

## Parishioner of the Year Award Winners



Irene and Daphne, two loving sisters and life-long Parishioners, came to the Annunciation Church in Newburyport as children, with their parents and grandparents – a revered founding family of the Annunciation Parish, which was established nearly 100 years ago.

They started in Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, became Sunday School teachers themselves, as well as long-time, passionate members of the Greek Ladies Aid Society, eventually holding the office of President, VP, and others.

Daphne served two terms on the Parish Council, co-chaired the Greek Food Festival for two years, spent over 15 years beautifully decorating the Church and Epitaphion during Holy Week, and also volunteered her time serving the less fortunate in our community, through our Parish's philanthropic St. Basil's soup kitchen and ministry.

When their beloved Church building burned to the ground 30 years ago, Irene and Daphne organized raffles and other fundraisers – to raise money, which helped the committed Annunciation community construct a new Church building in the same spot in downtown Newburyport.

Irene, married at the Annunciation Church, is the proud mother of two children, Nicholas, Jr. and Jason – and the loving Yia-Yia of two grandchildren, Alexis and Nicholas III.

Both Irene and Daphne remain highly involved in the running of our Church – including active participation in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee. On top of that – they help prepare food, and spend long hours, for 9 days in the hot summer sun, selling those delicacies at our “gyro cart”, with all proceeds going directly to the reduction of our Church mortgage debt.

Their grandparents, Harry & Panayiota Fotos, forefathers of the Annunciation Church in Newburyport, helped to establish their strong faith. I think you will all agree – Irene and Daphne built on their ancestors' legacy. These two pillars of our Church – are extremely worthy recipients of our 2017 Laity Ministry Award.