The Epistle
April 2017
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor
Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus
573 N. Highland St. / Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 327-8177 / fax (901) 327-4440
Email: annunciationmemphis@gmail.com / http://www.goann.net

Celebrating the Resurrection

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresented God, because we testified of God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)

The Epic of Gilgamesh is widely regarded as the longest lasting work of great literature. In it, after experiencing the death of his close friend, Gilgamesh goes in search of immortality. While he has everything going for him – wealth, beauty, power – he never finds it. His search is in vain.

The Picture of Dorian Gray, introduces us to a character who wants to remain young and beautiful forever. Oscar Wilde’s classic is another story of man searching for immortality. We humans want to live forever, we have been searching for it since the beginning of time, and we still spend much of our life working towards this cause.

As Christians, our search for immortality is not in vain. But as these stories, and others like it attest, immortality cannot be found in beauty or wealth, it cannot be found in buildings or art, it cannot even be found in love. Where it can be found is in a person - Jesus Christ.

As we experience the beauty of Holy Week in the Orthodox Church – the Gospel readings, the Passion, the Crucifixion, the Lamentations, and the Resurrection – one thing becomes clear through it all, that our salvation is dependent upon our relationships with others. It isn’t just that Christ came to save us because He wanted us to be with Him. Even more so, He equates how we treat each other with how we treat Him. Our immortality is dependent upon our love for our neighbor!

During Holy Week, we begin again our search for immortality. He will be there, waiting for us on Pascha, but He doesn’t want us there alone. The Light of Christ is not hidden, but is passed from hand to hand and shared with our neighbor, because the Light of Christ illumines all!

With Love in our Risen Lord,
Father Simon
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest
Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Retired

ANNUNCIATION PARISH COUNCIL
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NAJI NASSIF – VICE-PRESIDENT DIANE KAVELARAS
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  ❖ ELPIS BOOKSTORE ANGELA TOBIAS
  ❖ MAKARIA COORDINATOR MARIAN THE PILCHER
  ❖ MORE THAN A MEAL CYNDI DETTY
  ❖ PRAYER CIRCLE LUANE SEMOS
  ❖ SUNSHINE COMMITTEE ZOE FUTORIS
  ❖ VISITATION COMMITTEE KRISTINE WAGNER
REAL ALEXIS MOORE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NICHOLAS NELSON (Ole Miss)
YOUNG AT HEART KATHY ZAMBELIS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
ACOLYTES TED POPLOS
ATHENIAN DANCE TROUPE DIRECTORS LEAH & ANDREW HORVATH
GOYA TED POPLOS & MITCH OBRA DOVIC
JOY PRESVYTERA STEPHANIE THOMAS
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL KATHY ZAMBELIS & PAUL VIERON
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR ANNA PARIS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
AHEPA PRESIDENT JOHN KAY
DAUGHTERS OF PENELPONE PRESIDENT PHANI MITCHELL

OFFICE PERSONNEL
ERIN BOBBITT DE PADILLA

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY – THURSDAY * 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 12 NOON
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA * METROPOLIS OF DETROIT
President’s Message

April 2017

My Friends at Annunciation,

As I look around, people seem to be happier these days. And I have to wonder why? Maybe it is due to the fact that the weather is getting warmer. Perhaps it is due to nature awakening from its winter slumber as we see everything turning green and blossoming. The birds have returned from their southern vacation. The days are longer and it is still daylight for our children’s sports activities or our long overdue yardwork.

As I think about all the additional things that I can do with the additional light at the end of the work day, I am compelled to think about another light. If we were running a marathon, we would be in the home stretch. Yes we are nearing the end of our Lenten journey and will soon be celebrating Pascha. I can’t help but think of the light of Christ that will be offered to us sitting in darkness on the night of the resurrection. I think about how one small flickering light can illuminate a darkened church. I also think about what happens to that light once we leave for the night. What do we do with it? Many of us will take the light home to bring that light to our personal altar and icon stand. But then what do we do? Do we simply extinguish that light and go on about our regular routine? What if we kept that light burning inside of us and took it out to the place of our work, or our school, or our neighborhood or to the store? As one small flickering light can illumine a darkened church, so to can our small light illumine the world that we live in. I will try to keep my light burning and if you see my light going out, help me to shield it from the wind. If you see my light had gone out, help me out by giving me a light.

I pray that you all have a blessed Holy Week and a Pascha that brings you the strength and glory of our risen Lord.

And speaking of strength, let us use that strength to prepare for our upcoming 59th annual Greek festival. If you have not signed up to work, please think about giving a couple of hours to your church. You may be surprised and actually have fun during your shift. Give it a try.

May the Risen Lord be with you always.

Ted Poplos

Announcing a NEW 2017 Church Directory!

We will be starting to take pictures THIS Sunday, April 2nd!

1. After church on Sundays during the month of April please see Diane Kavelaras and her Directory Team in Cotros Hall to check spelling, update address(es), add/or change listings. All pictures will be taken in the month of April.

2. Sign up for a time slot for your family to get their picture taken! Don't wait until the last min or we will run out of time slots.

3. We need about 15-20 families to be ready to take pictures THIS Sunday! If you are interested in a time slot for this Sunday please email Presvytera Stephanie Thomas: s_c_thomas@yahoo.com or call 209-640-1301.

4. If you like your family's picture, you may purchase it and the digital file will be emailed to you.

Thank you,
Directory Team
**Annunciation Prayer List**

“Pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16). Prayer is an important resource for those who are in need. Please contact Father Simon or the Church Office to add/remove someone from the list.

- Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- Archbishop Demetrios of America
- Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit
- Father Simon & Presvytera Stephanie and children
- Father Nicholas & Presvytera Bess and children
- Parishioners of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- Metropolitan Paul (Yazge) of Aleppo
- Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim (Syriac) of Aleppo
- Nick, Helen, Diana, Alec, Katherine, Maria, Zoe, Pat, Ronnie, Jeffrey, Toni, Sandy, Sophia, Cornelia

**Volunteers for April**

**Acolytes:**
- Nick Douglas
- John Eramo
- Max Graves
- Jonathan Holland
- Vasili Johnson
- Jonathan Mehrotra
- Jack Shipman
- Abiel Tesfazion
- Demetri Thomas
- David Wassef

**Ushers**
- 2 Team 1: Maria Moore, Bill Joyner, Pete Ruby
- 9 Team 2: Naji Nassif, Diane Kavelaras, Demie Bitinis
- 16 Team 3: Romulus Stoian, Chris Apalodimas
- 23 Team 4: Endy Carter, Vasili Semos
- 30 Team 1: Maria Moore, Bill Joyner, Pete Ruby
- 2 Semos Family for 1 year Memorial of Evanglia Semos
- 9 Palm Sunday Luncheon hosted by Elpis
- 16 Agape Meal
- 23 Open
- 30 Open

**Greeters**
- 2
- 9
- 16
- 23
- 30

**Prosporo Bakers:**
- 2 Enosis Touliatos
- 9 Enosis Touliatos
- 16 Enosis Touliatos
- 23 Enosis Touliatos
- 30 Enosis Touliatos

**Epistle Readers:**
- 2 Scott McKee
- 9 Patricia Grantham
- 16
- 23 Cathe Skefos
- 30 Paul Vieron

**March Notices**

**Deaths:**
- Robert Allphin, aged 89, March 1, 2017 in Cedar Grove, TN
- Kerry Wagner, sister-in-law of Kristine Wagner (George) leaves her husband Glen and sons Joseph, Thomas and Daniel, March 9, 2017 in Pennsylvania
- Katherine Pappas Charcalis, aged 93, mother of Helen Erskine (Bruce) and grandmother of Michael & Mark Erskine and their families. March 10, 2017 in New Hampshire
- Fran Diedrach, sister of Athena Jameson, March 27 in Charlotte, NC
- Edna Nichopoulos, wife of Dr. George Nichopoulos (deceased), mother of Christine, Elaine and Dean and their families, March 28 in Memphis

**Baptisms:**
- Spiro Castellucci, son of Conan & Briannan Castellucci and grandson of John & Nancy Kay, March 25, 2017
The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, also known as John Mark (Acts 12:12), was one of the Seventy Apostles, and was also a nephew of St Barnabas. He was born at Jerusalem, and the house of his mother Mary adjoined the Garden of Gethsemane. As Church Tradition relates, on the night that Christ was betrayed he followed after Him, wrapped only in a linen cloth. He was seized by soldiers, and fled away naked, leaving the cloth behind (Mark 14:51-52). After the Ascension of the Lord, the house of his mother Mary became a place where Christians gathered, and a place of lodging for some of the Apostles (Acts 12:12). St Mark was a very close companion of the Apostles Peter, Paul and Barnabas. St Mark was at Seleucia with Paul and Barnabas, and from there he set off to the island of Cyprus, and he traversed the whole of it.

After working with the Apostle Paul, St Mark returned to Jerusalem, and then went to Rome with the Apostle Peter. From there, he set out for Egypt, where he established a local Church. St Mark traveled to Antioch, Cyprus, and Egypt again, founding many churches. Then he went to Babylon, and from this city the Apostle Peter sent an Epistle to the Christians of Asia Minor, in which he calls St Mark his son (1 Pet 5:13).

When the Apostle Paul came to Rome in chains, St Mark was at Ephesus, where St Timothy was bishop. St Mark went with him to Rome. There he also wrote his holy Gospel (ca. 62-63). From Rome St Mark traveled to Egypt. In Alexandria he started a Christian school, which later produced such famous Fathers and teachers of the Church as Clement of Alexandria, St Dionysius of Alexandria, St Gregory the Wonderworker, and others. Zealous for Church services, St Mark composed a Liturgy for the Christians of Alexandria. St Mark preached the Gospel in the inner regions of Africa, and he was in Libya at Nektopolis.

During these journeys, St Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to go again to Alexandria and confront the pagans. There he visited the home of Ananias, and healed his crippled hand. The dignitary happily took him in, listened to his words, and received Baptism. Following the example of Ananias, many of the inhabitants of that part of the city where he lived were also baptized. This roused the enmity of the pagans, and they wanted to kill St Mark. Having learned of this, St Mark made Ananias a bishop, and the three Christians Malchos, Sabinos, and Kerdinos were ordained presbyters to provide the church with leadership after his death.

The pagans seized St Mark when he was serving the Liturgy. They beat him, dragged him through the streets and threw him in prison. There St Mark was granted a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who strengthened him before his sufferings. On the following day, the angry crowd again dragged the Saint through the streets to the courtroom, but along the way St Mark died saying, “Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” The pagans wanted to burn the Saint’s body, but when they lit the fire, everything grew dark, thunder crashed, and there was an earthquake. The pagans fled in terror, and Christians took up the body of St Mark and buried it in a stone crypt. This was on April 4, 63. The Church celebrates his memory on April 25.

In the year 310, a church was built over the relics of St Mark. In 820, when the Moslem Arabs had established their rule in Egypt and oppressed the Christian Church, the relics of St Mark were transferred to Venice and placed in the church named for him. In the ancient iconographic tradition, which adopted symbols for the holy Evangelists borrowed from the vision of St John the Theologian (Rev 4:7) and the prophecy of Ezekiel (Ez. 1:10), the holy Evangelist Mark is represented by a lion, symbolizing the might and royal dignity of Christ.

St Mark wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians, emphasizing the words and deeds of the Savior which reveal His divine Power. Many aspects of his account can be explained by his closeness to St Peter. The ancient writers say that the Gospel of Mark is a concise record of St Peter’s preaching. One of the central theological themes in the Gospel of St Mark is the power of God achieving what is humanly impossible. The Apostles performed remarkable miracles with Christ and the Holy Spirit working through them. His disciples were told to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures (Mark 13:10, 16:15), and that is what they did.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Liturgical Events</th>
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| **Sunday, April 2nd** | **Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt**  
Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am |
| **Monday, April 3rd** | **Great Compline 6:30 pm** |
| **Wednesday, April 5th** | **Service of the Ninth Hour 5:30 pm**  
Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm |
| **Saturday, April 8th** | **Saturday of Lazarus**  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 9:00 am |
| **Sunday, April 9th** | **Palm Sunday**  
Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm |
| **Monday, April 10th** | **Holy Monday**  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm |
| **Tuesday, April 11th** | **Holy Tuesday**  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm |
| **Wednesday, April 12th** | **Holy Wednesday**  
Service of the Ninth Hour 8:30 am  
Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 am  
Holy Uinteraction Service 3:30 pm  
Holy Uction Service 6:30 pm |
| **Thursday, April 13th** | **Holy Thursday**  
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil – Mystical Supper 7:00 am  
Service of the Passion of Christ 6:30 pm |
| **Friday, April 14th** | **Holy Friday**  
Royal Hours 9:00 am  
Removal of Christ from the Cross 3:30 pm  
Lamentations Service 6:30 pm |
| **Saturday, April 15th** | **Holy Saturday**  
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil – Proclaiming the Resurrection 9:00 am  
Canon of the Resurrection 11:00 pm |
| **Sunday, April 16th** | **GREAT & HOLY PASCHA**  
Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection 12:00 am  
Agape Vespers 11:00 am |
| **Sunday, April 23rd** | **Sunday of Saint George the Great Martyr**  
Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am |
| **Sunday, April 30th** | **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers**  
Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am |
**VISITATION COMMITTEE**

The following parishioners have requested visitation. Please contact them directly to schedule visitations. For address &/or contact information please check your parish directory or contact the office.

Alec Collis
Pat Bacopulos Cooper - contact Marianthe Pilcher for visiting arrangements
Zoe Nickas
Presvytera Bess Vieron
Kosta Taras – contact Loretta Taras for Visiting arrangements

**Visitation Committee Volunteers for 2017-2018**

**April:** Cary Chiungos & Mary Katherine Taras
**May:** Demie Bitinis, Tricia Grantham & Emily Love
**June:** Despina Karas/Angela Tobias
**July:** Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras
**August:** Stephanie Poplos & friend
**September:** Susanna Peters, Maria Apalodimas & Cathe Skefos
**October:** Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner
**November:** Connie Cotros, Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos
**December:** Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jameson

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**October:** Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner
**November:** Connie Cotros, Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos
**December:** Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jameson

**Please contact Kristine Wagner if you would like to volunteer to be on the visitation committee.**

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**Lenten Lecture Series**

Wednesday, April 5th
Speaker: Rev. Fr. Stavros Ballas, Presiding Priest, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Dinner Hosts: The Sinis family
**Parish Ministries**

**Philoptochos, Elpis Chapter #7041**

**Palm Sunday Luncheon**
Join us for our annual Palm Sunday luncheon prepared by Dennis Patrikios in the Fellowship Hall immediately after services. Plan to spend this beautiful day with your church family. Tickets: $12 Adult; $7 Children under 12; Children under 6 - Free.

**Holy Friday Candles**
Place your request to receive one of our Holy Friday candles by contacting Joanne Gikas or Joy Touliatos before Holy Week. Donations accepted. All money received will be placed towards Philoptochos charities

**General Meeting - Board Elections**
Sunday, April 30th immediately following the Divine Liturgy
Lunch will be served

**Interested in joining the board?**
Please speak with Father Simon or Cyndi Detty.

**More than a Meal - April 16**
Do you have plans on Easter Sunday afternoon? Consider serving those in need at More than a Meal.
April 16 - 3:00-5:00pm - Grace St. Luke's Church, Midtown

**Pic from our March More Than A Meal Serving Team**

**2017 Membership**
We invite all women age 18 and older to join Elpis Philoptochos. Our service-based organization supports our church, provides help to those in need within our church family, within our Memphis community as well as those worldwide. You can be as involved as you would like through a multitude of committees and events. We encourage you to look for our electronic monthly newsletter to find opportunities to serve. Our organization also provides an outlet for social events, learning and networking.

Membership is $35 per year and includes both local and national dues. Men are also welcome to join us as associate members. We offer complimentary honorary memberships to college-aged women (18-22) and women age 80 and over.

**ELPIS Bookstore**
Stop by the Elpis Bookstore for all of your Lenten Needs. We have just received a lot of new stock so there is a wide variety of icons, jewelry, books and gifts for this special time in our church.

Looking for new ways to volunteer this year? Work at the bookstore! We are looking for volunteers to help on Sundays from 11:30-12:30. Stop by and talk to Angela Tobias and Connie Apalodimas for more information.
**Young at Heart**

YOUNG AT HEART -
Please join us on Thursday, April 20th at 11:30 am for a Spring luncheon and Bingo. All 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and now 100's are invited to join in on all the fun and fellowship. Please see our flyer for details!

*Organization Coordinators:*

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**Hosting Coffee Fellowship after Liturgy**

The Parish Council invites members to volunteer to host a Coffee Fellowship Hour in Cotros Hall during this Ecclesiastical Year. The intent is to offer refreshments of your choice that will encourage social interaction among the membership, and opportunities to meet and greet visitors and new members. The coffee, sugar/sweetener, napkins, plates, cups and utensils are provided by the Church. Please bring creamer and juice. This is a great opportunity to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or to honor a loved one. Photos/memorabilia are encouraged for a table display. Families or groups of individuals can co-host as well. Please sign up on the Coffee Hour Board in Cotros Hall or call the Church Office to reserve your date. Diane Kavelaras will be your coordinator for Sunday and can be reached at 901-383-3343. Coffee will always be available when there is no host. Thank you for your consideration and hopeful participation.

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**Young Adult Ministries**

We are reviving the Young Adult Ministry here at Annunciation. The program has been re-branded and reformatted as REAL (Representing Emerging Adult Leaders). REAL is the Archdiocese’s new young adult ministries program, the successor to YAL. It focuses on young adults ages 18-35. REAL offers programs and resources based on education, fellowship, service and worship, challenging young adults to not simply be passive participants in the Faith but to truly live Orthodoxy each and every day.

Join in the conversation! Check out the podcast, Pop Culture Coffee Hour on Ancient Faith Ministries Radio!

OCF’s Real Break is a one-of-a-kind alternative spring break program for Orthodox high school graduates between 18-25 years old. The Real Break program provides young adults with the opportunity to understand the true meaning of seeing Christ in the other – traveling to all parts of the world deepening their faith, serving those in need, and cultivating relationships with like-minded peers. See the Flier and follow the link for more details: [http://www.ocf.net/real-break-2017/](http://www.ocf.net/real-break-2017/)

**On Facebook:** [GOA Young Adults](https://www.facebook.com/GOA.YoungAdults/)
**On Twitter:** [GOA_YoungAdults](https://twitter.com/GOA_YoungAdults)
**On Instagram:** [GOA_YoungAdults](https://www.instagram.com/GOA_YoungAdults/)
**On Blogger:** [The Ladder](https://www.goaonline.org/category/blogs/the-ladder/)
**On YouTube:** [YOUTUBE.COM/Y2AM](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8uWjY4K0bM1W92jUMVFtQ)

If you are interested in being a part of REAL, please contact Alexis Moore at 901-828-3982 or at alexismoore419@gmail.com.
Youth Ministries

Sunday School
The Sunday School Program is for children from Pre-K (age 4 by September 1) through 12th grade. We meet every Sunday immediately following Holy Communion except during the Summer and certain Holidays.

Note from Father Simon:
It is important that the children and their teachers receive Holy Communion first, so they may have as much time as possible to learn about our precious Faith. Parents, since we are now saying the Prayers Before Holy Communion together, please wait until these prayers have been completed before taking your children to the Narthex to line them up for Holy Communion. Once our youth have received, the ushers will dismiss the faithful row by row. Thank you for your assistance!

HOPE/JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth)
Mark your calendar for upcoming events:

JOY

April 14th - Spiritual Education- Holy Friday JOY Lenten Youth Retreat
Royal Hours (morning service) + Lenten Youth Retreat and Craft + Lunch + Removal of Christ from the Cross (afternoon service)
~PLEASE see sign up genius to sign up to bring food or craft supplies!!!

May 6th - Pool Party 2-4pm at Thomas Home

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America)
The GOYA Ministry at Annunciation is for youth in grades 6 through 12. We seek to provide programming for the entire group and to provide opportunities for our older youth to serve as role models for younger participants. But, owing to the developmental needs of different age groups in the Ministry, certain activities and meetings will be subdivided into middle school and high school groups. We meet the first and third Sundays of each month at noon in the GOYA Room.

Please forward any comments, suggestions for activities, and preferred methods of communication (or to be removed from the GOYA mailing list) to Mitch Obradovic (mitch.obradovic@gmail.com).

GOYA Advisors:
Mitch Obradovic
Demetri Papastefan
Ted Poplos
Luane Semos

April GOYA News
Keep checking your emails from the GOYA advisors. This month we have the Lenten Lock-In, the Pascha – all night Lamb Roast after The Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection and then straight to Grace-St. Luke’s at 3:00 pm after the Agape Meal to help serve others through More Than a Meal.

GOYA Activities 2016 – 2017

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Lenten Lock-In</td>
<td>April 14 - 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pascha – Lamb Roast</td>
<td>April 15 - 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Than a Meal – Grace St. Luke’s – Pascha</td>
<td>April 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-End GOYA Pool Party</td>
<td>May TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Than a Meal – Grace St. Luke’s</td>
<td>May 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Volunteer/Service Opportunities:
1. Assist with serving and cleanup at luncheons
2. Greek Festival Workshops
3. Greek Festival Ice Cream and Frappe Booth
4. Food Pantry Drive
5. Starry Nights
6. Friends of the Metropolis
7. Project Haiti
8. Ionian Village Recovery Fundraiser
The Athenian Dance Troupe's mission is to provide dancers with artistic education and immersion in the rich tradition of Hellenic performing arts and dance. A key goal for The Athenian Dance Troupe is to instill in its dancers an enthusiasm for and desire to share the art of Hellenic dance within the Memphis community. We accept dancers into the program starting in 2nd grade. For older children and teenagers interested in joining, no prior dance experience is required. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, would like more info, or would like to enroll your child(ren), please contact Father Simon at the Church Office, or the Horvaths.

Andrew Horvath  andrewmarkhorvath@gmail.com
Leah Apalodimas Horvath  leahapalodimas@yahoo.com

Performances
Memphis Greek Festival
Friday, May 12, 6:00 pm
Saturday, May 13, 12:00 Noon & 6:00 pm

Practice Schedule
Juniors:
Saturday April 15 – 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
Saturday April 22 – 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Saturday April 29 – 10:00 am – 10:45 am
Saturday May 6 – 10:00 am – 10:45 am
Thursday, May 11 – 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Seniors:
Saturday April 8 – 12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm
Saturday April 15 – 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm
Saturday April 22 – 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday April 29 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday May 6 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday May 11 – 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

ST. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP

REGISTER NOW for the 2017 St. Nicholas Summer Camp season and take advantage of the Early Bird Registration Discount (valid until May 15th). All youth ages 8-18 are invited to join us for a week of faith, fellowship, and fun! Also, stay tuned! Mrs. Eva will be sharing photos and video on the website of our new camp home, Camp Loucon!

SCHOLARSHIPS

As it becomes available, scholarship information can be found at the following links:
On the Parish website at  http://goann.net/education/scholarships
On our Facebook page at  https://www.facebook.com/Annunciation-Greek-Orthodox-Church-120815681264112/.
District Oratorical Festival

Our District Oratorical Festival will be held on Saturday April 22nd at 2:00 pm at our church. We will be the host church for this year's District Festival and look forward to welcoming our out of town visitors to our community. Please feel free to join us as we listen to our talented young people speak on various topics. More details are forthcoming.

Kathy Zambelis and Paul Vieron - Coordinators

Community Organizations

Men’s Group/AHEPA

The Men’s Group of Annunciation/AHEPA hosted the Lenten Lecture on March 8th for Rev. Fr. Angelo Maggos from Assumption Church in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Daughters of Penelope

The Daughters of Penelope, was founded in 1929, in San Francisco, California. It was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld’s dream to create a women’s organization comparable to her husband’s membership in AHEPA. The Daughters is the women’s organization of AHEPA. We share our Mission Statement: To promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family & Individual Excellence.

It was with great pleasure we hosted the Lenten Lecture given by Rev. Fr. Nicholaos Kotsis in March. He is the presiding priest from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

On Sunday, March 19 we celebrated Greek Independence Day. We hope you were able to attend. We were treated to hearing our children speaking and singing Greek and our Athenian Dancers showing their Greek dancing skills. The Greek School sang beautiful songs and read their poems. Despina, the children showed what a skilled Greek school teacher you are. We then had a performance from the Athenian Dancers. Leah and Andrew Horvath had their dancers give us a “sneak preview” of the Greek dances that will be performed at our festival in May. You two are doing an outstanding job with our children, teaching them their heritage. As Kathy mentioned in her welcome, all the monies donated to this luncheon will be given to the Athenian Dancers. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

As we have in the past, we will be donating Easter candy to the Lester Center, in Memphis. This is something we have done for many years for both Easter and Halloween – thank you Kathy Morrison. Lester Center is a safe place students can go after school for tutoring as well as sports and other activities.

For those who have graduating seniors, our scholarship application is available on the Church Website. Also, there are scholarships available from National Daughters of Penelope. Last year Constance Poplos was a recipient of one from National.

In just a few more weeks, we will be celebrating our most Holy Pascha. The Daughters will be selling koulourakia on Palm Sunday. In the meantime, we will be keeping ourselves busy with helping out at the various festival workshops and of course, also working at the festival. We hope you will take the time to also participate in these workshops and volunteering at the festival.
To volunteer to help out during the Festival please sign up under one of the tabs at http://bit.ly/2mbMNoA.

PRE-FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

**Macaroons**  
Thursday & Friday, March 23 & 24  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Spanakopita**  
Friday & Saturday, March 31 & April 1  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Kourambiethes**  
Thursday & Friday, April 27 & 28  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Sweet Bread**  
Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Pre-Packs**  
Sunday May 7  
12:00 Noon - 5:00 pm  
Monday May 8  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Chicken Prep**  
Wednesday, May 10  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Meat Skewering**  
Wednesday, May 10  
3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Galaktoboureko**  
Thursday, May 11  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Join us for the annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 9th

We invite all members of our community to join us for the annual Palm Sunday Luncheon.

Menu: Baked Tilapia, Shrimp, Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Bread and Dessert

Tickets: $12 Adult; $7 Children under 12
Children under 6 - Free

Hosted by Elpis Philoptochos
YOUNG AT HEART

SPRING LUNCHEON AND BINGO

THURSDAY – APRIL 20th

11:30 AM in Cotros Hall

Please join us for a fun filled day of fun, food and fellowship!

Everyone in their 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and now 100’s are invited to join in all the FUN! Hope to see YOU there!
Elpis Philoptochos

General Meeting

Sunday, April 30
Church Library
Immediately following the Liturgy

Topics to discuss:
- Election of the 2017-2019 Board
- Brainstorm for next term’s activities and ideas
- Summer Plans

Hope to see you there!
Stewardship Report

Our Archdiocesan Regulations and Parish By-Laws define Stewards as those who participate regularly in the life of the Parish, as well as contributing towards the financial well-being of the Parish by offering stewardship and/or filling out a Stewardship Card. Below is a list of all Stewards of the Annunciation. Those denoted with an (*) have submitted their Stewardship Card to the Stewardship Committee. If you have not submitted a Stewardship Card, please contact the Stewardship Committee or the Church Office.

2017 List of Stewards

*Robert Allphin
*Nigisti Amdetsion & Aklilu Maasho & family
Zoe Anaston
Chris & Connie Apalodimas
Maria Apalodimas
Michael & Annie Arcamuzi & family
John & Diane Avgeris
*Todd & Cyndi Bagatelas & family
Steven & Anastasia Barlow & family
*Demetra Bitinis
*John & Deborah Bookas
*Janet Boosalis
*Shawn Branum
*Angela Buchanan
Claude Burdikoff
Jacob & Michele Buring
*Endy Carter
*Mary Chagaris
*Cary Chiungos
Pat Cooper
*Jerry & Julia Couloubaritis & family
*Elaine Daniels
*Alexander & Sangeeta Deitz
*George Deitz & Kristine Wagner
*Helen Demas
*Chris Demopoulos
Chris & Shawn Demos
Anna Denton
Greg & Cyndi Detty & family
Andrew & Christina Douglas & family
*Vasilios & Georgia Douklias
Yiannis Drosos
Bruce & Helen Erskine
Linda Farrell
Phillip & Kellye Farris & family
*Nick & Marty Fox
Pete & Jan Futris
*Steve & Zoe Futris
*Evangelia Gallagher
*Christina George
Kalovan Getev
*Bill & Niki Gikas
*Joanne Gikas
*Alex Gogonelis
Ronald & Patricia Grantham & family
*Alan & Renee Graves & family
Kevin & Pannyiota Guigley & family
*Maria Hallas
*Sarantos & Catherine Hatzigeorgiou
*Charles & Elizabeth Hawkins & family
Laurentiu & Mihaela Herbei & family
*Sandy E Herbert
*Maria Hetos
Monica & Evan Hinson
Spence Holland & family
Nathan & Stephanie Hooker & family
*Ken & Vicki Hoover & family
Tina Horne
Andrew & Leah Horvath & family
Koula Hristopoulou
*Marcus & Cristina Hunter & family
Dorothy Huston
*Athena Jameson
*Al & Tina Jennings
*Bill & Denise Joyner
Jim & Denise Karas
*George Karkatsugas
Georgia Karris
*Diane Kavelaras
*John & Nancy Kay
John & Jennifer Kay, Jr.
Maureen Kay
*James Kennedy
Nader Khalaf
*Sarkis & Jenny Kish
Regina Kolaitis
Bessie Kolapanas
*Marcy Kollias
*Kalliope G Lefes
George Limberakis
Tina Liollio
Kevin & Alexia Loughman
Samya Louza
*Tom & Emily Love
Irini Manousakis
Pete & Amelia Maragos & family
Yolanta Matika
*Scott McKee & Weilin Xi & family
*John Robert McNulty & Nicole Fox
Emily Melonas
Peter & Kathryn Melonas
James & Susan Meng
Tamara Miller
Allen & Lydia Mims & family
Mary “Toni” Montgomery & family
*Alexis Moore
*Mike & Maria Moore
*Tommy & Kyndall Moore
*Robert & Kathy Morrison
Michael & Valerie Mosby
*Naji & Rebecca Nassif & family
Nick & Linda Nichols
Michael & Linda Nix
As of March 31, 2017:
2017 Stewardship Cards – 83
Stewards – 173

Amount Pledged - $136,398.00
Amount Received to date - $64,243.44
Amount Received in February - $16,853.00

As of March 31, 2016
2016 Stewardship Cards – 77
Stewards – 151

Amount Pledged – $144,460.00
Amount Received to date - $68,140.01
Amount Received in February - $17,402.50
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUNDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>TUESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>SATURDAY</strong></th>
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| 2 Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am  
Nursery Available 9:30 am  
Sunday School 11:00 am  
GOYA Meeting 12:00  
Coffee Hour hosted by the Semos Family for 1 year Memorial of Evangeline Semos | 3 Great Compline  
6:30 pm  
Fr. Viron’s Greek Class 6:30 pm | 4 | 5 Service of the  
Ninth Hour 5:30 pm  
Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm  
Lenten Lecture & Dinner 7:00 pm | 6 | 7 DOP baking Tsoureki  
& Koulourakia for Palm Sunday Bake  
Sale  
GOYA Lenten Retreat 5:00 pm | 8 Saturday of Lazarus  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 9:00 am  
Pancake Breakfast 11:00 am  
followed by Palm Cross Making and Parish Work Day  
Athenian Dance Troupe Practice – Seniors 12:00 Noon |
| 9 Palm Sunday  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am  
Nursery Available 9:30 am  
Sunday School 11:00 am  
Palm Sunday Lunch hosted by Elpis 12:00 Noon  
DOP Bake Sale 12:00 Noon  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm | 10 Holy Monday  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm  
Fr. Viron’s Greek Class 6:30 pm | 11 Holy Tuesday  
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm | 12 Holy Wednesday  
Service of the Ninth Hour 8:30 am  
Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 am  
Holy Unction Service 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm | 13 Holy Thursday  
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil –  
Mystical Supper 7:00 am  
Service of the Passion of Christ 6:30 pm | 14 Holy Friday  
Royal Hours 9:00 am  
JOY(Holy Friday Lenten Retreat) 10:30  
Removal of Christ from Cross 3:30 pm  
Lamentations Service 6:30 pm | 15 Holy Saturday  
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil –  
Proclaiming the Resurrection 9:00 am  
Athenian Dance Troupe Practice – Juniors 1:00 /Seniors 1:45  
Canon of the Resurrection 11:00 pm |
| 16 Great & Holy Pascha  
12:00 am Divine Liturgy of the  
Resurrection  
Resurrection Meal 2:00 am  
Agape Vespers 11:00 am  
NO Sunday School or Nursery today  
Agape Meal 12:00 Noon | 17 Fr. Viron’s Greek Class 6:30 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 Young at Heart  
Luncheon 11:30 am  
AHEPA & DOP Scholarship Apps due by 3:00 pm | 21 Chris Douglas Scholarship Apps due by 12:00 Noon | 22 District Oratorical Festival 10:30 am  
Athenian Dance Troupe Practice – Juniors 2:00 pm/Seniors 2:45 pm |
| 23 Sunday of Saint George the Great  
Martyr  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM  
Nursery Available 9:30 am  
Sunday School 11:00 am  
Coffee Hour Open  
DOP Monthly Meeting 12:00 Noon  
More Than a Meal 3:00 pm | 24 Parish Council Meeting 6:15 pm  
Fr. Viron’s Greek Class 6:30 pm | 25 Bible Study 6:30 pm | 26 | 27 Festival Workshop –  
Kourembietes 9:00 am  
Girl Scouts 4:15 pm | 28 Festival Workshop 9:00 am  
Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 am | 29 Hall Reserved  
Athenian Dance Troupe Practice;  
Juniors – 10:00 am  
Seniors – 11:00 am  
Wedding 6:30 pm |
| 30 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers  
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am  
Nursery Available 9:30 am  
Sunday School 11:00 am  
Elpis General Meeting 12:00 Noon  
Coffee Hour Open | | | | | | |