



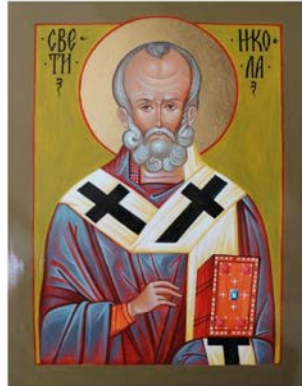
**ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**SPONSORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

Church Hall

Immediately Following Church Services



Lenten Menu:  
Pasta with tomato sauce  
Salad ~ Bread

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

**December 8, 2019**

*Following Church Services in Conjunction with the St. Nicholas Dinner*

**AGENDA:**

- Approval of minutes from prior General Assembly
- Parish Council Elections

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**REMINDER:**

The main front doors at Church will be locked beginning with communion. Ushers are watching to unlock the doors for people who arrive late—so be patient. The door is covered and you'll never have to wait more than a few seconds (although it may feel longer).

**Thank You!**

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

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Jim Katsihtis, Parish Council President, [jkatsihtis@gmail.com](mailto:jkatsihtis@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Officers:** Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Scott Storck & Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurers. **Members:** Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell-Belkin, Conn Choles, Dori Hosek, Mike Smith, Nick Topitzes, Maria Molzahn. **Alternate:** Carol Griskavich

### President's Message

#### General Assembly

Thank you to all who attended our recent General Assembly on November 10. At the General Assembly, the proposed 2020 Budget was approved.

Our next General Assembly will be on December 8. The agenda will include the selection of a three-person Election Committee, voting to fill four Parish Council member expiring terms, and the selection of a three-person Financial Audit Committee. Information on how to nominate yourself or someone for Parish Council will soon be provided.

#### Annual St. Nicholas Dinner

Also on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Parish Council will host the annual St. Nicholas Dinner for our community. We are looking forward to seeing and serving everyone there!

#### Stewardship

As a reminder, 2020 Stewardship cards are available for pick up. Please prayerfully consider our needs and opportunities for you to share your time, talent and treasure in loving stewardship.

#### Parish Council Update

Topics from the November 12<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting included Safety & Security, Operating Procedures (Purchasing) and local and Metropolis level Strategic Planning, among several others. The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please continue to share your suggestions and ways in which you can help.

#### Volunteer Spotlight

Thanks, as always, to all our volunteers.

A special thank you to this month's Volunteer Spotlight, our gardeners, Joe and Jane Schirmer! Joe and Jane endured the elements and worked hard to make our flower beds so amazingly beautiful all season. Thank you!

In closing, let's continue to prepare to receive our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during this Advent season not as the secular world does, but through increased prayer, worship, fasting and almsgiving.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

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Lena Giakoumopoulos, President, [lenagiak@gmail.com](mailto:lenagiak@gmail.com), 608-556-8186

Vice President: Maria Molzahn, Secretary: Sue Soloninka, Treasurer: Maria Heide, Asst. Treasurer: Jenny Glatch, Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Briamis, Asst Corresponding Secretary: Kathie Fafalios

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

*December 12, 2019*

2019 Baklava Plus Debrief Meeting, 6:30 pm at the Panera Bread located at 3416 University Avenue, Madison. This is open to all chairs and anyone who would like to provide feedback on this year's event.

*December 31, 2019*

Grace Episcopal Cooking/Serving for Homeless

We need 2 volunteers to assist with cooking for Grace Episcopal. Please let Lena G ([lenagiak@gmail.com](mailto:lenagiak@gmail.com)) know if you can assist from 4:30-7 pm that evening at the church.

*January 26, 2020*

Vasilopita Dinner

We will need a volunteer chair(s) for the Vasilopita dinner in the AGOC hall which Philoptochos is hosting. Please let Lena G ([lenagiak@gmail.com](mailto:lenagiak@gmail.com)) know if you are interested.

January 2020 General Chapter Meeting

Our next Philoptochos General Chapter meeting will be in early January 2020.

#### OTHER:

Happy Holidays!!

From everyone in our chapter to you and your families, we want to wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season.

THANK YOU for supporting the 2019 Baklava Plus Sale!

Thank you to everyone who helped us during our largest fundraiser, the 2019 Baklava Plus Sale.

From chopping nuts, assembly, baking, packaging, set up, selling, cashiering, greeting, crowd control, kafeneion, serving and clean up, all with the true Philoptochos spirit, we could not have had such a great sale without all your help. THANK YOU to everyone for all your efforts! THANK YOU to the parish for all the support.

Children's Medical Fund Luncheon: Saturday, November 16, 2019, Chicago, IL

This year eight members from our chapter participated with more than 1,100 attendees in support of the Metropolis of Chicago's hospitals and children's programs at the sold out National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund (CMF) Luncheon at the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, November 16.

This year, National Philoptochos President, Maria Logus, and Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President and Luncheon Chair, Pamela Agyris, disbursed nearly \$300,000 to several CMF Grant recipients, an 18% increase of funds compared with the last CMF Luncheon held in New Jersey in 2017.

## **RIVER FOOD PANTRY**

Nancy Briamis, [nbriamis@gmail.com](mailto:nbriamis@gmail.com)

The holidays are fast approaching, which means it's the busiest time of the year for food pantries.

But one pantry in Madison says they've seen a big drop in donations this year.

Charles McLimans, CEO of The River Food Pantry, says that the pantry was down \$100,000 at the end of the third quarter. "That's approximately 10 percent of our budget," he said.

The pantry is blaming the drop in donations on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which passed in 2017. It changed the standard deduction for a single person from \$6,350 in 2017 to \$12,000 in 2018. (The deduction has risen to \$12,200 in 2019.)

Mark Farnan, a financial expert in Madison says the changes means most people aren't itemizing things like charitable donations because they can save more money just taking the standard deduction.

"This time frame is traditionally when we get most of our donations," McLimans said. "We know that there are many generous people living in Madison. We're hoping people will get inspired."

**Right now, the River is in the middle of its Help Other People Eat (HOPE) drive to help provide food for families this holiday season.**

**Join The River Food Pantry and Food for Thought Initiative on [#GivingTuesday](#), a global day of giving on Tuesday, December 3.**

The money raised on [#GivingTuesday](#) allows our organizations to feed more children and their families throughout Madison public schools and Dane County as a whole! This would not be possible without YOUR HELP.

Thanks to two generous donors, your gifts will have DOUBLE the impact and will be matched up to \$25,000 for The River and \$10,000 for Food for Thought Initiative!

Help us reach our [#GivingTuesday](#) goal of raising \$35,000!

See their website - [info@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@riverfoodpantry.org).

## **GRACE EPISCOPAL HOMELESS SHELTER**

David Giffey, [barnowl1941@gmail.com](mailto:barnowl1941@gmail.com)

Volunteers from Assumption are scheduled to prepare a meal and serve at the Homeless Shelter, Grace Episcopal Church on the Square, on Tuesday, December 31. New Years Eve 2019 is the fifth Tuesday of December...our final opportunity this year to work at the Homeless Shelter.

The number of homeless men in need of shelter has increased greatly with the cold weather. Porchlight Inc. reported that about 150 men needed food and a warm place to sleep every night during November.

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer on New Years Eve, December 31. The serving crew will meet at 7:30 p.m. and finish by 9 p.m.

Next year, 2020, Assumption volunteers are scheduled to prepare a meal and work at the shelter on four dates: March 31, June 30, September 29, and December 29.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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Seham Akkawi, Co-Director, [sususaba@yahoo.com](mailto:sususaba@yahoo.com), Peli Galiti, Co-Director, [pegaliti@gmail.com](mailto:pegaliti@gmail.com), Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor, [frmichael@agocwi.org](mailto:frmichael@agocwi.org)

\*See enclosed announcement for the Annual Gingerbread House Making event on Monday, December 16, 2019.

## **GREEK SCHOOL**

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Elektra Kolokouri, [ilektra.kol@gmail.com](mailto:ilektra.kol@gmail.com)

If people need info about Greek school they can contact me at [ilektra.kol@gmail.com](mailto:ilektra.kol@gmail.com) or talk to me at church.

## **SPIRITUAL MEETINGS**

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Peli Galiti, [pegaliti@gmail.com](mailto:pegaliti@gmail.com)

With God's help and father Michael's blessings we are meeting for the seventh year on a row at our church to continue our spiritual journey with the ladies of our parish and of St. Ignatius parish. At the meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm, we will touch on the issue of "how to deal with injustice in our life". We will share some real stories and will use them as an example for healthy ways of dealing with the results of injustice. During the meeting we will also plan together the topics of our future meetings of this year. All women are warmly invited. Please feel free to ask if you have any questions or concerns.

## **CHURCH WEBSITE**

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Lainey Skoumbouris, [laney0220@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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### 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!**

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## SACRAMENTS DURING OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2019

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Weddings: **0** Chrismations: **0** Baptisms: **2** Funerals: **0**

### Baptisms:

**Mia Popescu** was baptized on Thursday, October 31, 2019. Mia's parents are Maxim Rusu and Alexandra Popescu. Mia's godparent is Victoria Zabrian.

**Evelyn Ann Jerabek** was baptized on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Evelyn's parents are John William Jerabek and Amalia Mihaela Raileanu. Evelyn's godparent is Claudia Pozder.



# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 24 <b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	November 25 <b>St. Catherine the Martyr</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	November 26	November 27	November 28 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	November 29	November 30 <b>St. Andrew the First Called Apostle</b>  <i>Russian Orthodox                      Divine Liturgy                      9:00 am</i>
1 <b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  <b>Philoptochos Meeting</b>	2	3  Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	4  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	5  Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	6 <b>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	7  <i>Ethiopian Service 3:00 pm</i>
8 <b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  <b>St. Nicholas Dinner                      Parish Council Elections</b>	9	10	11  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	12 <b>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am  <i>2019 Baklava Plus Debrief Meeting at Panera Bread on University Ave 6:30 pm</i>	13	14  <i>Russian Orthodox                      Divine Liturgy                      9:00 am</i>
15 <b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	16	17	18  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	19	20	21
22 <b>Sunday before the Nativity</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	23	24 <b>NATIVITY EVE</b>  Vespers Divine Liturgy of the Nativity 6:00 pm	25 <b>HOLY NATIVITY</b>  Orthros 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	26	27 <b>St. Steven the Martyr</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	28  <i>Russian Orthodox                      Divine Liturgy                      9:00 am</i>
29 <b>Sunday after the Nativity</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>  Great Vespers of the Feast of St. Basil 6:00 pm  <i>Grace Episcopal Cooking / Serving for the Homeless</i>	January 1 <b>St. Basil the Great / Circumcision of Our Lord</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	January 2	January 3	January 4

# December 2019 – January 2020 Liturgies and Services

## December 1

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 2:14-22  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:35-43

**Prosforo:** Tom C

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

## December 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 13:17-21  
**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23

**Prosforo:** Tom C

## December 8

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:1-7  
**Gospel:** Luke 13:10-17

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

**Coffee Hour: St. Nicholas Day**  
Dinner

## December 12

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 5:8-19  
**Gospel:** John 10:9-16

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

## December 15

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 1:8-18  
**Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

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

## December 22

Sunday before the Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
**Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25

**Prosforo:** Tom C

**Coffee Hour:** Christmas

## December 24

Eve of the Nativity

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the  
Great - 6:00 pm

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1:1-12  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

## December 25

Feast of the Holy Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:4-7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

**Coffee Hour:** Christmas

## December 27

St. Stephen the First Martyr

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Acts: 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60  
**Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-42

**Prosforo:** ?

## December 29

Sunday after the Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians 1:11-19  
**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-23

**Prosforo:** Anna F

**Coffee Hour:** New Years

## December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Great Vespers of the Feast of St. Basil  
- 6:00 pm

## January 1

Feast of St. Basil the Great

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Colossians 2:8-12  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:20-21,40-52

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

## January 5

Sunday Before Theophany

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am -  
*Followed immediately by* The Great  
Blessing of the Waters

## January 5, con't.

**Epistle:** Timothy 4:5-8  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

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

## January 6

Theophany

**NO DIVINE LITURGY OR SERVICES**

*Fr. Michael is away*

## January 7

St. John the Baptist

**NO DIVINE LITURGY**

*Fr. Michael is away*

## January 12

Sunday After Theophany

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:7-13  
**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

**Prosforo:** Katherine F

**Coffee Hour: (Group 5)** Kristi P, Ilektra  
K, Theodoti L-K

## January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 13:17-21  
**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23

**Prosforo:** Katherine F

## January 18

Sts. Athanasios and Cyril,

Patriarch of Alexandria

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 13:7-16  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5:14-19

**Prosforo:** Jane S

## January 19

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19

**Prosforo:** Jane S

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

## January 26

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

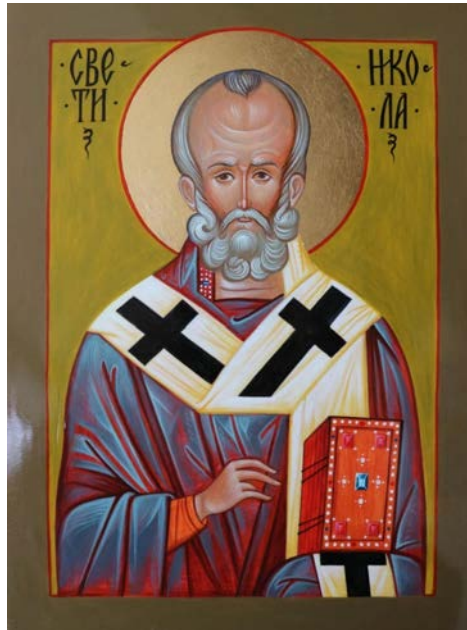
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SPONSORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Church Hall

Immediately Following Church Services



Lenten Menu:  
Pasta with tomato sauce  
Salad ~ Bread

## NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

December 8, 2019

*Following Church Services in Conjunction with the St. Nicholas Dinner*

### AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from prior General Assembly
- Parish Council Elections





# ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel: (608) 244-1001

Rev. Fr. R. Michael Vanderhoef, Presiding Priest  
Rev. Fr. Joseph T. Tzougros, Economos

Metropolis  
of Chicago

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a parishioner of Assumption  
Greek Orthodox Church, nominate my fellow parishioner to run for the Parish Council  
in an election to be held Sunday, December 8, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of nominee

The above named nominee consents to the following conditions:

- I have read the sections of the Uniform Parish Regulations covering the eligibility of candidates for the Parish Council that are printed on the back of this form.
- I agree to attend a seminar conducted by the Parish Priest.
- If I elected, I understand that I will be sworn into office during January 2020, and that I will serve a three-year term.
- I accept my nomination to run for the Parish Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of nominator

**IMPORTANT!**

OVER →

## **Important Information from the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

**Article 25, Section 1:** Members of the Parish Council shall be elected by parishioners in good standing of the Parish in accordance with the Regulations and the Parish Bylaws. The election of the members of the Parish Council shall be held no earlier than the first Sunday in November, and no later than the second Sunday in December.

**Article 25, Section 2:** A candidate for the Parish Council must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church. The Priest determines whether the Parishioners are in canonical and financial good standing as specified in Article 18, Sections 1 through 3.

**Article 18, Section 1:** Every person who is baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church is a parishioner. The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to: adhere to and live according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith; faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services; participate regularly in the holy sacraments; respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church; be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order; contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people.

A parishioner in good standing practices all the religious and moral duties as described in this Section 1. At a minimum, a parishioner in good standing must: be eighteen years of age or over; be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish, abide by all the regulations herein stated and the Parish Bylaws; and cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well being of the Parish. (Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one's annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese.)

**Article 18, Section 2:** Any person wishing to be a parishioner in good standing in more than one Parish must remit his or her Stewardship financial obligation to each Parish as stated in Section 1 of this Article. A parishioner wishing to move from one Parish to another must present a letter of transfer from the Priest of the Parish from which he or she is moving stating that he or she is in good standing.

**Article 18, Section 3:** No person shall be deemed a parishioner in good standing while: not adhering to the standards outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article; retaining affiliation in an Orthodox Parish which defies the jurisdiction or the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese; being a member of or practicing a non-Orthodox faith or other religion; and deliberately disregarding and transgressing the moral law of the Church.



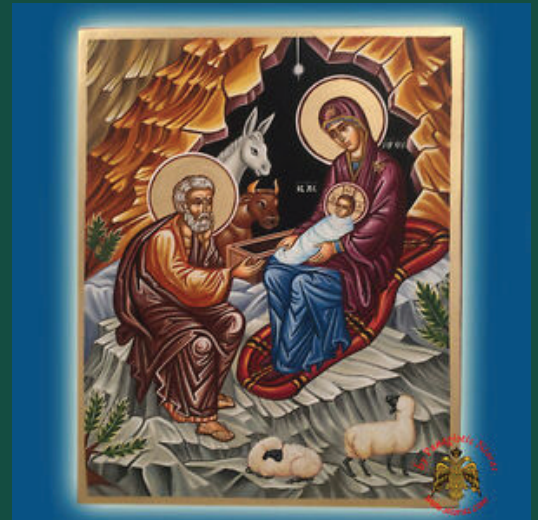
**A Gathering to Remember**  
***John W. Barker***

1933 - 2019

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 3:30 pm**

**Capital Lakes  
333 W Main St  
Madison, WI 53703**

*Please join us for memories, music  
and a light buffet supper*



ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL...

# *Gingerbread House Making!*



Enjoy some hot coco, apple pie, and donuts while listening to Christmas music! We'll also learn more about the Nativity Icon!

**Monday, December 16th**  
**6:00-7:30 PM**  
**in the Church Hall**