



The True Vine

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church • Dayton, Ohio

January 2018

Vol. 2 • Issue 1

A Homily on the Seventh Sunday of Luke

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SYMPATHIES

Our deepest sympathies to the following families in the loss of their loved one:

To the family of +Earl D. Richards who passed away on Sunday, December 3, 2017 and to the family of +James R. Bourne who passed away on Monday, December 4, 2017. May their memory be eternal.

As I was driving home this week Tom Petty's first hit American Girl came on the radio. There is a line in the song that goes, "God it's so painful. Something so close. And still so far out of reach." Those three lines caused a minor epiphany in me in that this is often the state we find ourselves in spiritually. At our baptisms and chrismations we literally "put on Christ" and were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. While the Lord is literally so close He does at times seem so far out of reach. St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians tells us how close the Lord is when he (4:6) says, "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Daddy!'"

And in his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul offers prayers for deification when he says,

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with the might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Now, a few questions. Do we cry out to the Lord in our heart saying "Daddy, Thy kingdom come!?" Do we hear Christ crying out to His Father in our hearts saying "Abba, Daddy!?" Do we know that the fullness of God's love is waiting to penetrate every ounce of our being through the grace of the Holy Spirit that seals us? Do we come to the sacrament of confession and receive God's divine healing grace? Do we allow the sacrament of confession to heal the wounds in our minds and souls like a healing balm? God is with us and yet like Tom Petty we often say, "God it's so painful. Something so close. And still so far out of reach."

Being made in the image and likeness of God we have the breath of life flowing through us. Being baptized and christened we have put on Christ and are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Due to this, we are in a relationship with the Lord. Whether we look deep within our hearts and souls, or just scratch the surface, we know in truth if our relationship with Him is intimate or dysfunctional. We know this because He is a person. The Supreme Person. Just as we know where we stand with other people we know where we stand with Almighty God. All we have to do is make an honest assessment of our internal communion with Him.

Now, back to Tom Petty. Regretfully he once made the witless and arrogant cliché statement that "No one's got Christ more wrong than the Christians." As Christians, we know who our Savior is. His comment is what I like to call one of those mind poverty catchphrases such as "I'm spiritual but not religious." I think we can look at Mr. Petty's statement in another way though. As Christians do we misunderstand the intimacy that we are being called to with God? Quite often I think we do. St. Paul perfectly addresses the intimacy we are called to and how we achieve it when he says in his letter to the Galatians (2:20),

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

We are called to love God through faith while dying to ourselves in order for Christ to resurrect our soul's enslavement to the passions through the power and grace of the indwelling Holy Spirit. If we want Christ to live in us we must be willing to make room for Him. We must be willing to place His desires before our own disordered desires because we love Him. True love is a kenotic self-emptying where our only desire becomes how can we serve and please Christ. In paraphrasing St. John, "We must decrease, but He must increase" (3:30). Christ is the bridegroom and we are all His brides. The love we share is to be a love that transfigures every aspect of our lives and becomes the very wellspring we drink from that actualizes and manifest the immortality of love itself. Love can never die because "God is Love" (1 John 4:8).

In the world today we see love expressed as the exact opposite though. Love has become a self-serving fulfillment of the basest of passions by any means necessary. Love is expressed with the Satanic perversion that humans should "Do what thou wilt" and however they wish to do it. Love has been reduced to feeding the sexual appetite by the crudest means available and deviantly labeled a moment of so-called *celebration*. We have been duped into believing that we can use our bodies to heal our emotional despair and spiritual wounds, and thus sin enslaves us even as we are told that sin doesn't exist by Hollywood, the mainstream media, and other perverted so-called cultural elites. We have been duped by anti-Christian culturally deficient propaganda, and we often don't even realize it.

As one Christian psychologist puts it,

*"What does all of this mean, psychologically? Taking what you want—making yourself seen—having power—feeling desired—being possessed. This is all a psychological compensation for feelings of inferiority, weakness, and vulnerability. It's all an immediate way of getting something to overcome the emotional hurt of childhood insecurity. Romance, therefore is a game, a way to even the score with the emotional pains of childhood. Real love, in contrast, is not a game—it's reality raised to the level of the divine. True love is far more difficult than common (so-called) *love* because true love is given, not received—and certainly not made—and it must be given with no expectation or hope of getting anything in return."*

This psychologist nails it. True love is reality raised to the level of the divine. True love is given and not received. St. Paul fully understands this when he says in his letter to the Romans (5:6-8),

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God became a man and died for each and every one of us here today. Whatever ideas we, Tom Petty, or any other human may have about God, Christ, and Christianity, if they are not God's ideas they must be shattered. We must allow God Himself to rise internally in us and act as the great Iconoclast shattering all our false ideas, idols, lies, brokenness, perversions, weaknesses, passions, shortcomings, and sins. We must love God enough to allow Him to reveal Himself to us as He is. We don't have to say in Mr. Petty's words, "God it's so painful. Something so close. And still so far out of reach." Why? For God loves us so much that He became one of us. He is within reach. If we will only open the royal gates of our hearts and allow Him to embrace us with the "peace that surpasses understanding" (Phil 4:7) we would know this empirically. We would move beyond faith in our relationship with Him.

At the incarnation Christ our God became a man, obliterating all that mankind and the devils did to sever our internal communion with Him. The Lord is forever one with us now, and His Holy Spirit dwells in us whether we feel Him or not. He is there in our hearts wanting to share the love He has for the Father and the Son and for all of the creation itself with each and every one of us. God loved us enough to become a man and be with us forever. The real question we must all ask ourselves is are we willing to allow Him to love us as He wants to love us? His love isn't painful, nor is it far away. His self-emptying, unconditional, otherworldly, and eternal love is right here right now. The love that established the heavens and the entire cosmic creation beats and pulses in each and every one of our very own hearts. May this very divine love teach us who we are and what we are to become. May His love save us!

— Fr. Joseph

Liturgical Schedule for January

Jan. 5	6:00 pm	Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Jan. 6	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
Jan. 7	8:15 am	Matins/Divine Liturgy, Youth Sunday Vasilopita Luncheon
Jan. 14	8:15 am	Matins/Divine Liturgy
Jan. 17	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
Jan. 21	8:15 am	Matins/Divine Liturgy
Jan. 28	8:15 am	Matins/Divine Liturgy
Jan. 30	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy

Ministries and Organizations



AHEPA

The Christmas Gala on December 2 was a success this year with over 150 in attendance and everyone enjoying the music by Stigma. All of the feedback was positive including from our numerous guests from Cincinnati.

AHEPA would like to express its gratitude to all those that attended and helped prepare for this community event. With the Grace of God we look forward to planning next year's Christmas Gala. **Any comments on how to improve next year's event may be submitted to Bernie Gearon, btgearon@gmail.com**

Choir

No Choir practice on January 3.
Choir practice starts January, 10 at 6:30 pm

Catechism School

The first Sunday of every month is designated as "Youth Sunday."

Students learn about the life of the church by participating in various roles during the Divine Liturgy. They serve our Lord by greeting parishioners, assuming ushering duties, singing in the choir, leading the congregation in The Lord's Prayer, The Creed and reading The Epistle. In addition, a collection tray is passed to help defray the cost of our new books and Catechism School curricular needs. We wish to thank all of the parishioners who so generously give!

Thank you, Tina Parker!

The Catechism School wishes to thank Tina Parker for her love and dedication to our students over the many years of being the Christmas Program Director. Her programs brought much joy to the children, families and parishioners. **We wish you God's blessings as you enjoy your retirement!**

Parish Council

There is one open position to fill for the term beginning January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020. If you are interested in serving on Parish Council, please send your biography to Father Joseph no later than **Friday, January 5.**



Daughters of Penelope News: DOP membership meeting, Thursday, January 11, at 6:30 pm at The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

3rd Annual Wine Tasting

Friday, January 19, 7:00 pm
Five wines • Five pairings • Desserts • Greek coffee • Music
Admission \$30.00
Contact Thomai Bessler (937) 422-4887, or Voula Zois (937) 266-4029

Please purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a designer purse Sunday's after the Divine Liturgy. Please see the display table.

In 2018, we look forward to many opportunities for continued fellowship, philanthropy, and growth! We hope you will join us.

We look forward to hosting our annual Wine Tasting evening and shared events with the AHEPAns. We will host visitations from our District and National Officers. We will continue to supporting our youth and junior order, Maids of Athena, in shared activities and educational scholarships. We continue to support worthy causes locally such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Montgomery County Chapter and nationally such as the Penelope House: Family Domestic Violence Center.

Please visit the following links to see the wonderful work of the Buckeye District and National DOP.

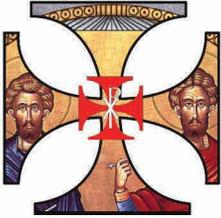
In the pictures you may recognize several from the Dayton and Middletown Community that are in leadership roles Nationally and District for DOP and AHEPA, as well as for the Maids of Athena.

www.buckeyedistrict11.org
www.daughtersofpenelope.org

DOP welcomes new members at any time! Please contact Alexis Brun, DOP Dayton Chapter President at agrkbbsng22@gmail.com or (937) 219-0463.

GOYA

Goya is starting to prepare for their basketball tournament in February. We need your help! Please buy an ad to support our tournament!! We will be selling ads in the hall after church or you can print the ad contract ad and mail it to church with attention to Goya or you can drop it off at our table on Sundays! **If you have any questions text or call Missy Fote at (937) 219-4211. Thank you for your support!**



Philoptochos: Faith in Action

Philoptochos announces \$10,000 grant

We are so blessed in our area to have an amazing local organization, Homefull, which is near and dear to our hearts. They meet the needs of our homeless community not only with housing, but also services, advocacy and education. We are pleased to announce that our **National Philoptochos has given Homefull a \$10,000 grant.** They plan to use this money to provide job training, mentoring and supervision, employment opportunities and much needed supplies and equipment. Philoptochos is proud of our partnership with Homefull and look forward to a continued relationship in the future.

January Membership Meeting

The first meeting of the year will be Thursday, January 4 at 10:00 am Please stay following the meeting to help set up for Vasilopita Sunday.

2018 Vasilopita: Sunday January 7

There will be a Silent Auction of pitas and the popular children's bidding table, and as always monetary donations are welcome.

Menu

Spinach Salad with citrus vinaigrette
Greek Roast Beef
Rice Pilaf, Capri Blend Vegetables
Rolls & Butter
Cheese cake assortment

Children's Menu

Chicken tenders, Macaroni & Cheese and Applesauce

Coffee, Lemonade, and Iced Tea

Vegetarian meal available upon request at time of ticket purchase.

All tables will have a Vasilopita.

Cost

Adults: \$12 Children: \$6

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 31.

There will not be any ticket sales the day of the event.

The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.

Reserve a table and bring the entire family.

Chairpersons for the Vasilopita:

Christa Bishop (513) 304-9128

Angela Retzios (513) 594-5485

Nadine Shamma

Become a member of Philoptochos!

Since we are kicking off our membership drive, this is a great time to bring in someone new to Philoptochos. Please let Suzanne know and we will send a note to the recipient on your behalf. It's a great way to introduce a younger church member to our great organization!

We are looking for all ladies (18 and older) willing to make a difference in the Dayton Community and beyond.

Our mission is to lessen human suffering and minister to those impoverished financially, emotionally and spiritually.

Even if you work full time, or are busy with family, there are many ways you can be active and help those in need. We communicate by email if you cannot attend meetings, you can still be informed and get involved.

Did you know:

- We are helping to maintain the donation station for Homefull (of Dayton) each month. Homefull's vision is to end homelessness.
- We have seven daytime meetings and two evening meetings per year
- Meetings last about one hour. Those who would like to stay can enjoy refreshments and socialize afterwards.
- We are already looking for corporate sponsors/donations for our annual May luncheon. Email Michelle Zois to help: matinazois@gmail.com
- Community Care Ministry raises awareness of a different charity each month and collects money or material goods to support it.
- Membership dues are only \$30. Make check out to Philoptochos and mail to: Suzanne Zonars-Hambrick 322 Kenderton Trail Beavercreek, OH 45430 Or drop it off after church during January at our membership table.

We invite you to join us today!

Donation to Homefull

If you receive a gift of new pots and pans for Christmas, you can donate your gently used pots and pans to the Donation Station at Homefull. **You can bring them to the January 4 membership meeting or contact Sandy Alex at salex142@aol.com, (937) 367-4540.**



2018 Stewardship Program



Stewardship 2018: Providing for the future, serving the present:

As we begin the new year, please make sure you have received your 2018 Stewardship packet. If you have not received or picked up your packet, they are available in the community center. When making your commitment, please keep in mind we are asking that you give your parish 3% of your net income.

The goal is to become a parish fully supported by parishioners and stewardship. Beginning next month we will publish monthly stewardship activity.

2018 Budget Expenses (excludes all fundraisers)

Archdiocese commitment/pension/liturgical expense	\$112,433
Salary and benefits	\$426,755
Office expense/church supply	\$22,500
Building maintenance/facility expense	\$157,600
Organization and Ministry Support	\$29,200
Total	\$748,488

~ 2018 ~

The list of Stewards reflects those who have made their 2018 Stewardship Commitment or contributed to their 2018 Stewardship Commitment as of **December 10, 2017**. We thank them for their generosity and loving support. We invite you to join with them and support, joyously, the ministries of the Church. You may obtain information and Stewardship Commitment Cards from the Church Office, or you can speak to a Parish Council Member or Fr. Joseph.

Dr. Fayez & Maria Abboud
Sandy Alex
Bill Alimonos
Lawrence & Susan Andrews
Ted & Helen Anton
Matt & Penny Boosalis
Doyle & Nicole Burke
Annika Burns & Bob Feldmann
Stephan Calondis
Maria Caras
Kayleigh Chomajn
Deno & Phyllis Davell
Nick Demetre

George & Vanessa Demetriades
Dr. James & Leah Derksen
Marika Dimitriou
Mari Farmakis
Bernard & Tracy Gearon Jr.
Dr. Mary Haritos
William Hutchison
Jerry & Carolyn Hypes
Michael Jannides
Sarah Jones
Mark & Cindy Keilholz
Peter & Shirley Kossoudji
Col & Mrs. John Lusa

Pete & Chris Makaritis
Chrisoula K. Morris
Renee Nicholas
Dennis & Vickie Pacilio
Maria & Vasiliki Panagouleas
William & Irene Pangos
Jared & Kate Poeppelman
John & Margie Polites
Becky Pulos
Chris & Debra Pulos
Nicholas & Charrie Regopoulos
George & Mary Saloom
Joe & Heather Saloom

Charles & Kate Scott
John & Mary Searles
Nick & Sophie Shissias
Kenya & Melissa Smith
Gregory & Jane Speros
Pete & Trina Tsolometes
Dr. John & Evanthia Valassiades
Stephanie Waszczak
Lynne Zaharako
James & Ruthann Zavakos
Nikki Zonars

Announcements

Translator Needed:

Vocalink, Inc., a local translation service, has a high need for a person or persons to translate from English to Greek for a student/family that attends Beaver Creek Schools.

This is a paid job that pays \$18-20 per hour. They currently need help on December 13 and will need help more extensively in the spring of 2018 when there are more tests to administer to the student. They may also need this person's services/expertise for parent-teacher conferences.

If you are interested, please contact Emily Hattar at (513) 543-8036 or locally at (937) 223-1415.

New Mixer Bowl and Caddies Purchased

Baking for the festival is long over but looking ahead there is a need for the mixer. Next year's baking will really speed up because of your generosity. In one day we raised \$595 to purchase a second mixing bowl and two caddies. Now, when one batch of dough is being mixed, the next batch of ingredients will be ready to go!

Looking ahead, we also need a bowl guard for the safety of those using the mixer. The cost of a guard is \$995. We already have \$300 in donations for the bowl guard. **If you would like to donate, please give a check or cash to Cindy Keilholz. Checks should be made out to Church with "mixer" on the memo line. You can also put your donation in our bookkeeper, Brandee's, mailbox folder in the hall across from the office.**

Thank you to everyone who donated.
Cindy Keilholz
(937) 974-8841, cinlamkeil@gmail.com

DAYTON ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 44th ANNUAL GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AD CONTRACT 2018

500 Belmonte Park North Dayton Ohio 45405-4797 937-224-0601

Date:
Donor Name:
Address:
Email:
Telephone:
Advertiser Signature:
Goyan Signature:

Size	Dimensions	Price	New	Same
Full Page	8" x 11"	\$150.00		
Half Page	8" x 5.25"	\$100.00		
Quarter Page	5.25" x 4"	\$60.00		
Business Card	4.0" x 2.50"	\$40.00		
Donor	Listing	\$20.00		

Ad Details: (What they want their Ad to say)

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Credit Card: (Number/Expiration Date/CVV) _____

Paypal: (jochanna@earthlink.net) _____

Check: (Payable to Dayton GOYA) _____

Cash: _____

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed No Greek School	2	3	4 10:00 am Philoptochos Membership Mtg. Athenagoras Room.	5 6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy	6 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
7 Youth Sunday 8:15 am Matins 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Communion GOYA Meeting Vasilopita Luncheon	8 Centerville/ Bellbrook 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm 5:30 Greek School Resumes (Vasilopita/ Holiday Party)	9 Centerville/ Bellbrook 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm	10 Oakwood/ Kettering 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm 6:30 pm Choir	11 Oakwood/ Kettering 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm 6:30 DOP Meeting	12 5:45 pm OPA Meeting	13
14 8:15 am Matins 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Communion	15 North Dayton/ Clayton/ Englewood 10:00 am – 1:00 pm 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm MLK Jr. Holiday, Office Closed No Greek School	16 Vandalia/Tipp City/Troy/Piqua/ Sidney 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm GAPA Off Campus Luncheon	17 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Basketball	18 Fairborn/ Beavercreek/ Xenia 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm 6:30p Parish Council	19 7:00 pm Wine Tasting	20
21 8:15 am Matins 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Communion	22 Miamisburg/ West Carrollton/ Springboro 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm 5:30 pm Greek School	23 Richmond, IN 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	24 Mason/West Chester/ Middletown/ Cincinnati 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Basketball	25 City of Dayton/ Huber Heights 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm	26	27
28 8:15 am Matins 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Communion Greek School Serve Coffee Hour	29 5:30 pm Greek School	30 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	31 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Basketball			

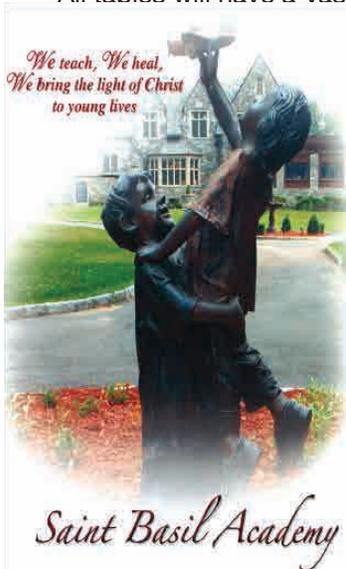
The True Vine

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
500 Belmonte Park North
Dayton Ohio 45405-4797

Philoptochos invites you to our annual Vasilopita Luncheon benefiting St. Basil's Academy

Sunday, January 7

Silent Auction of pitas and the popular children's bidding table. Monetary donations welcome
All tables will have a Vasilopita.



Cost

Adults: \$12
Children: \$6

See menu on page 4

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 31.

There will not be any ticket sales the day of the event.

Contact:

Christa Bishop (513) 304-9128
Angela Retzios (513) 594-5485

Daughters of Penelope Third Annual Wine Tasting

Friday, January 19

7:00 pm

Five wines
Five pairings
Desserts
Greek coffee
Music

Admission \$30.00

Wine selections and music provided by The Market

50/50 Raffle and Door prize raffles throughout the evening
Buy your ticket early and be entered to win a gourmet gift basket.

Contact:

Thomai Bessler (937) 422-4887
Voula Zois (937) 266-4029

