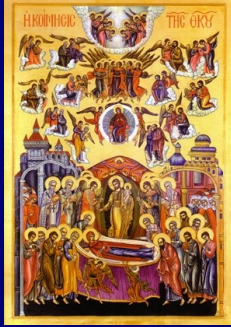


CHURCH STAFF

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

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The Message

DECEMBER 2021

WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT?

That most magical time of the year is once again fastly approaching. Children are getting excited, and most of us are out there shopping for that perfect gift. The stores have had their annual post Thanksgiving rush, and all of us know exactly how many shopping days there are until Christmas. We are being bombarded by ads telling us to get into the Christmas spirit. But, what is the Christmas Spirit? Most people would probably tell you it is about being with the ones they love, and the giving spirit that overtakes most of us during this time of the year. Children will tell you it is the thrill they get from opening presents on Christmas morning. Is this all the Christmas Spirit is, or is it something more?

I would say yes to the above question. I do believe that all those do fit into what we call the Christmas Spirit, but it is also so much more. Christmas means so much more to Orthodox Christians. It is the day when salvation entered the world. It is the day when Christ was brought into our world both fully human, and fully God. He humbled Himself for our sake. Most of us know what the Gospel's say about this most glorious event in our history. But do we truly understand the significance? When thinking of our Faith, most will quickly jump to the most important aspect being the Resurrection, and they are correct. But, if it were not for the Nativity, there would never have been a Resurrection. We see the joyousness of the angels in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke, where the angels are singing hymns of Praise toward the birth of Christ into the world. "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men". They knew, as we do now, that at that very moment salvation had arrived.

What is society teaching our children about this day? What are we doing to educate our own children about Christmas? Society every year seems to take a step in the wrong direction. It boggles my mind that we have to watch what we say, in case we were to wish the wrong person Merry Christmas. Now it has become popular to use the term "Seasons Greetings" or "Happy Holidays". What shocks me even more is that we allow society to sway us, and we have grown accustomed to saying this ourselves. Last year I put some serious thought into this very subject, and I myself, have begun to use during the Christmas season the term "Christ is Born". It is similar to what we say during the season following Pascha. We all know to say "Christ is Risen" to which we respond "Truly he has Risen". So when we utter the phrase "Christ is Born" we answer "Glorify Him". This is how we should be greeting one and other this advent season. Many will ask can this greeting be used before Christmas, and I tell you yes, because it is in November at the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos to the Temple, that we begin to sing the Katavasies of Christmas. Which begin, "Christ is Born, Glorify Him". By doing this we are taking our faith, and declaring it to those we meet. We must not be ashamed of our faith, but instead be ready to proclaim it to all that want to listen, and this is best done through our actions. As we all know "actions speak louder than words". So I humbly ask all of you to remember the true meaning of this joyous time of the year, and keep Christ at the center of your thoughts.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

✠Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos

What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

Feast of the Nativity Of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ December 25

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!

+ All generations are represented in the wise men who travel to bring their gifts to God: the young (beardless), the grown (black-bearded), and the elderly (white-bearded).



- + The Virgin Mother is seen reclining—she has just endured real childbirth.
- + The cave freshadows the tomb wherein Christ will open eternal life to all.
- + His swaddling prefigures His graveclothes.
- + Even the animals offer Him gifts of awe and the simple warmth of their breath.



+ Midwives are shown bathing the Child, providing care that all newborns need, to emphasize His humanity.



- + Though not mentioned in the Gospels, according to the tradition of the time, two midwives would attend a childbirth.
- + St. Joseph the Betrothed would likely have arranged for this.



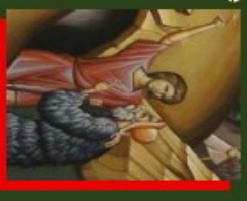
+ Countless angels are shown doing the many works that we are all called to do as God's creation.

+ These works include worshipping God, offering their service, singing hymns of praise, and announcing the Good News of His birth.



+ Humble shepherds respond to the angel's words and to the star showing the way.

+ They come through the barren wilderness...a reminder of the inhospitable world as it has been since man was expelled from Paradise.



+ St. Joseph the Betrothed is seen at a distance from the central image of the Panagia and her Child, reinforcing that he is not the father of the Newborn.

+ He faces out into the darkness, troubled with doubts about Christ's Virgin Birth.

+ In some icons, he is shown listening to an old, bent man representing the Evil One, who makes these troubling suggestions.



2021 SAINT NICHOLAS LUNCHEON

&

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

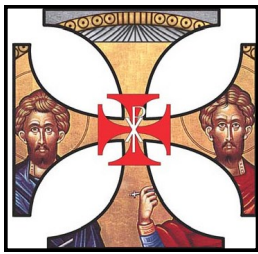
On Sunday December, 5th, 2021 following Divine Liturgy our Parish council is hosting the Saint Nicholas Luncheon
They will be having a Spaghetti Lunch with Salad

There is no set price only a free will offering

We also will be holding our Parish Council Elections this day.

So Set aside some time on Sunday December 5th and enjoy a great dinner and fellowship with our Spiritual Family





FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

December 2021

Focus on PHILOPTOCHOS
#PhiloCares

Let us give thanks for being able to be together this year. Let us give thanks for our good health and the good health of our families. Let us give thanks for our friendships and our Philoptochos Sisters who are always there for us.

A FEW NOTES FROM NOVEMBER

- **THANK YOU** - A very large thank you to everyone who supported our 2021 Baklava Plus sale this November! This is the largest online fundraiser we've had to date. In addition to the 300+ pans of spanakopita and the 30+ pans of baklava made by our members at our church, we offered a variety of additional Greek delicacies from our Greek-owned bakery partner to fulfill more than 240 orders. Thank you to the chairs for this fundraiser: Maria Heide, Elene Patenaude, Sue Soloninka and Patti Cameron, as well as all the Philoptochos members whose work and devotion made this possible.

A large shout out to Lainey Skoumbouris who assisted with the online store set up and the tech support behind the scenes. And also a large thank you to John Soloninka, Mike Smith and Tom Cameron for their support too.

- **THANK YOU** - Thank you to all our parishioners who brought donations to our church for the Afghan refugees at Ft. McCoy, as well as the monetary donations that you put in our monthly basket.. We (Patti Cameron and Nancy Briamis) drove 4 car loads to the Salvation Army headquarters on Darbo Drive and from there, the items will be taken to Ft. McCoy. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- **AGOC Philoptochos Caring Ministry** – if you know of others in our community who are homebound and could benefit from a call from the Caring Ministry, contact Patti Cameron / pcameron10@gmail.com or Kathie Fafalios / lennykathie@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Inviting all women of AGOC to come join us at our next Philoptochos meeting (virtually) on December 7 at 6 pm. Come meet amazing women whom you can call your sisters in our army of agape. We welcome all ladies 18 years of age and up to please join us. Get yourself in the spirit of giving and show your love by doing the good work of Philoptochos. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me at lenagiak@gmail.com or philoptochos@agocwi.org.
- We continue to be #PhiloStrong because of the support of this amazing community!! The tray collection per month is included in the newsletter. For December we will be collecting for the Philanthropy Fund.

Metropolis dates to note:

- December 12: Metropolis Open House at the Carlisle, Lombard, IL
- January 2: Metropolis Wide Vasilopita, Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos, Niles, IL

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES PLEASE
JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Gingerbread House & Christmas Movie Night!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH 5:30-7:30PM
IN THE CHURCH HALL



ENJOY SOME HOT COCO,
POPCORN, AND A
CHRISTMAS MOVIE!



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

PARISH OUTING TO CHICAGO
&
METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 12th Departing 12:30 p.m.



Join us on Sunday, December 12th as we depart Assumption at 12:30 p.m. and travel to the Chicago we will head to the Metropolis Christmas Open House which will be held at the Carlisle where we will have a chance to Greet His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael.

We will then board the bus again around 4:00 p.m. to go Downtown to the Water Tower Mall for an evening of shopping at the Water tower Mall or feel free to wander to Michigan Avenue and take in the sights of the City. Then at 7:00 p.m. we will depart for Home.

We plan to be back in Madison around 9:00 p.m.

Total cost of this outing will be:

\$15 for Adults

\$10 for Children

Let us come together and spread some Christmas Cheer!



ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX

SUNDAY SCHOOL RIVER FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

*Help donate to the pantry for families who
are in need this year.*

DROP OFF ITEMS BY
DECEMBER 19TH
FRONT ENTRANCE OF CHURCH

THE GIFT OF GIVING

LIST OF FOOD ITEMS:

Box of cereal
Peanut butter
Bread
Stuffing Mix
Boxed mashed potatoes
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Fruit
Canned tomatoes
Canned tuna
Dessert mix
Jar of apple sauce
Canned sweet potatoes
Canned Vegetables
Box of crackers
Package of rice
Package of oatmeal
Pasta and pasta sauce
Canned soups
Jello
Granola bars
Hand Soap/Shampoo&Conditioner
Paper towels
Diapers/ Wipes/Napkins
Please feel free to bring other items!

Christmas Word Search



CANDY CANE
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
ELVES
GINGERBREAD
JINGLE

HOLLY
LIGHTS
MERRY
NORTH POLE
ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS
REINDEER

SANTA
SLEIGH
STOCKING
TREE
WINTER
WREATH



CRAYONSANDCRAVINGS.COM

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, December 21st 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. They will be held on Sunday, December 19th, 2022. 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.

SAINT NICHOLAS DINNER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH: Our Parish Council will be hosting a luncheon following Liturgy on Sunday, December 5th following Liturgy. There is no charge for the meal and we are leaving it to a Free Will Offering. I hope you all can join us.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL & GREEK SCHOOL, SUNDAY, DEC. 12: On Sunday December 12th following immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church our Sunday School and Greek School will be holding their annual Christmas Program. Please join us for this wonderful event

METROPOLIS OPEN HOUSE & CHICAGO PARISH OUTING: We are planning a Parish Outing on Sunday, December 12th to Chicago for the Metropolis Christmas Open House. We will have a bus and have a day of Shopping in downtown Chicago and also attending the Open House. The cost for the trip will \$15 to cover the cost of the buss. Join us for what is sure to be a great time of fun and fellowship. This is a great trip for adults and children.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: A.R.E. classes are in full swing. We are currently continuing the Book of Acts. We will have in person classes on Wednesday's at 11:00 a.m. here at the church. We will also have a virtual zoom class on Thursday's beginning at 6:30 p.m. The classes are the same and interchangeable. We look forward to continuing our journey together.

2021 ASSUMPTION 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 will be Wednesday, December 8th, 2021. Please see the November Newsletter for the form and send it along with you donation. It is with a Free Will Offering but suggested donation is \$25. Please send to, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 11 N. 7th St. Madison, WI 53704.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating and you haven't signed in yet please contact Peli Galiti at 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.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING AND CHRISTMAS MOVIE FAMILY NIGHT: On Friday, December 17th, we will be coming together at Assumption at 5:30 p.m. to have a Gingerbread house making and Christmas Movie night. Popcorn & Hot Coco. Join us for a great night of family fun.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RIVER FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVE: Our Assumption Sunday School is holding the annual Christmas Food Drive for River Food Pantry. See attached flier for items they need. Donations are being accepted through Sunday, December 19th.

CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERAL LITURGY: On Friday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. Will be having our Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy. This is a great service to attend, especially if you are unable to make the Christmas Day Liturgy. We will also be blessed with a performance of our favorite Christmas Carols by our Assumption Choir.

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.

2022 Stewardship Commitment Form

Our Church: Our Spiritual Home

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.

Eternal Life begins Now

“The Church is the unity of all worlds, earthly and heavenly, of angels and men, of the living and the dead. We obtain real communion with God and we participate in God’s uncreated energy. God does not stay in heaven, directing history from there. He directs the world with His uncreated governing energies. We do not aim at appeasing God, but to heal ourselves, so that the vision of God becomes light for us and not fire. Furthermore, in the Church we live eternal life starting from now. We do not simply await the life to come, but we experience and enjoy it from the present. The Kingdom of God, according to the Fathers, is not life beyond the grave, but communion with God, above all, the vision of the uncreated Light.”

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

The Illness and Cure of the Soul in the Orthodox Tradition

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP & FAMILY INFORMATION FORM
Please complete the 2022 Stewardship & Commitment form and return this form to the Church Office

Family Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone: _____

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$ ___ \$1,560 (\$30/week) ___ \$1,960 (\$38/week) ___ \$2,600 (\$50/week) ___ \$5,200 (\$100/week) _____ Other

Highlighted amount of \$1,960 is what we need to average per steward to run the church on Stewardship alone.

	Member	Spouse	Children	/ Age
Name:	_____	_____	_____	/ _____
Mobile Tel:	_____	_____	_____	/ _____
E-mail:	_____	_____	_____	/ _____
Occupation:	_____	_____	_____	/ _____
Work Tel:	_____	_____	_____	/ _____

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FAMILY INFORMATION FORM

Please complete and return this form to the Church Office

Family Name: _____

Please check ✓ those items in which you or a member of your family has some expertise or interest.
 Place name or initials of the specific family member after each item checked.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation of Elderly/Infirm | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking-Events or Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer - general | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering / Welcome | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer - Web Site Mgt | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical / Plumbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reader (in liturgy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 2022 Parish Budget Anticipates a commitment \$160,000 from Stewardship. This represents only 2/3 of our anticipated expenses. Every Stewardship Pledge should conscientiously contribute to the support of our Church for ONE FULL YEAR! To meet our expenses, Assumption needs an average of \$670 a day. We must

Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
\$ 200	\$ 16.67	\$ 3.85	\$ 0.55
\$ 400	\$ 33.33	\$ 7.69	\$ 1.10
\$ 600	\$ 50	\$ 11.53	\$ 1.64

ask ourselves prayerfully are we doing enough to continue our mission as a parish. **Please consider using the above table to see how simple it is to increase your stewardship.** With this simple increase we can bring our stewardship closer to fully covering our anticipated budget for 2022. We know not everyone can do this, just try your best and God will provide. You can set up auto pay by going to our website <http://www.agocwi.org/> and clicking on the giving button.

Our Church Our Spiritual Home



STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church depends on the love and gratitude of its members in order to perform its sacred ministry. Each member is asked to support the church by annually setting his or her own level of giving, in proportion to his or her earnings. This year, we ask you to search your heart and conscience, and to seriously consider the many needs of our Church, as you determine your Stewardship Pledge of Commitment for 2022.

Your giving should be a profound spiritual action, coming as an expression of your love and gratitude to God and his church, which blesses you and your family, and preserves and cultivates our Orthodox Christian Faith. To be meaningful, your Stewardship Commitment should not be simply a token offering from your surplus resources, but should be a true sacrifice, giving a feeling that “I gave something valuable in order to help my Church,” a GOOD FEELING.

Our 2022 Parish Budget is counting on drawing \$160,000 from Stewardship. This represents about 2/3 of our anticipated expenses. Please realize that every Stewardship Pledge of Commitment should represent conscientious support of our Church for ONE FULL YEAR! To meet our expenses, Assumption needs an average of \$1,9606 to be able to survive on stewardship alone. So you can see how important your contribution is! Some stewards can give more than this; some will give less. We are hoping that every steward of our parish can try to raise their stewardship for the year. Just like we get a cost of living increase through work, so do the expenses of the church go up each year. We need to be mindful to try and increase our giving by at least a bit every year. We know that giving certain amounts can seem daunting over time when you are only looking at the final number. Many people would like to give \$1,000, \$1,500 or even \$2,000 a year for stewardship. But that number can seem overwhelming. The best thing we can do is to try and break down those numbers to more manageable expectations. Do you know that setting aside \$20 a week for stewardship will mean at the end of the year you will have given \$1,040 in Stewardship. \$30 a week makes an offering of \$1,560 at the end of the year. And \$40 a week makes it \$2,080 for the year. We know not everyone can do this, and that is ok.

Try your best and God will provide.



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 8th, 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.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Great Martyr Barbara & Saint John of Damascus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10th Sunday of Luke</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School/Greek School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Outing to the Bucks Game</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11th Sunday of Luke Saint Spyridon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School Greek School Christmas Pro- gram</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assumption Parish Outing to Chicago departing at 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint Eletherios the Hieromartyr</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Religious Education Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 p.m. Family Night Gingerbread House & Christmas Movie Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Russian Mission Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day (oil & wine permitted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday before the Nativity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Sunday School or Greek School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Great Martyr Anastasia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strict Fast Eve of the Nativity Office Closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Eve of the Nativity</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ is Born! Glorify Him!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday after the Nativity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Sunday School or Greek School</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Free Day</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Fast Free Day New Year's Eve Office Closed</p>	