

“Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. Your Cross, O Christ, we venerate, and Your holy Resurrection we praise and glorify. For You are our God; apart from You we know no other; we call upon Your name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection; for having endured the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death.”

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!



Inside...

The President's Perspective

Philoptochos News

Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter

Sunday School

Spiritual Meetings

Church Website

Announcements

Calendars

MUNCH Program Information

Holy Land Pilgrimage

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 Katsiitis, Mike Smith, Nick Topitzes. **Alternates:** Maria Molzahn, Carol Griskavich.

Spring is finally here! I hope you all had a blessed Lent and Pascha.

The Parish Board has been busy this year, with a number of new projects. Some of them include:

- **Our new security system** - The cameras are working beautifully. The fobs are working reliably, and have virtually eliminated false alarms. Thanks to Nick Topitzes taking the lead on this project.
- **Parking lot renovation** - the property line wall in the parking lot is falling down. This is a big project. We are looking at bids to replace the wall, remove the old trees, erect a fence, and repave all or part of the parking lot. If enough details fall into place, this could be finished before Greekfest. Thanks to Joe Schirmer, Mike Smith and Conn Choles for their efforts in scheduling bids and organizing details.
- **Narthex project** - Nancy Wolfe and Dori Hosek (two of our artistic members) are presenting a plan to update and improve the look of the Narthex.
- **Kitchen** - the kitchen improvements are working well. The dishwasher is fast and efficient.
- **New Icons** - Three beautiful new icons have already been installed. David Giffey is currently working on the large icon for the lobby wall. These icons are amazing works of art. Thank you, David.
- **Energy Audit** - improving the energy efficiency of the church critically important. Joe Schirmer has taken the lead on this project. Joe organized replacement of the basement lights with efficient LED bulbs. He is currently working on a plan to upgrade the old, inefficient fluorescent bulbs and fixtures in the sanctuary. Joe also brought in two local solar companies to evaluate the church for solar panels. Lastly, we are working to get the church's 5 thermostats upgraded and coordinated to heat and cool more efficiently.

As you see, your board is busy with projects to improve and maintain the church. Thanks to everyone for your work and dedication.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

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

Lena Giakomopoulos, Vice President; Maria Heide, Treasurer; Sue Soloninka, Secretary; Jenny Glatch, Corresponding Secretary

National Obligations:

- 75th Anniversary Founders Fund \$100
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship \$100 + End of Year Care Bags for OCF Madison

Coffee Hour Update:

- We could always use some additional hosts for coffee hour. If you would like more information, contact Patti C at 608-219-1659 or email me. Please consider this hospitality ministry of our church! This is a good way for new parishioners to connect with others in our congregation.

- **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.

Local Activities:

Election of new Board and Officers for the 2019-2021 term

Spiritual Exercises - May 2nd & 16th Spiritual Exercises with Peli

Book Study - May 23rd: *Nearly Orthodox*, by Angela Doll Carlson. at church Hall.

Holy Pascha: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Lent and Holy Pascha celebration.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, May 9th: *Board elections 6:30 pm in the church hall. All members are encouraged to come.*

Sunday, May 12th: Oath of Office for newly elected Board members after the Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 18th: *Metropolis bimonthly meeting at St. Iakovos Center*

Sunday, May 19th: Board meeting where officers for the 2019-2020 term will be elected.

Thursday, June 6th – Spring Social – Elene P and Sue S

The New Church Directory is almost completed. We are waiting on Life Touch Company to finish formatting it. A big thank you goes to Barb Vardalas who spent numerous hours working on the layout with the photos at the beginning of the book as well as entering all the contact information of all of our parishioners. This was a monumental task and it is greatly appreciated! Thank you Barb!!

River Food Pantry: See their website - info@riverfoodpantry.org

Philoptochos has pledge this year to help cover the cost of one week of MUNCH lunches; that cost is \$4,300.00. A tray was passed on Palm Sunday to offset this cost and \$620.00 was collected. Thank you so much for your generosity. You can also help by donating food for the MUNCH program.

MUNCH Food Drive. Please bring the following food items & place in bins provided at church entrance: fruit juice boxes, fruit snacks, granola bars, nuts and seeds, popcorn, raisins etc for bag lunches. Fresh fruits are also requested.

GRACE EPISCOPAL HOMELESS SHELTER

David Giffey, barnowl1941@gmail.com

Assumption Volunteers at Homeless Shelter for 35 Years

Two days after Pascha, on April 30, volunteers from our church community once again prepared and served a hot meal to about 90 homeless men at the drop-in shelter in Grace Episcopal Church on the square in Madison.

We have been doing this for 35 years, since the first homeless shelter opened in 1984. Our turn to volunteer arrives four or five times a year...on every fifth Tuesday. Volunteers who have said they will help on April 30 include Ilektra Kolokouri and a crew who prepare food in the kitchen at Assumption. Serving the meal will be regulars Mike Smith (who also delivers the food from church to the shelter), Scott Spevacek, Peter Cameron and Chris Josheff. Thanks to the volunteers who also will shop for staple food items...apples, milk, etc....for the shelter. And thanks to the Philoptochos Society women who pay for the extra staple items at the shelter.

We recently attended a Saturday morning volunteer appreciation brunch sponsored by Porchlight, Inc., the organization in charge of the Drop-In Shelter as well as at least five other important programs for Madison's homeless. During a brief ceremony, Porchlight, Inc. recognized Assumption Greek Orthodox Church "for unyielding dedication to the men's drop-in shelter." We received a certificate of honors which will be displayed in church.

Karla Thennes, executive director, described Porchlight's amazing programs, in addition to the drop-in shelter. For example, Porchlight Housing provides low-income housing and served 495 women, men and children in 2016. Porchlight also operates: 1) Hospitality House on the South Side; 2) the DIGS program at St. John's Lutheran Church for emergency eviction prevention; Safe Haven, a transitional homeless shelter on the East Side for people with mental illness; and Porchlight Products where jam, jelly, sauce and dry mixes are prepared and sold in local stores and restaurants.

Karla Thennes succeeded Steve Schooler who worked for decades with the homeless programs and initiated Porchlight Products. We're hoping that Karla will visit Assumption and talk about the Porchlight programs...maybe in the fall during a coffee hour?

We thank the long and growing list of volunteers from Assumption who have helped serve the homeless since 1984, and continue to show their concern for homelessness in Madison. If you would like to volunteer in the future, or to contribute financially to Porchlight, please let me know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

The Sunday School year is winding down... our last day is Sunday, May 12th. We would like to thank all the wonderful teachers for their commitment and dedication to our students, our Church, and our Lord and Savior.

Just a reminder that there are no certificates this year. We will have a teacher meeting this summer to review how this year went and any improvements that can be made for next year.

Also reminding everyone that we're still looking for a director and teachers. Please contact us or Fr. Michael if you are interested.

Have a wonderful summer and remember that Church doesn't go on vacation - we hope to see you around this summer!

Chris and Jenny

SPIRITUAL MEETINGS

Peli Galiti, pegaliti@gmail.com

The spiritual meetings for May will be on Thursday May 2nd and Thursday May 16th at 7:00 pm.

The topic of May's meetings will be LOVE. Love is a word that is very lightly used and usually misused or misinterpreted. We are going to focus primarily on the role of love in the family context: love between husband and wife, love between parents and children.

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!

SACRAMENTS DURING APRIL 2019

Weddings: 0 Chrismations: 0 Baptisms: 0 Funerals: 0



May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28 PASCHA Agape Vespers 10:00 am No Sunday School	April 29 Bright Monday St. George Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	April 30 Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter Dinner	1 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	2 Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy</i> 9:00 am
5 2nd Sunday after Pascha Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	6	7 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday after Pascha Myrrhbearing Woman Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Last Day of Sunday School Philoptochos Oath of Office	13	14	15 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	16 Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18 <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy</i> 9:00 am Metropolis Philoptochos Bimonthly Meeting at St. Iakovos Retreat Center
19 4th Sunday after Pascha Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Philoptochos Meeting	20	21 Saints Constantine and Helen Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	22 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26 5th Sunday after Pascha Samaritan Woman Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	27	28	29 Choir Practice 7:00 pm 6	30	31	June 1

May - July 2019 Liturgies and Services

May 5

2nd Sunday after Pascha
Sunday of St. Thomas

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Prosforo: Ilektra A

Coffee Hour: (Group 13) Nancy G,
Christy C-B, Marinela M

May 12

3rd Sunday after Pascha
Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Prosforo: Jenny G

Coffee Hour: Mother's Day

May 19

4th Sunday after Pascha
Sunday of the Paralytic

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42
Gospel: John 5:1-15

Prosforo: Cathy G

Coffee Hour (Group 1) Sue S,
Katerina P, Seham A

May 21

Saints Constantine and Helen

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Acts 26:1,12-20
Gospel: John 10:1-9

Prosforo: Tom C

May 26

5th Sunday after Pascha
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30
Gospel: John 4:5-42

Prosforo: Georgia M

Coffee Hour: (Group 2) Eleni P,
Korinna H, Jenny G

June 2

6th Sunday after Pascha
Sunday of the Blind Man

June 2, con't.

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: John 9:1-38

Prosforo: Anna F

Coffee Hour: (Group 3) Nadya H,
Athena D, Valerie M

June 5

Apodosis (Leave-taking) of Pascha

Great Vespers of the Ascension
6:00 pm

June 6

Holy Ascension

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12
Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Prosforo: Anna F

June 9

7th Sunday after Pascha
Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
Gospel: John 17: 1-13

Prosforo: Jenny G

Coffee Hour: (Group 4) Nancy B,
Jane S, Beth F, Susan J

June 15

Saturday of the Souls

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Gospel: John 21:14-25

Prosforo: Korinna H

Cemetery Visits to Follow Liturgy:
Forest Hills – Madison – 11:00 am
Roselawn – Monona – 1:00 pm

June 16

HOLY PENTECOST

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Prosforo: Korinna H

Coffee Hour: (Group 5) Kristi P, Lisa B, Ilektra K

June 23

Feast of All Saints

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN!

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38,
19:27-30

Prosforo: Katherine F

Coffee Hour: (Group 6) Maria M,
Nia C, Denise S

June 30

Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8

Prosforo: Nia C

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

July 7

3rd Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Prosforo: Jane S

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

July 14

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Prosforo: Ilektra A

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

July 21

5th Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

Prosforo: Jenny G

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



The River Food Pantry and the MUNCH Campaign

As part of their philanthropic mission the AGOC Ladies Philoptochos Society has adopted the River Food Pantry as a local non-profit organization worthy of our support. The River Food Pantry has a monthly food budget of \$20,00.00. 95 cents of every dollar serves the local community. In addition to serving as a food pantry they offer free meals and clothing to the community.

The River Food Pantry has a program called MUNCH that provides children and adults a lunch meal in their own neighborhood. Every day during the summer and every weekend day throughout the rest of the year the MUNCH program delivers to 8 different neighborhoods on the North side of Madison, handing out over 400 sack lunches. In the summer the weekly cost for the MUNCH program is \$4,300.00.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society would like to support this worthy cause this year. We will be passing a philanthropic tray in April and May for the MUNCH program. Throughout the summer monetary and MUNCH food donations are welcomed and will be passed on to the River Food Pantry for you.

In addition, we are doing a MUNCH food drive during April to help support this program. The MUNCH lunches use sandwiches made at the pantry by volunteers, fresh fruit, fruit cups, fruit juice boxes, peanut butter crackers, nut and seed snacks and granola bars. All items but the fruit need to be individually wrapped. A list of items to donate is available upon leaving today. A MUNCH donation barrel is available near the front door entrance. Fresh fruit can be placed in separate basket/container and will be gathered on Sundays and Wednesdays.

See Nancy Briamis for details or for questions. Please visit their website www.riverfoodpantry.org for more information, for other ways to donate or to volunteer.

Thank you for your generous spirit.



Why Partner With The River Food Pantry?

During summer vacation, the MUNCH program represents the nutritional link between the end of one school year and the beginning of another. MUNCH is also on-site at every Friday night pantry session. This ensures every child receives extra lunches for the weekend.

Your much needed gift will provide a sandwich (option of meat and cheese or peanut butter and jelly), a fruit or vegetable item, a grain (including granola, seeds, chips) a treat (granola bar, yogurt or fruit snack) and a drink (water, milk or juice) to neighborhoods that have minimum to no resources.

The goal of all River programs and services is to end hunger, provide household stability and to be a positive force in the lives of those touched through our programs and services.

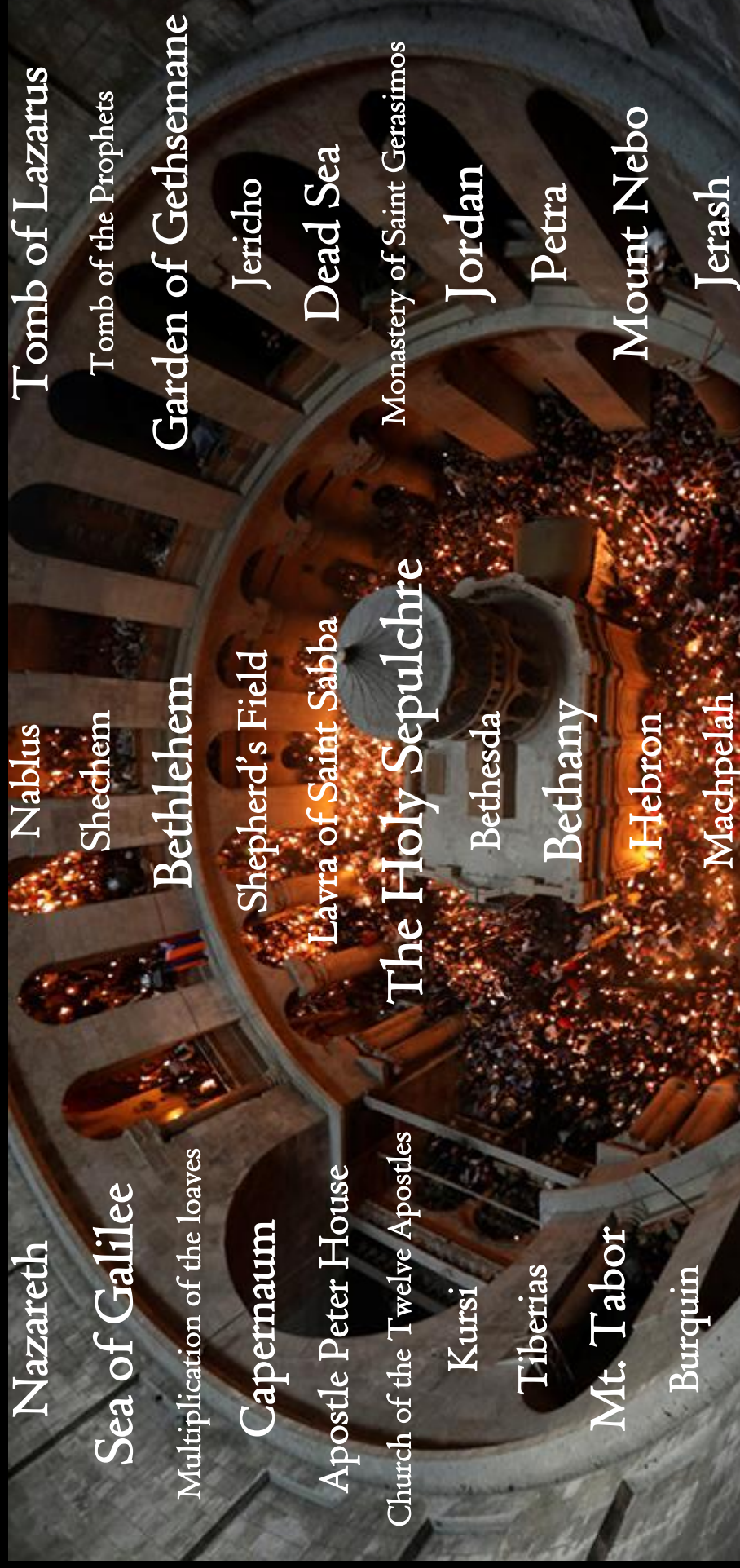
We believe that food is a right and not a privilege, and that no child should go to bed hungry. Your gift can make this possible.

Help feed children this summer by supporting The River Food Pantry. Over 95 cents of every dollar you give to The River goes directly to those we serve. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration. We are deeply touched by your generosity.



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

May 6-18, 2019



For more information / To save your spot:

holylandpilgrimage2019@gmail.com

Price: \$2650 + Airfare