

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: Dear members and parents. If you or your children would be interested in serving in the Altar please come see me. We are need on children and men of all ages to help bolster our Altar server ranks. Children should be 7 and up.

CHOIR NEWS: Our Choir is getting ready to begin again in September. They are always looking to find ways to improve and grow. 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 from September to June 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 gtzougros@gmail.com: We look forward to welcoming all new members.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: A.R.E. classes have now begun again. We will reading, "Words of the Heart" Classes are in person on Wednesday beginning at 11 a.m. and Thursday's via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join.

GREEK FREAK NIGHT AT THE MILWAUKEE BUCKS GAME: The Milwaukee Bucks annual Greek Heritage Night will be on December 11th.

The Church has been given a link to purchase tickets. Each person will purchase their tickets from the site. Prices range from \$50 - \$108.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate the Greek Night with the Bucks and Giannis! All attendees will receive a commemorative Giannis Bobblehead and a wristband to be included in the post game activities with Giannis. We will also have a bus from Church. We will soon know the cost and update. Links for tickets and to sign up for the bus bellow.

Ticket Link

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/bucksgreek23>

Bus Link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0545aeae2ca02-busfor1>

YOUTH NEWS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: Starting the month of December, we will be collecting food items for the River Food Pantry. The last day to donate will be on Sunday December 17th. You can leave your donated items by the front door of the church entrance. As a church community we can make a difference for those in need the most.

Friday December 8th from 5:30-8pm is our annual gingerbread family night! Please join us for some fun gingerbread house decorating! There will be food and yummy sweets with hot cocoa!

Sunday December 17th will be the Sunday school and Greek school Christmas pageant. The pageant will take place after Liturgy in the church. We encourage children to wear the colors green and red for the Christmas spirit.

On Friday December 22nd we will host our first Christmas pajama movie night starting at 5:30-8pm - if the weather permits. There will be popcorn, cookies, and hot cocoa! Children are encouraged to wear their cozy Christmas pajamas and bring their comfy blankets as they watch a fun Christmas movie together!

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✝Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

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Sunday, November 19th, 2023
13th Sunday of Luke
Saint Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis
Saint Nikon Metanoicite

Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4: 1-7

Gospel: Luke 18: 18-27

No Sunday School/Coffee Hour

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Tuesday, November 28th, 2023

Fast Day

7:00 p.m.

Philoptochos Chapter Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 29th, 2023

Strict Fast Day

No Religious Education Class

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Thursday, November 30th, 2023

Fast Day

Saint Andrew the first called

No Liturgy at Assumption, but there will be Liturgy at Saints Cyril and Methodios Ukrainian Orthodox Church beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Fr. Christodoulou's is on Vacation & out of the office until December 4th

CHRISTMAS CARD: Each year, our Church prepares a Christmas card that is mailed to our entire community. Your participation through our Church Christmas Card will not only convey your warmest and personal regards, but also frees you from mailing personal cards to many families. This is savings to you and a benefit for our parish. To include your name on this year's Christmas card please complete the flyer that has been emailed to you and included in the bulletin, or you can pick one up at the candle stand in the Church. Please return completed forms and payment to the church no later than December 11th.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Elections will take place Sunday, December 10th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. If you are interested in running for the parish council please talk to either Fr. Christodoulos or any member of the parish council for more details. We need more people willing to undertake the leadership of our parish and doing the Lord's work.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION: As we have entered into the period of Advent - Nativity Fast - we would like to remind all the faithful of our parish that they should make an appointment with your Spiritual Father for Holy Confession. Let us greet the newborn Lord with a renewed and contrite spirit.

χεύσης, μη φονεύσης, μη κλέψης, μη ψευδομαρτυρήσης, τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα σου. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Ταῦτα πάντα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου. ἀκούσας δὲ ταῦτα ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἔτι ἓν σοι λείπει· πάντα ὅσα ἔχεις πώλησον καὶ διάδος πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολούθει μοι. ὁ δὲ ἀκούσας ταῦτα περίλυπος ἐγένετο· ἦν γὰρ πλούσιος σφόδρα. Ἴδὼν δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἰησοῦς περίλυπον γενόμενον εἶπε· Πῶς δυσκόλως οἱ τὰ χρήματα ἔχοντες εἰσελεύσονται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ! εὐκοπώτερον γάρ ἐστι κάμηλον διὰ τρυμαλιᾶς ραφίδος εἰσελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. εἶπον δὲ οἱ ἀκούσαντες· Καὶ τίς δύναται σωθῆναι; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Τὰ ἀδύνατα παρὰ ἀνθρώποις δυνατὰ παρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐστίν.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT: While we pray and work for the reconciliation and unity of all the world's Christians, the reality remains that there is still no intercommunion between our Orthodox Churches and the Churches of the West. This means that only baptized, chrismated and observant Orthodox faithful receive Communion in our churches. At the same time, we warmly welcome all non-Orthodox to join us in prayer and celebration, and humbly offer to all present the Antidoro bread of fellowship at the end of the service. We offer this important symbol 'instead of the Gifts', in the words of the Apostle Paul, 'Till we all come to the unity of the Faith' (Eph. 4.13).

HOLY CONFESSION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ADVENT: Each of us should go to the priest for Holy Confession during this period of Advent. Our very salvation can be threatened when we ignore this most beautiful sacrament of our Church. Make time year to call your Father Confessor for an appointment.

WELCOME: We are pleased that you worshipped with us today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in our church hall, following worship. If you are new to the parish, or simply visiting, introduce yourself to our priest or to our greeters, so that they may introduce you to others.

FIVE WAYS TO WELCOME VISITORS ON SUNDAY:

1. Smile and be friendly.
2. Greet them.
3. Introduce yourself by name and ask theirs.
4. Invite them to our coffee fellowship.
5. Ask them to return again for worship.

Resurrection Hymn

Ἦχος πλ δ

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγγνος, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Mode Plagal of the Fourth

From the heights didst Thou come down, O Compassionate One. And Thou didst submit to three day burial that from the passions Thou might deliver us. O our Life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Hymn for the Dormition of the Theotokos

Ἦχος α

Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας. Ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει, τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν, Μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρομένη, ἐκ θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

First Mode

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion

Ἦχος γ

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σηπταίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰῶνων Θεόν.

Third Mode

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ ὑμᾶς ἐγὼ ὁ δέσμιος ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀξίως περιπατῆσαι τῆς κλήσεως ἧς ἐκλήθητε, μετὰ πάσης ταπεινοφροσύνης καὶ πραύτητος, μετὰ μακροθυμίας, ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων ἐν ἀγάπῃ, σπουδάζοντες τηρεῖν τὴν ἐνότητά τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν τῷ συνδέσμῳ τῆς εἰρήνης· ἐν σώμα καὶ ἐν Πνεύμα, καθὼς καὶ ἐκλήθητε ἐν μιᾷ ἐλπίδι τῆς κλήσεως ὑμῶν· εἰς Κύριος, μία πίστις, ἐν βάπτισμα· εἰς Θεὸς καὶ Πατὴρ πάντων, ὁ ἐπὶ πάντων καὶ διὰ πάντων καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν ὑμῖν. Ἐνὶ δὲ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσήλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ πειράζων αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἷς, ὁ Θεός. τὰς ἐντολάς οἶδας· μὴ μοι-

FOR WHOM IS JESUS “THE BREAD OF LIFE”? Jesus states plainly that He is the Bread of Life not to all, but as He says, to him “who comes to me”: “who believes in me”: and to him “who eats my flesh and drinks my blood.” Before Jesus can be the “Bread of Life” to a person, one must first choose freely to come to Jesus, to believe in Him and to unite himself to Him in the most intimate manner by partaking of His precious Body and Blood in the Holy Communion. For Jesus identifies this “Bread of Life” with his own Body and Blood: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51).

Someone said once that Jesus did not say, “I am the medicine of life. Take Me only when there is sickness or death; otherwise don’t bother Me.” He did not say “I am the candy of life. Take a sweet dainty bite of Me on Sunday and forget about Me the rest of the week.” Instead, Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. I am your all or else I am nothing to you.” Come to Jesus, believe in Him, receive Him, let Him become your all, and He will become for you the “Bread of Life” satisfying completely your deepest hunger and thirst.

FROM GOD’S WORD: Christ came not to be served but to serve. He is the good Shepherd Who willingly laid down His life for His friends. Christ was a **GIVER** and He **DESIRES** that His **FOLLOWERS ALSO BE GIVERS**. Christians are not only to refrain from doing evil but also seek eagerly to do good whenever possible and insofar as it is in their hands. Christians strive to imitate God’s perfect love. In the words of the Sermon on the Mount: “*You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect*” (Matthew 4:49).

It is in this spiritual perspective that Jesus challenges the rich young man in today’s Gospel to follow, just as Jesus Himself did, the highest example of self-giving by devoting himself completely to God’s work, leading a celibate life and practicing poverty for the sake of the Kingdom. Jesus did not usually ask people to sell their material possessions but only to share them with those in need. But this man, who was probably unmarried and initially showed a desire for the highest perfection, suddenly turned away from Christ for it seemed that Jesus’ challenge was impossible.

Do we not also want to turn away when we realize how demanding Christ’s teachings are? Do we not silently think to ourselves: “*Who then can be saved?*” (Luke 18:26).

We may not be called by Christ to a life of celibacy or poverty but all of us are called to a life of Christian perfection. Christian life involves a creative tension between what we now are and what we can be tomorrow. The road to Christian perfection is endless. What seems impossible to us is possible by the grace of God. Christians can follow the road to a more perfect obedience when they prayerfully seek a **DEEPER COMMUNION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CONTINUE TO GROW IN THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST**.

STEWARDSHIP 2024 APPEAL: At our Stewardship meeting, we have discussed the changes at Assumption. The church is in constant transition, and our aim is to anticipate the time, talent, and treasure needs of our community. We need to combine the Strengths of our heritage, our Orthodox Tradition, and our faith in God to encourage what we do now & toward the future. The Church needs the involvement of you and me, & with the Help of God, to shape our programs to meet the needs of our community & to reach out to others, outside of our community. Please volunteer this year your time and talents, for the good of the church. Nearly every committee has need of the talents and time of leaders & contributors.



Assumption Christmas To-Do List

-  River Food Drive Donations
Dec 1st - Dec 17th
-  Family Gingerbread Night
Dec 8th 5:30pm-8pm
-  Decorate Church Christmas Tree
Dec 10th during class
-  Christmas Pageant
Dec 17th after Liturgy
-  Christmas Movie Night
Dec 22nd 5:30pm-8pm
-  No Sunday School Dec 24th
-  No Sunday School Dec 31st
-  Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



2023 Annual Community Christmas Card

**We are now accepting names to be submitted for the
2023 Community Christmas Card**

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

*****Deadline*****

Monday, December 11th, 2023

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

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

Name: _____

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

Thank you for your support of our Assumption Church.