



# Wonder Worker

JUNE / JULY 2024

## CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Christy Chappell Belkin
- Philoptochos President: Maria Molzahn
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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## NURTURING THE FLAME

### STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH OVER THE SUMMER

Summer, with its longer days and relaxed pace, offers a unique opportunity to deepen your connection within your faith. While the usual routines of school or work might shift, your commitment to spiritual growth can flourish. This article explores practical ways to nourish your faith life during the summer months.

#### Embrace the Liturgical Calendar

**Feasts and Fasts:** Summer is graced with several important Orthodox feasts. Research and celebrate these occasions, learning about the lives of the commemorated saints and attending festal services. Monasteries often hold special celebrations during summer, offering a chance for a pilgrimage and spiritual renewal. If fasting periods fall within summer, approach them with a spirit of dedication and introspection.

**Continue Attending Services:** While summer vacations or travel might disrupt your regular church attendance, explore options to maintain a connection with the liturgy. Many churches offer online services, allowing you to participate remotely. If you're traveling, research local Orthodox parishes and attend services wherever you are. The familiarity of the liturgy, even in a new setting, provides a sense of grounding and fosters a connection to the wider Orthodox community.

#### Deepen Your Scriptural Knowledge

**Daily Scripture Readings:** Dedicate time each day to reading scripture. Choose a reading plan or follow the daily readings according to the Orthodox liturgical calendar. Consider using study guides or commentaries to gain a deeper understanding of the text. Journaling about your reflections can further enrich your experience.

**Explore Spiritual Texts:** Summer offers a chance to delve into the vast library of Orthodox spiritual writings. Lives of saints, patristic writings, and contemporary Orthodox authors offer insights, inspiration, and guidance for spiritual growth. Join a book club or online forum to discuss your readings and share your learning journey with others.

#### Cultivate a Life of Prayer

**Establish a Prayer Routine:** Develop a consistent prayer practice during the summer. This could involve setting aside dedicated time for morning and evening prayers, incorporating short prayers throughout the day, or participating in the Jesus Prayer, a contemplative practice of invoking the name of Jesus Christ. Find a quiet space where you can focus on your inner world and connect with God.

**Prayer Rope (Chotki):** The chotki, a prayer rope, is a traditional Orthodox tool used during prayer. Learning how to use a chotki and incorporating it into your prayer routine can enhance focus and concentration.

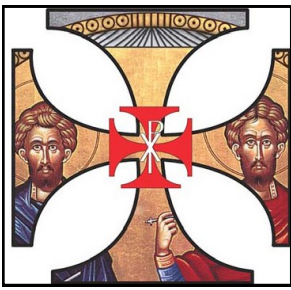
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## June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Women</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  Graduate Sunday	3	4	5  Strict Fast Day  Philoptochos Baking Day	6	7  Strict Fast Day	8
9  <b>Sunday of the Blind Men</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	10	11	12  Fast Day (Fish allowed)  Apodosia of Pascha  8:00 p.m. Great Vespers for the Ascension  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	13  Ascension of our Lord  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	14  Strict Fast Day	15  Russian Mission    Ethiopian Mission
16  <b>Sunday of the Father of the 1st Ecumenical Council</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	17	18  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	19  Strict Fast Day   7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	20	21  Strict Fast Day	22  <b>Saturday of Souls</b>  8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy with Memorial Prayers  10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Baking Day
23  <b>Pentecost</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by Great Vespers of Kneeling	24	25	26  Fast Free Day	27	28  Fast Free Day	29  The Holy Apostles Saints Peter & Paul  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy  +Sacraments

## July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Sunday of All Saints Synaxis of the 12 Holy Apostles</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fr. Christodoulos at National Clergy Laity Congress in San Deigo, CA</b></p>	1	2	3 Strict Fast Day	4 Happy 4th of July	5 Strict Fast Day	6
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	8	9	10 Strict Fast Day	11	12 Strict Fast Day	13  Ethiopian Mission
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>Sunday of Holy Fathers</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	15	16	17 Strict Fast Day  Great Martyr Marina  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	18	19 Strict Fast Day	20  Russian Mission  Ethiopian Mission
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>4th Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	22 Saint Mary Magdalene & Saint Markella the Virgin Martyr of Chios  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	23	24 Strict Fast Day	25	26 Strict Fast Day  Saint Paraskeve  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	27 Great Martyr Saint Panteleimon  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy  Philoptochos Baking Day
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>5th Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	29	30  Parish Outing to Madison Mallards game 6:05 p.m. See flier for more details	31 Strict Fast Day			



# FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

## [Philoptochos Forward](#)

### Philoptochos Forward, The Power of Love

Life can change at the drop of a hat, making the best-laid plans meaningless. This past April my mother suffered a series of strokes which added to her general medical complications. Going through this process with her realized, yet again, the beauty and power of Agapi. The genuine reaching out from our sisterhood and parish helped and continues to help sustain me.

When my family moved to the USA we settled in Chicago and after a few years found ourselves in the community of Hegewisch. During Mom's illness, I found myself in Hegewisch for Holy Week. To embrace some normalcy, I attended as many services as I could, in the church of my youth: AGOC of Hegewisch.

The blessing I felt being in that community cannot be underestimated. Many of the people there knew me from a lifetime ago, all knew my mother. The hugs, outreach, and general support from both communities helped us navigate this life transition. We must never underestimate how important we are to each other.

I had to miss a few key Philoptochos events including the Metropolis Philoptochos President's meeting and our annual Philoptochos gathering. Thank you to Ilektra and Korinna for attending the President's meeting. They will have a lot to share with all of us in the next few months. And thank you to our wonderful hostesses, Elene and Sue, for another great gathering.

This June and July we have three important baking days as we help our church prepare for the annual Greek Fest Plus:

Wednesday, June 5th, Koulourakia starting at 9:30 a.m.

(Thanks to a generous donation of an industrial-strength Hobart Mixer we will make our dough right at church!)

Saturday, June 22, Spanakopita starting at 9 a.m.

and

Saturday, July 27, Kourambiethes and possibly Paximadia starting at 9:30 a.m.

The following link to sign up for one or all three days: <https://forms.gle/ZrCEDkAr6HwpedKA9>

In August we will be celebrating our church's Name's Day with our traditional Vespertal Service and Lenten Coffee Hour. More information about this will be coming later in the summer.

Thank you all, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.





# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

## Tuesday, July 30th

First Pitch: 6:05 PM - Gates Open One Hour Prior

**[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!](#)**

Deadline to get tickets is one week prior to the event!

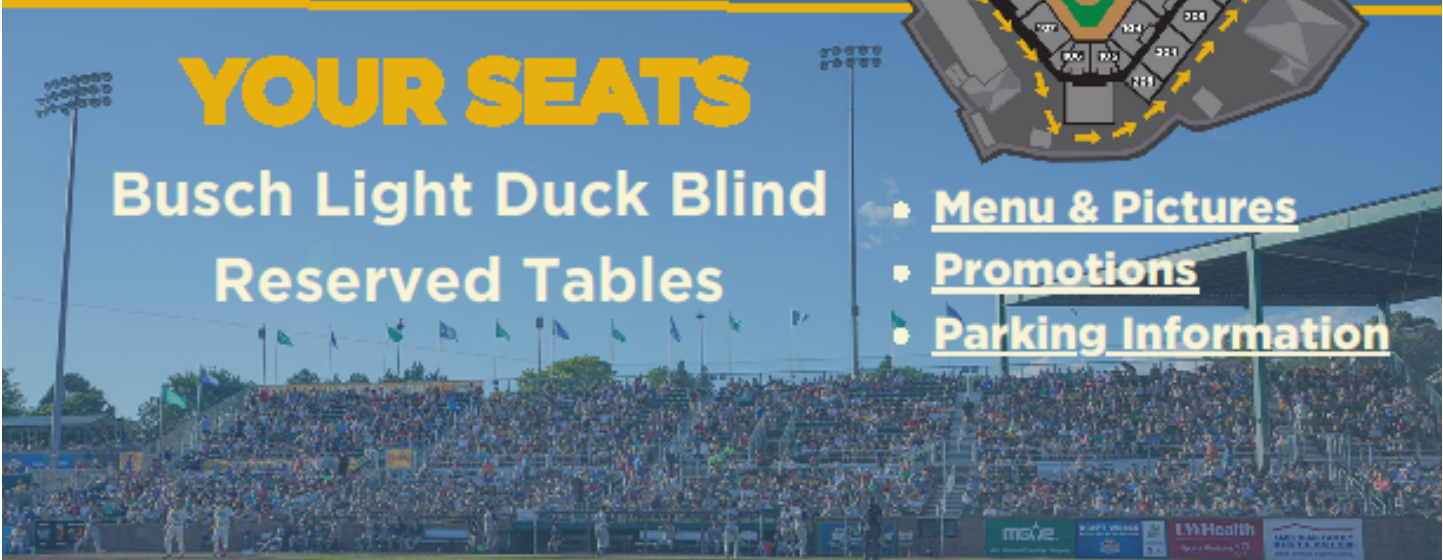
An usher will provide you a wristband at the Busch Light Duck Blind Reserved Tables entrance. A sign will be placed on the tables reserved for your group.



## YOUR SEATS

### Busch Light Duck Blind Reserved Tables

- [Menu & Pictures](#)
- [Promotions](#)
- [Parking Information](#)



The Duck Pond at Warner Park 2920 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704 608-246-4277

## YOUTH CORNER



Hello Sunday school families,

From all the teachers, we want to wish you all a happy and blessed summer break! May you all enjoy these summer days with family and friends. If you are traveling, we hope you all have wonderful and safe trips.

This summer we will be working on a children's corner in the Narthex where you will be able to check out Orthodox kids books. These books will be available for younger and older children during Liturgy as well. This corner will be a place to discover new Orthodox books for kids. We will be sending out an email in the summer that has a list of books we would like to purchase for the children's corner. This list will be public to the parish for anyone who would like to donate a book or two for this project.

Sunday school registrations for next school year will begin towards the middle of August. Parents will receive an email from myself to fill out a google form to register your child/children, but until then we hope you all have a wonderful, fun summer break!

Thank you for all your help and support this school year.

In Christ,  
Susu Akkawi

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Will be held on Tuesday, June 18th & July 16th, at 7:00 p.m.

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING:** The Next meeting will be in September.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS:** have no ended for the Summer and will beginning again in September. We will be continuing the Gospel of John.

**SATURDAY OF THE SOULS:** In keeping with the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the Saturday prior to Pentecost is a Psyhosavato – Saturday of the Souls. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated beginning at 8:30 am this Saturday, June 22nd, with a Memorial service following. Names of the departed to be commemorated should be written out clearly in Greek or English and submitted to the Altar prior to the start of the Liturgy. Kolyva, prosforon, olive oil, sacramental wine also be submitted to the Altar on this day. Please remember only names of Orthodox Christians may be submitted to be read. Also baptismal names only.

**FETA CHEESE FOR SALE:** Our parish has Dodoni brand sheep's milk feta Cheese Sold either by the tub (7.3 lb with brine, 4.4 lb drained weight) or by case of 4 tubs. The Feta is good until Feb. 20, 2025.

- One tub (7.3 lb) \$55.00 each
- Case of 4 tubs \$200.00 case

Parthenon Foods in Milwaukee sells the same item for \$58.99 per tub. This is high quality feta and was donated to our church by a parishioner. Proceeds will go to the church.

Please see Christy Chappell-Belkin or Beth Fatsis at church if you are interested in purchasing.

**PARISH OUTING TO THE MALLARD'S GAME, JULY 30th:** Our parish is going to be having an outing to the Madison Mallards Game on Tuesday, July 30th first pitch is at 6:05 p.m. We will be in the reserved Duck Blind Section and we will have 2 options for tickets. Both are all you can eat and drink. The All you can eat with Soda is \$35 and the All you can eat with beer is \$47. Children 5 and under are free and do not need a ticket. I hope to see you all there. See Flier for more details and the link to purchase Tickets. <https://madison-mallards.nwltickets.com/Tickets/SelectPromoSeats?PromoCode=agoc24>

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANNING:** As we begin this new year, please consider making a Planned Gift to the Church. A Planned Gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy that strengthens the Church and supports its vital ministries and will leave an impact that will be felt for years to come. It may also give you substantial current tax benefits as well as estate tax benefits. If you are interested in finding out more about the many ways that the Church can be included in your will or estate planning, please contact a Parish Council Member.

**NEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT 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 Improvement Fund 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 Improvement Fund Drive 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 Fund please put "Capital Improvement Fund Drive" on the memo line of the check or mark it on the envelope. Together we can get these projects finished.

**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED:** Dear members and parents. Any boys that 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. Summer is a great time for new altar boys to begin. Boys should be 8 and up.

**STEWARDSHIP NOTE:** Supporting the Church is EACH Orthodox Christian's responsibility to the Lord. From the single young adult to the married couple to the young family to those who are senior citizens, it takes everyone's commitment to support OUR parish of Assumption and promote OUR Orthodox Christian Faith!

Many thanks to all those who have pledged and we invite all those who haven't to please submit their pledge to the church office today.

**2024 GREEKFEST MEETINGS:** Please keep your eyes open in the Sunday Bulletin for the next Greekfest meeting. We will be posting it there.



# ***Greek Fest+ 2024***

***September 7 & 8***

*Saturday 12 - 7 PM*

*Sunday 11 AM - 6 PM*

**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church**

**11 N. Seventh St., Madison, WI 53704**

at the corner of E. Washington Ave. & N. Seventh St

Enjoy music, dancing, church tours and delicious Greek favorites including gyros, fries, spanakopita, Greek lemon chicken, loukoumades, beer, wine + more!

Sample a full array of sweets and baked goods  
at our bake sale and cafe inside the church.





# Feta Cheese for Sale!

**Dodoni brand  
sheep's milk feta**



- **One tub (7.3 lb) \$55.00 each**  
*7.3 lbs includes brine, drained weight = 4.4 lbs.*
- **Case of 4 tubs \$200.00 case**

**(Parthenon Foods in Milwaukee sells the same item for \$58.99 per tub.)**



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### **Great Martyr & Unmercenary Panteleimon the Healer:**

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother Saint Euboula (March 30) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus. Pantoleon came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. Saint Hermolaus saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited Saint Hermolaus every day.

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to re-

vive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes.

After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by Saint Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Speaking with Eustorgius, Saint Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by Saint Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the in-habitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man, and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck.

Through-out these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor.

At this time the priests Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded (July 26).

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but Saint Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Saint Panteleimon's servants Laurence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

The veneration of the holy martyr in the Russian Orthodox Church was already known in the twelfth century. Prince Izyaslav (in Baptism, Panteleimon), the son of Saint Mstislav the Great, had an image of Saint Panteleimon on his helmet. Through the intercession of the saint he remained alive during a battle in the year 1151. On the Feast of the Great Martyr Panteleimon, Russian forces won two naval victories over the Swedes (in 1714 near Hanhauze and in 1720 near Grenham).

Saint Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.





### Connect with Your Community

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Many Orthodox churches and organizations offer volunteer opportunities throughout the summer. Volunteering at a local soup kitchen, helping with church activities, or participating in youth programs allows you to connect with your faith in a practical way and serve those in need.

**Pilgrimage and Retreats:** Consider embarking on a pilgrimage to a holy site or attending an Orthodox summer retreat such as Fanari Camp for our youth. These experiences offer opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and deeper connection with the faith.

### Technology as a Tool

**Podcasts and Online Resources:** Several Orthodox podcasts and online resources offer lectures, sermons, and discussions on various faith topics. These resources can be a source of inspiration and learning, especially during summer travels or when attending services isn't feasible.

**Online Communities:** Many online forums and social media groups connect Orthodox Christians across the globe. Engaging in respectful discussions, sharing experiences, and seeking support from fellow Orthodox believers can strengthen your faith journey.

### Balance and Integration

**Finding a Balance:** While summer offers opportunities for dedicated spiritual pursuits, it's also a time for relaxation and recreation. Seek a balance between dedicated prayer time, scriptural study, and enjoying the summer months with family and friends.

**Integrating Faith into Daily Life:** Look for ways to integrate your faith into your daily summer activities. Perhaps you could pray before meals enjoyed outdoors, read spiritual texts while relaxing on the beach, or listen to Orthodox music during summer travels.

Summer can be a season of vibrant spiritual growth. By embracing the liturgical calendar, deepening your scriptural knowledge, fostering a strong prayer life, and connecting with your community, you can ensure that your Orthodox faith flourishes throughout the summer months. Remember, faith is a lifelong journey, and summer offers a unique opportunity to nurture the flame within and cultivate a deeper connection with God.

*+Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos*

