

# The Message

NOVEMBER 2021

## CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Jim (Demetrios) Katsitis
- Philoptochos President: Eleni Giakoumopoulos
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba & Peli Galiti
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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## WORDS

Throughout an average day in our lives we use countless number of words to express our thoughts to all those around us. Depending on any given situation, will determine what we say and how we say it. We can all sit back and think of times when we have used words out of anger, mocking, or just plain malicious and said something we really should not have.

How quick we are to condemn. Can one imagine those people who had condemned Saint Mary of Egypt as a prostitute, and how they felt as they saw her in the upper heights of heaven? Imagine how those who reviled our Lord Jesus Christ felt when they finally saw Who He really was and is? Imagine those who stood by the Cross and mocked “if you’re the Christ come down; you saved others, now save yourself and come down and we will believe.” Can you imagine what it is going to be like in the after life to see people as saints who we criticized at will in this world while in the next we may be begging them for their prayers and intercessions? When our words leave our mouth ever so superficially. We condemn and destroy at will and at sight, from mouth to mouth, mouse to mouse, and click to click, without really knowing the facts. Saint Basil writes “the person who listens to rumors is as guilty as the person who spreads them.” Saint John Chrysostom says, “If you are fasting from meat and dairy and fish and oil and even bread and water and you condemn your brother, even if it is Holy Friday, go and eat the meat and fish and dairy products etc. and shut your mouth and don’t condemn your brother. For eating your brother with criticism is far worse than breaking the fast that we hold so dear.”

I ask you to consider the mouth, which accepts the body and blood of Christ, the very door of our soul. The mouth is able to give glory to God, it is able to take a young child, and is able to build them up or destroy them. Why do we suffer in the U S from so many children with low self-esteem? Could it be that their parents are destroying them without ever even touching them? Are they breaking the bones of their soul and their personhood into pieces with their words? In the Greek language there is a famous saying: “the tongue has no bones but it is able to break bones.”

In conclusion I leave you with this account from the Holy Scriptures. Moses had married an Ethiopian girl. His sister and brother didn’t approve of her. Miriam and Aaron criticized her so harshly. Because of her words Miriam was punished by God and was struck with leprosy. She went running to Moses, “Moses you are holy and you talk to God, go and pray to Him to cleanse me.” He asked her, “Miriam what have you done, what have you said?” It was with difficulty that she confessed to Moses her sin. Moses said to her, “I forgive you, but I must ask God if He will forgive you.” Moses got down on his knees and begged God to forgive his brother and sister and God responded: “let her remain a leper for one week and then she shall be cleansed.” Look at the power of words; her misguided slandering brought leprosy. His words brought cleansing, salvation and forgiveness, and the ear of God. What will your words bring you?

*Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos*

# 2021 Baklava Plus Sale

## Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Ladies Philoptochos Society

### Order by 5:00 pm, November 7 and Pickup on November 20

The Ladies Philoptochos (Friend of the Poor) Society is excited to announce a return to Spanakopita and Baklava made by our members at our church!

Along with our own member-prepared Spanakopita and Baklava, we will be offering a variety of additional Greek delicacies from our Greek-owned bakery partner.

Pre-ordering is required. Don't delay, click on [this link](#) to enter our online store. Prepay for your selected items and select a pickup time slot.

Deadline to Submit Online Orders: **By 5:00 pm, Sunday, November 7, 2021**

Pickup Date: **Saturday, November 20**

Pick Up Location: **Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 11 N 7<sup>th</sup>, Madison, WI 53704**

Pick Up Time: **9:00 am – 4:00 pm - You will receive directions for the pickup process in a reminder email 24 hours prior to your selected pickup time slot.**

All proceeds go to local, national, and international endeavors. Examples of support to the area include Goodman Community Center, Madison Public Schools, Mentoring Positive, COVID-19 assistance fund-Metropolis of Chicago, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Porchlight Inc., River Food Pantry, Salvation Army and UW Children's Hospital.

Please email [philoptochos@agocwi.org](mailto:philoptochos@agocwi.org) with questions or concerns.

**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church follows all state and local mandates regarding safety.**

Thank you for your continued support to Philoptochos and our philanthropic efforts!

Ladies Philoptochos Society – Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Madison Chapter



# **The Parish Council Update**

## **September 2021**

**Officers: Jim Katsihtis, President; Maria Molzahn, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary; Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer; Scott Storck, Assistant Treasurer**

**Members: John Bayouth, Christy Chappell-Belkin, Conn Choles, Carol Griskavich, Mike Smith, John Soloninka**

**Alternates: Saed Akkawi**

Greetings!

It may be hard for many to believe, as it is for me, that it is already November and that we are quickly approaching 2022. It can be easy to be busy with many things, and for days to pass by quickly. Let's remember the words of St. Herman of Alaska, "From this day, from this hour, from this very moment, let us strive to love God and fulfill His holy will."

Let's all try to not get distracted and really embrace this Advent season. Let's truly contemplate our Lord's loving condescension and prepare ourselves to receive and glorify Him.

### **Safety Update**

The Public Health Madison and Dane County emergency face covering order remains in effect until November 5. Thanks again for following our safety guidelines and for showing love for neighbor and good stewardship over your own selves throughout the pandemic.

### **Stewardship**

If you haven't already, please return your 2021 Stewardship form and continue to pray for, and generously support, our parish. We will be launching our 2022 Stewardship campaign shortly. More information to follow soon. And as always, please let us know how we can serve you better.

### **Proposed Projects**

The carpet in the Nave is old, worn and damaged, and in need of replacement. The Council evaluated several options and a proposal will be made at the Fall General Assembly. Please consider a special donation toward the maintenance and beautification of our Lord's house.

We are also exploring an iconography project with David Giffey to complete the walls of the two transepts in the Nave with some of the most significant icons depicting our faith, including our Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection. A proposal will be made at the Fall General Assembly.

### **Fall General Assembly - November 28**

The Fall General Assembly will be held on November 28 following the Divine Liturgy. Please make sure you are in good standing to vote and plan to attend the Assembly. We will be voting on the budget for 2022, a carpet proposal, an iconography proposal and nominating member for Parish Council, among other agenda topics.

### **Save the Dates**

The Annual St. Nicholas Dinner and Parish Council Elections are scheduled for December 5.

The Milwaukee Bucks Greek Night is December 6th. Information on transportation will be sent soon.

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

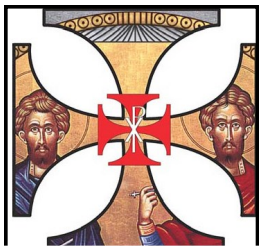
The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00pm. Parish Council meetings will typically be scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month.

On behalf of the Parish Council,

Jim

407-408-3096

jkatsihtis@gmail.com



# FOCUS ON PHILOTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

November 2021

**Focus on PHILOPTOCHOS**  
#PhiloCares

We look forward to continuing our work together again for 2021-2022. Thank you again for your support to all our fundraising efforts (virtual and in person).

Inviting all women of AGOC to come join us at our next meeting (virtually) on November 2 at 6 pm. Come meet amazing women whom you can call your sisters in our army of agape. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me at [lenagiak@gmail.com](mailto:lenagiak@gmail.com) or [philoptochos@agocwi.org](mailto:philoptochos@agocwi.org).

We are excited to announce a return to spanakopita and baklava made by our members at our church for our 2021 Baklava Plus Sale this November! Along with our own member-prepared Spanakopita and Baklava, we will be offering a variety of additional Greek delicacies from our Greek-owned bakery partner. Pre-ordering is required once again. The deadline to submit online orders is midnight, Saturday, November 6, 2021.

Pickup Date: Saturday, November 20 @ AGOC / Pick Up Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Look for the event invite with online link and all the information in your email inboxes very soon!!!

Join us for Baking and Baklava Plus prep - November 6 @ 9:30 am in the church hall. Come join us as we prep for spanakopita making. Please contact Sue Soloninka at [solofam5@yahoo.com](mailto:solofam5@yahoo.com).

Baklava making - November 18 @ 9 am in the church hall. If can volunteer for making the baklava, please contact Elene Patenaude at [alakisage@gmail.com](mailto:alakisage@gmail.com).

Packaging of items/prep for pick up day - November 19 in the church hall with 2 shifts: 9 am -12pm and 1-4 pm. Contact Maria Heide at [maria.heide@wisc.edu](mailto:maria.heide@wisc.edu) if you can volunteer.

*Philoptochos follows all state and local mandates regarding safety. Masks and gloves are mandatory for all volunteers.*

Agrace Seeks Local Volunteers; Offers New Grief Support Options - Volunteers are needed to assist customers, operate the cash register and sort donations at the Agrace Thrift Stores; pack donated merchandise in donors' homes; make companionship visits to local Agrace hospice patients or clients at the Agrace Adult Day Center; and assist customers at the Doc Rock Café located inside the Agrace Madison campus.

Agrace will host a volunteer orientation on Thursday, November 11, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at its Madison campus. Pre-registration is required for either session. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit [www.agrace.org/volunteer](http://www.agrace.org/volunteer) to fill out an application.

We continue to be #PhiloStrong because of the support of this amazing community!! The tray collection per month is included in the newsletter. For November we will be collecting for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Metropolis dates to note:

- November 6: National Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, Indianapolis, IN
- November 13: Dress a Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thon, St. Basil, Chicago
- November 14: National Philoptochos Sunday

# **JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, VETREN RECOGNITION & FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY**

**On Sunday, November 14th, 2021 the Sunday School & Greek School will host a chili cook-off in the Social Hall immediately after Liturgy**

Join us for a Variety of Chili, fixin's, sides, drinks & desserts - and chicken nuggets for the non-chili eaters! Help us raise money for the Sunday School and Greek School!

- Interested in putting your chili to the test and winning the coveted Chili Champ Koutala! See Fr. Christodoulos and he will give you the rules. We can accept up to 10 entries.
- Want to come taste and vote? The cost is \$7.00 and Veterans and kids 3 and under are free.

## Rules for Cooks

1. Have a 6-quart Crock pot (minimum) with your chili ready to eat by 11:00 a.m. on November 14th.
2. On the front of you 5x8 index card, indicate what type you are entering and give it a heat rating (mild, medium, hot). DO NOT include your name.
3. On the back of the card list the ingredients (measurements not needed)
4. The Sunday School and Greek School will provide fixin's, (cheese, onions, jalapenos, sour cream, crackers, chips and hot Sauce), and tasting cups, spoons and bowls.
5. Winner will be determined by popular vote only—no judges—this is just for fun and fellowship!





Metropolis  
of Chicago

# ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel: (608) 244-1001

Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos,  
Presiding Priest

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Dear Parishioner(s),

Greetings in the Lord!

We pray that this letter finds you in good health.

This is to notify you that our Fall General Assembly will be held on Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, following Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall downstairs.

We will be voting on our 2022 Purposed budget which is included in this mailing. As well as an Iconography proposal and a carpet replacement proposal.

As a reminder, the General Assembly is a meeting of all members in good-standing. A member in good-standing is defined by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese as any person eighteen years of age or older who was baptized according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, or was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Orthodox Church, who has met or  $\frac{3}{4}$  paid of his or her stewardship obligation for 2021 prior to the Fall General Assembly and abides by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese and the by-laws of the Parish. Members in good-standing, in attendance, constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

A new member may vote in the General Assembly provided that they have been in good-standing at least three (3) months prior to the date of the General Assembly. If you would like to vote on any of the motions made during the General Assembly, you must be present. Absentee ballots will not be counted.

We urge all our members to attend, since there are important issues being discussed. Please remember that a quorum consists of 30% of the total number of stewards.

In His Service,

*+Fr. Christodoulos Margellos*

Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos  
Parish Priest

Demetrios "Jim" Katsiitis  
Parish Council President

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**2021 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER
3. APPROVAL OF 2020 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
4. PRIEST REPORT
5. PRESIDENT REPORT
6. STEWARDSHIP REPORT
7. 2022 BUDGET
8. ELECTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
9. AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
10. SET DATE FOR BOARD ELECTIONS
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
14. ICONOGRAPHY PROPOSAL
15. CARPET REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL
16. CLOSING PRAYER
17. ADJOURNMENT



Please join us for Sunday school's...

# FAMILY PROSPHORA NIGHT!

When: November 12th  
Time: 6:00-7:30pm  
Where: Church hall







METROPOLIS  
OF CHICAGO

# *Save the Date*

Metropolis of Chicago

## *Christmas Open House at the Carlisle*

Sunday, December 12, 2021  
3 pm - 7 pm

*Light appetizers and  
refreshments will be served*

**THE CARLISLE**

35 E. BUTTERFIELD RD.  
LOMBARD, IL 60148

# YOUTH CORNER

# Thanksgiving

WORD SEARCH

R U G Z L L G N I F F U T S F  
S U N P W U F R T G Q D E A S  
E B I L U M F U A F Z I L E R  
V A V S T M R K H T R L O J E  
S E I H W K P C N R I T D T H  
M H G T E E D K E A A T Y R T  
I O S Y Q J E B I T H L U A A  
R L K Z X U N T O N N T X D G  
G I N A B A E P O F Q P H I E  
L D A V R L X V F E A S T T C  
I A H C B S E Y L I M A F I O  
P Y T B H M A G E U D D S O R  
O T O P B P L Y M O U T H N N  
U G L E E I P I R I M H Q B T  
C O R N U C O P I A J Z R B Y

FALL  
GATHER  
HOLIDAY  
PILGRIMS  
PUMPKIN  
CORN  
FEAST

THANKFUL  
TURKEY  
CORNUCOPIA  
FAMILY  
GOBBLE  
GRATITUDE  
PIE

NOVEMBER  
PLYMOUTH  
STUFFING  
THANKSGIVING  
CRANBERRIES  
POTATOES  
TRADITION



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Will be held on Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Once again this year our Church will be electing a new Parish Council members for 2022-2023 term. It's not too early to start thinking about serving on the Parish Council. Half the seats will be open for election. If you want to see improvements and changes in our church, you need to get involved. Sitting on the sideline doesn't help your team win. You need to get into the game and work as a team to be victorious. A candidate must be a member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election.

**J & 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!

**FUTURE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** I have been blessed to lead a few trips to the Holy Land as a priest and I plan to lead another one for our parish here at Assumption. This will be in the fall of 2022. But if you are interested keep it in mind and more information will come when available.

**2021 BAKLAVA PLUS SALE:** The Ladies Philoptochos (Friend of the Poor) Society is excited to announce a return to Spanakopita and Baklava made by our members at our church! Along with our own member-prepared Spanakopita and Baklava, we will be offering a variety of additional Greek delicacies from our Greek owned bakery partner.

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**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING:** Women's spiritual zoom meetings will resume again for the year 2021-2022 on Thursday November 18 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participating and you haven't signed in yet please contact Peli Galiti at [pegaliti@gmail.com](mailto:pegaliti@gmail.com) You will get the zoom link in your email.

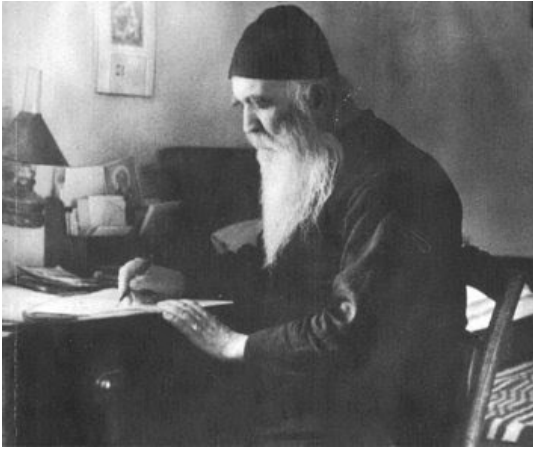
All women from Assumption parish, St. Ignatius Parish and other parishes are welcome.

**JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, VETREN RECOGNITION & FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY:** On Sunday, November 14th, 2021 the Sunday School & Greek School will host a chili cook-off in the Social Hall immediately after Liturgy. Join us for a Variety of Chili, fixin's, sides, drinks & desserts - and chicken nuggets for the non-chili eaters! Help us raise money for the Sunday School and Greek School! Interested in putting your chili to the test and winning the coveted Chili Champ Koutala! See Fr. Christodoulos and he will give you the rules. We can accept up to 10 entries.

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  4. The Sunday School and Greek School will provide fixin's, (cheese, onions, jalapenos, sour cream, crackers, chips and hot Sauce), and tasting cups, spoons and bowls.
  5. Winner will be determined by popular vote only—no judges—this is just for fun and fellowship!
- Join us for this great family fun event and see if your chili can make the cut.



**Saint Nektarios of Pentapolis:** Saint Nektarios, the great wonderworker of modern times, was born Anastasios Kephalas in Selebria, Thrace on October 1, 1846.

Since his family was poor, Anastasios went to Constantinople when he was fourteen in order to find work. Although he had no money, he asked the captain of a boat to take him. The captain told him to take a walk and then come back. Anastasios understood, and sadly walked away.

The captain gave the order to start the engines, but nothing happened. After several unsuccessful attempts, he looked up into the eyes of Anastasios who stood on the dock. Taking pity on the boy, the captain told him to come aboard. Immediately, the engines started and the boat began to move.

Anastasios found a job with a tobacco merchant in Constantinople, who did not pay him very much. In his desire to share useful information with others,

Anastasios wrote down short maxims from spiritual books on the paper bags and packages of the tobacco shop. The customers would read them out of curiosity, and might perhaps derive some benefit from them.

The boy went about barefoot and in ragged clothing, but he trusted in God. Seeing that the merchant received many letters, Anastasios also wanted to write a letter. To whom could he write? Not to his parents, because there were no mail deliveries to his village. Not to his friends, because he had none. Therefore, he decided to write to Christ to tell Him of his needs.

“My little Christ,” he wrote. “I do not have an apron or shoes. You send them to me. You know how much I love you.”

Anastasios sealed the letter and wrote on the outside: “To the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven.” On his way to mail the letter, he ran into the man who owned a shop opposite the one in which he worked. The man asked him where he was going, and Anastasios whispered something in reply. Seeing the letter in his hands, the man offered to mail it for him, since he was on his way to the post office.

The merchant put the letter in his pocket and assured Anastasios that he would mail it with his own letters. The boy returned to the tobacco shop, filled with happiness. When he took the letter from his pocket to mail it, the merchant happened to notice the address. Astonished and curious, the man could not resist opening the letter to read it. Touched by the boy’s simple faith, the merchant placed some money in an envelope and sent it to him anonymously. Anastasios was filled with joy, and he gave thanks to God.

A few days later, seeing Anastasios dressed somewhat better than usual, his employer thought he had stolen money from him and began to beat him. Anastasios cried out, “I have never stolen anything. My little Christ sent me the money.”

Hearing the commotion, the other merchant came and took the tobacco seller aside and explained the situation to him.

When he was still a young man, Anastasios made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. During the voyage, the ship was in danger of sinking in a storm. Anastasios looked at the raging sea, and then at the captain. He went and stood beside the captain and took the helm, praying for God to save them. Then he took off the cross his grandmother had given him (containing a piece of the Cross of Christ) and tied it to his belt. Leaning over the side, he dipped the cross into the water three times and commanded the sea, “Silence! Be still.” At once, the wind died down and the sea became calm.

Anastasios was saddened, however, because his cross had fallen into the sea and was lost. As the boat sailed on, sounds of knocking seemed to come from the hull below the water line. When the ship docked, the young man got off and started to walk away.

Suddenly, the captain began shouting, “Kephalas, Kephalas, come back here.” The captain had ordered some men into a small boat to examine the hull in order to discover the source of the knocking, and they discovered the cross stuck to the hull. Anastasios was elated to receive his “Treasure,” and always wore it from that time forward. There is a photograph taken many years later, showing the saint in his monastic skufia. The cross is clearly visible in the photo.

On November 7, 1875, Anastasios received monastic tonsure at the Nea Moni Monastery on Chios, and the new name Lazarus. Two years later, he was ordained a deacon. On that occasion, his name was changed to Nektarios.

Later, when he was a priest, Father Nektarios left Chios and went to Egypt. There he was elected Metropolitan of Pentapolis. Some of his colleagues became jealous of him because of his great virtues, because of his inspiring sermons, and because of everything else which distinguished Saint Nektarios from them.

Other Metropolitans and bishops of the Patriarchate of Alexandria became filled with malice toward the saint, so they told Patriarch Sophronios that Nektarios was plotting to become patriarch himself. They told the patriarch that the Metropolitan of Pentapolis merely made an outward show of piety in order to win favor with the people. So the patriarch and his synod removed Saint Nektarios from his See. Patriarch Sophronios wrote an ambiguous letter of suspension which provoked scandal

and speculation about the true reasons for the saint's removal from his position.

Saint Nektarios was not deposed from his rank, however. He was still allowed to function as a bishop. If anyone invited him to perform a wedding or a baptism he could do so, as long as he obtained permission from the local bishop.

Saint Nektarios bore his trials with great patience, but those who loved him began to demand to know why he had been removed. Seeing that this was causing a disturbance in the Church of Alexandria, he decided to go to Greece. He arrived in Athens to find that false rumors about him had already reached that city. His letter of suspension said only that he had been removed "for reasons known to the Patriarchate," and so all the slanders about him were believed.

Since the state and ecclesiastical authorities would not give him a position, the former Metropolitan was left with no means of support, and no place to live. Every day he went to the Minister of Religion asking for assistance. They soon tired of him and began to mistreat him.

One day, as he was leaving the Minister's office, Saint Nektarios met a friend whom he had known in Egypt. Surprised to find the beloved bishop in such a condition, the man spoke to the Minister of Religion and Education and asked that something be found for him. So, Saint Nektarios was appointed to be a humble preacher in the diocese of Vitinea and Euboea. The saint did not regard this as humiliating for him, even though a simple monk could have filled that position. He went to Euboea to preach in the churches, eagerly embracing his duties.

Yet even here, the rumors of scandal followed him. Sometimes, while he was preaching, people began to laugh and whisper. Therefore, the blameless one resigned his position and returned to Athens. By then some people had begun to realize that the rumors were untrue, because they saw nothing in his life or conversation to suggest that he was guilty of anything. With their help and influence, Saint Nektarios was appointed Director of the Rizarios Seminary in Athens on March 8, 1894. He was to remain in that position until December of 1908.

The saint celebrated the services in the seminary church, taught the students, and wrote several edifying and useful books. Since he was a quiet man, Saint Nektarios did not care for the noise and bustle of Athens. He wanted to retire somewhere where he could pray. On the island of Aegina he found an abandoned monastery dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which he began to repair with his own hands.

He gathered a community of nuns, appointing the blind nun Xenia as abbess, while he himself served as Father Confessor. Since he had a gift for spiritual direction, many people came to Aegina to confess to him. Eventually, the community grew to thirty nuns. He used to tell them, "I am building a lighthouse for you, and God shall put a light in it that will shine forth to the world. Many will see this light and come to Aegina." They did not understand what he was telling them, that he himself would be that beacon, and that people would come there to venerate his holy relics.

On September 20, 1920 the nun Euphemia brought an old man in black robes, who was obviously in pain, to the Aretaion Hospital in Athens. This was a state hospital for the poor. The intern asked the nun for information about the patient.

"Is he a monk?" he asked.

"No, he is a bishop."

The intern laughed and said, "Stop joking and tell me his name, Mother, so that I can enter it in the register."

"He is indeed a bishop, my child. He is the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Pentapolis."

The intern muttered, "For the first time in my life I see a bishop without a panagia or cross, and more significantly, without money."

Then the nun showed the saint's credentials to the astonished intern who then admitted him. For two months Saint Nektarios suffered from a disease of the bladder. At ten thirty on the evening of November 8th, 1920, he surrendered his holy soul to God. He died in peace at the age of seventy-four.

In the bed next to Saint Nektarios was a man who was paralyzed. As soon as the saint had breathed his last, the nurse and the nun who sat with him began to dress him in clean clothing to prepare him for burial at Aegina. They removed his sweater and placed it on the paralyzed man's bed. Immediately, the paralytic got up from his bed, glorifying God.

Saint Nektarios was buried at the Holy Trinity Monastery on Aegina. Several years later, his grave was opened to remove his bones (as is the custom in Greece). His body was found whole and incorrupt, as if he had been buried that very day.

Word was sent to the Archbishop of Athens, who came to see the relics for himself. Archbishop Chrysostomos told the nuns to leave them out in the sun for a few days, then to rebury them so that they would decay. A month or two after this, they opened the grave again and found the saint incorrupt. Then the relics were placed in a marble sarcophagus.

Several years later, the holy relics dissolved, leaving only the bones. The saint's head was placed in a bishop's mitre, and the top was opened to allow people to kiss his head.

Saint Nektarios was glorified by God, since his whole life was a continuous doxology to the Lord. Both during his life and after his death, Saint Nektarios has performed thousands of miracles, especially for those suffering from cancer. There are more churches dedicated to Saint Nektarios than to any other modern Orthodox saint.



## **2021 Annual Community Christmas Card**

**We are now accepting names to be submitted for the  
2021 Community Christmas Card**

**In order for our Christmas Card to be successful, we need your cooperation. Please approach your family and friends who may not be aware of this program, to see if they would like to be a part of our Family Christmas Card.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Deadline\*\*\*\*\***

**Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Please use this form and send it along with you donation  
Free Will Offering but suggested donation is \$25. Please send to:  
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
11 N. Seventh Street  
Madison, WI 53704**

**Please print your name below, clearly and EXACTLY as it should appear in the card.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**May the forthcoming Christmas Season bring to you and your family  
the Lord's blessings of Joy and Good Health!**

**Thank you for your support of our Assumption Church.**

# What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

## Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos

November 21

+ The central image of the icon and the feast is one of giving back to God.

+ First, the parents of the Theotokos, Ss. Joachim and Anna, present their only child, a three-year-old daughter, to dedicate her to God at the Temple.

+ The young child herself, the Most Holy Theotokos, also gives herself completely as an extraordinary gift to God, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him.

+ In the upper left corner, we see a glimpse into the life that the Theotokos will lead in the temple until the time of her betrothal to St. Joseph.

+ She is shown seated on the steps of the Holy of Holies.

+ An angel attends to the one chosen by God to bring the Savior into the world. Holy Tradition tells us that the Panagia was fed by the angels during the years that she lived in the Temple.



+ St. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort to lead the Most Holy Theotokos to the Temple, lighting the way with torches.

+ St. Gregory Palamas says that *"they led this truly sanctified child of God...into the Temple of God. And she, being filled with Divine gifts even at such a tender age, ... she, rather than others, determined what she was being done over Her. In her manner she showed that she was not so much presented into the Temple, but that she herself entered into the service of God of her own accord, as if she had wings, striving towards this sacred and divine love."*

+ Her parents set her on the first of 15 steps up to the Temple, but the three-year-old Panagia runs quickly to the top herself.

+ The high priest, Zacharias, receives her into the Holy of Holies.

+ In this way, the New Covenant begins to be written. The Panagia becomes the Ark of the New Covenant, with her womb being the new dwelling place for the Most High God.



Developed by the  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Office of Parish Development  
[www.development.goarch.org](http://www.development.goarch.org)  
(847)825-1432

## What can we give back?

## November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Strict Fast  11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	4   7:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class	5 Strict Fast	6  Philoptochos Baking Day  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
7  7th Sunday of Luke  8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School/Greek School	8  Synaxis of the Arch- angels Michael & Gabriel  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	9  Saint Nektarios  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy  6:00 p.m. Philoptochos Chapter Meeting via Zoom	10 Strict Fast  11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	11   6:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class	12 Strict Fast  6:00 p.m. Youth Night Baking Prosfora	13  Russian Mission Service  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
14  8th Sunday of Luke  8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School/Greek School  1st Annual Assumption Chili Cook Off Following Liturgy	15 Fast Day	16 Fast Day	17 Strict Fast  11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	18 Fast Day  Philoptochos Baking Day  7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Meeting	19 Strict Fast  Philoptochos Baklava Prep Day	20 Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)  Baklava +  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
21  Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)  The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple  8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School/Greek School.	22 Fast Day	23 Fast Day  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	24 Strict Fast  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	25 Fast Day Saint Katherine the Great Martyr  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy  <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>	26 Strict Fast	27 Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)  Russian Mission Service  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
28  Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)  13th Sunday of Luke  8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Fall General Assembly Sunday School/Greek School	29 Fast Day	30 Fast Day  Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy				