

**A SPECIAL LITANY:** For the Veneration of the Holy Cross will take place today towards the end of the Divine Liturgy. A tray of flowers, bearing a Cross, is taken by the priest in procession around the church. During the procession, the people kneel and sing the hymn “Ayios O Theos – Holy is God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on .” After circling the church, the tray is placed on a table in the middle of the solea. As the priest intones the words “Sophia Orthoi – Wisdom, let us be attentive” the people stand. Then the hymn of the day “O Lord save Thy people” is sung by the priest and congregation. After this the people bow their heads and are blessed by the priest as the hymn “Your Cross we venerate, O Lord, and your Holy Resurrection we glorify” is being sung. At the conclusion of the Liturgy the faithful come and venerate the Cross and receive a flower. The flower symbolizes that it is the Cross of Jesus that brings new life, in sublime beauty and fragrance, making every true believer “the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved” (2 Corinthians 2:15).

**FOOD FOR THE NEEDY** - Please help the needy and bring non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Canned vegetables and fruits, pasta, baby food, canned meals, peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, cereal, canned soup, etc. We are always so fortunate and thankful that we have generous parishioners. We are able to feed many of those in need, with your help.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION:** As we begin the Lenten 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.

**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).

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

**PHILOPTOCHOS TSOUREKI PASCHA SALE:** Our Ladies Philoptochos Tsourekia (Greek Easter Bread) sale. Order your tsourekia for Pascha.

- \$12.00 each for a 1-pound round bread.

Order by April 6, 2025.

All Easter Breads (Tsourekia) ordered can be picked up from Holy Friday (April 18) through Easter (April 20). Your order will be labeled with your name, and it will be placed on a table near the choir practice area in the church's lower-level fellowship hall. Payment Options: The link below will take you to our secure payment processor for Credit/Debit Card Payments.

[Click here to pay electronically](#)

You can print the attached order form and mail with a check (made out to Philoptochos with Easter Bread in the memo section) to the Philoptochos Treasurer. Beth Fatsis, 1215 E. Johnson St Madison WI 53703

See Order Form Flier for instructions.

# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✝Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

Proistemenos

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**Sunday, March 23rd, 2025**  
**Sunday of the Veneration of Holy Cross**  
**The Holy Righteous Martyr Nicon and His 199 Disciples**  
**Saints Anatolios & Protoleon the Martyrs**

**Readings:**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 4:14-16; 5: 1-6

**Gospel:** Mark 8: 34-38; 9:1

**Sunday School/Greek School Program/Philoptochos Luncheon**

**THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION**

**Monday, March 24th, 2025**

**Strict Fast Day**

**5:30 p.m.**

Great Vespers for Annunciation in Milwaukee

**Tuesday, March 25th, 2025**

**Fast Day (Fish Permitted)**

**Annunciation of the Theotokos**

**8:30 a.m.**

Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 26th, 2025**

**Strict Fast Day**

**11:00 a.m.**

Adult Religious Education Class

**5:30 p.m.**

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

**7:00 p.m.**

Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 27th, 2025**

**Strict Fast Day**

**6:30 p.m.**

Women's Spiritual Meeting

**Friday, March 28th, 2025**

**Strict Fast Day**

**6:00 p.m.**

4th Salutation Service to the Theotokos

**Saturday, March 29th, 2025**

**Russian Mission Service**

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

**TODAY ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON & GREEK**

**SCHOOL PROGRAM:** Our Ladies Philoptochos are hosting Luncheon for the feast day of Annunciation and Greek Independence Day. Our Greek School will also be having their Greek School program as part of the Luncheon as well. The Luncheon will a Plaki Dinner and the cost will be \$15 for Adults and \$10 for children 10 and under. Walk-ins welcome while supplies last. I hope to see you all joining us for this wonderful day.

λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν· υἱὸς μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε· καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει· σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

**The reading is from Paul's letter to the Hebrews**

Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

**Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅστις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτόν καὶ ἁράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον εἰάν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ εἰάν ἐπαισχυθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἄμην λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

**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.

**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 πλ β

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρόθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### Plagal of the Second Mode

When the angelic powers were at Thy tomb, then they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood beside the grave seeking Thine immaculate body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and was not tried there by Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant life to us. O Thou Who art risen from the dead, Lord glory be to Thee.

### Hymn for the Veneration of the Holy Cross

Ἦχος α

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

### First Mode

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

### 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 πλ δ

Τῇ υπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἀλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, Ἴνα κράζω σοι. Χαῖρε νόμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

### Plagal of the Fourth Mode

To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

### Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες ἀρχιερέα μέγαν διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθεῖσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοιότητα χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον καὶ χάριν εὐρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν, μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσι καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικεῖται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτω καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἰακώβ. οὕτω καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασε γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ

**ANNUNCIATION MILWAUKEE VESPERS:** Metropolitan Myron of New Zealand will preside over the Vespers/Artoklasia on Monday, March 24 at 5:30pm at Annunciation Church in Milwaukee. He will speak to us about the missionary parishes and orphanage of His small Metropolis of New Zealand (<https://orthodoxpacifika.com>). We will do a Special Collection in support of this cause on Sunday, March 23. If you'd like to make your donation online, click <https://onrealm.org/AnnunciationGre63884/-/form/give/now> > Select "Donations – Other". All donations (online/check/cash) should be earmarked "New Zealand". The total amount collected in the Vicariate of Wisconsin will be forwarded on Tuesday, March 25.

**MARCH 25 – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS:** Visualize, if you will for a moment, the Iconostasion of an Orthodox Church. Facing the altar, you will recall the icon of Saint Michael at the left door, and the icon of Saint Gabriel at the right door. Both doors have icons of the two most important events in history. It was the Archangel Michael who was sent by God to have Adam and Eve leave Paradise. And it was the Archangel Gabriel who was sent by God to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce that she would give Birth to the Christ Child, Who would save the world.

This second event, the Annunciation (announcement) took place almost 2000 years ago. The Angel found her and told her she was going to have a child. Naturally, she was alarmed at first and asked many questions. "Do not be afraid," said the Angel Gabriel, "the Lord is with you because God has chosen you among all the women in the world and in history."

Mary could have said "no" or given a whole list of reasons why she did not wish to accept God's invitation. But instead, she said, "Let it be according to the will of God." She allowed herself to be an instrument of God. She did not change nor did she become a robot or machine. She let the Holy Spirit come within her and her life. She let God bless her and guide her. She let the Baby Jesus be born of her. The Feast Day of the Annunciation is a very important holiday for all Christians, because with the acceptance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all of mankind had a chance to be saved. In the Orthodox Church we have hymns and prayers which remind us of this important event. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Theotokos, as scripture proclaimed, is held in high esteem by all Orthodox Christians.

### **THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – AN EMBLEM OF VICTORY:**

In the midst of devastation, suffering and death as symbolized by the Cross, the Church places flowers to prepare us for the vision of the Resurrection. As Bishop Kallistos Ware writes, "The dominant note on this Sunday, as on the two Sundays preceding, is one of joy and triumph. In the Orthros of this day, we sing the same hymn as at Easter midnight, 'This is the day of Resurrection...'. and the troparia are in part a paraphrase of the Paschal Canon by St. John of Damascus. No separation is made between Christ's death and His Resurrection, but the Cross is regarded as an emblem of victory and Glogotha is seen in the light of the Empty Tomb."

The dominant hymn for the third Sunday of Lent: "We venerate Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify your Holy Resurrection" is derived from the Orthros services of Easter Sunday: "Having witnessed the Resurrection of the Cross..." This same prayer is part of the regular Sunday Orthros service. Thus, the Cross and the Resurrection are kept together in Orthodox worship. We are encouraged to look beyond the Cross to see the glory of the Resurrection and the joy of eternal life.



## June 21-28, 2025 Waukesha, Wisconsin

A summer program for the high school class of 2025 where we facilitate reflection on self, God, and neighbor, teaching you an immense amount about who you are and what your purpose is in this world and providing a deeper understanding of our faith. Plus, fun activities and excursions in and around Milwaukee!

**This might be exactly what you need after graduation!**

Registration opens  
March 10



Scan here for more info & to register



## Lenten Pan-Orthodox Vespers For the Madison Area Orthodox Church



On Sunday's, March 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th 2024 the Madison Area Orthodox Churches will all be hosting Sunday Night Lenten Pan Orthodox Great Vespers.

All Services will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday's, March 9th & 23rd - Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

11 N 7th St. Madison, WI

Sunday's, March, 16th & 30th - Saint Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church

2124 Shafer Drive, Fitchburg, WI



# HOLY ANNUNCIATION FEAST DAY 2025

## Hierarchical Services Vespers & Artoklasia

Monday, March 24 at 5:30 PM

## Matins & Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 25 at 8:00 am & 9:30 AM

Clergy from near-by Orthodox Parishes will be concelebrating.

Parishioners, Friends & Inquirers are welcome.

Reception will follow... after Artoklasia on March 24 and after Divine Liturgy on March 25. Thank you to Philoptochos and all our helpers.



**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**  
9400 W Congress St, Milwaukee, WI 53225



## URBAN AIR

Thursday

March 27th

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Purchase tickets

in person

or online



## CONFESSION SUNDAYS

- Sunday March 16th students in grade PreK - 3rd grade
- Sunday April 6th students in grade 4th - 12th grade

Confession will take place after Sunday school in the church

# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday March 23, 2025 after liturgy



Plaki (baked fish in tomato), Rice, Greek Salad, Skordalia (garlic potato dip) and Bread. Hand made by our own Philoptochos members.

Adults \$15, Children \$10

[Please RSVP for the meal HERE](#) so that we can get an estimate of how many meals to make. (Or RSVP to Beth Fatsis at (608) 345-5070 or Bfatsis1215@gmail.com)

Payment is not due until day of event. If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee there will be extra dinners available.

In conjunction with the dinner, we will be drawing the lucky winner for our 4-night Stay at Sunset Nook Cottage on Green Lake. This is a fundraiser for humanitarian aid for Greece and Cyprus.  
Refill tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. [Follow this LINK for more information](#) about this exciting getaway.

Or scan code to RSVP



## Order Form for Greek Easter Breads (Tsourekia)

The price is \$12 for each 1-pound Round Bread

Orders are due by Sunday, April 6



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address and/or Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Breads Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

- 1) The link below will take you to our secure payment processor for Credit/Debit Card Payments.

[Click here to pay electronically](#) or scan the QR code below to be taken to payment page.

- 2) You can mail your order form with a check (made out to *Philoptochos with Easter Bread* in the memo section) to the Philoptochos Treasurer.

Beth Fatsis  
1215 E. Johnson St  
Madison WI 53703

- 3) You can put your order form and your payment of cash or a check (made out to *Philoptochos with Easter Bread* in the memo section) in an envelope and place the envelope in the Philoptochos philanthropy basket in the church's exo-narthex.

All Easter Breads (Tsourekia) ordered can be picked up from Holy Friday (April 18) through Easter (April 20).

Your order will be labeled with your name, and it will be placed on a table near the choir practice area in the church's lower-level fellowship hall.

Please email Maria Papas Heide at [maria.heide@wisc.edu](mailto:maria.heide@wisc.edu) or call her at (608) 772-5545 with any questions.

Scan QR code with your phone camera to be taken to payment link.

