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



♣Fr. Christodoulos Margellos Proistemenos frchristos@gmail.com 11 N 7th Street Madison, WI 53704 (608)-244-1001

www.agocwi.org

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple Saint Nicephoros the Martyr of Antioch

Readings:

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 **Gospel:** Luke 18: 10-14

Sunday School/Greek School

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Monday, February 10th, 2025

Fr. Christodoulos out of the Office for WI Vicariate Meeting in Milwaukee Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

Fast Free Day 11:00 a.m.

Adult Religious Education John Chapters 14-18

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Adult Religious Education Class via Zoom

Saturday, February 15th, 2025 Russian Mission Service

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

SUPERBOWL SQUARES 2025: TODAY is the Final chance to be apart of our Annual SUPERBOWL Squares. \$25 Game Board tickets are now on sale. Prizes \$150 for winning a quarter and \$350 for the final. Join the fun and have a great time!

PARISH OUTING TO THE MADISON CAPITALS GAME: Once again our parish is going to be doing an outing for the Madison Capitols Hockey Team on Saturday, February 22nd. This year we have gotten one of the suites for the game and the cost is \$20 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 22nd at 7:05 p.m. at the Bob Suter's Capital Arena.

PARISH YOUTH OUTING TO TEN PIN ALLEY: Our Parish will be holding our Next Parish Youth Outing on Sunday February 16th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Ten Pin Alley! 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. 6285 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53719 RSVP by Feb 12th if you are coming to Susu or Fr. Chris

<u>A SECURE ENVIRONMENT:</u> The Christian is guarded on all sides by the Lord. We have God before us (Isaiah 48:17); behind us (Isaiah 30:21); on our right (Psalm 36:7); underneath us (Dt. 33:21); and His Spirit within us (I Cor. 3:16).

Έκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἶς Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἔτερος τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα προσηύχετο· ὁ Θεός, εὐχαριστῷ σοι ὅτι οὐκ εἰμὶ ισπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι, μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὐτος ὁ τελώνης· νηστεύω δὶς τοῦ σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῷ πάντα ὅσα κτῷμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης μακρόθεν ἐστὼς οὐκ ἤθελεν οὐδὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐπᾶραι, ἀλλ' ἔτυπτεν εἰς τὸ στῆθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ Θεός, ἱλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη οὖτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος· ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῷν ἑαυτὸν ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Ψυχοσάββατο/Saturday of Souls

The First Saturday of Souls will be on Saturday, February 22nd. We will be celebrating the Saturday of Souls service beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service. It is a service where we pray for those who have departed. Please use this sheet to write down the

Baptismal names of Only Orthodox departed

and submit them to the office or the altar to be read during the services.

Resurrection Hymn Ήχος πλ δ

Έξ ὕψους κατῆλθες ὁ εὕσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ανάστασις 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 Ήχος α

Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε εκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ Ἡλιος τῆς δικαισσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, φωτίζων τοὺς ἐν σκότει. Εὐφραίνου καὶ σὺ Πρεσβύτα 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 Ήχος α

Όμήτραν παρθενικὴν ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός. Ἀλλ' εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον Βασιλεῖς οῦς ἡγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλάνθρωπος.

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 τῆ διδασκαλία, τῆ ἀγωγῆ, τῆ προθέσει, τῆ πίστει, τῆ μακροθυμία, τῆ ἀγάπη, τῆ ὑπομονῆ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἶά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν Ἀντιοχεία, ἐν Ἰκονίω, ἐν Λύστροις, οἴους 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 χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἶς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσαι 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.

<u>THE TRIODION:</u> 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 Him Presence.

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



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.