

Wonder Worker

MARCH 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: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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MOVING TOWARDS THE INCARNATION

The Annunciation of the Theotokos is a significant event in our faith as it commemorates the moment when the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she would bear the Son of God. This event is central to our theology as it represents the beginning of the Incarnation, when God became man in the form of Jesus Christ.

The Annunciation is celebrated on March 25th each year, and it is considered one of the twelve great feast days of the Church. The event is described in the Gospel of Luke, where it states that the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!" (Luke 1:28).

The church emphasizes the importance of Mary in the events leading up to the Annunciation. Mary's purity and faithfulness are highlighted as important qualities that made her a suitable vessel for the Incarnation. Mary is referred to as the Theotokos, which means "God-bearer," emphasizing her role in bearing the Son of God.

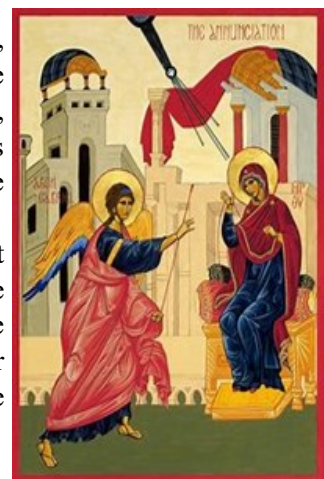
We also place great emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Annunciation. The Spirit is seen as the one who overshadowed Mary and made possible the miraculous conception of Jesus. This is reflected in the hymn sung during the Annunciation service, which proclaims, "Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace" (Troparion of the Annunciation).

The Annunciation is also seen as a moment of great humility and obedience on the part of Mary. When she is informed by the Archangel Gabriel that she will bear a son, she responds with the words, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). This statement is seen as an example of Mary's faith and willingness to follow God's will, even in difficult circumstances.

The Orthodox Church also views the Annunciation as a pivotal moment in human history. The Incarnation is seen as the ultimate act of God's love for humanity, and the Annunciation is the beginning of this process. Through the Incarnation, God takes on human form and enters into the suffering and struggles of humanity. This is seen as a profound expression of God's love for humanity and a source of hope and salvation for all.

The Annunciation is also closely linked to the concept of theosis, which refers to the process by which humans can become more like God. The Incarnation is seen as the ultimate example of this process, and the Annunciation is the beginning of this journey. Through Mary's faith and obedience, and the work of the Holy Spirit, humans are able to participate in the divine nature and become more like God.

In conclusion, the Annunciation of the Theotokos is a significant event in Orthodox Christianity that represents the beginning of the Incarnation. It highlights the importance of Mary's faithfulness, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the profound expression of God's love for humanity. It is also seen as a pivotal moment in human history and the beginning of the journey towards theosis. - *Fr. Christodoulos*



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Strict Fast Day 11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	2 Strict Fast Day 8:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom	3 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. 1st Salutation Service	4 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted 4:00 p.m. Great Veepers
5 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted 1st Sunday of Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Veepers	6 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. Great Compline	7 Strict Fast Day	8 Strict Fast Day 11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	8 Strict Fast Day 8:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom	10 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. 2nd Salutation Service	11 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted 8:00 a.m. - noon Assumption Food Bank Volunteering 4:00 p.m. Great Veepers Ethiopian Service
12 Fast Day Wine & Oil Permitted 2nd Sunday of Lent Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Lenten Veepers Saints Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Orthodox	13 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. Great Compline	14 Strict Fast Day	15 Strict Fast Day 11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education Class 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	16 Strict Fast Day 8:30 p.m. Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom	17 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. 3rd Salutation Service	18 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted +Sacrament 4:00 p.m. Great Veepers
19 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted 3rd Sunday of Lent Veneration of the Holy Cross 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Veepers at Assumption	20 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m., Great Compline	21 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	22 Strict Fast Day No Religious Education Class 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	23 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Meeting	24 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. Great Veepers at Annunciation in Mil- waukee, WI	25 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted Annunciation of the Theotokos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 4:00 p.m. Great Veepers
26 Fast Day Oil & Wine Permitted 4th Sunday of Lent Sunday of Saint John Climacus 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Veepers at Saint John the Wonder- worker Portage, WI	27 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. Great Compline	28 Strict Fast Day	29 Strict Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 8:00 p.m. Small Compline with Cannon of Saint Andrew of Crete	30 Strict Fast Day	31 Strict Fast Day 8:00 p.m. Akathist Service	

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.

Blessed Great and Holy Lent!

With God's grace and help, let's encourage each other and use this lenten time to grow closer to our Lord through repentance, increased prayer and worship, fasting and almsgiving. What a wonderful opportunity to re-focus and re-prioritize our lives. God became man for us, was crucified, resurrected and ascended. How are we responding to that? What could be more important in our lives? The Church in its wisdom and tradition provides us with this period of preparation, guidelines and opportunities for worship and renewal. Let's not be distracted and let's make every effort to grow in our relationship with God and our love for all mankind.

GreekFest+

Mark your calendars, spread the word and please volunteer to help...GreekFest+ is scheduled for September 9th and 10th. Our GreekFest Chairperson, Peter Georgalan, will be communicating more information and ways in which you can help soon.

Palm Sunday Lunch and Pascha Dinner

We are pleased to announce that we will again be having a luncheon on Palm Sunday and a Pascha dinner following the resurrection service. More details and a signup will be shared in the coming weeks.

Strategic Survey

This month, 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. We plan to share the results at the Spring General Assembly meeting.

2023 Stewardship

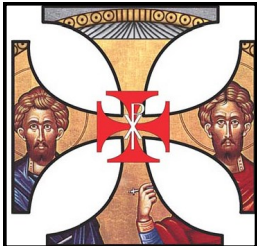
If you haven't already, please return your Stewardship form and continue to pray for, and generously support, our parish. Your stewardship helps support our worship, ministries, youth programs and facility expenses. Our goal is for stewardship to cover our operating expenses without the need for fundraisers. 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, March 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 PHILOTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

March 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.

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: March 5 at 11:30 am CT after liturgy and 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854445725720?pwd=YlVaU3p3TVc3bVp5QVQ2eEZDNURyQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 4572 5720

Passcode: 105467

March 26, 2023 – Greek Independence Plaki luncheon

See the informational flyer for the event, informational flyer for the cottage raffle (thanks to Faith Morledge again) and the raffle ticket form attached in the newsletter.

To place an order for the March 26 meal, contact Maria Molzahn
at mariaandpatrick@gmail.com by March 19, 2023.

Volunteers to make the vegetable sauce - Saturday, March 25 at 9:00 am.

If you can volunteer to assist with this, please contact Korinna Hansen

at korinna.hansen@wisc.edu

Skordalia makers (5 lbs of potatoes each)

We need 5 volunteers to make skordalia and bring to the church hall, the latest by March 26 in the morning. Contact Korinna Hansen directly at korinna.hansen@wisc.edu if you need a recipe.

Cooking on March 26

Thank you to Gus and Angela Kyriakopoulos who will be cooking the plaki meal on March 26. If you would like to assist, be in the kitchen by 8:30 am.

Clean up - March 26

Volunteers needed to assist after the meal for clean up.

Contact Lena Giakoumopoulos at lenagiak@gmail.com if you can assist with clean up.

MARCH COLLECTION TRAY: This month the Philoptochos collection basket is for Relief for Greece and Cyprus. The collection tray can be found as you exit the church, near the staircase.

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 FEBRUARY

- Midwinter Appreciation luncheon – The 2023 event took place at The Madison Club and members enjoyed a beautiful view of Lake Monona. Raffle drawings and good will donations raised \$1000 for one of Madison’s local tv station’s Diaper Drive.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 1, 2023- Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Lenten Retreat-St. Athanasios, Aurora, IL
- April 21, 2023- Ζωοδόχος Πηγή Celebration Bright Friday-St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, IL
- May 20, 2023- Metropolis Presidents Meeting- St. Iakovos Retreat Center
- May 21, 2023 – Celebration for David Giffey



Assumption Philoptochos Raffle to Raise Money for Food, Clothes, and Medicines for the Neediest in Greece and Cyprus

Raffle Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50

Name _____

Email address and/or phone number _____

Amount of cash/check donation \$ _____

Please enclose this form in an envelope along with your donation (cash or check*) and place the envelope in the Philoptochos philanthropy basket at church.

Alternatively, mail a check* with your donation to Philoptochos Treasurer:

Beth Fatsis

1215 E. Johnson St.

Madison, WI 53703

*Checks payable to Philoptochos with "Greece" in the memo section.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support!

YOUTH CORNER



Hello Sunday school families,

As we begin to enter the month of March and spring is slowly in the air, I hope you are all doing well in your journey through lent. Sunday school teachers are now teaching your children about the importance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during lent. I encourage all of you and your families to take a step forward in fasting, prayer, and almsgiving this year whatever that may be in each of your families. Teaching your children the importance of lent is very vital in bringing them up in the Orthodox faith. Lent is much more than "becoming vegan for 40 days." It's a way of self control, learning to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, and becoming closer with our Lord.

In the spirit of lent this month, Sunday school will be working with the Allied Food Pantry and we need your help! We will be doing a church outing to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to help package and sort food for those in need and then transporting the food to the Allied Food Pantry. Children and adults are welcome to come together to help; we will be opening this up to anyone in the parish to come volunteer also. College and high school students are encouraged to come if they need any community volunteer hours signed!

This event will be on **Saturday March 11th at 9am-12:30pm**. We will start at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: **5701 Raymond Rd, Madison at 9am**. Families and children will take food out of bags and sort it into various categories like soup, cereal, vegetables, etc. Each category has its own table with boxes or flats. The children will walk food over to the corresponding table, and put it into its correct box. When all the food has been sorted, we will divide the food and transport it to the Allied Food Pantry. We will need 3 cars to take the food to the Allied Food Pantry and put it into stacks inside: **4619 Jenewein Rd, Fitchburg**. Please let myself or Father know if you are interested in helping with transporting the food.

We can't wait to start this volunteer program this year with all of you. With all your help I know we can make a difference for those in need.

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

PHILOTOCHOS MEETING: On Sunday, March 5th at 12:00 p.m. in person.

ASSUMPTION FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER: On Saturday, March 11th we are organizing a morning of volunteering at Good Shepard Lutheran Church. We will be helping to organize food to be delivered to Allied Food Pantry. During this time of Great Lent which marks an increase of our pray and liturgical lives. It is also an excellent opportunity to give back to God in other ways. Volunteering to help those in need is a central pillar of our faith. This event is open to all members of our parish. Please consider join us on March 11th.

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, March 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 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 5th at 5:00 p.m. thr Parish of Saint Ignatius will be hosting the Secondnnual Madison Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. Please join us for the vespers with all our Orthodox brothers and sister in the Madison area.

PAN ORTHODOX LENTEN VESPERS: On Sundays March 12th, 19th and 26th the Local Orthodox Churches will be hosting Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers. On March 12th Saints Cyril & Methodios Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Madison will Host. On Sunday, March 19th our parish of Assumption will be hosting and on Sunday, March 26th Saint John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church in Portage will be hosting. All services will begin at 5:00 p.m. More information is in attached flier.

PHILOTOCHOS GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY LUNCHEON: Enjoy a traditional Greek Plaki fish meal. Adults: \$15.00 (traditional Plaki fish meal) Children: \$7.00 (1/2 fish meal) PLEASE RSVP to mari-aandpatrick@gmail.com by SUNDAY, March 19th with the following information: 1. Number and types of meals. 2. Eat at church or take it home. All proceeds will be going to support Greece and Cyprus.

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:

2 Hanging Vigil Lamps	- \$100
Censor Stand with Procession candles	- \$1,050
Portable Icon Stand	- \$750

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

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & CONSTANTINOPLE: 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 Aris-tovoulols 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. <https://www.amitravel.com/groups/group/?id=62a946b21059860004c7bd71>



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 Presbyteres Benevolent Fund – September 2023

Through this commitment, Philoptochos provides support for the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyteres 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 Presbyteres was established in 1982 and is comprised of all Presbyteres 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.



The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Invite our parish to a
Greek Independence Day Luncheon
on
Sunday, March 26, 2023

Enjoy a traditional Greek Plaki fish meal after the service.

Adults: \$15.00 (Plaki fish meal)
Children: \$7.00 (1/2 fish meal)

PLEASE RSVP to mariaandpatrick@gmail.com by **SUNDAY, 3/19/2023** with the following information:

1. Number and types of meals
2. Eat at church or To Go



The event benefits our support to Greece and Cyprus.



Sponsored
by:

4 NIGHT GETAWAY!!
SUNSET NOOK COTTAGE
GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN



Escape to Green Lake
Waterfront Cottage with Boat Slip!
Vacation home stay Oct. thru April



Faith Morledge
Realtor/Broker

608.444.8330
SoldWithFaith.com

Win a 4 Night Stay at Sunset Nook Cottage Green Lake, WI

One Ticket \$20 / Three Tickets \$50

Proceeds will benefit the neediest of Greece and Cyprus

Drawing at Greek Independence Day Dinner
Sunday, March 26th
(You need not be present to win)

Lenten Pan-Orthodox Vespers

For the Madison Area Orthodox Church



On Sundays, March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th 2023 the Madison Area Orthodox Churches will all be hosting Sunday Night Lenten Pan Orthodox Great Vespers.

All Services will begin at 5:00 p.m.

**March 5th - Saint Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church
2124 Shafer Drive, Fitchburg, WI**

**March, 12th - Saints Cyril & Methodios Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1020 Regent St. Madison, WI**

**March 19th - Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
11 N. 7th St. Madison, WI**

**March 26th - Saint John the Wonderworker Russian Orthodox Church
211 W Pleasant St, Portage, WI**



Save the Date

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
JOYFULLY INVITES YOU TO A DINNER IN HONOR OF

David and Nancy Giffey

FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP, ARTISTRY AND SERVICE,
AND FOR DAVID'S VISIONARY ICONOGRAPHY,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

Sunday, May 21, 2023

4:00 – 8:00 PM

HOLY WISDOM MONASTERY
400 COUNTY HWY M, MIDDLETON, WI 53562

More information to follow



Assumption FOOD BANK Volunteer



Saturday March 11th from 9am-12:30pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
5701 Raymond Rd, Madison

Children and families will:

- Help sort food into categories
- Place food in baskets
- 3 cars will transport food to Allied Food Pantry



Let's help those who need it!



What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos March 25

“Rejoice, for you are the throne of the king,
rejoice for you bear him who bears all things.”

- + The Archangel Gabriel came to the Panagia to announce that she would conceive and bear a Son, even though she “knew no man.”
- + In the icon, he carries a staff, a symbol of being a messenger.
- + The name of the feast in Greek (Ευαγγελισμός—Evangelismos) means literally “Good News.”



- + The Archangel's right hand is extended toward the Panagia as he announces the blessing that is being bestowed upon her.
- + He greets her with these words: *“Rejoice, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women”* (Luke 1, 28-29).



- + Note the position of Archangel Gabriel's feet as he is runs to share the good news with the Theotokos.
- + We are called to act similarly when God sends us!



- + The Mother of God sits on an elevated seat, showing that she is *“greater in honor than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim.”*
- + Her veil bears three stars used to represent her ever-virginity: before, during, and after Christ's birth.



- + Her right hand is shown upwards: a gesture that may indicate both surprise at news beyond understanding, and acceptance of God's will.
- + Her posture, with her head lowered also shows humility and acceptance.



- + She gives her whole self freely to God, submitting to His will.

- + The Panagia holds a spindle of scarlet thread in her left hand.
- + Holy Tradition tells us as Christ's Body begins to be woven in her womb, she was weaving a purple and scarlet curtain for the tabernacle in the Temple...the very one that is torn in two at the moment of His death on the Cross.



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

What can we give back?



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)
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and hotel staff (suggested \$165 per participant)
- Travel/Medical Insurance

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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Email: office@agocwi.org



PASCHA DONATIONS 2023

Flowers for the Icon of the Theotokos Akathist	\$100.00
Jonquils or Daffodils for Sunday of the Holy Cross	\$150.00
Bay Leaves/Daphne & Palms for Palm Sunday	\$500.00
Flowers for the Icon of the Nymphios	\$250.00
Holy Unction (candles, flour, oil)	\$50.00
Stephani and Flowers for Stavromenon Holy Thursday	\$200.00
Items for Decorating the Epitaphios	\$100.00
Epitaphios Burial Shroud (Savano)	\$100.00
Rosewater for Holy Week	\$60.00
Candle Cup Holders	\$150.00
Flowers for the Epitaphios	\$1,500.00
1 Cases of Communion Wine	\$125.00
Priest Resurrection Candle	\$300.00
Flowers for the Narthex Resurrection Icon	\$125.00
Tulle and Ribbon for Red Pascha Eggs	\$110.00
Small Peace Lilly Plants for Church (14 needed at \$30.00 each)	\$30.00
Large Resurrection Flower Royal Gates (2 of them)	\$55.00