

**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).

**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

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION:** As we begin the Triodion Period on our Journey towards Pascha, we should all prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord by partaking of the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Make an appointment with your Spiritual Father. For details, see Fr. Christodoulos.

# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



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### Resurrection Hymn

Ἦχος πλ δ

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγγχνος, 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 Presentation

Ἦχος α

Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ Ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, φωτίζων τοὺς ἐν σκότει. Εὐφραίνου καὶ σὺ Πρεσβύτεα δίκαιε, δεξάμενος ἐν ἀγκάλαις τὸν ἐλευθερωτὴν τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν, χαριζόμενον ἡμῖν καὶ τὴν Ἀνάστασιν.

#### First Mode

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

#### Kontakion

Ἦχος α

Ὁμήτραν παρθενηκὴν ἀγίας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεῶν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Ἄλλ' εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλόανθρωπος.

#### First Mode

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.

### Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οἷους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα! καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται· πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χειρὸν, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστάθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίαι εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

#### The reading is from Paul's Second letter to Timothy

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**THE TRIODION:** The Triodion Period in the Orthodox Church is a pre – Lenten period which begins this year this Sunday, February 9th, with the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Triodion itself is the Orthodox liturgical book, which is used in the services beginning just prior to Great Lent for special hymns and readings. The Triodion is used from the fourth Sunday before Great Lent through Great and Holy Saturday of Holy Week.

The first Sunday of the Triodion deals with the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

**THEOSIS: THE GLORIFICATION OF THE BODY-**For Orthodox Christians, the ultimate end of man is theosis; which means participation of the total person, body and soul in the divine uncreated grace of God. The glorification of the body is the goal for all human beings. Man will ultimately rise from the tomb as Christ did, to live in the eternal presence of God, sharing God's very nature by grace. These eyes will be beholding the presence of God eternally. This voice will be praising Him eternally. These ears will be listening to the angelic symphonies for all eternity.

Millions of people exist on the face of the earth today without a clue as to what their bodies are for. They breathe, but have nothing to breathe for. They chew and swallow to stay alive without knowing why. They bear children, but their children give them more pain and worry than pleasure. The struggle to continue to live occupies most of their time – but it seems hardly worth it.

St. Paul tells us that the human body has a purpose. It is more than a physical apparatus. It is a temple. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. These strange, marvelous bodies of ours that are able to do almost anything, even go to the moon, were devised by God for Himself, that He might take up residence in them. He sent His Son to take away our sin that we might fulfill the end of which our bodies were made: to be temples of His Presence.

**THOUGHT:** If your Orthodox Christian faith seems to be a real drag, it may be because you are dragging too many worldly weights.

# ASSUMPTION BOWLING NIGHT!

The church has reserved 6 lanes for families to bowl and families will only have to pay for food/drinks and shoe rentals which is \$2 per bowler.

**Sunday February 16th | 5-7 pm  
Ten Pin Alley**

6285 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53719  
RSVP by Feb 12th if you are coming to Susu or Fr. Chris

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



**On Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.**