUZOUKI
NIGHT** 

presented by Philoptochos Melissa

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
129 South Union Street
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music, dancing, and
Greek hospitality! OPA!*

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OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
November 8 - BOUZOUKI NIGHT November 11 - Golden Greeks Thanksgiving Lunch November 25 - Community Thanksgiving Meal December 2 - Philoptochos Christmas Party December 7 - St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast			820am Matins 930am Liturgy Feast of Holy Protection 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Katherine Jumbert - 1 year; George Jumbert - 2 years 1115am- Adult Ed in Chapel	7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	11am Rotary Club 430pm Good Samaritans PREP	630pm Choir Rehearsal 730am Good Samaritans Distribution	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 11am OCW	9am BACKPACKS 6pm JOY NIGHT	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1115am- Adult Ed in Chapel 3pm Family Fun at Szalays Farm	1100am GOLDEN GREEKS El-Fogan Mexican Grille 5pm LOADS OF LOVE 6pm Men's Basketball	9am Quilting Group 11am Rotary Club 530 Parish Council	630pm Choir Rehearsal VOICE ARTICLES DUE	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 820am Matins 930am Liturgy HUMS Blessing of Hands 1115am- Adult Ed in Chapel 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat -ANZEVINO Home	820am Matins 930am Liturgy St Gerasimos 6pm Men's Basketball 630pm COCA - St. Elia 7pm PHILOPTOCHOS General Meeting	11am Rotary Club 6pm Men's Club	530pm GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL 6pm GOYA Basketball 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	9am BACKPACKS	
26	27	28 PAPA GYRO DAY	29	30	31	
820am Matins 930am Liturgy St. Demetrios 1115am- Adult Ed in Chapel Noon OXI Day Pageant		11am Rotary Club 3pm Good Samaritans TABLE	820am Matins 930am Liturgy Anastasia of Rome 6pm GOYA Basketball 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON		



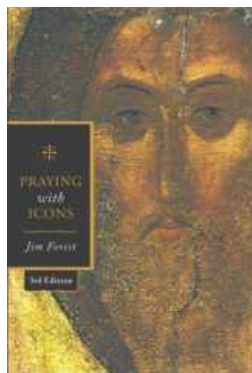
#1 – October 2025

Starting with this issue of **The Voice**, once a quarter for the 2025-2026 church year, Dn. Mark will be reviewing an Orthodox Book that he recommends to both learn more about our faith, and to help each of us grow closer to Christ in the Church. A limited number of the books will be available for purchase in our bookstore.

Praying With Icons

Jim Forest – 3rd Ed – 2025 – Orbis Books

Jim Forest's classic work on *Praying With Icons* is now out posthumously in a new third edition. In the book, he reviews what the Orthodox Church says about icons, how they are made, and the Tradition regarding icons. He then reviews in more detail some common icons of Christ, Mary, the Feasts of the Church, and selected Saints. He poetically describes how the elements of each scene, speak to us, teach us and draw us into communion with the person or event depicted. He also discusses the Orthodox Tradition of prayer, and then the custom of praying with icons, particularly in personal daily prayer.



Mr. Forest, a convert to Orthodoxy, writes in an extremely relatable style. We had the privilege of having him in our home many years ago. He was the kind of person who made whomever he was with feel loved and at peace. Until his death last year, he was a prolific author and was a founding member of the Orthodox Peace Fellowship (<https://incommunion.org>).



4th Wednesday
of the month
at 5:30pm.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM

Please email greeksschool@annunciationakron.org with any questions/concerns you may have.

Anna Lea Tiliakos &
Eleni Koundourakis
Greek School Co-Directors

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Our first day of Sunday School was a wonderful success, with joyful energy and strong attendance! Let's keep it up!
- 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> or use the QR code below to link you to the form.
- Next month we will begin rehearsals for our **Christmas Program**, which will take place on **Sunday, December 21**.



**Sunday School
Registration Form
Link**

Class	Teachers	Room
2 & 3 year olds	Heather Nicolozakes, JoAnna Adams, Maria Fortiseras, & Chryse Brown	103
Pre-K & Kindergarten	Presbytera Gabrielle & Deb Gynn	108
1st & 2nd	Maria Dotorakis & Melina Melik	107
3rd & 4th	Ginny Dickos, Tanya Kefalas, & Lydia Melik	106
5th & 6th	Christina Mancousos & Mary O'Connor	104
7th & 8th	Elyssa Kouloudimos & Maria Markakis	105
High School	Joe May, Christine Salem, & Jim Salem	Library

OCW - ANNUAL FALL BOOK STUDY

In the Beginning

by Father Lawrence R. Farley

Tuesdays 10am-Noon
October 7 - November 11

**St. Thomas Eastern
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*Led by Fr. Vladimir
Bakurdzhiev*

Tuesdays 6:30-8pm
October 7 - November 11

**Online
via Zoom**

*Led by Fr. James
Waltenberger*

Questions? Contact ...

Annie Fry - 330-714-9844 Nancy Studebaker - 330-807-7640

THIS EVENT IS NOT HELD AT ANNUNCIATION.



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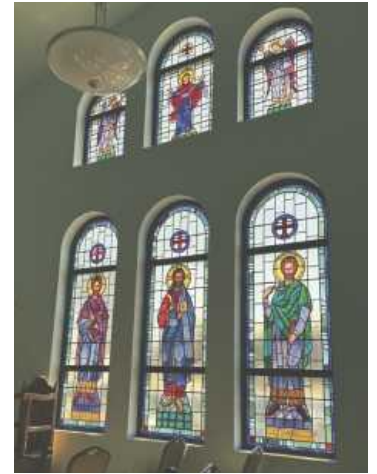
AXIOS

As our parish's new chapel nears completion of the final phase of its décor, we want to acknowledge the artisans whose skills contributed to the beauty of our **Saints Cosmas and Damian Chapel**.

Master carver Kostantinos Papadakis, who carved the new icon screen and furniture for our main church in the past, worked with his assistant Paul Sirba on the beautiful icon screen for the chapel; following Costa's untimely passing from cancer, Paul completed the icon screen on his own. The cost of the icon screen was gifted by Mrs. Joanne Papas in memory of her husband, Dr. Harry Papas.

The chapel's beautiful stained glass windows were created at Rohlf's Stained and Leaded Glass Studio in Mount Vernon, New York. This studio was chosen for their authentic Byzantine-style artistry, and their windows have helped transform our chapel into a truly worshipful place. This beautiful addition to the chapel was donated by Dr. Nick and Barb Papas.

Iconographer George Lagonis of Pittsburgh painted the icons for the icon screen in the chapel, and is currently working on the icons for the apse and platytera in the



chapel. He also painted the icons of Jesus and Panaghia that are on icon stands in the narthex of our main church.

We recognize the skilled hands of the artisans who have brought such beauty to our Saints Cosmas and Damian Chapel by saying "AXIOS!"



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