

VOICE

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

June - July 2026



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Fr. Gustavo Gregory Alfonso, Interim Priest
Fr. Deacon John Howard

8210 Cypress Lake Drive ~ Fort Myers, Florida 33919-5116

Telephone: (239) 481-2099 Fax: (239) 481-0504 Email: officeagoc@gmail.com

Fr. Gustavo's email: gzalfonso59@gmail.com Website: Annunciation.fl.goarch.org

NEW Parish Office Hours: Monday-**CLOSED** Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Parish Secretary: **Donna Sowers** Custodian: **Val Hernandez**

VOICE EDITOR

Fr. Gustavo Alfonso

Altar

Don Headley

Bookstore

Virginia Headley

PARISH COUNCIL

Choir

Virginia Headley, Director

Heidi Kubiak, Organist

Dance Troupe

Georgia Kline

Victoria Neskes

Lea Koltoukis

Excutive Officers:

Heidi Kubiak

President

Olympia Ruppe

Vice-President

Mike Stamatopoulos

Treasurer

Mike Greenberg

Assistant Treasurer

Louise DiStefano

Secretary

Chanter

Virginia Headley

Prosporo Bread

Doreen Turnas

Religious Education

Joanna Pastrikos

HOPE & JOY Advisors

Andrew & Joanna Pastrikos

Welcoming Committee

Stavroula Samaras

(Ministry Leader)

Visit us on Facebook

Annunciation GOC Fort Myers

Mission Statement

The mission of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Parish is to proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, and to welcome all who are seeking the truth of the Lord's presence, mercy and grace. We must focus as a family of believers in order to reach salvation in and through Jesus Christ. This sacred mission is fulfilled in the Holy Spirit by living our faith through worship, teaching, witness, outreach, service and fellowship. All parish activities will succeed if only done for the glory of God. By using our own God-given gifts of Time, Talents, and Treasures we will accomplish this divine sacred work.

Board Members:

Sundy Gulu

Stella Karras

Vasili Kourpouanidis

Art Turnas

John Xouris

Dmitry Yusin

Ladies Philoptochos

Fran Goldner

About the Cover

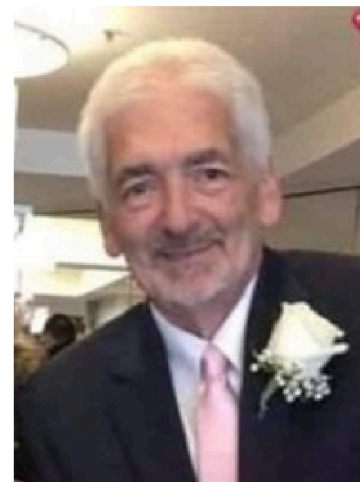
The Apostles' Fast (also known as the Peter and Paul Fast) is a major penitential season in the Orthodox Church. It honors the Apostles who fasted and prayed in preparation for spreading the Gospel. The fast begins on the Monday after All Saints' Sunday and always concludes on June 29th, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Because the date depends on Pascha, the fast's length varies significantly each year, lasting anywhere from a week to over a month. The Apostles' Fast is generally less strict than Great Lent. Fish, wine, and olive oil are generally allowed on most days. Beyond dietary restrictions, this period emphasizes spiritual preparation, almsgiving, and increased prayer. It is viewed as an opportunity to simplify our routine and focus on spiritual growth as we seek to mirror the missionary zeal of the Apostles.

Message from our Interim Priest

Christ is in our midst!

Dear Annunciation Family,

A day before we were to wrap up this edition of The Voice, we received the very sad news that our beloved brother and valuable member of our Parish Council, Mike Greenberg, had fallen asleep in the Lord. Mike was a true gentleman, a voice of reason, a welcoming presence, a caring soul who loved his family and his church community. Although his funeral services will be up north, we will offer the three-day Trisagion prayers on June 7, and the nine-day Trisagion on June 14 after Divine Liturgy for the eternal repose of his soul. He will be sorely missed. *May his memory be eternal!*



My apologies for the delay in publishing this edition – many people kept asking when we would! My thanks to Donna our church secretary for putting together most of the newsletter in a timely manner, but I was convalescing for a week after my shoulder surgery and was unable to make the final edits. Thank God the procedure was successful, I am on the road to recovery, and appreciate all your prayers.

One recent event that merits highlighting was our parish being interviewed and featured on a Greek TV 4e travelogue program! This show, hosted by Archimandrite Nicanor, has made its way through several states, visiting Greek Orthodox churches. Annunciation was one of the communities selected in their travels through Florida, and we were visited on May 1st by Fr. Nicanor and his TV crew. This was an opportunity to showcase our parish, and all who were interviewed did a wonderful job. One of the members of the TV crew confided that we were the most welcoming church they had visited! Check out the pictures in the last pages of the newsletter. Once the show is aired, we will plan a viewing here at church.

I am very joyful to report that something beautiful is happening in our beloved Annunciation community; a number of young adults have been congregating in fellowship for the past months and have requested to form a Young Adult League (YAL). The Parish Council unanimously approved and supports this ministry, and we have the blessing of our Metropolitan. We pray our group of young adults will continue to remain active and grow together in Christian love. All young adults between the ages of 18 through 35 are welcome to attend the first “official” gathering on Sunday, June 14th after the Fellowship Hour in the education building. *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 132:1)*

May God continue to bless our holy community!

Fr. Gustavo

Message from the Parish Council President

June 2026

What a beautiful season we have just experienced. Pascha fills us with joy and renews our confidence that Christ is victorious over death. During these forty days, we have celebrated that victory in a visible way by not kneeling during the liturgy. This posture is not a sign that we are praying any less reverently. Rather, it reflects the truth we proclaim in faith: that Christ has conquered death and opened to us the gift of His life. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Over the last few months, we have made improvements to our campus. Our new roof, new high impact windows and doors are installed. The courtyard plants look beautiful and soon, we will have all new doors in the courtyard. Our building and grounds committee are planning for Church entrance improvements, as was approved over the last 2 Parish Assembly meetings. Have you noticed the steps on the solea? They have been so beautifully improved for vision marking the steps! For those of you who know why this improvement was much needed, you know! Father Gustavo and Presbytera Margarita, along with all of us, are very grateful for this improvement. I take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the time, talents and treasures you all have given.

Congratulations to our Sunday Education leaders, and to the young people they have taught throughout this year! The Council is very grateful for all of you who gave of your time and talents in leading our youth in the education of our Faith. Congratulations to Sundry Gulu and Deacon John for giving of your time and talents and the education you provided to our parish members. Congratulations to the YAL who are starting up, eager to provide support to our parish and community! Let's have a great summer. Thank you Council members for all your work and support. Pray! We all know what season starts June 1st !

With love and gratitude for your support as Parish Council President,

Heidi Kubiak

Philoptochos Ministry

Hello Annunciation Family,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the warm weather and staying dry! Our year is almost ending. Our last meeting this season will be on Tuesday, June 2 at 5:30pm. It will be a dinner/meeting at Nomiki's Plakka.

We are excited to welcome three new members to our Ladies Philotochos Society. Sonia Carvelli, Stephanie Pacheco and Cheyenne Evangeline Laurance. We are so excited to have them join us! They are wonderful additions to our group. Thank you ladies!

We wrapped up our peanut butter/jelly drive. I am happy to announce we surpassed our totals from last year by almost 30 pounds! Way to go everyone! Your donations help to feed Lee County children throughout the summer months. Special thank you to Doreen for bringing this event to us.

Our next drive will be benefiting Heights Elementary School Kindergarten through 5th grade school in our area, and Fort Myers Middle Academy. We will be collecting new items including socks, underwear, and gym shoes, and back packs with or without supplies. This drive will run from June 1st through the end of July. Please see the attached flyer. Thank you to Doreen and Marilyn for chairing this drive.

I hope you all have a great summer and thank you so much for all your help. See you in September.

Your president and friend,
Fran Goldner



"JUST ONE" EMPOWERING KIDS IN NEED
THROUGH OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

HOW YOU CAN HELP & TIMELINE:

OPTION 1: Donate a new backpack filled with supplies: Suggested contents include paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, binders, highlighters, hand sanitizer, crayons and water bottles. (Feel free to add any other supplies you feel are needed for learning success).

OPTION 2: Donate monetary funds that will be used to purchase backpacks & supplies. (We will assemble them).

OPTION 3: NEW socks, shoes and underwear for boys and girls (all sizes for boys and girls thru 6th grade school age).

SPONSORED BY: Ladies Philoptochos Society / COCHAIRS: Doreen Turnas & Marilyn Necak

RECIPIENTS: Heights Elementary & Fort Myers Middle Academy

TIMELINE: Collection starts June 1st thru July 31st

WHERE: Donations can be dropped off in the church office or in the Narthex

Religious Education & Youth Ministries

As we close another wonderful Sunday School year, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and grandparents for your continued love, support, and dedication throughout the year.

On May 17, we celebrated our last day of Sunday School classes, and on May 24, we enjoyed a fun end-of-year celebration at HeadPinz with our students and families. It was a beautiful way to celebrate all the learning, friendships and memories made this year.

Your commitment to bringing the children to church and Sunday School each week is truly appreciated.

We would like to wish all of our families a safe, happy, and blessed summer! Although Sunday School classes are on break, we encourage everyone to continue bringing the children to church throughout the summer months to keep them connected in faith and fellowship.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back when our Sunday School program resumes in September!

In Christ,

Andrew & Joanna Pastrokos



Stewardship Ministry Update

June-July 2026

Thank you for your generosity. Together, with all of our Parish continuing to support one another we can come ever closer to Him, to His Word, and to His Will. Jesus invited us all to "Come and See." This invitation by Him has to do with raising awareness: we are His people carrying on His Ministry.

In the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, Stewardship is the loving giving of our time, talents, and treasures to each person's abilities, in recognition that all is a gift from Him. Our Faith is spiritual, emotional, and physical.

But we ask ourselves, "What is Stewardship at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Myers?" It means active participation in the Life of His Church: prayer, worship, and stewardship. In the Faith, it means the following:

- Giving of our Time: helping and volunteering.
- Giving of our Talents: living a life of purpose.
- Giving of our Treasures: sharing material resources.

The 2026 Stewardship Commitment Card outlines the steps. Here is what I am asking from us all:

Let us not fall short. Instead, let us all "Rise Up and Build," (Nehemiah 2:18).

Together, let us all come ever closer to support and grow His eternal Word and example throughout our Parish and community. Completing the 2026 Stewardship Commitment Card is a necessary step to "Come and See."

I look forward to being able to report by the next Parish General Assembly that we have 100% participation, and all Parish Households have completed a card. If you have already completed and submitted your card, encourage your fellow brothers and sisters. If you would like to understand why the Stewardship Pledge is so important, I encourage you to ask.

I say again, thank you for your generosity. Many hands make for light work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. In gratitude from the Stewardship Committee, may you and your loved ones be filled with the blessings of the Holy Trinity.

Vasili Kourpouanidis,
Stewardship Chair

Annunciation Stewardship, as of May 2026	
Parish Households	219
Steward Households Contributing	155 (121+34)*
AGOC Operating Budget	\$735,008
Stewardship Goal	\$185,000
Amount Pledged	\$130,116.96
Amount Contributed	\$73,837.32
Stewardship Pledge Shortfall	\$54,883.04
Stewardship Contribution Shortfall	\$111,162.68
* Stewardship Cards for 2026 is 125; Parishioners who contributed to Stewardship, although have no 2026 Card	

Vasili Kourpouanidis
Stewardship Chair
239-220-1998 / vkourpouan@icloud.com

Michael Greenberg
Stella Karras

Stewardship Committee Members
Sundy Gulu
Heidi Kubiak

Jim Karalekas
Dmitry Yusin

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June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Office Hours Closed Monday Tuesday thru Friday 10:00AM to 2:00PM	1 NO FAST	2 Philoptohos dinner/ meeting 5:30PM NO FAST	3 NO FAST	4 NO FAST	5 NO FAST	6 NO FAST
7 Sunday of All Saints Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	8 Apostles Fast Begins FAST	9 FAST	10 FAST	11 FAST	12 FAST	13 FAST
14 2nd Sunday of Matthew Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	15 FAST	16 FAST	17 Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM	18 FAST	19 FAST	20 FAST
21 3rd Sunday of Matthew Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	22 FAST	23 FAST	24 FAST	25 FAST	26 FAST	27 FAST
28 4th Sunday of Matthew Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	29 SS Peter & Paul the Holy Apostles Divine Liturgy 9:30AM	30				

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July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 FAST	2	3 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FAST	4
5 <u>5th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	6	7	8 FAST	9	10 FAST	11
12 <u>6th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	13	14	15 FAST	16	17 FAST	18
19 <u>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</u> Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	20	21	22 FAST	23	24 FAST	25
26 <u>8th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	27	28	29 FAST	30	31 FAST	

2026 ANNUNION EVENTS CALENDAR

June - July

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Closed

Tuesday thru Friday 10:00AM to 2:00PM

Monday, June 2nd - Philoptochos dinner/meeting 5:30PM

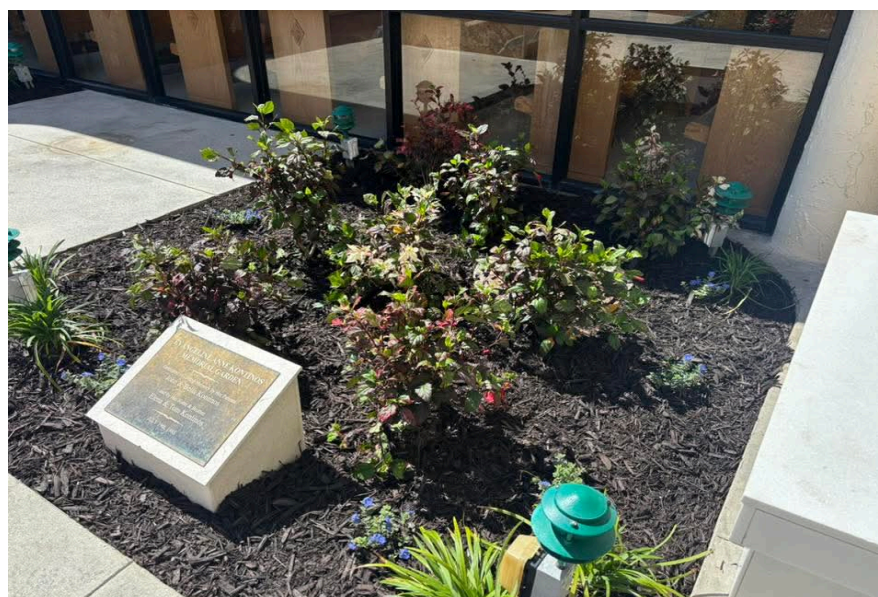
Monday, June 8th - Apostles Fast Begins

Wednesday, June 17th - Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM

Monday, June 29th - SS Peter & Paul the Holy Apostles Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

Friday, July 3rd - Parish Office Closed

Karras Beautification of our Courtyard!!!





Palm Sunday



Holy Week and PASCHA



Holy Week and PASCHA

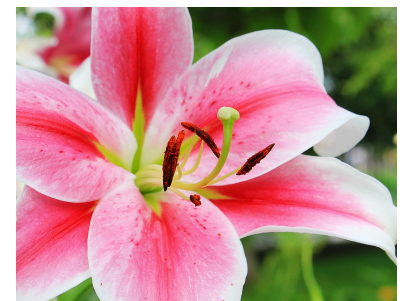
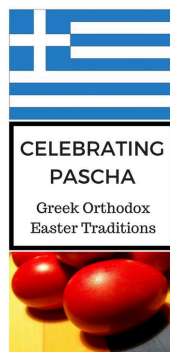


Greeters



A Big Thank you to everyone who donated Flowers and Pascha offerings.

**In total we received:
\$3,750 Pascha Offerings
\$1,315 for Flowers**



Greek Fest Appreciation Barbeque

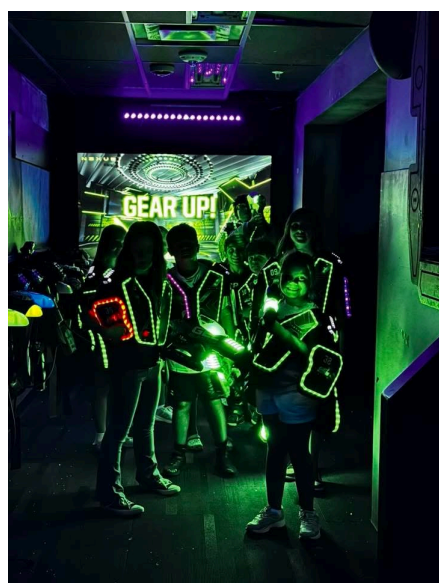


End of Year Sunday School Bowling at HeadPinz

The children, teachers, parents and grandparents celebrated the end of an incredible Annunciation GOC Fort Myers Sunday School year at HeadPinz! A huge thank you to all of our amazing teachers and dedicated parents for all of your love, support, and hard work throughout this year.

Your dedication means so much to our children and our church family. We wish everyone a wonderful and blessed summer and look forward to seeing you all back in September! Please remember to continue coming to church during the summertime as well.

Joanna & Andrew Pastrikos



Annunciation GOC Golf Tournament



ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE
 May 16, 2026 - The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club, Sanibel Island
 Thank you to the Staff, Sponsors, and Volunteers who made this possible!

Dunes Management and Staff Edgar Wilson - The Dunes CC Danan Swanson - Director of Sales & Marketing Mike Dopslaff - Director of Golf	Co-Chairs Cheryl Haught Marilyn Necak
Cash Donors / Contest Sponsors Heidi Kubiak & Family Chris Rakos - Colonola Roofing Dr. Nanette Rumsey Jaime Layne - Victory Layne Chevrolet Deacon John & Family Vassili and Sultanna Cheryl Haught Marilyn Necak Andrew Plesz - Estero CC Josh Coorware - Whisket Creek CC Doc Fords	Cash Donors / Contest Sponsors Gold Sponsor - Men's & Women's Longest Drive Contest Sponsor - Men's closest to the pin Contest Sponsor - Women's closest to the pin Cash donor Swag-bag gift items Swag-bag gift items Prize donor Estero Country Club four-some Prize donor Whiskey Creek Country Club four-some Gift Certificate
Hole Sponsors In Memoriam - Mike Martinjuk Mike Stamatopoulos Sanibel Captiva Bank La Fontanella The Haught Family Angie Zotos & Dennis Sobieski Charles Schrup III Tom Niarchos Sundy Gulu Georgia Kline & Louise DiStefano	Hole Sponsors Lady's Philoptochos Society Nick & Stella's Restaurant Charlie & Lenore Mattoff Joe Pontiff George Lakatzis Nomiki Neskes John and Elaine Howard Art & Doreen Turnas John Xouris Bucket's
Volunteers Olga Rumsas Marina Vasich JoAnne White	Volunteers Lisa Osorio Georgia Kline Louise DeStafano



Young Adult Ministry (YAL)



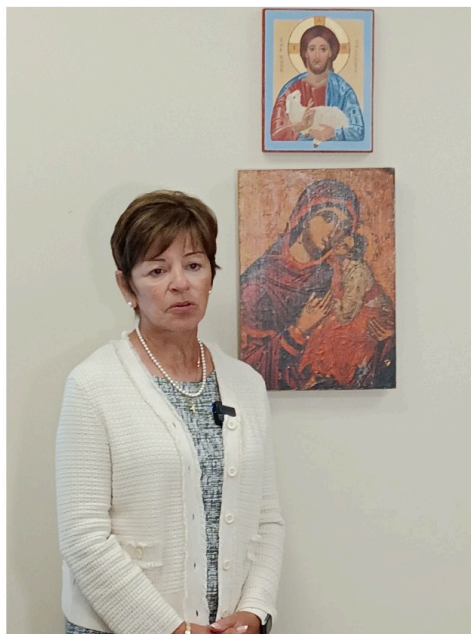
YAL members Kyle Velez, Eleni Pappas, and Cheyenne Laurance, and Philoptochos members Melpo Ganatsios and Aspasia Pappas baked cookies, muffins and ravani at Ronald McDonald House for the families of children staying at Golisano Children's Hospital.



YAL members Kyle Velez, Eleni Pappas, Kirk and Ian Rendon, Valentino Carvelli, and Matthew Gamez

Fr. Nicanor and his Crew from Greek TV 4e Visit to Annunciation Parish







On behalf of our Annunciation community, Fr. Nicanor was presented with an icon of the Annunciation and a lovely colorful watercolor with a nature scene of Southwest Florida, so he would not forget his visit to our beautiful state. Also, Patti Pavis Hanseck gifted him with a painting drawn by her late father Plato, and she told the story of how even at a ripe old age, he was involved in the church community and how he offered his paintings for church fundraising.

