

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS DINNER DANCE Our Ladies Philoptochos is hosting a Parish Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 24th. Tickets are \$100 per person. They will also be offering a babysitting room for children 8 and under for \$15 and will include pizza, movies and games. Dinner is being served at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are filling fast. So if you are interested please make your reservation with Elene Patenaude at alikisage@gmail.com Please R.S.V.P. be Wednesday, February 14th. Join us for what is sure to be a great time.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: This Month's Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 pm. 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.

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.

NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DRIVE: As a community we have always tried and succeeded in taking care of and upgrading our Sanctuary and facilities. We the spirit of continuously improving our church. We are beginning a long term Capital Campaign Drive. We are looking at 3 particular future projects. These are the Broken Sewer pipe in our back parking lot, Replacing and upgrading our current church sound system and remodeling our kitchen. The months ahead we will be formally setting up a Capital Campaign Committee who will spearhead the entire process. We ask everyone to consider this in future giving, funeral memorials and in planned giving. If you are interested in giving a donation for the Capital Campaign please put "Capital Campaign Fund" on the memo line of the check or mark it on the envelope. Together we can get these projects finished.

FAMILY YOUTH EVENT FOR FEBRUARY: Urban Air: Once again this year we were going to have a youth day of Trampolining and Rock Climbing at Urban Air on Thursday the 22nd of February. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

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.

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).

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✠Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

Proistemenos

frchristos@gmail.com

11 N 7th Street

Madison, WI 53704

(608)-244-1001

www.agocwi.org

Sunday, February 11th, 2024
16th Sunday of Matthew
Saint Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia
Saint Theodora the Empress

Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday School/Greek School

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Strict Fast Day

No Religious Education Class

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Thursday, February, 15th, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Women's Spiritual Meeting

Saturday, February 17th, 2024

Russian Mission Service

7:05 p.m.

Parish Outing to Madison Capital's Game

Fr. Christodoulos's Office hours are: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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 17th. This year we have gotten one of the suites for the game and the cost is \$30 per person. It is also Team USA Bobblehead night.

This will be a great game to attend with the whole family. Come cheer on our Madison Capitals to defeat the Youngstown Phantoms on February 17th at 7:05 p.m. at the Bob Suter's Capital Arena.

IN ORDER TO LIVE AND LEARN OUR FAITH: We must begin to practice what we preach. So many people claim to be good Christians and members of certain community; but rarely, if ever, participate in a religious, social or Church oriented activity. If you are one of "those people" or know one or are thinking about one, let us see if we can change some of our habits and redirect our thinking towards one purpose: living our lives for our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we keep Him in our minds, our hearts, our souls constantly and help others do the same, we will begin practicing what we all like to preach: the message of Christianity.

NOT GUILTY: One day the parents sent their sons in to see their priest because the boys were always in trouble. The priest called the eldest, Timmy into his office. He asked, "Timmy, do you know where God is?" Timmy hung his head and said nothing. The priest asked the same question several more times. Finally the priest slammed his hand down on the desk saying, "Come on, you know where God is!" Timmy jumped down from his chair and ran out the door. His brother Jimmy asked, "What's the matter?" Timmy replied, "God is missing and they think we took Him!"

νηστείας, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν Πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτως, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει Θεοῦ· διὰ τῶν ὅπλων τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς, ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι, ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες καὶ ἰδοὺ ζῶμεν, ὡς παιδευόμενοι καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι, ὡς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες, ὡς πτωχοὶ πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες, ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Resurrection Hymn

Ἦχος γ

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Third Mode

Let the heavens rejoice, and let things on earth be glad, for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm; He hath trampled upon death by death; He hath become the first born of the dead. From the bowels of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Hymn for the Hieromartyr

Ἦχος δ

Καὶ τρόπων μέτοχος, καὶ θρόνων διάδοχος, τῶν Ἀποστόλων γενόμενος, τὴν πρᾶξιν εὗρες Θεόπνευστε, εἰς θεωρίας ἐπίβασιν· διὰ τοῦτο τὸν λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας ὀρθοτομῶν, καὶ τῇ πίστει ἐνήθλησας μέχρις αἵματος, Ἱερομάρτυς Βλάσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Fourth Mode

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Blaise, Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

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 λυτρουμένη, 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 β

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἢ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

Second Mode

A protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες παρακαλοῦμεν, μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ Θεοῦ δέξασθαι ὑμᾶς. Λέγει γάρ· Καὶρὸς δεκτὸς ἐπὶ κούσας σου καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ νῦν καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτος· ἰδοὺ νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας. Μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπὴν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς Θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν

NOT CHANGING THE SUBJECT: “When the woman of Samaria would again and again change the subject, He would again and again bring her back to it, until He finally told her bluntly that it was He who was speaking unto her who was the Christ who should come into the world.

“And when Martha would change the subject by wandering off into some general cosmological expectation of the resurrection, He would bring her back to it by telling her, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’

“And when Thomas would change the subject by declaring that he did not know the way, He would bring him back to it by telling him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’

“And when Philip would change the subject by asking him to show them the Father He would bring him back to it by telling him, ‘Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.’”

Charles H. Malik, former President of the UN and an outstanding Orthodox Christian, who wrote the above words, concludes:

“I tell you, there is nothing in this whole life, nothing – no war, no trial, no temptation, no joy, no suffering, no science, no philosophy, no literature, no culture, no civilization, no ecstasy, no friendship, no love, no fulfillment, no hope, no power, no possession, no certainty, no uncertainty, no being, no light, no darkness, no death, no blessing, no bliss, no heaven, no hell – nothing, that can compare in mystery and seriousness with these things that Jesus Christ of Nazareth says of Himself. We are here before the sweetest mystery...We have always secretly wanted somebody to say these things to us, and now here comes this Person and says them exactly as we wanted to hear them.”

TODAY’S GOSPEL LESSON: Tells us the sin Jesus condemns in the one-talent man is the sin of doing nothing when we ought to be doing something. “I never harmed a fly!” someone said, only to be told: “The fly you never harmed carried the plague that killed millions of people.”

Don’t just stand there. Do something! Use your talents and abilities for the glory of God and the betterment of our world.

FROM THE FATHERS: Even a pious person is not immune to spiritual sickness if he does not have a wise guide, either a living person or a spiritual writer. This sickness is called "prelist" or spiritual delusion, imagining oneself to be near to God and to the realm of the divine and supernatural. Even zealous ascetics in monasteries are sometimes subject to this delusion, but of course, laymen who are zealous in external struggles undergo it much more frequently. Surpassing their acquaintances in struggles of prayer and fasting, they imagine that they are seers of divine visions, or at least of dreams inspired by grace. In every event of their lives, they see special intentional directions from God or their guardian angel. And then they start imagining that they are God's elect, and often try to foretell the future. The Holy Fathers armed themselves against nothing so fiercely as against this sickness "prelist". – *Metropolitan Anthony Khrapovitsky*

CHUCKLE: A wise man climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute." The wise man asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny." The wise man asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord replies, "In a minute."



What: Dinner-Dance

Where: The Concourse Hotel,
Madison, WI

When: 5:00-11:00pm, Sat., Feb. 24, 2024

Dinner Served: 6:30pm

Price: \$100 per person



Music provided by a professional DJ spinning the best Greek music all evening. Bring your dance moves, or come and learn from us!

RSVP: Elene Patenaude
alakisage@gmail.com

Deadline: February 14, 2024



Babysitting + Pizza: \$15 / child, 8y & under

Make Your Check Payable To: "The Philoptochos Society" and
mail to ATTN: Beth Fatsis; Assumption Greek Orthodox Church;
11 N 7th Street, Madison, WI 53704

Sponsored by: The Philoptochos Society of Madison •
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SAVE THE DATES Assumption Sunday school 2023-2024 events



Mark your calendars for the different events happening throughout the school year!

- Sep 9-10 (Sat & Sun): Greek Fest+
- Sep 17 (Sun): First day of Sunday School
- Oct 15 (Sun): Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze Outing
- Nov 10 (Fri): Prosfhora Night
- Nov 26 (Sun): Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 8 (Fri): Gingerbread Night
- Dec 17 (Sun): Christmas Pageant
- Dec 22 (Fri): Christmas Movie Night
- Dec 24 & Dec 31 (Sun): Christmas Break
- Jan 14 (Sun): Winter Tubing Outing
- Feb 4 (Sun): Bowling Night
- Mar 14 (Thur): SkyZone Night
- Mar 31 (Sun): Spring Break
- Apr 27 (Sat): Lazarus Family Retreat
- Apr 28 (Sun): Palm Sunday - No Classes
- May 5 (Sun): Egg Hunt after Easter Agapi Church service - No Classes
- May 19 (Sun): Last day of Sunday School
- June 2 (Sun): Graduate Sunday





TAILGATE EVENT

TO BENEFIT IOCC

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Vespers: 5pm | Doors: 6pm

Bratwurst & Brews • Silent Auction • IOCC Presentation

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

9440 W Congress Street Milwaukee, WI 53225

MATCHING CHALLENGE: ALL DONATIONS WILL BE
MATCHED DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR UP TO \$10,000

Adults: \$25 | 12 & Under: \$10

Register online: ioccc.org/Milwaukee

Contact Katherine Newhouse for info:
414.305.4691 | knew85@gmail.com



2024 Parish outing to the Madison Capitol's Hockey Team



On Saturday, February 17th, 2024 we will have a Parish
Outing to the Madison Capitol's Hockey Game vs the
Youngstown Phantoms

This year we have one of the Suites reserved for the
church. This means we will only have 30 tickets available.
The cost is \$30 per person.

RSVP with Fr. Christodoulos

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



FEBRUARY 2024

MESSAGES from the METROPOLIS

www.chicago.goarch.org

LATEST NEWS



SCAN FOR
MORE NEWS

1/15 Metropolis of Chicago invites Chicago area parishes to help determine the future location of the Metropolis Center campus

1/29 Metropolis Council looks ahead to continued change and growth over 2024 as new members are sworn in and assume their responsibilities

UPCOMING EVENTS



SCAN FOR
MORE EVENTS

2/16-19 YAL Chicago Conference, an opportunity for Orthodox Christian young adults, ages 18-35, to come together in faith, fellowship, worship and service. Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago (Rosemont, IL).

3/11 Fanari Summer Camp Registration Opens

4/13 Fanari Lenten Retreat, *Multiple Locations*

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES:

www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up



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Application Deadline **February 20, 2024**