

“Let us cheerfully begin the season of Lent, and undergo the spiritual struggles. Let us purify and cleanse our souls and bodies. As we fast from foods, let us also abstain from giving in to any of the passions, and instead delight in the virtues of the Spirit. May we persevere in them with love, and then be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and to celebrate holy Pascha with spiritual joy.”

- *Sticheron from the Great Vespers of Clean Monday*

Do you have an email address??

If you still receive a paper version of this newsletter but have an email address...help us protect the environment (and save costs). Email the office (office@agocwi.org) and let us know we can add you to the email list!



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Looking for Information?

Flyers, announcements, advertisements are posted on bulletin boards in the Church Hall. If you see something you like? Make a copy!

Meeting minutes and budget reports are posted monthly following Parish Council meetings. Want more? Ask! Have a complaint? Be prepared to discuss solutions and volunteer to help!!

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Tom Cameron, Parish Council President tscameron52@gmail.com

Parish Council Officers: Georgiana Wilton, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Scott Storck & Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurers. **Members:** Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell Belkin, Conn Choles, Dori Hosek, Jim Katsihtis, Mike Smith, Nick Topitzes. **Alternates:** Maria Molzahn, Carol Griskavich.

Mid-winter greetings! After a challenging first half of February, thoughts are turning toward Lent and spring.

The Parish Board is currently working on a big project for Metropolitan Nathaneal, a church-wide survey called the Baseline Initiative. As the new leader of the Diocese, Metropolitan Nathanael is looking to gather current and historical information about the 58 parishes in the diocese.

“The best way to prepare for the future is to have an objective and accurate picture of where we were in the past, and where we are today. To this end, the Baseline Committee seeks to collect and analyze fundamental information about the parish demographics, ministries, sacramental life and basic finances,” says His Eminence Metropolitan Nathan.

According to His Eminence, the information gathered will improve understanding the current state of the Metropolis and also will provide important and useful information for the Metropolis of Chicago Strategic Planning Process.

Completed surveys are due March 4, 2019. We are currently taking bets on how many of the 58 parishes meet that deadline! Based on great work by a number of people, we should be on time. Stay tuned!

Blessings to you all,

Tom Cameron
AGOC Parish Board President

FORSYTE ENDOWMNET

Bruce Hansen, bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com

The Endowment has been established! On June 15 the church made its first \$100,000 investment in Vanguard mutual funds, establishing the Forsyte endowment for the long-term financial stability of AGOC. Our plan is to deposit a total of \$500,000 over the next two years.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Patti Cameron, President pcameron@tds.net 608-219-1659

National Obligations:

- Orthodox Christian Missions- \$100
- Support a Mission Priest- \$100
- Hellenic College/Holy Cross Cross Lenten Event – Veneration of the Holy Cross: \$100

Coffee Hour Update:

- We could always use some additional hosts for coffee hour. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Patti C at 608-219-1659 or email. Please consider this hospitality ministry of our church! This is a good way for new parishioners to connect with others in our congregation.
- Please refer to the coffee hour check list posted in the kitchen for the duties of coffee hour hostesses. Please remember to: Turn off the coffee pot, the gas lines to the ovens and the dishwasher along with wiping the tables and – a new task - take out the trash to the dumpsters in the parking lot – this is a good task to recruit a younger or stronger person to help out. If you have problems, please let me know.

Local Activities:

Vasilopita Dinner: The delicious Greek Chicken meal along with the two beautiful Ethnic Gift Baskets and the tray passed after the Divine Liturgy raised over \$1,800 for St. Basil's Academy.

Midwinter Luncheon Report: 56 women of all generations came together on a wintry Saturday afternoon in early February to enjoy the warm company of others, feast on the delicious Greek smorgasbord provided by Freska, exchange treasures, and provide funds for two worthy local non-profits in the Madison area. This year we voted to donate \$200 each to the UW Children's Hospital and Mentoring Positive.

Grace Episcopal Homeless Meal: Tuesday, January 29th proved to be a frosty Wisconsin night and our dedicated volunteers cooked, transported and served the evening meal to over 200 cold, hungry souls.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, March 1st - 8:30-11:00 - World Day of Prayer sponsored by Church Women United at our church.

We will need men & women to help host & participated in this event. Please contact Helene if you are able to help: 608-238-5342.

- Sunday, March 17th - Greek Independence Day Dinner and Program after the Divine Liturgy
- Thursday, April 4th - 6:30 - General Meeting at the home of Maria Heide

Membership:

All women of the church are invited to become members of our Philoptochos Chapter. The membership fee is \$21/yr. Please consider joining and becoming a part of a dynamic, creative, hard working group of women encompassing all generations. The membership form is attached to this newsletter or you can find copies on the round table at the church entrance. Membership forms are due on April 1st.

Philoptochos Board and Elections Committee: This is an election year! Elections this May.

Patti Notes and Jane Schirmer have offered to be our elections committee. If you have been a member for at least a year, you qualify to be on the Philoptochos Board. Board members serve a 2-year term. They are expected to chair a major activity and/or be an officer. Once the Board is elected, officers will be elected at a separate Board meeting.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

nbriamas@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

WHEN: Sunday, April 7, 2019 3-6:00 p.m.
WHERE: CUNA Mutual Group 5810 Mineral Point Road



Join The River Food Pantry at the 4th Annual Feed the Need, a culinary experience exclusively featuring Madison Originals restaurants, as well as local breweries and wineries.

Raise a glass. Raise spirits. Raise awareness.

With generous support from our partners:



EARLY BIRD TICKETS: \$40 EACH, AVAILABLE FEB. 1 AT RIVERFOODPANTRY.ORG

GRACE EPISCOPAL HOMELESS SHELTER

David Giffey, barnowl1941@gmail.com

Seven faithful volunteers from Assumption prepared, delivered and served a hot meal to 172 homeless men on Tuesday, January 29, at the Porchlight Inc. homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal Church, on the square in Madison. Volunteers included: Ilektra Kolokouri, Jane Schirmer, Korinna Hansen, Mike Smith, Scott Spevacek, Peter Cameron and Tom Cameron.

We are scheduled to prepare and serve a meal on four more Tuesdays during 2019. The dates are: April 30, July 30, October 29, and December 31. If you wish to help out please contact Ilektra Kolokouri or David Giffey.

The number of guests at the homeless shelter is always high during winter months when temperatures are low. But January 29 was in the middle of bitter cold temperatures of minus 30 degrees, plus wind chill. Schools, businesses, and events were canceled around Wisconsin, but the volunteer crew worked to provide food and warmth to homeless people. The number of homeless in need of food and warmth is very high this year in Madison.

Porchlight's emergency shelter operates with the support of 70 volunteer organizations and 1,200 people who provide two meals every day of the year to over one thousand individuals. A team of volunteers from Assumption Church has worked at the homeless shelter since it was founded in 1984. Since then, volunteers like those from Assumption at the men's shelter have prepared and served more than 25,000 meals to homeless men.

The Men's Drop-In Shelter is the only emergency shelter for single men experiencing homelessness in Dane County. In 2017, shelter services were provided to 1,153 men who were experiencing homelessness, serving approximately 80 men on a nightly basis in the summer and 150 to 190 men during the winter months. When demand becomes higher in the cold season, there are three shelter sites available: Grace Episcopal Church, Saint John's Lutheran Church, and First United Methodist Church.

The services for homeless people are provided by Porchlight through contributions. You can learn about Porchlight and make a donation through the website <http://porchlightinc.org>

We are grateful to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church volunteers whose generosity and willingness to serve are examples for everyone. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jenny Josheff, Director, agocssdirector@gmail.com, Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor

Sunday School would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our students. Parents/Guardians, please make sure that you have touched base with your child's teacher regarding emergency contact information. The Sunday School directors/teachers do not have access to the church database and need this information in case of weather closures and other emergencies.

HELP WANTED: We are still looking for a director and teachers for Sunday School. Please contact agocssdirector@gmail.com or contact me or Father Michael if you are interested.

You can find us on facebook: www.facebook.com/agocwi.SpiritualLearningCntr/ and our temporary webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/assumptiongocsundayschool/home>.

GREEK SCHOOL

Ilektra Kolokouri, ilektra.kol@gmail.com

The Greek school along with Philoptochos are organizing a luncheon and the greek school students will present a program for the celebration of the Greek Independence Day - March 25th.

The event will take place after the Sunday liturgy in the social hall on March 17. Everyone is invited to support Greek school and the Philoptochos fundraising efforts.

Greek teachers:

Ilektra Kolokouri-Anagnostopoulos
Andreas Kyrvassilis
Alexandra Anagnostopoulos
Eleni Patenaude (substitute teacher)

SPIRITUAL MEETINGS

Peli Galiti, pegaliti@gmail.com

The dates of the meetings in March will be Thursday the 14th and 28th.

Women's spiritual meeting have started again after a winter break. This season of Great Lent is the time for preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. This is a time of renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with our faith's teaching. It is a time of joyfulness and purification. Most of all, it is the time of return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. All women are invited to walk together, as a parish, the path of spiritual rejoicing.

Let us begin the Lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and His holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing (Vespers Hymns of the first service of Great Lent).

CHURCH WEBSITE

Lainey Skoumbouris, laney0220@yahoo.com

The church website is set-up for private login to access the monthly newsletters and are meant for Church members only, not the public. Church members can read the newsletter on the website, but you must create an account before you can view it. Log onto the website and click on "Newsletter" on the side-bar <http://www.agocwi.org/registration-required/>, or "login" on the main menu <http://www.agocwi.org/login/>; it will direct you to sign up. If you need help, have questions or something isn't working in the registration contact me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

J and M Home Helpers

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



***Call Mike at (608) 516-9188
and John at (608) 575-1014
today!***

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 24 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Triodion Begins Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	1 Church Women United 8:30 – 11:00 am	2 Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
3 Judgement Sunday - Meatfare Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	4	5	6 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	7	8 Forgiveness Great Vespers 6:00 pm	9 Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
10 Forgiveness Sunday - Cheese-fare Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	11 Great Lent Begins – Clean Monday	12	13 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm	14 Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	15 1 st Salutations Service 6:00 pm	16 Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
17 Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Icon Procession Greek Independence Day Dinner and Program	18	19	20 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm	21	22 2 nd Salutations Service 6:00 pm	23 <i>Russian Orthodox</i> Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
24 Gregory Palamas Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	25 Annunciation Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	26	27 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm	28 Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	29 3 rd Salutations Service 6:00 pm	30
31 Sunday of the Holy Cross Orthros – 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am			6 Choir Practice 7:00 pm			

March – April 2019 Liturgies and Services

March 2

1st Saturday of the Souls

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Prosforo: Jane S

March 3

Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Prosforo: Jane S

Coffee Hour: (Group 7) Georgia M,
Georgiana W, Lena G

March 8

Forgiveness Great Vespers 6:00 pm

March 9

2nd Saturday of the Souls

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Prosforo: Ilektra A

March 10

Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Prosforo: Ilektra A

Coffee Hour: (Group 8) Nikki S,
Aleksandra T, Jenya B, Peli G

March 11

CLEAN MONDAY Great Lent Begins

March 13

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Jenny G

March 15

1st Salutations to the Theotokos
6:00 pm

March 16

3rd Saturday of the Souls

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

March 16, cont.

3rd Saturday of the Souls

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5

Prosforo: Jenny G

March 17

1st Sunday in Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy / Procession of the Icons

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Prosforo: Cathy G

Coffee Hour: (Group 9) Patti C,
Violetta C, Michelle B

Greek Independence Day Dinner and Program

March 20

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Cathy G

March 22

2nd Salutations to the Theotokos
6:00 pm

March 24

2nd Sunday in Great Lent St. Gregory Palamas

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Prosforo: Tom C

Coffee Hour: (Group ?)

March 25

Annunciation

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

Prosforo: Tom C

March 27

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Georgia M

March 29

3rd Salutations to the Theotokos
6:00 pm

March 31

3rd Sunday in Great Lent Sunday of the Holy Cross

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Prosforo: Georgia M

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Coffee Hour: (Group 10) Margo S,
Jenny J, Betty L

April 3

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Anna F

April 5

4th Salutations to the Theotokos
6:00 pm

April 7

4rd Sunday in Great Lent St. John Climacus

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Prosforo: Anna F

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Coffee Hour: (Group 11) Kerry M,
Barb K, Dori H

April 10

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Elene P

April 12

Akathist Hymn
6:00 pm

April 14

5th Sunday in Great Lent St. Mary of Egypt

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Prosforo: Elene P

Coffee Hour: (Group 12) Maria H,
Draga G, Gabriela C

April 17

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

Prosforo: Korinna H



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

For Immediate Release

For More Information:

Chris Varones

312-213-3887

chris.varones@aesopgroup.com

Metropolis of Chicago Forms Young Professional Board to Advise the Metropolitan and the Metropolis Council

CHICAGO, IL, December 5, 2018 – The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago today announced an open invitation for young adults and emerging leaders, ages 21-40, to apply for the newly created Young Professional Advisory Board of the Metropolis.

The new initiative, conceived by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, is intended to be an opportunity for young adults to participate in a leadership capacity for the benefit of the Metropolis.

Once established, the Metropolitan and Members of the Metropolis Council will rely on 24 individuals chosen from across the Metropolis for advice, consultation and feedback related to the business of the Metropolis. Advisory Board Members will participate in monthly meetings to discuss and review the initiatives of the Metropolis. In addition, four members of the Board will serve as ex officio non-voting members of the Metropolis Council and will participate in its regular meetings. All members will serve a two-year term.

“Diversity of opinion is important to us and we expect to benefit greatly from the creativity, perspective and energy of young adults of the Metropolis,” His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael said. “Since members of the Advisory Board will have my attention, and that of the Metropolis Council, I am confident this initiative will help build several, strong bridges between the current and future generations of leaders of the Metropolis.”

The formation of the Young Professional Advisory Board follows the launch of the Roundtable program, which is designed to foster a long-term dialogue between Greek Orthodox young adults and the Metropolitan.

Young adult parishioners of the Metropolis interested in applying for the Young Professional Advisory Board can [apply here](#). Questions and comments can be emailed directly to YAL Chicago Board at yalchicago@gmail.com.

About the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

Tracing its roots back to 1923, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is the diocese of Greek Orthodox faithful in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin as well as northern Indiana and southeastern Missouri, consisting of 58 parishes and two monastic communities. The Metropolis is one of nine Metropolises in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. The central offices of the Metropolis are located in Chicago, Illinois. For more information, please visit: <http://chicago.goarch.org>.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

For Immediate Release

For More Information:

Chris Varones

312-213-3887

chris.varones@aesopgroup.com

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Initiates Search for Executive Director

ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL, February 7, 2019 – The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago today announced that it is accepting applications for the new position of Executive Director. Interested candidates can find a detailed job description [here](#).

Reporting directly to Metropolitan Nathanael, the Executive Director will be responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of the Metropolis. Other key areas of responsibilities include development, communications and marketing, and community outreach.

“Made possible by a Hellenic Foundation matching grant, adding an Executive Director to our team is an important step in promoting our mission and ushering in a new era of growth and change at the Metropolis,” said His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. “The Executive Director will introduce dedicated, professional skills and capabilities to address the Metropolis’ needs and ensure our effectiveness in key functional areas.”

Metropolitan Nathanael noted that while the Metropolis currently has a committed team of clergy and lay volunteers, the full-time Executive Director will help bring a new level of accountability and responsibility.

With the assistance of expert advisors, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael said he will be personally involved in the review of applications and interview of candidates in order to select the most qualified individual. The search will be nationwide in scope.

About the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

Tracing its roots back to 1923, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is the diocese of Greek Orthodox faithful in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin as well as northern Indiana and southeastern Missouri consisting of 58 parishes and two monastic communities. The Metropolis is one of nine regions in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. The general offices of the Metropolis are temporarily located in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. For more information, visit www.chicago.goarch.org. To sign up for news from the Metropolis, visit: <http://chicago.goarch.org/signup>

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SATURDAY OF THE SOULS COMMEMORATION FORM

Please list the baptismal names (first name only, no nicknames please) of departed who you wish to be commemorated at the Saturday of the Souls services on March 2, March 9 and March 16, 2019. Please write names legibly.

Kollyva should be brought to the Church prior to the beginning of Divine Liturgy.

+ MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

The New AGOC Church Directory...

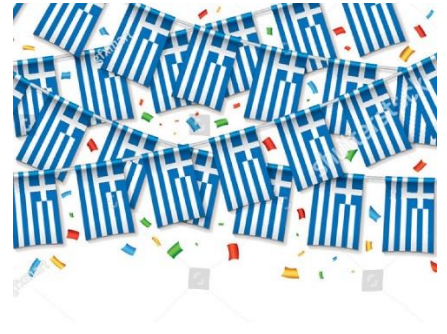
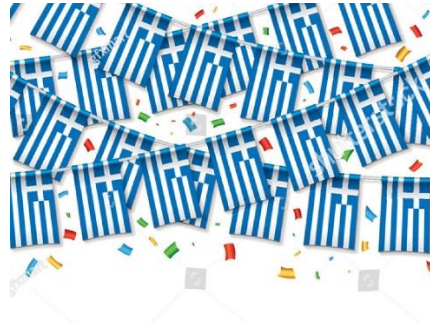
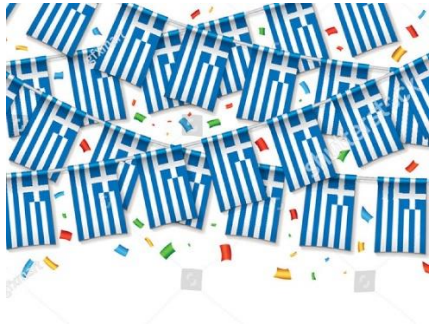
Is in the process of layout and will be sent in to LifeTouch for printing sometime during the second half of March 2019!

At that time, all AGOC parishioner contact information will be sent in for inclusion in the new directory!

*****If you wish NOT to have your contact information included in the new directory, please let Fr. Michael know this by Friday, March 15, 2019*****

If you are good with having your contact information in the new church directory, there is no need to contact Fr. Michael. Your contact information will be included!

Thank You!



The Ladies Philoptochos Society
and our
Greek School Children

Invite our parish to a
*Greek Independence Day
Celebration*
on
Sunday, March 17, 2019
immediately following the service.

Enjoy a traditional Greek Plaki fish meal while listening to the Greek School children share songs and poems about the Greek Independence.

Adults: \$15.00 (traditional Plaki fish meal)
Children: \$5.00 (pasta with sauce)

The event benefits those in need in Greece and Cyprus.
Please make checks out to Philoptochos.

Benefit for Greece
Raffle

***4 NIGHT GETAWAY AT SUNSET
NOOK COTTAGE ON GREEN LAKE***

\$1,000 VALUE

***One Ticket \$20 / Three Tickets \$50
DRAWING AT GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER ON
MAR 17TH***

****NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN****

***FOR MORE INFO
escapetogreenlake.com***

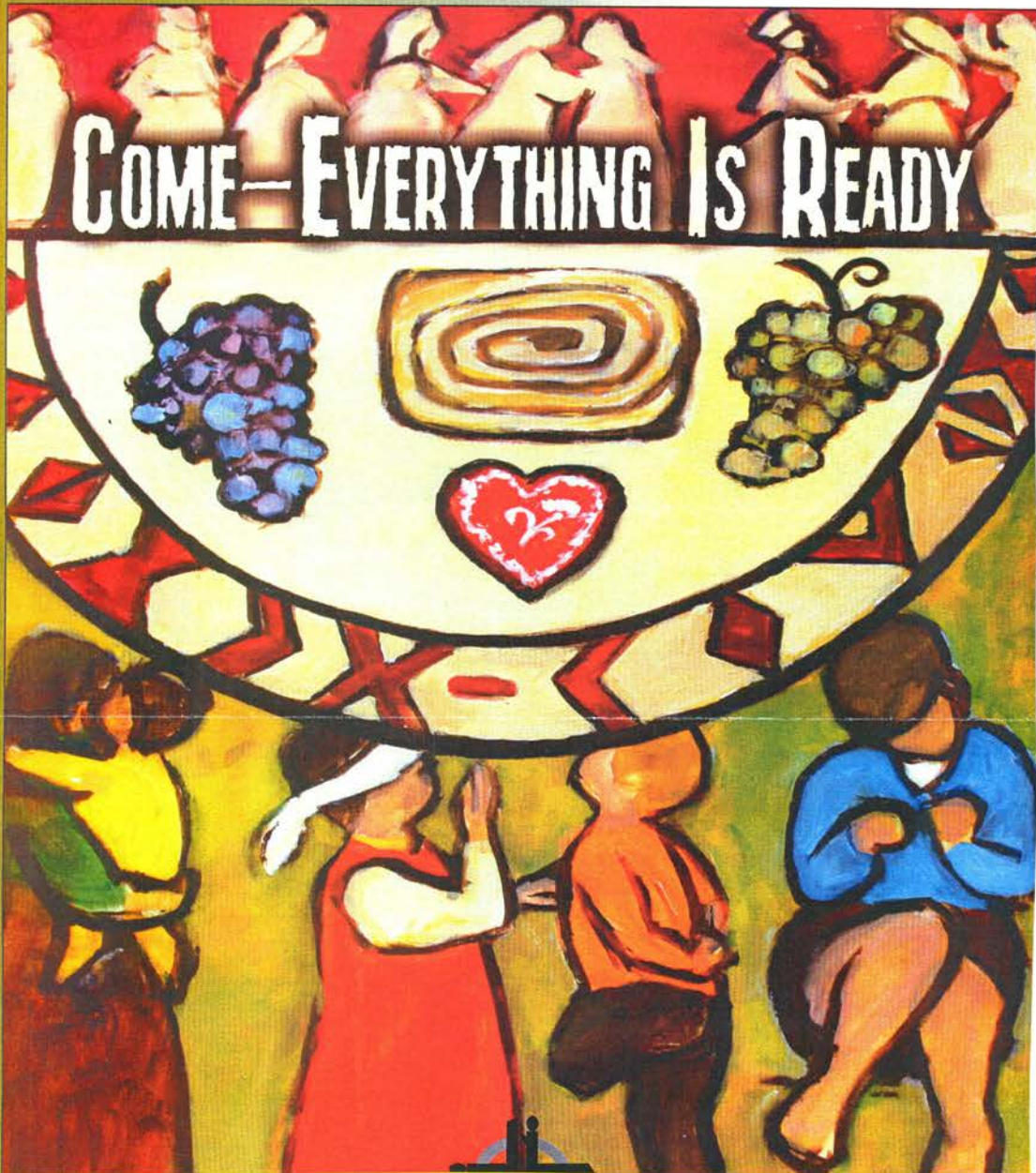
make checks payable to Philoptochos

***Raffle tickets will be sold during coffee hour on
Sundays, March 10 & 17th***

March 1, 2019
World Day of Prayer

Written by the WDP Committee of Slovenia

Focus on
Slovenia



Come Help Us

Celebrate with Women

Around the World - Friday March 1st
At Assumption Greek Orthodox

Church Women United
in Madison

9 am Gathering, Coffee, Treats
9:30 Welcome + Announcements
10 am Celebration: World Day
of Prayer
Men Welcome —

11 North St
Madison WI
Parking limited —
Please try to Carpool