

# GOOD NEWS

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September, 2009

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## ECCLESIASTICAL & SOCIAL CALENDAR:

- **Thursday, August 27** Sunday School Teacher's meeting. Refer to pg. 2.
- **Monday, August 31** GOYA, JOY & HOPE Advisors Meeting at 6:00 at the Church. Refer to pg. 2.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 8,** Philoptochos 3M Party. 6:30 p.m. Refer to pgs 2-3.
- **Saturday, Sept. 12,** Greek School Registration and first day of class. Refer to pgs.2-3 for details.
- **Sunday, Sept. 13,** Sunday School Registration Refer to Pg. 2
- **Wednesday, Sept. 16,** The 1ST Annual Golf Outing at RAVENWOOD GOLF CLUB 12:00 p.m. Registration & LUNCH; 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start. Refer to Bulletin insert for details.
- **Sunday, Sept. 20:** Sunday School Classes begin immediately following Holy Communion. Refer to Pg. 2
- **Thursday, Sept. 24:** Senior's Meeting. Refer to pg. 2.

### SPECIAL NOTE:

To confirm dates and times of church services, or for status updates in the case of inclement weather, please contact our answering service, EMS, at 399-3025 or visit the Annunciation website at <http://www.annunciationrochester.org>.



## The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross - September 14

In 325 AD the mother of St. Constantine the Great, St. Helen, journeyed to Jerusalem in search of the cross. A temple to Aphrodite had been built by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, had been crucified.

St. Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and having the earth dug around the area, she found the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might

be the cross of Jesus. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen in 614 AD. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country. Late, in the year 628 AD, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

The two hymns that are sung in church on this day are the Apolytikion "Lord Save Your People..." and the Kontakion, "Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will..."

• Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

• Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

- *Compiled from Narthex press and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA.*
- *Icon from Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA.*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Greetings! I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Now that fall is on the horizon, we are looking forward to a new and exciting year of Sunday School. I'd like to welcome everyone to come and join us as we are looking for new ideas, new volunteers and of course new and current students alike! Please let us know if you would like to give your time and talents to this wonderful program for our children. Call me anytime with your ideas: 585-737-1634.



Our Fall Schedule starts as follows:

- September 13th: Sign-Up for Sunday School after services in the Church Hall
- September 20th: First Day of Sunday School, featuring Special Children's Sermon and Blessing prior to Communion.

Sunday School Teachers, substitute teachers and volunteers: Join us for a special kick-off meeting on Thursday, August 27th, 7:00 pm at Rhonda Stamatis' house. We hope that you will all join us to get to know one another, have some fun and to share your insight and ideas. Appetizers and more... will be served! Call me for directions or GOOGLE Rhonda's address below!!!

Rhonda Stamatis

22 Whisper Wood Drive (off of Turk Hill Road)  
Fairport, NY

For further news, pictures and updates, please take a look at our new Sunday School page on Facebook!! Search for "Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Sunday School" and become a "Fan".

If you have ANY questions, feel free to call me directly. Thank you.

Christine P. Thomas

## GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

I would like to welcome all new and returning students, and remind all families that the new Greek School year will begin with registration, par-

ent orientation, and first day of instruction on Saturday, September 12. Following registration (9:00-10:00am), parents will attend a mandatory orientation meeting with their child and teacher; afterwards, students will receive their first lesson. Greek School accepts students of 5 and 6 years of age in Kindergarten (students must be 5 at the beginning of Greek School).

I would also like to congratulate all our students and especially our graduates for their effort, progress, and achievement in 2008-2009. I sincerely thank all the Greek School teachers, teaching assistants, and volunteers for their commitment to teaching and encouraging our fine students. A warm thank you goes to all Greek School families that have supported our school in so many ways throughout the year.

It is a Greek School tradition to offer awards to students who excel in class performance, keep their standards high, and make the best effort to be consistent in their study of Greek language and culture. We are grateful to our donors for enabling our school to encourage and congratulate the students in this special way. This year in 7th grade, two awards of \$400 US bonds were offered for their overall academic excellence to Thanasis Babasidis and Alexander Phillips from Agia Paraskevi and the Modinos Fund respectively.

We appreciate the Agia Paraskevi society for their great and generous support over the years. We sincerely thank Mrs. Modinos, Mr. & Mrs. John and Tessa Martin for their generosity and continuous support of Greek School and Greek studies. This year, the Martin Fund enables us to offer two awards of \$200 US bonds each to Alexandra Kokorotsis-Case and Gregory Matos for their outstanding effort and progress in 7th grade.

Also, two more monetary awards were offered in 6th and 5th grades for academic achievement in 2008-09, one award per grade: \$200 US bonds was presented to 6th grade student Eleni Gogos from Agia Paraskevi; \$100 US bonds for best overall student in her

class goes to our 5th grader Karolina Breit from Riki's Restaurant that has been supporting our school with achievement awards for the last five years.

We are proud to announce that this year's recipient of the "Best Score in Greek Regents Examination 2009" award is Alexander Phillips for his excellent scores. Agia Paraskevi and the Panhellenic Society congratulate this fine student with an award of \$150 US bonds and \$200 US bonds respectively.



Congratulations to all award recipients! We wish them as well as all our students the best of success in their future endeavors.

The Greek School teachers and I look forward to seeing you on September, 12!

Julie Papaioannou  
Greek School Principal

## GOYA, JOY & HOPE:

**Monday, August 31 Advisors Meeting,** 6:00 pm at the Church. Anyone interested may call Bill Anthis @ 301-6898 for details

## SENIOR CLUB NEWS:

We all had a great time at the Erie Canal Ride on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all our talented singers you made the event a success.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> we had our Annual Picnic with Greek music dancing and lots of good food. We all like to thank Angie Zikos, for putting everything together, Vicki Christakis for making the Park arrangements, and mostly our cooks Mr. John. Michael & Panagiota Mikedis for such a great job. Thank to everyone for bringing your specialties which help in making this event such a great success.

Our next meeting is on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker is Roxanne Kuliner informing us on real state. Lunch will be served. Please try to attend. God Bless you All. -  
Demetra Korovessis

**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS:**

Our newly elected Philoptochos Officers and Board for the 2009-2011 term are as follows:

**President:** Lorraine Theodorou

**Vice President:** Florence Stefanou

**Recording Secretaries:** Helen Eisenberg, Calli Monna

**Corresponding Secretary:** Niki Chamberlain

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Stanek

**Board Members:** Vasila Augustinos, Mary Cerniglia, Maria Economides, Angie George, Amelia Harris, Margie Kitz, Demetra Korovessis, Venny Lazary, Mary Manou, Dena Marou, Patricia Schaeffer, Cathy Stark, Kay Stathopoulos, Dena Theodorakakos, Betty Vamvakitis

Our first meeting of the year is our annual 3M Party (Membership, Mezethes, Margaritas), which will be held on September 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. This is an opportunity for new members to join our group and share the fellowship of our current membership. Appetizers will be served, and we look to an enjoyable evening. Everyone is welcome.

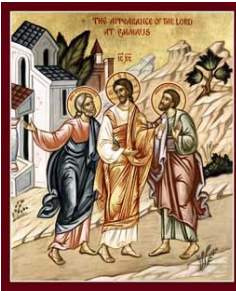
What a wonderful turnout we had on May 3, 2009 for the Philoptochos Society Spring Fashion Show at Casa Larga Vineyards. We appreciate the committee of Mary Cerniglia, Amy Gines, Calli Monna, Jennifer Stanek and Andrea Vangelow for coordinating such a lovely event. We would also like to thank Etcetera by Amy Gines and Chico's for providing the gorgeous clothing for our models to exhibit. Thank you also to our lovely models: Sofia Anthis, Voula Bitsas, Mona Carbonel, Helen Eisenberg, Beverly Hageman, Lauren Hageman, Maria LoVerde, Vickie Makovsky, Olga Nassis, Corthea Sanchez, Rhonda stamatis, Dina Theodorakakos and Zoe Varahidis who made all the fashions look beautiful. Our teacup raffle was a tremendous success, and many thanks go to those who gave donations to be raffled off. We appreciate all who volunteered their time behind the scenes. Our profit of over \$3,000 will benefit our many charitable dona-

tions. We appreciate and look forward to the continued support of our Annunciation Parish Family.

We are planning many more fundraisers this year and anticipate our annual Bake Sale on Sunday, November 22, 2009 following the Divine Liturgy. Should you need additional information on any of our activities, please contact our President, Lorraine Theodorou at 671-7747.

**NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

With Father Jerry's imminent retirement, the Parish Council has been actively communicating with His Eminence, Bishop Nicholas, regarding identifying a new priest for our Church. Given the size of our Parish, the Bishop has indicated a requirement that the new Proistamenos for the Annunciation be an experienced priest, capable of meeting the needs of our church members and community.



As always, Parish Council members appreciate the assistance of Annunciation parishioners who have volunteered and lent a hand in the Narthex (as well as with other duties) over these past weeks and months. Especially at this time in the Church's transition, there are many responsibilities to which to attend, and any and all assistance is greatly appreciated.

**Call for Choir Director, Organist.** Please consider any appropriate candidate for these positions. Contact any PC member should you have a qualified candidate in mind. Many thanks to Mary Skarlatos and Christine Kerxhalli for filling in these positions in the interim.

**Call for Chanter/Psalti.** If there is anyone who is able and willing to vol-

unteer in this important function, please contact any PC member.

**Call for participation in standing Church committees.** The Parish Council invites members of the Annunciation community to participate in the following standing Committees (current members noted)

- **YOUTH:** Bill Anthis, Gus Kokkinis, Kathy Markakis
- **EDUCATION:** Toula Destounis, Juan Linares
- **STEWARDSHIP:** Eric Vangelow, LaMont Thomas, Kathy Markakis
- **FUNCTIONS:** Niki Chamberlain, Despina Georgantopoulos
- **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES/PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Alex Petro, LaMont Thomas, Calliope Monna, Niki Chamberlain, Sylvia Bauer
- **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Dean Stathopoulos, Bill Anthis

There is much work to do, so please consider joining one of the committees. If you are interested to volunteer your assistance in any of these efforts, please contact one of the Parish Council members or Alex Petro, president.

The Parish Council kindly reminds all members of the Annunciation that monthly PC meetings are open and any interested member is welcome to attend. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, at 7 PM in the upstairs Board Room.



**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

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**BAPTISMS**

- Christian Andrew, son of Andrew and Elizabeth Karlson was baptized on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Godparent is Peter Peikos.
- Kristian Vasilios, son of Sam Tavelaris and Monica Markle, was baptized on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Godparent is Olga Carpenter.
- Magdalaina Ann, daughter of Scott and Sophia Walcott, was baptized on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Godparent is Anastasia Lozier.
- George John, son of John and Maria Dembeyiotis, was baptized on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Godparents are Atanasios and Sophia Kakarantzas.
- Stratos Ashton, son of Dino Triantafilou and Sondra Carlson, was baptized on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Godparent is Peter Peikos.
- Donald Kaupelis III and Allison Dumm were married on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Kyle Edkin and Agathie Vasilioiu were married on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Matthew Hollway and Aphrodite Economides were married on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Perry Halvatzis and Helen Dimitriadis were married on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ioannis Triantafilou and Melissa Agness were married on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**DEATHS**

- Konstantinos Mihalitsas, who fell asleep unto the Lord on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Vasilios Vamvakitis, who fell asleep unto the Lord on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Stavros Gabriel Petsos, who fell asleep unto the Lord on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Konstandinos Bousdas, who fell asleep unto the Lord on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- George V. Broikos, who fell asleep unto the Lord on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**May their Memory Be Eternal**

Thank you to all for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent illness.  
**Janet Roumpapas.**

**BULLETIN SPONSORS NEEDED**

You can observe the memory of a beloved relative or friend, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or congratulate someone on an accomplishment or milestone in their lives. It costs \$100.00 and helps cover some of the costs of printing and mailing The Good News. Call the church office at 244-3377.

**WEDDINGS**

- Reza Pouria and Maria Karipidis were married on May 17<sup>th</sup>.