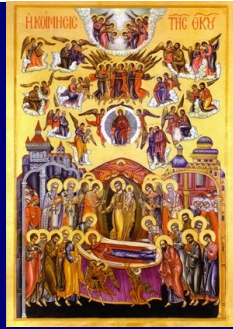


CHURCH STAFF

- 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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The Message

FEBRUARY 2022

FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the month of January comes to a close, as our country's news are swamped with pandemic news, political anger and the upcoming Olympics, I am reminded about a little news story from a few years back. When I initially heard about this it was from a friend who pointed it out to me. So I researched it and found it almost immediately buried deep among all the other news stories. It seems like a comedian who is also a host on the popular TV show "The View" had made comments about saints. The gist of her comment were that we do not see saints today, because today we have medication for those people who hear voices. These comments got me riled up, but it also got me thinking. Where was the outcry of Christians, like the muslims did when the pope made a comment about their faith? Where was the fierce defense of our saints and our faith?

This is something that has not lacked for us in the past. Let us look back 2000 years ago right after the death of our Lord. What would have happened if the apostles had remained scattered, and not returned to spread the faith to all around them. Luckily for us they came back, and have passed on to us the Gospels. How about all those martyrs who for the first 300 years of our faith never gave in to the pagan emperors, and refused to give up their faith even in the face of death. Because of these great men, women, and even children we had an example of true faith, that we all hope and pray we can duplicate. How about some of our greatest theologians did they sit back and not tell us what they saw wrong in society even though they knew it would not be popular among the leaders. I can think of two great examples of this. Two great saints that we remembered this past month Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Athanasios. When we look at Chrysostom we see someone who was one of the most brilliant minds of his time, he wrote many discourses on our faith, and his sermons are something of legend, with one still being read every Pascha during the Resurrectional service. He was a man who fiercely called out the empress for her sinful ways, not backing down when all those around him pleaded with him to let it go. He fought for what he believed and it eventually led him to exile and his death. St. Athanasios was no different; he was a great defender of the true Orthodox faith against the heresy of arianism. He fought against emperors who had fallen to the heresy, and was exiled numerous times from his throne in Alexandria. But, he never stopped and was eventually restored each of those times, and is recognized as a truly great man.

The time has come for all of us to stop worrying about what those around us will say, and do if we speak out about our faith. When someone attacks our faith or anyone of us they attack all of us. This is not a call to arms, the answer is not violence, but rather letting all around us know we are Orthodox, and we will show the love of Christ to all around us, and this will show more to the world than anything we can say or do. It simply shows that we live by the word of God. May God bless all of us!



What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple February 2

The meeting of our Lord — the Light and Life of Mankind!

- + The location shown in the icon is the Temple.
- + God Himself had commanded that all Jewish newborns be presented to the Temple 40 days after childbirth.
- + The Panagia and St. Joseph bring the Christ Child to sanctify and dedicate Him to God, in keeping with the law.



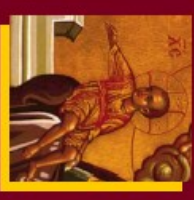
- + Jesus Christ, Who is God from before all time, humbles Himself not only to be born as a Child, but chooses to be born into a life of earthly poverty!
- + St. Joseph the Betrothed and the Panagia were too poor to offer a sacrificial lamb at the Temple, so they offered two turtle doves as the custom provided.



- + St. Anna the Prophetess had lived in the Temple day and night for decades, fasting, praying, and awaiting the Messiah.
- + On seeing Him, she praises God and *"speaks about the Child to all who sought the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2: 38).



- + Jesus Christ, Who is God before all ages, is presented to the Temple as any other child of a poor Jewish family of the time.
- + His true poverty is less an issue of being born into a poor family, and more that He assumed our human nature for the benefit of mankind.
- + St. Gregory the Theologian says, "while He was rich, He became poor so that we might become rich with His divinity."



- + Christ is held by St. Simeon, a righteous man, referred to as the "God-receiver."
- + He recognizes the Infant to be the long-awaited Messiah, and declares Him *"a light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of His people, Israel."*
- + The Holy Spirit revealed Christ to Sts. Simeon and Anna due to their piety and steadfastness in seeking Him, as we are called to do.
- + St. Simeon prophesies to the Panagia of both her Son's great ministry and of heartache she will endure, foretelling of Christ's Crucifixion for our sake.



What can we give back?

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

The Parish Council Update February 2022

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, Nichols Helser

On February 2, forty days after our Lord's Nativity, we commemorate His Presentation in the temple. Let's follow that example and recall our own presentation, and continue to dedicate ourselves to God. As we hear in each Divine Liturgy, "let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God."

Safety Update

Public Health Madison and Dane County extended the emergency face covering order until March 1. Thanks again for following our safety guidelines and for showing love for your neighbor throughout the pandemic.

Carpet Fundraiser & Installation

Our new carpet installation was completed on February 2. A special thanks to Mike Smith for coordinating with the carpet company and installers, and a special thanks to Mike Smith, John Soloninka, Patrick Molzahn, Tom Cameron, Nick Helser and Bruce Hansen for moving pews and other items back and forth!

Glory to God and thank you to all who have generously donated toward our new carpet! The fundraiser is still open and we would be grateful for any additional donations toward the cost of the project.

The carpet is comprised of tiles that are 2 feet by 2 feet squares. Would you please consider donating:

A single tile for \$20 (or as many as you may be inclined)

10 tiles for \$200 to cover the area for a single pew (which would represent the equivalent of the pew space you/your family stand on each Sunday).

Parish Council Officer Elections

The Parish Council took the Oath of Office on January 30, and met afterward to elect officers for the year. The results were as follows:

President - Jim Katsihtis

Vice President - Maria Molzahn

Secretary - Bruce Hansen

Treasurer - Niko Papadopoulos

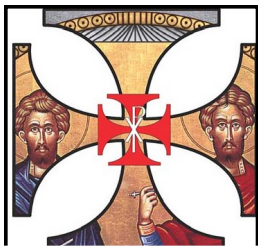
Assistant Treasurer - Scott Storck

GreekFest+ Update

A meeting will be scheduled this month for anyone interested in discussing the needs and future of GreekFest+. A separate email with details will be sent out. GreekFest+ has been a wonderful tradition in our community for decades. Let's work together on a plan will see it continue in at least some form.

2022 Stewardship

If you haven't already, please return your 2022 Stewardship form and continue to pray for, and generously support, our parish. Your stewardship helps support our worship, ministries, youth programs and facility



FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

February 2022

Focus on PHILOPTOCHOS
#PhiloCares

Philoptochos fulfills its mission to "help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, those with disabilities and the victims of disasters through its National and Metropolis Boards and its 26,000 members and more than 400 active chapters, nationwide.

Our AGOC chapter has seen growing membership these past few years and it's that time of year again for our current members to renew and new members to join us!!

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Membership 2022:** Our annual membership drive begins and we urge you to come join us!! 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 as a member, you can fill out the membership form in the newsletter or contact me at lenagiak@gmail.com or philoptochos@agocwi.org.
- **February collection tray:** We continue to be #PhiloStrong because of the support of this amazing community!! The tray collection per month is included in the newsletter. For February we will be collecting for **Local Schools / Local Families**.
- Inviting all women of AGOC to come join us at our next Philoptochos chapter meeting (virtually) on **February 1, 2022 at 6 pm via zoom**.

NOTES FROM JANUARY

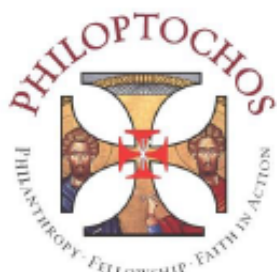
- A very, very large thank you to the community that helped us raise more than \$4,500 for our January commitment to Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese special school for children in need. This is a result of our caring and very generous community who responded to the appeal letter sent by the organizing committee (Valerie Kazamias, Ilektra Kolokouri-Anagnostopoulos and Margo Schmidt), as well as the parishioners who contributed to the basket in church in January.

This is more than double the amount we have been contributing these past few years and this will be sent to National Philoptochos.

- Organizations which received support from Philoptochos for 2021 for the Metropolis impact report either through a financial donation, in-kind donation or volunteer hours: Porchlight Inc, Goodman Community Center, River Food Pantry, Team Rubicon/Ft McCoy (Afghan Refugees), Kennedy Elementary School, American Family Children's Hospital Heart & Hands, Salvation Army Dane County for Children & Families, Aid to Greece (commitment sent to National)

Metropolis dates to note:

- February 12: Metropolis Philoptochos President's Meeting, Holy Apostles, Westchester, IL (hybrid – in person and virtual meeting, 9:00 am)



The Ladies' Philoptochos Society Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 2022 Membership Drive

We invite you to join us and share in our philanthropic mission. Through your stewardships and our various fundraisers, we are able to donate to many worthy causes helping people in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Locally we donate our resources and Philoptochos power to several organizations on a regular basis, and also to special hardship situations as needs are presented to us. Nationally and internationally we support the philanthropic programs of our Metropolis Philoptochos and our National Philoptochos.

We hope that you will join us as a member and also as a volunteer. Whether you attend regular meetings, volunteer to help with our activities, or would like to support our work with your stewardship, you will be a valued Philoptochos member. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please complete the form below and submit it with your 2022 stewardship payment, by **February 28, 2022**. Checks should be made payable to "Philoptochos" and please write *membership* in the memo section. The mailing address is below. Thank you!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I am interested in helping with the following project(s) and please include me!

Vasilopita Dinner (January) (n/a 2022)		Baklava Plus Sale (Sept. – Nov.)	
Mid – Winter Luncheon (February)		Maintaining the Church Hall/Kitchen	
Greek Independence Day Dinner		Cooking for Grace Episcopal -Porchlight Homeless Shelter	
Koulourakia baking (Holy Week)		Baking Breads for Special Dinners	
Spring/Easter bake sale (drive by pick up)		Coffee Hour Host	
Greek Fest Bake Sale (drive by pick up or onsite)		Prosforon (Holy Bread) baking	
Reception for Assumption Feast Aug 14		Bucket Brigade (church cleaning)	

My Stewardship payment of \$_____ is enclosed (check #_____ or cash).

Please note: \$15.00 goes to National Philoptochos, \$5.00 to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos, and \$2.00 to the Bishop's Fund. We ask for a minimum pledge of \$22.00. Dues paid above the amount will be used for our philanthropic activities and other chapter obligations.

*Please return to **Beth Fatsis (1215 E Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703)**
or drop it in the Philoptochos mailbox at Church.*

Thank you for your generous time and support!

Puzzle 7 - **MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

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

Abraham

Adam

Amos

Daniel

Deborah

Elizabeth

Eve

Ezekiel

Hannah

Isaac

Isaiah

Jacob

Jesus

John

Jonah

Judah

Malachi

Martha

Mary

Mary Magdalene

Miriam

Moses

Paul

Peter

Pharaoh

Priscilla

Rachel

Ruth

Sarah

Stephen

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m.

CARPET FUNDRAISER: To help offset the cost of the new carpet for the church we have put together an option to help pay for it. The new carpet comes in tiles and each of those tiles will cost \$20. So we are interested in seeing if people would consider donating tiles as many as you like, but we are hoping to get everyone to donate the tiles they are using each service. You can also donate an entire row which is 10 tiles for \$200. Please consider giving if you are able. Thank you for being a part of our community.

PARISH OUTING TO THE MADISON CAPITOL'S GAME: On Saturday, February 19th, 2022 we will have a Parish Outing to the Madison Capitol's Hockey Game vs the Dubuque Fighting Saints.

We have ticket options available in the Eagles Nest. First is a ticket to the game for \$12. Second option is a ticket for the game and all you can eat food and drink for \$28.

https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/17043-dubuque-fighting-saints-vs-madison-capitol?promo_code=assumption

Everyone is responsible for buying their own tickets with the link above. Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship. It is also a bobblehead night so get there early.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: A.R.E. classes have begun for the winter. We are beginning a new book, "Saint Nektarios, Saint of our Century". 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.

FROM THE GREEK SCHOOL: Classes have now resumed again. Every Sunday following Sunday School.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, February 17th 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.

PAN ORTHODOX SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS: On Sunday, March 13th at 5:00 p.m. our Parish of Assumption will be hosting the first Annual Madison Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. Please join us for the vespers with all our Orthodox brothers and sister in the Madison area.

CHOIR NEWS: The choir at Assumption is looking for new members to help increase our choir, in order to continue participating in services including Lenten and Holy Week. Those with or without musical knowledge, students in choirs, and those with voices in all vocal ranges are especially needed.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning for those who cannot attend weekday practice. All practices take place downstairs in the choir room; all hymns include phonetics and are written in western notation. Please contact any choir member with your intent to join or just join us before or after liturgy. For more information you can also contact our Choir Director George Tzougros at gtzougros@gmail.com: We look forward to welcoming all new members.

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.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY: In 2021 The River Food Pantry has served over 3,710,749 pounds of food distributed, over 43,229 meals served, over 52,117 lunches served to children with 97.5% of donations going to those they serve. Please consider a donation to The River Food Pantry or volunteer your time.



The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple: On this day the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

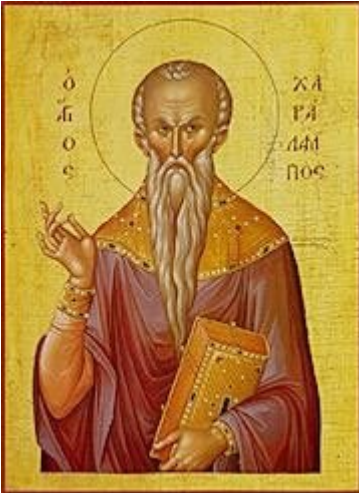
Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil

Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon “Simeon’s Prophecy” symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: “a sword shall pierce through your own soul” (Luke 2:35).



Hieromartyr Haralambos of Magnesia in Thessaly: The Hieromartyr Haralambos, of Magnesia, the Martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus and Three Women Martyrs suffered in the year 202.

Saint Haralambos, successfully spread faith in Christ the Savior, guiding people on the way to salvation. News of his preaching reached Lucian, the governor of the district, and the military commander Lucius. The saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

Despite the priest’s advanced age (he was 113 years old), he was subjected to monstrous tortures. They lacerated his body with iron hooks, and scraped all the skin from his body. During this the saint turned to his tormentors, “I thank you, brethren, that you have restored my spirit, which longs to pass over to a new and

everlasting life!”

Seeing the Elder’s endurance and his complete lack of malice, two soldiers (Porphyrius and Baptus) openly confessed Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Three women who were watching the sufferings of Saint Haralambos also began to glorify Christ, and were quickly martyred.

The enraged Lucius seized the instruments of torture and began to torture the holy martyr, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately his head was turned around so that he faced backwards.

Then Lucius entreated the saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

Lucian reported these events to the emperor Septimus Severus (193-211), who was then at Pisidian Antioch (western Asia Minor). The emperor ordered Saint Haralambos to be brought to him in Antioch. Soldiers twisted the saint’s beard into a rope, wound it around his neck, and used it to drag him along. They also drove an iron nail into his body. The emperor then ordered them to torture the priest more intensely, and they began to burn him with fire, a little at a time. But God protected the saint, and he remained unharmed.

Many miracles were worked through his prayer: he raised a dead youth, and healed a man tormented by devils for thirty-five years, so that many people began to believe in Christ the Savior. Even Galina, the daughter of the emperor, began to believe in Christ, and twice smashed the idols in a pagan temple. On the orders of the emperor they beat the saint about the mouth with stones. They also wanted to set his beard on fire, but the flames burned the torturer.

Full of wickedness, Septimus Severus and an official named Crispus hurled blasphemy at the Lord, mockingly summoning Him to come down to the earth, and boasting of their own power and might. The Lord sent an earthquake, and great fear fell upon all, the impious ones were both suspended in mid-air held by invisible bonds, and only by the prayer of the saint were they put down. The dazed emperor was shaken in his former impiety, but again quickly fell into error and gave orders to torture the saint.

And finally, the emperor sentenced Saint Haralambos to beheading with a sword. During Saint Haralambos' final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Haralambos followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed. Galina buried the martyr's body with great honor.



Greatmartyr Theodore the Tyro: The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (Tyro) was a soldier in the city of Alasium of the Pontine district (northeast province of Asia Minor, stretching along the coast of the Euxine, i.e. the Black Sea), under the command of a certain Brincus. They commanded him to offer sacrifice to idols. Saint Theodore firmly confessed his faith in Christ the Savior in a loud voice. The commander gave him several days to think it over, during which time Saint Theodore prayed.

They charged him with setting a pagan temple on fire, and threw him into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, Saint Theodore boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr Theodore climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer and gave up his holy soul to God.

This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmd by the fire, the body of Saint Theodore was buried in the city of Euchaita, not far from Amasium. His relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him. His head is in Italy, in the city of Gaeto.

Later on, fifty years after the death of Saint Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. Saint Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva).

In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to Saint Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17, Sunday Before Nativity). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

We pray to Saint Theodore for the recovery of stolen articles.

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<u>Carpet Installation in the Church</u>						3:00 p.m. Sacrament No Vespers
		6:00 p.m. Philoptochos Meeting via Zoom				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday of the Canaanite 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School			Strict Fast 11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	Hieromartyr Haralambos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class	Strict Fast	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee Triodion Opens 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School		7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	Strict Fast 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Meeting	Strict Fast	Russian Mission Service 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers 7:05 p.m. Parish Outing to the Madison Capitols
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School			Strict Fast 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	Finding of the head of John the Baptist 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	Strict Fast	Saturday of the Souls 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
27	28					
Judgement Sunday Meatfare Sunday 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School						

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

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.

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

2022 Parish outing to the Madison Capitol's Hockey Team



On Saturday, February 19th, 2022 we will have a Parish Outing to the Madison Capitol's Hockey Game vs the Dubuque Fighting Saints.

We have two ticket options available in the Eagles Nest

First is a ticket to the game for \$12

Second option is a ticket for the game and all you can eat food and drink for \$28.

https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/17043-dubuque-fighting-saints-vs-madison-capitols?promo_code=assumption

Everyone is responsible for buying their own tickets with the link above.

Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship. It is also a bobblehead night so get there early

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River Food Pantry has become the first redistribution organization (RDO) of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. As an RDO, The River can now redirect food sourced from Second Harvest to other local organizations throughout Dane County.

“It is a privilege to expand The River’s partnership with Second Harvest, our largest food source,” said Rhonda Adams, Executive Director of The River. “We entered this RDO agreement because of our long-standing dedication to recover as much food as possible for the community from local food retailers, many of which were passed onto us from Second Harvest to strengthen our community-wide efforts to reduce food waste.”

Through this RDO agreement, The River is allowed to formalize partnerships with local organizations in need of support. Community partners receive regular donations of excess food and resources from The River to reach those who do not access the pantry’s services for various reasons.

“This expansion of our long-standing relationship with The River Food Pantry is an excellent example of partners developing new and more efficient ways to meet the needs of those facing hunger in our community, and the organizations trying to support them,” said Michele Orge, President/CEO of Second Harvest.

Since it officially became an RDO in August, The River has worked with over a dozen redistribution community partners to serve a monthly average of 900 individuals who would otherwise not have access to the pantry’s services. This initiative helps to increase access to healthy food and to minimize food waste in Dane County.

The River’s current redistribution community partners include:

- **Access Housing**
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County**
- **Dryden Terrace (senior and assisted living)**
- **Dryhootch**
- **Friends of the State Street Family**
- **Hope’s Home Ministries**
- **La Follete High School**
- **Neighborhood House Community Center**
- **Porchlight Homeless Men’s Shelter**
- **Shelter from the Storm Ministries**
- **Paul Lutheran Church Community Store**
- **The Beacon**
- **Warner Park Community Recreation Center**

The River distributes a wide variety of products with these organizations to meet their specific needs. Items can include fresh produce, ready-to-eat meals, nonperishable food, snacks, beverages, baby formula, and personal hygiene items.

Each community partner serves a unique population with varying needs. Many of the organizations struggle to afford the quality and quantity of food and/or resources their constituents need to eat and live healthfully, according to Bethany Michiels, The River’s Community Coordinator.

“It is amazing to learn about and work with other organizations serving Dane County in such diverse ways. As an RDO, we can work together to efficiently and safely nourish so many more food-insecure children, seniors, veterans, low-income families, communities of color, and those experiencing homelessness,” said Michiels, who works on-on-one with each partner. To learn more, please visit riverfoodpantry.org/redistribution-community-partnerships.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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Email: office@agocwi.org



expenses. Our goal should be to have our operating expenses covered by stewardship and to not have to rely on fundraisers for operating expenses. Please help us reach that goal. And please consider joining the Stewardship Committee to provide input and help us grow and engage our parishioners more.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th 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