

## OCW BOARD 2023-2024

### PRESIDENT

Sandy Menhorn (Annunciation) 330-354-7792

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Sandy Graham 1st VP (St. Elia) 330-775-2963  
Judge Kathryn Michael 2nd VP (St. George) 330-338-7800

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Jane Malackany (St. Nicholas) 330-478-0026

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Deborah Morgan (Presentation of Our Lord) 330-858-3162

### TREASURER

Susan Evanoff (St. Nicholas) 330-412-9192

### HISTORIAN

Ann Fry (St. Thomas) 330-714-9844

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Nikki Bober (Annunciation) 330-409-3552

### LAY ADVISOR

Nancy Studebaker (Annunciation) 330-655-9638

### SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. James Waltenberger (St. Thomas) 234-716-2770

### OCW REPRESENTATIVES

#### Annunciation

Gena Hallaman 234-466-7789

#### St. Elia

Mary Magensky 330-753-9212

#### St. George

Linda Shaheen 330-983-9578

#### St. Nicholas

Pat Gorsuch 330-658-6225

#### Presentation of Our Lord

Karen Pasco 330-671-0550

#### St. Thomas

Barbara Alexander 330-962-6835

## 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

### *Welcome Tea*

Presentation Of Our Lord Orthodox Church, Akron

2:00—4:00 pm

"Women in Orthodoxy"

Speaker: Fr. James Waltenberger

St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Akron

**Tuesday, October 3 thru November 5, 2023**

### *Book Study*

St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Akron

10:00 am— 12 noon

TBD

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

### *Mini Retreat with Continental Breakfast*

St. Elia Orthodox Church, Akron

10:00am — 12:30 pm

"Stump the Clergy"

**Monday, March 18, 2024**

### *Great Lent Begins, Clean Monday*

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

### *Sunday of Orthodoxy*

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

### *Lenten Retreat with Luncheon*

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore

10:00 am—3:00 pm

Speaker: Fr. Barnabas Powell

Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Greek Orthodox Church

Cumming, Georgia

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

### *Pascha*

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

### *St. Irene Feastday, Our Patron Saint*

St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Akron

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Memorial for Deceased Members

Covered Dish Luncheon & Meeting

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF THE AKRON AREA



For the purpose of uplifting our awareness to Christ and the Church, of working for the spiritual well-being of our parishes as a spiritual force and representation in the community of Akron, of answering the call for a greater dimension of understanding in our personal lives.

## TROPARION OF ST. IRENE — TONE 4

O Jesus, your lamb Irene,  
cries out to you with great love;  
“O my bridegroom, I long for you.  
In great pain, I am crucified with you  
and in baptism I am buried with you.  
I suffer for your sake in order  
to reign in you, I die for you in order  
to live in you. Accept me  
as an immaculate victim, since I am  
immolated for your love.”  
Through her intercession  
O merciful one, save our souls!



## Kontakion of St. Irene — Tone 3

O virginal Irene, you adorned yourself  
with the splendors of virginity  
and so became all beautiful  
in your struggle;  
you were dyed with the blood  
you shed for Christ  
and so became all-pleasing to God;  
wherefore you received  
the prize of glory from your creator.

## A Brief History . . .

More than fifty years have passed since the inception of Orthodox Christian Women of the Akron Area. In the early 1970's, the need for Orthodox Christian representation developed on Akron's Interfaith Steering Committee. Church Women United asked **Presvytera Zafera Bartz** to represent the Orthodox faith. Her involvement on this committee led to her chairing the Second Annual Interfaith Workshop. **Christine Shantz** of Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church co-chaired with Orthodox women hosting the event at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on October 13, 1971.

The October 1971 Interfaith event proved to be very successful, but more importantly, the desire and need for continued Orthodox fellowship surfaced. It was determined that this particular Orthodox women's group should not be a social or money-making organization, but one to reinforce spiritual growth and promote fellowship. The planning meetings began on March 15, 1972, at Annunciation. Eleven meetings followed at the various churches and at **Sena Nakeff's** home.

Original committee members included **Katherine Kyriakides, Pauline Adams, Ann Deralas, and Helene Patitsas** of Annunciation; **Violet Tomi Leathers** and **Christine Shantz** of Presentation of Our Lord; **Mary (John) Bezbatchesko, Mary (Michael) Bezbatchesko, Louise Mojzer** and **Olga Hawranick** of St. Nicholas; and **Sena Nakeff** and **Ann Kormushoff** of St. Thomas. **Fr. Nicholas Craciun** of Presentation of Our Lord and **Fr. George Bartz** of Annunciation offered spiritual support.

The first General Meeting was held January 28, 1973, at Annunciation. The bylaws were presented and approved. On April 1, 1977, Orthodox Christian Women selected Saint Irene to be its patron saint. Each year, Orthodox Christian Women strives to plan yearly events to enrich the spiritual life of the Orthodox community.

## Past Presidents

\*Sena Nakeff (St. Thomas) 1972-73, 1973-74  
Maria Murray (Annunciation) 1974-75  
Penny Van Doros (Annunciation) 1975-76  
MaryAnn West (St. Nicholas) 1976-77  
\*Mary O'Shanick (St. Mary) 1977-78  
\*Frances Poulos (Annunciation) 1978-79, 1979-80  
\*Luba Repasky (St. Nicholas) 1980-81  
MaryLou Chelovitz (St. Nicholas) 1981-82  
\*Flora Grossmayer (Presentation) 1982-83  
Regina Salloum (St. George) 1983-84  
Pat Gorsuch (St. Nicholas) 1984-85  
Pat Long (Presentation) 1985-87  
\*Pauline Adams (Annunciation) 1987-89  
\*Marcella Vasilopoulos (Annunciation) 1989-91  
\*Neddie Vangeloff (St. Elia) 1991-93  
\*Olga Perch (St. Thomas) 1993-94  
Pat Gorsuch (St. Nicholas) 1994-96  
Pauline Proctor (Annunciation) 1996-98  
Florence Lambo (St. Elia) 1998-2001  
\*Joanne Theodore (St. Thomas) 2001-2003  
\*Olga Yogmour (Annunciation) 2003-2005  
Martha Slanta (St. Nicholas) 2005-2008  
\*Ergene Marnelos (St. George) 2008-2009  
Diamond Marcum (Annunciation) 2010-2013  
Nikki Bober (Annunciation) 2013-2015  
Cindy Spanos (Annunciation) 2015-2017  
Sandy Graham (St. Elia) 2017-2019  
Nikki Bober (Annunciation) 2019-2021  
Sandy Menhorn (Annunciation) 2021-2025  
\*Deceased



## Supports . . .

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers  
International Orthodox Christian Charities  
Project Mexico  
Monasteries: Holy Dormition, Transfiguration,  
Nativity of the Theotokos, Marcha,  
St. Gregory of Palamas, St. John the Theologian  
Children's Hospital Tree Festival