



# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, *Parish Priest* • William Kallas, *Pastoral Assistant*

November 20, 2020

*"My hope is that we will seize the opportunity that is literally being forced upon us, to become more altruistic, more compassionate toward others, more patient, and indeed more faithful."*

**-Archbishop Elpidophoros of America**

Dear Beloved Faithful,

During these difficult days it is important to recognize why we have a Church family. In the words of Archbishop Elpidophoros, "The Church extends far beyond the four walls of any church building." The Church is not the building, but rather, it is people of faith that remain connected, drawing spiritual nourishment from God and strength from one another. Gathering together in worship allows us to receive the spiritual nourishment needed to bring Christ's compassion into the world.

As leaders of our parish, we are working diligently to rebuild our parish ministries that keep us connected as a Church family. We have been streaming our services since early this year to keep you connected when you cannot attend. We have begun the Sunday School year with social distancing & masks. We are methodically reaching out to our members to be sure they are able to meet their basic needs in this crisis. Our GOYA group just initiated a food collection which will be distributed through the Mid-South food bank, and we encourage you to offer a donation.

These initiatives and ministries will continue to support the long-term mission of our parish when this current crisis has passed, and we thank you for your support that makes them possible. It is our prayer that you please continue to support our church so that together we may serve our members and our community for years to come. Your offerings of support, as you are able to give, may be submitted through various means including being mailed to the church office. You may also donate on a monthly basis via direct deposit by mailing a VOIDED check along with the amount of your desired contribution. We have also made online giving available on our church website ([www.goann.net](http://www.goann.net)) for one-time and periodic giving.

It is no secret that the pandemic has put a strain on our parish's finances just as it has on many of our families. The cancellation of our beloved festival along with a reduction in parking lot revenue has required us to tighten our ministry capabilities. Therefore, as you reflect upon what our church family means to you, we kindly ask you to consider, if you are able, to increase your contributions for 2021 to help our parish offset lost income.

Through our faith we can trust that we will one-day resume our normal scheduling activities, and we thank you on behalf of the Parish Stewardship Committee for your generous support to help keep our parish vibrant for the next generation, as we remain

In the Service of our Incarnate Lord,

Rev. Fr. Simon Thomas  
*Parish Priest*

Diane Kavelaras  
*Parish Council President*