

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: January's Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, January 30th 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.

HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR EPIPHANY: Fr. Christodoulos will be coming to homes and businesses for house and business blessings. If you would like to have Father come please call the church office and make an appointment. Appointments will be on a first come first serve basis.

GODPARENT SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 2ND: We will have a Godparents Sunday on February 2nd hour at 12 p.m. This day will be a day for the children to honor and celebrate their God parents, children will sit next to their Godparents during liturgy, receive Holy Communion together, and enjoy a pancake breakfast together during coffee hour.

It will begin with Liturgy with a special Service for Godparents and Godchildren before Communion. After Liturgy and Sunday School is finished we will host an All you can Eat Pancake Breakfast in honor of our Godparents. It will be a free will offering with all proceeds going to our Sunday School.

Our children will make an invitation card for their Godparents inviting them to join us. See the attached a flyer for more information.

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.

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

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Sunday, January 12th, 2025
Sunday after Epiphany
Tatiana the Martyr of Rome
Basil and John the Hieromartyrs

Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4: 7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Sunday School/Greek School/Parish Vasilopita/Luncheon

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

Parish Vasilopita & Luncheon following Liturgy

1:30 p.m.

Pan-Orthodox Blessing of Lake Monona

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Youth Ice Skating Outing at the Edgewater

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

Fr. Christodoulos will be out of the Office

Friday, January 17th, 2025

Strict Fast Day

Saint Anthony the Great

8:30 a.m.

Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 18th, 2025

Russian Mission Service

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

VASILOPITA CUTTING & LUNCHEON TODAY: Today we will have our annual Vasilopita cutting. We invite all the families of our Church to join us in the "cutting of the New Year's Vasilopita." Following dismissal from today's Liturgy, the Philoptochos invites everyone to attend a luncheon in the Social Hall. Donation is \$15 for adults & \$10 for children. All proceeds raised this day go to benefit Saint Basil's Academy.

GREAT BLESSING OF LAKE MONONA TODAY 1:30 P.M.: Join the Orthodox Communities of Assumption, Saints Cyril & Methodius & Saint Ignatius in coming together for a Blessing of Lake Monona.

We will be gathering today at Brittingham Beach at 701 Brittingham Pl. Service will begin at 1:30 p.m.

This a wonderful blessing not only for our communities but also for the entire Madison Area.

LOS ANGELES WILDFIRE COLLECTION: We have all seen the terrible tragedy that is happening in Los Angeles this week. We will be passing a SPECIAL TRAY following services today before the Luncheon. The amount of need is still unknown as the fires still burned out of control. So please give what you can to help the recovery that we'll be needed. In the weeks ahead our Archdiocese will have an official fund started to offer immediate relief. A special tray will be offered again next Sunday. Please give generously.

The reading is from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότει εἶδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, Jesus when heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED: We remind our faithful that the Divine Liturgy begins at 9:45 a.m. Sharp! On Sunday. **Please be prompt and on time!** Please turn off cell phones before entering church. No conversation should take place during worship. During the reading of the Gospel people in the narthex should not be purchasing or lighting candles but standing reverently and listen to the reading. If possible avoid using center aisle during high points of Divine Liturgy. Lipstick and lip-gloss should be removed before kissing icons, receiving Holy Communion and kissing the hand of the priest. Please keep the Center aisle clear for the ushers and wait until they dismiss your row. Please avoid standing right behind the ushers we do not want anyone tripping over a child. When receiving antidoron, please use both hands and do not allow the crumbs to fall to the floor.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: Before making any firm plans for baptisms, weddings, funerals, or memorial services, please check with Fr. Christodoulos to see if dates and tomes are permissible. Also, please refrain from scheduling a baby, bridal shower or any other type of party celebration during a fasting period

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!

Resurrection Hymn

Ἦχος δ

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχόμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples spoke to the Apostles triumphantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

Hymn for the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

Ἦχος α

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.

First Mode

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord, it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity. For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You, also bore witness to You, calling You “beloved Son,” and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed that what was said is true. In Your epiphany, O Christ God, You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You!

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 δ

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε· Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

Fourth Mode

You revealed yourself today on earth, O Master, * and Your light was stamped on us, who in the knowledge of the truth, * O Lord, extol Your epiphany. * You came; You revealed yourself, O unapproachable Light.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. διὸ λέγει· ἀναβάς εἰς ὕψος ἠμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν καὶ ἔδωκε δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. τὸ δὲ ἀνέβη τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; ὁ καταβάς αὐτός ἐστι καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκε τοὺς μεν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: The Argo, a merchant ship sailing off the New England coast, ran aground and lost its cargo. It was traveling at night and in dense fog. The captain later explained that the ship was only three degrees off course. Those three degrees eventually meant a difference of ten miles at the point the ship hit ground. The ship’s instruments had malfunctioned and in the darkness the captain could not see that he was approaching land.

Our life can be like that. Life is a journey requiring a right course. Our most urgent need is to align ourselves in all that we are and in all that we say and do with God, His will and His purposes, so that we may safely reach the harbor of His Kingdom. To veer from this course only a few degrees can eventually lead to a shipwreck on the rocks of selfishness, sin and spiritual death. We cannot travel in the darkness of the world without spiritual sensitivities and without guiding light.

Christ said, **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness”** (John 8:12). Christ Himself is God’s Light and he always shines upon us to the degree that we are ready to receive Him. As we hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and we embrace God’s love and forgiveness with all our hearts, we experience something of God’s spiritual light shining through Christ. As we affirm our faith in Jesus and daily practice His teachings, the new creation takes hold in us. To quote St. Paul: **“The God Who said, ‘Out of darkness the light shall shine!’ is the same God Who made His light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of Christ”**

(2 Cor. 4:6). This is **“the light that comes from the Good News”**

(2 Cor. 4:4) which keeps us on the right course. This helps us to maintain a true and right relationship with God, ourselves, others and everything in the world.

WHY A DOVE: During these early days of the new year, the teachings have focused on the Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan. We have explained the various names given to this Feast and how it came about in the church. At the scene of the Baptism you may remember, a voice was heard from heaven as John the Baptist immersed Jesus into the Jordan River. At the same time a dove descended from heaven “And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.” (Mark 1:10) Several have asked that we explain the meaning of the dove.

Doves were used by the ancient Israelites for sacrificial purposes. The bird symbolized innocence and purity, as is evident from Jesus’ telling his followers, “Prove yourselves...innocent as doves.” (Matt. 10:16) It was a dove released by Noah from the ark that brought back an olive leaf, indicating that the floodwaters were receding. (Gen 8:11) This pointed to the fact that a time of rest and peace was at hand, for it has been foretold regarding Noah. “This one will bring us comfort from our work and from the pain of our hands resulting from the ground which God has cursed.” (Gen 5:29) Thus, at Jesus’ baptism, the dove could appropriately call attention to the role of Jesus as the Messiah, the pure and sinless Son of God.

CHURCH HUMOR: A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. “How do you know what to say?” he asked. “Why, God tells me.” “Oh,.....then why do you keep crossing things out?”

THOUGHT: Go the extra mile. It’s never crowded.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS OF LAKE MONONA



Join the Orthodox Communities of Assumption, Saints Cyril & Methodius & Saint Ignatius in coming together for a Blessing of Lake Monona.

We will be gathering on Sunday, January 12th at Brittingham Beach at 701 W Brittingham Pl in Madison. Service will begin at 1:30 p.m. If the ice thickness is sufficient we will be just off shore on Monona Bay.

This a wonderful blessing not only for our communities but also for the entire Madison Area.

When: Sunday, January 12th,
2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Brittingham Beach on
Lake Monona. 701 W. Brittingham
Pl. Madison, WI



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.**

happy God Parent

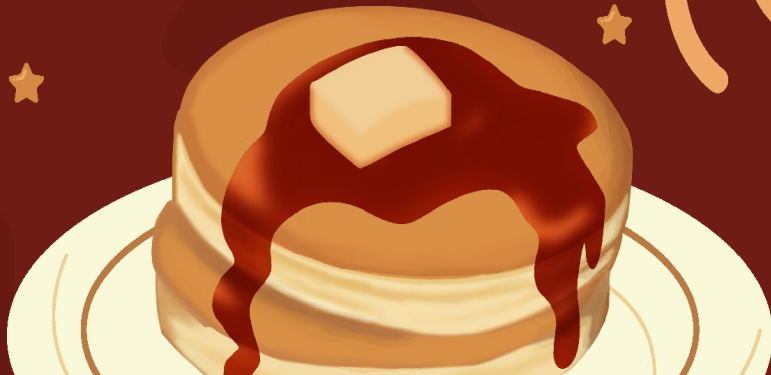
day

February 2nd, 2025

Come join us for pancakes to celebrate God Parent day with your God children!

Sunday school students will sit by their God parent/s during liturgy and take Holy Communion together. Then during coffee hour there will be a breakfast celebration with delicious pancakes!

There will be a basket for free will offering. Donations will go towards Sunday school.



Assumption Ice Skating Night

When: Sunday January 12th

Where: The Edgewater Hotel

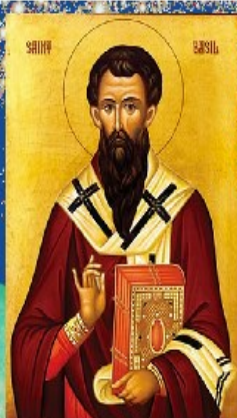
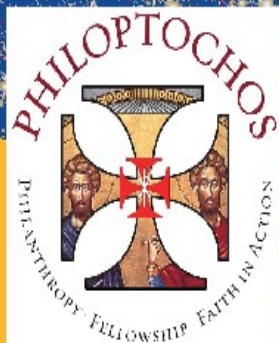
Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

Tickets to ice skate are sold for \$7
Rent ice skates for \$3, or bring your own!
There is food and drinks for purchase.



καλή χρονιά

Happy New Year



Join us for
our annual
**Vasilopita
Luncheon**
and raffle

Net proceeds go to Philoptochos beneficiaries:
St. Basil's Academy, Orthodox Christian
Fellowship, Hellenic College/Holy Cross,
International Orthodox Christian
Charities (IOCC)

Adults - \$15

Children - \$10

After liturgy

Sun. Jan. 12, 2025

Please RSVP by Jan. 6, 2025 so we can have
a headcount. Payment will be collected day
of luncheon. Follow [THIS LINK](#), or scan the
QR code with you phone camera.



Eastern Orthodox Ethnic Baskets 2025

Win 1 of 2 Large RAFFLE Baskets! EACH has items from this Exciting List!
Tickets: \$7.00 for 1, \$20.00 for 3 – Available at the door

USA

Giannis Antetokounmpo Black Jersey
Ancient Faith Note Cards

Book No Meat? No Problem, meatless Mediterranean dishes, Cookbook compiled
by the St. Athanasios Philoptochos, of Aurora IL.

Greece

Tassos Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Tassos Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Organic Greek Oregano from Mt Olympus
Korres Olive Oil & Sea Salt Shower Gel
Korres Greek Yoghurt Foaming Cleanser
Gift certificate Freska Mediterranean Grill
Gift certificate Parthenon Gyros restaurant

Lebanon

Maamoul Date Stuffed Butter Cookies

Ethiopia

Yirgacheffe Ethiopian Coffee

Russia

C.D. "Galina Ustvolskaya Chamber Music" - reclusive composer, St Petersburg
native, pupil of Shostakovich, recognized as a pioneer of 20th century neo-classical
music.

Egypt

Chocolate Covered Medjoul Stuffed Butter Cookies
Pure Date Molasses "Honey" Syrup
Fine Egyptian Chamomile Tea

Book Woman At Point Zero by Dr. Nawal El Saadawi; physician, activist, feminist
writer whose writings focused on the Arab society's systematic brutalization of
women.

Ukraine

Gift certificate Touch of Ukraine Bar & Grill

Cyprus

Book The Fury by Alex Michaelides, British-Cypriot bestselling author &
screenwriter.

Romania

Traditional Romanian Pattern Canvas Tote Bag