

# Wonder Worker

FEBRUARY 2023

## CHURCH STAFF

- **Parish Priest:** Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- **Parish Council President:** Jim (Demetrios) Katsihtis
- **Philoptochos President:** Eleni Giakoumopoulos
- **Sunday School Directors:** Susu Saba
- **Greek School:** Illektra Kolokouri
- **Choir Director:** George Tzougros

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## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Another New Year has come and gone, and we all find ourselves with a slew of New Year resolutions. Hopefully we have been vigilant and sticking to our plan. But a question now must be raised. Of all the resolutions we made, how many entail living a more Christ-centered life? How many involved helping those around us in need? How many are to grow in our faith?

We have come to know that life is all about making ourselves better, losing weight, reading more etc. But as we all remember from our days as students, in order to get better you must study. An athlete spends hours practicing and training in order to become the best. Of course God given talent does play a role in things, but as people we were all given the ability to be saints, but it is only those who put an effort into their faith that can truly excel. To put your all into your faith requires more than just going to Church every Sunday, and taking communion. Although those are definitely two steps in the right direction, growing in faith involves a lot more than just that.

A solid first step for growing in our faith is to read the Bible everyday. To many people this seems like a burden, but if one reads a couple of chapters a day, one will be able to read the whole New Testament in one year. Scriptural reading will help in your understanding of not only Christ's ministry, but also will give you an understanding of the early church. It also gives you a better understanding of the Liturgy. We as Orthodox have our Liturgies plucked out of scripture. Everything that is done in Church has a scriptural basis, and knowing God's word will cultivate your faith by leaps and bounds.

Another very good way to strengthen your faith is through the act of prayer. There are many different prayers in the Orthodox Church for every possible occasion. One of the most popular little prayer services is the Compline. In Greek it means "prayer after dinner". It is a wonderful prayer that is said in the evening before you go to bed. It only takes about 10 minutes to say, and the whole family can participate. Besides just this in most prayer books you can find Evening prayers, which are a bit shorter than a compline service, but still offer a lot to anyone. Try to say prayers before and after meals, just to give thanks for all the blessings God has bestowed upon you. Prayer books are readily available in both Greek and English. Most Orthodox bookstores have a great selection of prayer books appropriate for all people.

There are many more ways that we all can strengthen our faith, but the most important one is plain and simple. We must want to actually grow closer to God. Although He is always there and ready to help us along our path, He can do nothing if we do not want it. It reminds me of the popular painting we see with Christ knocking on a door. Now the question is, will we open the door?



## February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Strict Fast Day  No Adult Religious Education  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	2  Presentation of our Lord to the Temple  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy  No Evening Adult Religious Education Class	3  Strict Fast Day  Fr. Christodoulos out of the Office	4       4:00 p.m. Great Vespers
5  Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee: Tridion Begins  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School	6	7      8:00 p.m. Philoctochoe Chapter Meeting via Zoom	8  No Fast Day  11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	9      8:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom	10  No Fast Day  Saint Hilarion the Hieromartyr  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	11      4:00 p.m. Great Vespers  Ethiopian Service
12  Sunday of the Prodigal Son  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School	13	14  Fr. Christodoulos out of the Office	15  Strict Fast Day  11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	16      8:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom	17  Strict Fast Day	18  1st Saturday of Souls  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorial prayers  11:30 a.m. Philoctochoe Mid-Winter Luncheon  4:00 p.m. Great Vespers
19  Judgment / Meatfare Sunday  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School  Parish Outing to Urban Air	20  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted)	21  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted)    7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	22  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted)  No Religious Education Class  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	23  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted)    5:30-7:30 p.m. Assumption Youth Outing to Sky Zone  7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Meeting	24  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted)	25  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted) 2nd Saturday of Souls  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorial Prayers  4:00 p.m. Great Vespers
26  Fast Day (Dairy Permitted) Forgiveness / Cheese-fare Sunday  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Sunday School	27  Strict Fast Day Lent Begins Clean Monday  8:00 p.m. Great Compline	28  Strict Fast Day    8:00 p.m. Great Compline				

# **The Parish Council Update**

## **January 2023**

**Officers: Jim Katsihtis, President; Christy Chappell-Belkin, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary; Scott Storck, Treasurer; Niko Papadopoulos, Assistant Treasurer**  
**Members: , Conn Choles, Peter Georgalan, Carol Griskavich, Nick Helser, Bill Margetis, Maria Molzahn, Mike Smith.**

### **New Parish Council & Officers**

Congratulations to our new Parish Council members Peter Georgalan and Bill Margetis, and congratulations to Christy Chappell-Belkin who was elected by the Council to serve as this year's Vice President! May God bless their terms and service! And thanks to Maria Molzahn for her faithful service as the past Vice President!

A special thanks to John Soloninka whose term expired. John has faithfully and tirelessly served this and other parishes on the Council for decades. We give thanks to God for John (and Sue), and for his many years of service!

### **GreekFest+**

Peter Georgalan is the Chairperson of the GreekFest+ Committee. Peter will be providing information, scheduling meetings, and informing the parish of ways in which we can all get involved and help to make GreekFest+ a success and fun.

### **Strategic Survey**

In the coming weeks, we will be sending you a survey to gather your thoughts and to help us shape our Strategic Plan and priorities for the coming years.

### **2023 Stewardship**

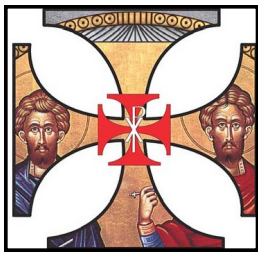
If you haven't already, please return your Stewardship form and continue to pray for, and generously support, our parish. Your stewardship helps support our worship, ministries, youth programs and facility expenses. Our goal is for stewardship to cover our operating expenses without the need for fundraisers. Please help us reach that goal. And please consider joining the Stewardship Committee to provide input and help us grow and engage our stewards in a life in Christ.

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st 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 PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

**February 2023**

## **Focus on PHILOPTOCHOS**

#PhiloCares #ArmyofAgape

Our efforts continue in 2023. Join us in our work throughout the year. Let's never lose sight of the importance of our individual contributions and how simple acts of kindness can make a difference in someone else's life.

Membership for 2023 is underway. Now is the time to join as a new member, renew your membership, volunteer at an event or raise your hand if you want to join the chapter board.

Join our ArmyofAgape!

Lena Giakoumopoulos, Philoptochos President

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Chapter Meeting: February 7 at 6:00 pm CT via ZOOM**

Learn more about what we do and who we serve at the next chapter meeting. We welcome new members to join us, get involved and be part of our sisterhood.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640702753?pwd=eIBGdDk3NDFEZ1MvakRCOXh2bmM1QT09>

Meeting ID: 836 4070 2753

Passcode: 110932

## **February 18, 2023 – Midwinter Appreciation Luncheon**

Join us for the Philoptochos Midwinter luncheon at the Madison Club. Reception at 11:30 am and luncheon at 12:30 pm. Cost is \$37 per person and this includes lunch, gift and raffle ticket.

RSVP by February 8 to Valerie Kazamias, 3633 Spring Trail, Madison 53711. More information available in the newsletter.

**FEBRUARY COLLECTION TRAY:** This month the Philoptochos collection basket is for Local Schools – Local Families. The monthly tray schedule can be found in the newsletter.

## **MEMBERSHIP 2023**

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, the 2023 Membership Form and Annual Commitments are in the newsletter.

## NOTES FROM JANUARY

- Vasilopita luncheon – Thank you to all who cooked, prepared, cleaned, took orders, made raffle baskets, baked vasilopita for the parish and contributed to a lovely afternoon for our community. A successful event with more than \$2100 in luncheon tickets and raffle tickets.
- Donations made to Transition Education Program of the Madison Metropolitan School District (\$500) in gift cards.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Metropolis-Wide Philoptochos President's Meeting – February 11, Ss. Constantine and Helen, Merrillville, IN
- Philoptochos AGOC Chapter Mid-winter luncheon - February 18, Madison
- Children's Medical Fund Luncheon-Hosted by the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos – November 11, 2023, Houston, TX



**THE ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**

Cordially invite you to their  
**MIDWINTER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

Saturday, February 18, 2023

MADISON CLUB

6 East Wilson Street

Madison

Reception 11:30am Lunch served 12:30pm

RSVP

February 8, 2023

In envelope enclosed

Thirty-seven dollars per person which  
includes: lunch, a gift and a raffle ticket

**GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED AND WELCOMED**

# YOUTH CORNER



Hello Sunday school families,

Just a quick reminder, Sunday classes are in session after Holy Communion for 30 min. There has been a low count of students attending Sunday school classes. We love seeing your kids come to learn more about the faith and participate in the church service. We appreciate all the help and support from our amazing families!

We have some fun activities happening this month that we hope you all can make it to:

1. Parish outing to **Madison Capitols** hockey game Saturday **February 18th** at 7pm
2. Our first parish outing to **Sky Zone** Thursday **February 23rd** from **5:30-7:30pm** tickets will be half price! Food concessions are available for purchase there too.

In Christ,  
Susu Akkawi

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Will be held on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m.

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING:** On Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**PHILOPTOCHOS MIDWINTER LUNCHEON:** Join us for the Philoptochos Midwinter luncheon on Saturday, February 18th at the Madison Club. Reception at 11:30 am and luncheon at 12:30 pm. Cost is \$37 per person and this includes lunch, gift and raffle ticket. See attached flier for registration Details.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS:** A.R.E. classes are in full swing. We are currently continuing the Book "The Orthodox Church". 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.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING:** Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, February 23rd 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](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.

**SAVE THE DATE: PARISH OUTING TO THE MADISON CAPITALS GAME:** Once again our parish is going to be doing an outing for the Madison Capitals Hockey Team on Saturday, February 18th. Just like last year we have a link to purchase tickets to the eagles nest with all you can eat and drink packages. It is also Team USA Bobblehead night. Packages are as listed.

-For kids 12 & under it is all you can eat and drink for \$17

-For adults with no alcohol All you can eat or drink for \$22

-For adults all you can eat & drink including Alcohol for \$28

This will be a great game to attend with the whole family. Come cheer on our Madison Capitals to defeat the Omaha Lancers on February 18th at 7:05 p.m. at the Bob Suter's Capital Arena. Link for tickets is below

[https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/21868-omaha-lancers-vs-madison-capitals?promo\\_code=greekchurch](https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/21868-omaha-lancers-vs-madison-capitals?promo_code=greekchurch)

**DONATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS ARTICLES:** Many of the sacred items on this list are to be donated to replace others, which due to time and usage throughout the years can no longer be used in worship services. Still others are needed so that we may worship in the proper way /according to our Orthodox Faith.

If there is anyone wishing to donate:

15 Hanging Vigil Lamps	- \$100 - 10 Donated
Censor Stand with Procession candles	- \$1,050
Gospel Stand	- \$450 - Donated
Portable Icon Stand	- \$750
Artoclassia Stand	- \$350 - Donated
Holy Thursday Candle Stand	- \$400 - Donated
Elevation Tray with Cross	- \$1,200

If anyone has any questions concerning this list, please contact Fr. Christodoulos for more information and details.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & CONSTANTINOPLE:** 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. The dates and price have now been finalized. We will depart on Wednesday, November 8th in the evening. We will be returning on Sunday, November 19th. The total cost of the Trip will be \$4,363 and will include airfare, hotel, breakfast, dinner and all transportation. We will have an informational meeting on Sunday, February 19th at 12:30 p.m. in the boardroom. This will also be available via zoom. We will have a member of AMI travel on with us and possibly also Archbishop Aristovoulols of Madaba who will also be one of our guides. Consider joining us for this once in a lifetime opportunity to see where Jesus walked, lived, died & resurrected. We normally meet with both the Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople. We will have a meeting soon and will send out info as soon as we have it. God Bless.



## The Ladies' Philoptochos Society Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 2023 Membership Drive

We invite you to join us and share in our philanthropic mission. Through your stewardships and our various fundraisers, we can 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 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 need you to join us in this most important mission. If you haven't already updated your Philoptochos membership, please do so now. While the minimum requirement for membership is \$22.00, all those proceeds go to support our National and Metropolis levels with their projects. Any money donated beyond the \$22.00 will go to our local Philanthropy Fund activities and other chapter obligations.

We hope that you will join us as a member and 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 2023 stewardship payment, by February 28, 2023. Checks should be made payable to "Philoptochos" and please write *membership* in the memo section. The mailing address is below. Thank you!

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
EMAIL	

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

Vasilopita Luncheon (January)		Baklava Plus Sale (Sept. – Nov.)	
Mid – Winter Luncheon (February)		Maintaining the Church Hall/Kitchen	
Greek Independence Day Dinner		Cooking for Homeless Shelter	
Koulourakia baking (Holy Week)		Baking Breads for Special Dinners	
Spring/Easter bake sale		Coffee Hour Hostess	
Greek Fest Bake Sale (drive by pick up or onsite)		Prosforon (Holy Bread) baking	
Reception for Assumption Feast Aug 14		Bucket Brigade (church cleaning)	
Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and/or Memorial Services (if requested)		Operation Classroom	

**My Stewardship payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (check #\_\_\_\_\_).**

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.

*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!***



## NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND MINISTRY COMMITMENTS

**Saint Basil Academy** – Vasilopita Fund (January 2023)

**Saint Basil Academy** – Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy Fund (April 2023)

In March 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras recommended that the Philoptochos Society purchase the 250-acre Rupert Estate in Garrison, New York, located on the shores of the Hudson River, directly across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. With that purchase, and with the establishment of the Academy of St. Basil, Philoptochos undertook the lasting commitment to the children who reside there. Today, Philoptochos remains a major financial supporter of the Academy through two ministry commitments:

- **Vasilopita**: Held in January by every chapter in the United States, this event provides a major source of funding for the Academy's operating expenses.
- **Sisterhood**: The Sisterhood Fund provides for the ongoing needs of the children of the Academy, such as clothing, furnishings, equipment and other essentials for the dormitories and kitchens, as well as support for the Graduation ceremonies and special awards for students.

**Social Services Fund** – January 2023

**Cancer and Other Major Illnesses Fund** – January 2023

Following the recommendations of Archbishop Iakovos, Philoptochos has, since the late 1950s, focused on the implementation of important programs to benefit the Greek Orthodox community, including but not limited to the institutions of the church, but also programs assisting Orthodox families.

Since 1987, the National Philoptochos Office has employed a licensed Social Worker to assist the Greek Orthodox community in the United States, as well as Greek and Cypriot nationals. The Department of Social Services is a critical and vital component of the Society. The mission of the Department is to improve the quality of life of those in need, in a way that maintains the dignity and self-respect of the individual. Through confidential and professional services, the office provides outreach, education, information, support, motivation, advocacy, financial assistance, and referrals to local and broader resources.

As uncovered medical costs continue to be a key concern in the United States, the Philoptochos cancer and other major illnesses fund provides relief to members of our community, regardless of immigration status, so that they can focus on their health and health care needs rather than their financial challenges.

**Autism Assistance Fund** – February 2023

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has called Autism a "national public health crisis" more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. This fund provides assistance and support to persons within the Autism spectrum and promotes education to heighten Autism awareness.

**Saint Photios Shrine Fund** – February 2023

In 1965, the Archdiocese purchased the Avero House in historic Saint Augustine, Florida, to commemorate the arrival of the first Greek settlers in the New World in 1768. Philoptochos continues its commitment to provide financial assistance towards the preservation of the National Shrine.

**Orthodox Christian Missions Fund**– March 2023

**Support a Mission Priest Fund** – March 2023

The Society offers financial assistance to Orthodox Christian Mission organizations, strengthening their ability to carry the message of the Orthodox Church through media and missions, throughout the world. In addition, the Support a Mission Priest ministry enables Orthodox bishops and priests in mission areas to build and restore churches, community centers, schools, and medical facilities, and to participate in training, teaching and field management.

**Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Lenten Event Fund** – March 2023

**Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Scholarship Fund** – September 2023

Archbishop Athenagoras established the Holy Cross School of Theology in June 1937, in Pomfret, Connecticut. The Archbishop addressed a special appeal to the Philoptochos to devote themselves to the School, “where your sons will be educated as priests and teachers.” Over eighty five years later, Philoptochos continues its strong commitment to and financial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross through the following programs:

- **HCHC Lenten Event Fund**: On the Third Sunday of Lent, observing the Veneration of the Holy Cross, Philoptochos chapters sponsor a Lenten Event, following the Divine Liturgy, with proceeds dedicated to operating expenses of the school.
- **HCHC Scholarship Fund**: Scholarships are awarded to worthy and dedicated students, both men and women at Hellenic College and seminarians at Holy Cross to assist with tuition expenses.

**International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Fund** – April 2023

The IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, providing food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency, and hope to those in need around the world. Philoptochos partners with IOCC to serve as first responders to major world disasters through and for education, health, and major necessities.

**75th Anniversary Founders Fund** – May/June 2023

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Philoptochos Society, this fund provides financial support to Greek Orthodox older adults and their families to assist with housing, utilities, unreimbursed or uncovered medical expenses, home health care, hospice, funerals, safety equipment, and specially approved projects and also provides support to existing continuing care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the United States, and may support the establishment of similar facilities.

**Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund (OCF)** – May/June 2023

The OCF mission is to support fellowship on college campuses, whose members experience and witness the Orthodox Church through community life, prayer, service to others and study of faith. The fund provides support to more than 240 local OCF chapters throughout the country.

**Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund** – September 2023

Through this commitment, Philoptochos provides support for the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which was established in 1988 to provide support for retired clergy who face financial challenges.

**National Philoptochos Emergency Fund** – October 2023

This fund enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis.

**Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund** – November 2023

The philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Baloukli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines, and parishes, are supported through this commitment.

**APC-NSP Benevolent Fund** – November 2023

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres was established in 1982 and is comprised of all Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Philoptochos funds provide short-term support for clergy and/or their families in times of crisis.

**United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** – December 2023

In 1979, to commemorate the United Nation’s “International Year of the Child.” Philoptochos was designated a Non-Governmental Organization, working with the United Nations and UNICEF. Philoptochos’ donations help this global organization protect the rights, health, and well-being of children worldwide.

**General Medical Fund** – December 2023

Philoptochos receives numerous requests for financial assistance for adults afflicted with medical conditions which are outside the scope of restricted funds established by the Society. The Society utilizes this fund to aid in those cases where appropriate funding is not otherwise available.

**COME WATCH  
A CAPITOLS GAME WITH  
ASSUMPTION GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH!**

**BOB SUTER'S CAPITOL ICE ARENA**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH  
GAME STARTS AT 7:05PM**

**THE CHURCH WILL BE IN THE EAGLE'S NEST SECTION WITH  
ALL YOU CAN EAT & DRINK**

**INCLUDED: TICKET TO THE GAME, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,  
CHEESEBURGERS, BRATS, CHICKEN SANDWICHES, MAC &  
CHEESE, CHIPS, PEPSI PRODUCTS, 8 BEER OPTIONS ON TAP,  
TRULY, AND WHITE CLAW**

**USE THE TICKET LINK BELOW TO PURCHASE  
DISCOUNTED FRIENDS & FAMILY TICKETS!**



**SCAN HERE  
FOR TICKETS**

**TICKET LINK:  
[HTTP://BIT.LY/3HLH8KW](http://bit.ly/3HLH8KW)**

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT JULIETTE MAKARA  
[JULIETTE@MADCAPSHOCKEY.COM](mailto:juliette@madcapshockey.com) OR 608-663-6088**



[https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/21868-omaha-lancers-vs-madison-capitols?promo\\_code=greekchurch](https://tickets.madcapshockey.com/events/21868-omaha-lancers-vs-madison-capitols?promo_code=greekchurch)



**ASSUMPTION PARISH  
OUTING TO...**

# **SKY ZONE**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23RD**

**5:30PM-7:30PM**

**2134 W BELTLINE HWY, MADISON, WI**

**TICKETS HALF PRICE!**





# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

## Details

Please join us for this wonderful trip to help bring the Gospels to life in front of our very eyes.

Have the opportunity to see the places where the most important aspects of Christ's life took place.

Take advantage of the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. Then join us in the City of Constantinople to the Be there to enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to reinvigorate our faith.

### *What we will be seeing:*

- Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher were Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and resurrected in Glory!
- Visit Bethlehem and see the spot where Christ was welcomed into the world at the beautiful Church of the Nativity!
- See the shepherds Field where the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Christ!
- Experience the sea of Galilee and the surrounding region where Christ called the apostles and spent much of His ministry!
- See the spot where the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce the birth of the Savior!
- Experience Church of Agia Sophia, the Grand Bazaar, the Church of Agia Irene, the Church of Chora and the Patriarchate of Constantinople!



Cost on next Page

Breakfast and dinner included

All that's missing is you!

November 8 - November 19

2023

## Price Details

The package price per person in a shared room occupancy: **\$4,363\***  
First 30 seats guaranteed .

Single room supplement; add **\$897**

Nov 08: Depart Chicago at 10:40pm. Arrival to Tel Aviv next day at 7:25pm.

Nov. 16: Depart Tel Aviv at 12:20pm. Arrival to Constantinople (Istanbul) same day at 3:45pm

Nov 19: Depart Constantinople (Istanbul) at 3:20pm. Arrival in Chicago same day at 6:15pm

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airfare
- All transfers in Israel and Turkey
- Hotel accommodation in Israel in Istanbul
- Luggage handling at hotels in Israel & Istanbul
- Hotels taxes and service charges
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Complimentary St. Peter's fish lunch on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Private Bosphorus boat tour
- Farewell dinner on last evening in Israel
- Sightseeing in a private modern coach
- Private licensed professional tour guide accompanied by local clergies from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem
- Personal wireless earphone for usage during touring days
- Entrance fees to sites per itinerary, including boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and cable car to Masada & private Bosphorus boat tour

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- ✳ Airlines departure taxes if different than January 2023 estimate. The January 2023 taxes have already been added to the above total . Final amount to be determined at time of ticketing
- Entry visa to Turkey (to be paid online before arrival [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr))
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and hotel staff (suggested \$165 per participant)
- Travel/Medical Insurance

## Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

11 N 7th Street

Madison, WI 53704-4904

Phone: 608-244-1001 Fax: 608-244-1565

Email: [office@agocwi.org](mailto:office@agocwi.org)

[www.agocwi.org](http://www.agocwi.org)

# 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.

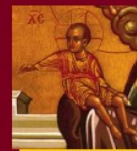
+ St. Anna the Prophetess had lived in the Temple day and night for decades, fasting, praying, and awaiting the Messiah.



+ On seeing Him, she praises God and *"speaks about the Child to all who sought the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2: 38).



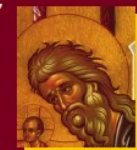
+ Jesus Christ, Who is God before all ages, is presented to the Temple as any other child of a poor Jewish family of the time.



+ 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.