

ALTAR BOY WORKSHOP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND: We are hosting a workshop for our current Altar Boy & for anyone wanting to join the ranks. We will be going over proper procedure and order for services and processions. Anyone who would like to join the Altar boys is Welcome but must be at least 8 years old. Come join our blessed tradition of serving God.

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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: The Annual Sunday Church School & Greek School Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 15th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Students have been given their assignments and have been practicing. Please see our Sunday School and Greek School Staff more information.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: 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 22nd. You can leave your donated items by the front door of the church entrance. As a church community we can make a world of difference to those in need the most.

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 22nd. 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.

Saturday December 14th from 5:30-8pm is our annual gingerbread and Christmas Cookie baking family night! Please join us for some a great night of fun and fellowship! There will be food and yummy sweets with hot cocoa!

Sunday December 15th will be the Sunday school and Greek school Christmas pageant. The pageant will take place after Liturgy in the church.

PLEASE don't leave your weekly bulletin in the pew. Take it home with you and share the message and announcements, written here, with your family and friends. Thank You!

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✝Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

Proistemenos

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www.agocwi.org

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

10th Sunday of Luke

**Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos
Saint Patapius the Righteous of Thebes**

Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2: 14-22

Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17

Sunday School/Greek School/Luncheon/Parish Council Elections

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

Strict Fast Day

11:00 a.m.

Adult Religious Education

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

Fast Day

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Adult Religious Education Class

Saturday, December 14th, 2024

Fast Day (Wine & Oil Permitted)

Russian Mission

5:30 p.m.

Youth Family Night Gingerbread House and Christmas Cookie making

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

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY: Parish Council elections will be held today following Divine Liturgy. Voting will be going on until 1:00 p.m. Please make sure to take a moment and vote today. God Bless!

SAINT NICHOLAS DINNER SUNDAY, TODAY: Our Parish Council will be hosting a luncheon following Liturgy on Sunday, December 7th following Liturgy. There is no charge for the meal and we are leaving it to a Free Will Offering. I hope you all can join us.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION: As we begin the Nativity Fast (Advent), we should all prepare for the Birth of our Savior by partaking of the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Make an appointment with your Spiritual Father. For details, see Fr. Christodoulos.

WAITING: Before the birth of our Lord, the world waited thousands of years anxiously expecting the coming of the Savior. Today, many also wait for Christmas but only for its worldly, secular festivities, forgetting that it is the Nativity of the Son of God that should be celebrated.

The best preparation for Christmas is to read the Biblical passages concerning His coming, to attend and be attentive at the Divine Liturgy, to offer a devout Confession and receive Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἣν διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦσαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυται τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύετε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βούν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ οὖσαν, ἦν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he laid her hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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).

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 βαρύς

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέφξας τῷ Ληστήῃ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας: ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Grave Mode

By Thy Cross Thou didst abolish death; to the thief Thou didst open Paradise; Thou didst transform the myrrh bearers lamentation and didst order Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ our I God, bestowing great mercy upon the world.

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 Γ

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθείσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Fourth Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς ἐστὶν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφοτέρα ἐν καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τὴν ἔχθραν, ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ αὐτοῦ τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασι καταργήσας, ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσει ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ Θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς, ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφοτέροι ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολιταὶ τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα ἡ οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογουμένη αὖξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν Κυρίῳ· ἐν ᾧ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν Πνεύματι

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have

JESUS SAW HER: In today's Gospel lesson we see a woman who had an illness for 18 years. This illness, however, did not stop her from worshipping on the Sabbath in the synagogue. During the service this bent-over woman could not see Jesus. But it didn't matter, Jesus saw her! Though the synagogue was full, she was the one Jesus saw. It is always the one who has the greatest need and the greatest faith that Jesus sees. He said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." He placed His hands upon her and immediately she was made straight.

Imagine Jesus touching you right now as you sit in church in prayer. Think about your grief-stricken spirit suddenly straightening up. Think about your fear-dominated life suddenly straightening up. Think about your attitude of defeat that kept you bent over suddenly being removed. Think about walking through life no longer bent over but with your head up, your back straight, ready to face each day with courage. This is what Jesus did for the woman in today's Gospel lesson. If He did it for her, He can certainly do it for you.

SUNDAY IS A DAY OF WORSHIP: Once upon a time, recently enough for most of us to remember, Sunday was regarded all over America as the Lord's Day. Stores would be closed; schools, offices and factories would be empty and silent. Then, slowly but radically, things began to change. The "blue laws" of states that observed Sunday closings were challenged in courts and erased from the statute books. And Sunday became no different than any other day of the week. Large numbers of Christians have adapted to these circumstances. More and more events have been scheduled for Sunday. Whether it is work, social or recreational, we have lost the concept that Sunday is the Lord's Day. Brothers and sisters, let us not become so busy that we totally forget that Sunday is my day of worship. That my family and I will be in the Lord's house for worship on the Lord's Day. Let us not make excuses for not attending the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Though these excuses may be sound in our eyes and minds, how will they sound before Christ's Judgment Seat? Take the time with your family to worship on Sunday - the Lord's Day. You will truly be blessed for it; for all good giving gifts come from Him, the Father of Light.

2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church depends on the love and gratitude of its members in order to perform its sacred ministry. Each member is asked to support the church by annually setting his or her own level of giving, in proportion to his or her earnings. This year, we ask you to search your heart and conscience, and to seriously consider the many needs of our Church, as you determine your Stewardship Pledge of Commitment for 2025.

Our 2025 Parish Budget is counting on drawing \$188,000 from Stewardship. This represents about two-thirds of our anticipated expenses. The Parish Council figures our budget to be \$310,000 for next year. Please realize that every Stewardship Pledge of Commitment should represent conscientious support of our Church for ONE FULL YEAR! To meet our expenses, Assumption needs an average of about \$2,000 from each pledging member in 2025. So you can see how important your contribution is! Some stewards can give more than this; some will give less. We hope and pray, that every steward can give at least twenty dollars (\$20.00) a week more or One Thousand forty dollars (\$1040.00) over their pledge of last year.

How do you become a Steward? In prayer and good conscience, consider the best amount that you can commit in support of your Church. Good Stewardship is generous and sacrificial. Then complete and submit your Stewardship Pledge Card to the church office. Your thoughtfulness and generosity as always, is greatly appreciated. The 2025 Pledge Cards will be going out to everyone in the next week.

HOPE
Humanitarian Outreach & Philanthropic Engagement



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of Chicago



Mission Statement

Through Humanitarian Outreach and Philanthropic Engagement (HOPE) our mission is to support children, families, and individuals by partnering with Metropolis of Chicago Parishes and local networks to help achieve food security and stable housing.

**1,600,000
MEALS**

Complete meal kits with shelf stable food items provided via boxes/bags

**3,000
NIGHTS**

Shelter provided through Northside Housing & Supportive Services

**12,500
KITS**

Winter accessories, hygiene and other basic care necessities

Beneficiaries

Children, families, and individuals within our parishes remain the primary targets, as well as members in need within our local communities. Anonymity is maintained for all beneficiaries and their private information will never be shared nor used for public consumption

Our Outreach

- 50+ Greek Orthodox Families
- Abused & Battered Women's Shelters
- Senior & Assisted Living Communities
- Homeless Teen Shelters
- Low Income Families
- Underserved Communities

Ways you can help



Meet with your HOPE Liaison in your church



Identify those in need within your parish and community



Hot meal, food and/or kit prep for distribution



Provide a space for prep and/or distribution



Enlist parish members to help collect & distribute

chicago.goarch.org/ministry/hope

projecthopegomc@outlook.com

**2025 Parish outing to the
Madison Capitol's Hockey Team**



On Saturday, February 22nd 2025 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 still pending.

RSVP with Fr. Christodoulos

Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship.



Community Christmas Celebration

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Carlisle
435 E. Butterfield Road.
Lombard, IL 60148

APPETIZERS & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SERVED

HELP US PROVIDE WARMTH TO THOSE IN NEED BY DONATING
NEW HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES, OR GIFT CARDS TO PROVIDE
BEDDING FOR THE PHILOXENIA HOUSE LOCATED IN
ROCHESTER MINNESOTA

WWW.PHILOXENIACHARITIES.ORG/ABOUT.HTML

"Love each other with a warm love that comes from the heart."

1 Peter 1:22

2023 SAINT NICHOLAS LUNCHEON

&

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**On Sunday December, 8th, 2024 following Divine Liturgy
our Parish council is hosting the Saint Nicholas Luncheon**

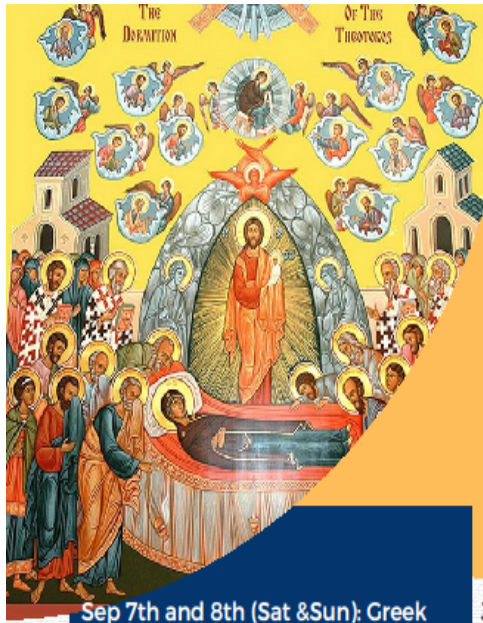
They will be having a Spaghetti Lunch with Salad

There is no set price only a free will offering

**We also will be holding our Parish Council Elections this
day.**

**So Set aside some time Sunday, December 8th and enjoy a
great dinner and fellowship with our Spiritual Family**





SAVE THE DATES

Assumption

Sunday School 2024-2025 Events

Mark your calendars for the different Sunday school events for the new school year!

Sep 7th and 8th (Sat & Sun): Greek Fest +

Sep 15th (Sun) : First day of Sunday school

Oct 20th (Sun): Pumpkin patch and corn maze family outing

Nov 10th (Sun): Chili cook off fundraiser

Nov 15th (Fri): Kolyva Night

Dec 1st (Sun): No Classes Thanksgiving break

Dec 13th (Fri): Ginger bread night

Dec 15th (Sun): Christmas Pageant

Dec 22nd & Dec 29th: No Classes Christmas Break

Jan 12th (Sun): Ice Skating at Edgewater

Feb 2nd (Sun): God Parents Day Breakfast fundraiser

Feb 17th (Mon): Family bowling night

Mar 3rd (Mon): Lent Starts

Mar 30th (Sun): No Classes Spring Break

Apr 12th (Sat): Lazarus Retreat

Apr 13th (Sun): No Classes Palm Sunday

Apr 20th (Sun): No Classes Pascha

May 4th (Sun): Family picnic outing

May 18th (Sun): Last day of Sunday school

Jun 1st (Sun): Graduate Sunday Celebration



2024 Annual Community Christmas Card

We are now accepting names to be submitted for the 2024 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 9th, 2024

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.