

CHURCH STAFF

- **Parish Priest:** Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- **Parish Council President:** Christy Chappell Belkin
- **Philoptochos President:** Maria Molzahn
- **Sunday School Directors:** Susu Saba
- **Greek School:** Ilektra Kolokouri
- **Choir Director:** George Tzougros

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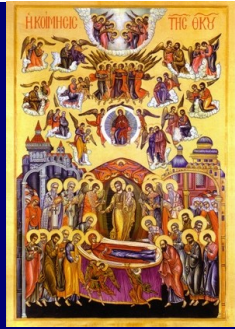
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Wonder Worker

JUNE / JULY 2025

THE UNWAVERING PILLARS

In the rich tapestry of the Orthodox Christian liturgical year, the Feast of the Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, stands as a cornerstone, a solemn and joyous celebration of the lives, ministries, and martyric deaths of two of the most influential figures in the establishment of the early Church. Celebrated annually on June 29th, this feast is not merely a historical remembrance but a profound theological statement on the nature of faith, repentance, and the unified diversity upon which the Church is built. Preceded by a preparatory period of fasting, the feast day itself is a vibrant tapestry of scripture, hymnography, and tradition, all interwoven to honor the "Pillars of the Church."

The Preparatory Path: The Apostles' Fast

The significance of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul is underscored by the preceding liturgical season known as the Apostles' Fast. This fasting period, which varies in length each year depending on the date of Pascha (Easter), begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints and continues until the eve of the feast. This ancient practice, mentioned in writings as early as the 4th century, serves as a spiritual preparation for the faithful. It is a time for intensified prayer, almsgiving, and self-denial, through which believers seek to emulate the missionary zeal and sacrificial spirit of the Apostles. The fast is not one of severe austerity but rather a focused effort to subordinate the physical to the spiritual, to sharpen the focus on the upcoming celebration, and to participate in a small way in the labors and struggles that Peter and Paul endured for the sake of the Gospel.

Two Paths, One Foundation: The Theological Significance of the Joint Commemoration

The joint commemoration of Saints Peter and Paul is a central theological tenet of the feast. At first glance, they appear to be figures of striking contrast. Peter, the simple fisherman from Galilee, was one of the original twelve disciples, a constant companion of Christ throughout His earthly ministry. His faith, though at times wavering, was characterized by a fervent, heartfelt devotion, famously confessing Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Paul, on the other hand, was a highly educated Pharisee and a fierce persecutor of the early Christian community. His conversion on the road to Damascus was a dramatic and transformative encounter with the risen Lord, leading him to become the "Apostle to the Gentiles."

The Orthodox Church, in its wisdom, celebrates these two towering figures together to emphasize the complementary nature of their ministries and the unifying power of Christ's grace. Peter represents the foundation of the Church among the Jews, the "rock"

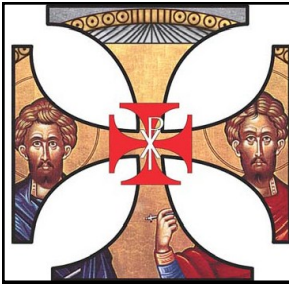
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June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Graduate Sunday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Saturday of Souls</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Followed with Vespers of Kneeling</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Fast Free Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fast Free Day</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Russian Mission</p> <p>+Sacrament</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday of All Saints</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Fast Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Fast Day</p> <p>6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Youth Outing to Vitense Golfland</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Fast Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fast Day</p> <p>+Sacrament</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Fast Day 2nd Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Creekfest Meeting Following Liturgy</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Fast Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Fast Day</p> <p>Nativity of John the Baptist</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Fast Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Fast Day</p> <p>Russian Mission</p> <p>Philoptochos Baking Day Spanakopita</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Saint Peter & Paul</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Holy Apostles</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>					

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Strict Fast Day	3	4 Strict Fast Day Happy 4th of July AHEPA Souvlaki Sale 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	5 Russian Mission
6 4th Sunday of Matthew 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	7	8 8:05 p.m. Parish Outing to the Madison Mallards	9 Strict Fast Day	10	11 Strict Fast Day Iconography Workshop	12 Saint Paisios the Athonite 8:00 a.m. Orthros Followed by Divine Liturgy
13 Sunday of the Holy Fa- thers of the 4th Ecumeni- cal Council 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Iconography Workshop	14	15 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	16 Strict Fast Day	17 Saint Marina the Greatmartyr 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	18 Strict Fast Day	19 Russian Mission
20 6th Sunday of Matthew 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	21	22	23 Strict Fast Day	24	25 Strict Fast Day	26 Saint Paraskeve 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
27 7th Sunday of Matthew Greatmartyr Panteleimon 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	28	29	30 Strict Fast Day	31		



FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Agape Forward, June 2025

In Matthew 25:37-40, we read:

37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?**39** When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?"

40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

At our heart, this is what Philoptochos tries to do, to help the poor, the sick, the destitute. I would like to thank the previous board for all your support during the past two year cycle: Kathie F, Beth F, Lena G, Jenny G, Korinna H, Maria H, Ilektra K, Betty L, Elene P, Sue S, Carol T, and Cynthia V, your work has inspired all of us!

During our May meeting we elected our new board (and surprise, surprise, a lot of us are staying on). Thank you to the following people for continuing to support our Philoptochos executive board: Kathie F, Beth F, Lena G, Jenny G, Korina H, Maria H, Ilektra K, Elene P, Sue S, Carol T, and Cynthia V. We are excited to welcome three new executive members: Carol G, Lisa B, and Nancy W. We can't wait to have you be part of our crew!

Summer is here and while we all hope for sunny days and vacation times, our work continues to be integral to our community. Please note the following dates and plan to help out if possible:

June 28, Spanakopita baking for Greek Fest Plus. Please let Sue S (solofam5@yahoo.com) or Lena G (lenagiak@gmail.com) with your availability!

August 14, Vespers for the Feast Day of the Assumption. Please let me know at (philomadison@gmail.com) if you can help.

Lastly, here are a few general notes and updates:

- Thank you Elene P and Sue S for hosting our annual Spring dinner! I hope everyone has a wonderful time.

- We will be updating our Coffee-Hour list, please let Kristi P (nikkris@sbcglobal.net) know if you would like to be added to or taken off the list.
- Greek Fest Plus will only be one day this year: Saturday, September 6 from 11 - 7:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming!

Thank you all for your support! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Maria Molzahn (philomadison@gmail.com)



GREEK FEST+ 2025

Save the Date

Saturday, September 6th*

11:00-7:00

(*Rain date: Sunday, 9/7)

**Great
Food!**

**Greek
Sweets**



**Music
&
Dancing**

**Beer
&
Wine**

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

11 N. 7th Street, Madison, WI



For more info on
the event → → →



YOUTH CORNER



Hello Sunday school families,

From all the teachers, we want to wish you all a happy and blessed summer break! May you all enjoy these summer days with family and friends. If you are traveling, we hope you all have wonderful and safe trips.

Even though there is no Sunday school in the summer, please continue to encourage your children to come to church and participate in the Holy Sacraments. In addition, the library corner in the Narthex is still open for check out in the summer. Just a quick reminder, that each child can check out 2 books at a time, and once the books are returned they can check out another book. If a book is lost or damaged please contact me.

On Sunday June 1st there will be a graduation celebration for students graduating 8th grade, high school, and/or college. Father and I will give a shout-out to the graduates after Liturgy.

On Tuesday June 17th there will be a church outing to go mini golfing at Vitense Golfland from 6-8 pm more information will be sent out when it gets closer to the date. We hope you can make it for some family fun in the summer!

Lastly, Sunday school registrations for next school year will begin towards the middle of August. Parents will receive an email from myself to fill out a google form to register your child/children, but until then we hope you all have a wonderful, fun summer break!

Thank you for all your help and support this school year.

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS – PSYHOSAVATON: The Church sets aside certain days when we are encouraged to remember our dear ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord. This coming Saturday, June 7th, 2025 is such a day. The Christian Orthodox are requested to attend Liturgy, worship God, receive the Holy Communion, submit the names of loved ones to the priest to be remembered in prayer and offer prosforon, wine, oil, kolyva. The prayers offered are for the repose, forgiveness and eternal rest of the departed ones. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorials will begin at 9:00 a.m.

THE FEAST DAY OF PENTECOST: Will be celebrated on Sunday, June 8th, Orthros begin at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m. The Kneeling Vespers will take place immediately following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. This is a very holy day and it should be filled with worship and praise to God for all His blessings and for the gift of the Holy Spirit that He bestowed upon us all at the birth of our Holy Orthodox Church. Please make every effort to be in church on this day.

GREEKFEST MEETING JUNE, 22nd: There will be a Greek Fest Meeting following Liturgy on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025.

PARISH OUTING TO THE MALLARD'S GAME, JULY 30th: Our parish is going to be having an outing to the Madison Mallards Game on Tuesday, July 8th first pitch is at 6:05 p.m. We will be in the reserved Duck Blind Section and we will have 2 options for tickets. Both are all you can eat and drink. The All you can eat with Soda is \$37 and the All you can eat with beer is \$49. Children 5 and under are free and do not need a ticket. I hope to see you all there. See Flier for more details and the link to purchase Tickets. [CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

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.

GRADUATE SUNDAY: On Sunday, June 1st the parish honors the academic accomplishments of our youth. We are to honor our graduates from high school, college or university who have had their names submitted to Fr. Christodoulos by Monday, May 25th. (Please email or call to confirm.) Telling Father after church does not equal contacting him.) This is also the day we honor our 8th Grade Sunday School Graduates.

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.

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. Place any items in the Barrel in the Foyer

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.

JULY 11-13

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
11 N. Seventh St., Madison, WI 53704

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP \$270 for 3-day class

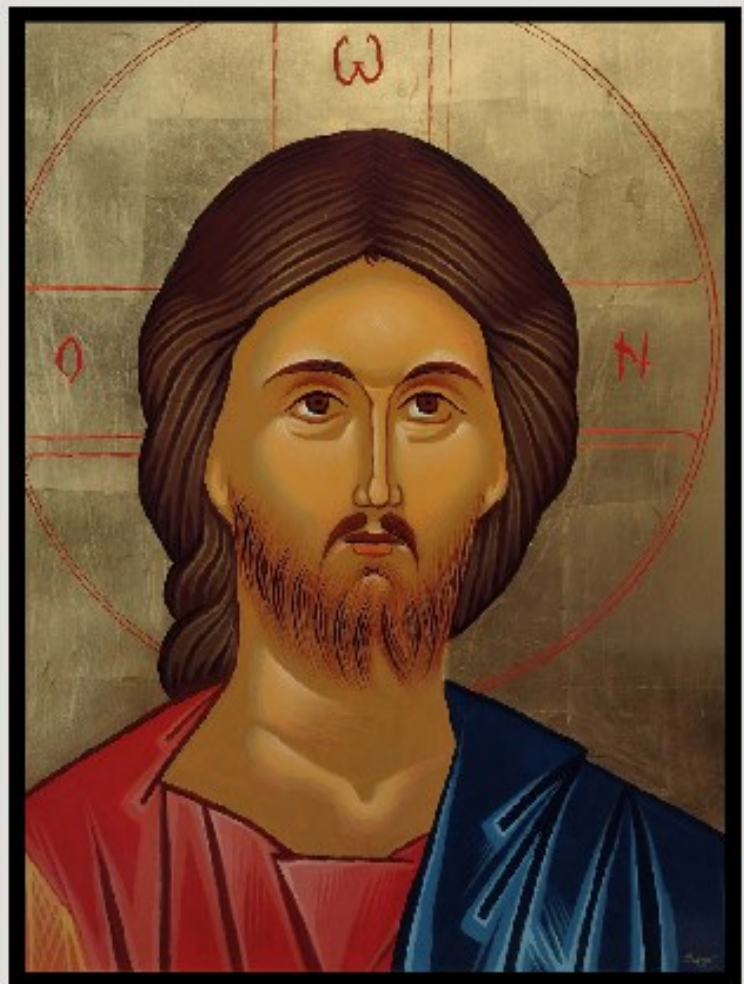
Join us for a three-day workshop painting the icon of Jesus.

Iconographer Drazen Dupor will lead a step-by-step class to create an icon using Byzantine technique.

No previous experience necessary. All materials included. Each participant will complete their own icon.

Workshop Hours

Fri. July 11 5 PM -- 8 PM
Sat. July 12 9 AM -- 5 PM
Sun. July 13 1 PM -- 5 PM



Register by June 15!

Scan the QR code
or email Christy at
christy.chappell@gmail.com.





Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Tuesday, July 8th

First Pitch: 6:05 PM - Gates Open One Hour Prior

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!](#)

Deadline to get tickets is one week prior to the event!

An usher will provide you a wristband at the Duck Blind entrance. Signage will be placed on the tables reserved for your group.

YOUR TICKET PACKAGE

**Busch Light Duck Blind
Reserved Tables**



[Menu & Pictures](#)

[Promotions](#)

[Parking Info](#)

The Duck Pond at Warner Park 2920 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704 608-246-4277



FANARI CAMP PRESENTS

LIGHTHOUSE

EST. 2019

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



ASSUMPTION

MINI GOLF

Family Outing

**TUESDAY
JUNE 17TH**

6 - 8 PM

VITENSE GOLFLAND

**5501 SCHROEDER RD,
MADISON, WI 53711**

**TICKETS, FOOD, AND
DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE THERE!**

upon which Christ promised to build His Church. Paul embodies the mission to the wider world, tirelessly proclaiming the Gospel to the nations. Their coming together in a single feast signifies that the Church is both deeply rooted in the history of Israel and universally open to all who believe. It is a testament to the fact that God's call extends to all people, regardless of their background or past.

The iconic depiction of the feast often shows the two Apostles embracing, a powerful visual representation of their ultimate unity in faith and love, despite any earlier disagreements, such as their well-documented dispute in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14). Their shared martyrdom in Rome under the emperor Nero, though likely occurring at different times and in different manners – Peter by crucifixion (traditionally upside down at his own request) and Paul by beheading as a Roman citizen – further sealed their inseparable bond in the consciousness of the Church.

The Voice of the Church: Liturgical Celebration and Hymnography

The liturgical services for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul are rich with theological meaning, expressed through specific scriptural readings and deeply poetic hymns. The readings on the eve of the feast and on the day itself are carefully chosen to highlight the distinct yet complementary roles of the two Apostles.

At the Divine Liturgy, the primary Epistle reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (11:21-12:9), where he details his many sufferings for the sake of Christ, not as a boast, but as a testament to God's power made perfect in weakness. The Gospel reading is from Matthew (16:13-19), recounting Peter's great confession and Christ's subsequent declaration of him as the rock of the Church and the bestower of the "keys of the kingdom of heaven." These readings beautifully encapsulate the essence of the feast: the strength of Paul's mission born from humility and the foundational authority of Peter's faith.

The hymnography of the feast further illuminates its theological depth. The Troparion of the feast, a short, thematic hymn, addresses both saints as the "foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the inhabited earth," beseeching them to "intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls." This hymn immediately establishes their universal significance and their ongoing role as intercessors for the Church.

The Kontakion, another key hymn, speaks of the Lord receiving them "for the enjoyment of Your blessings and for repose," acknowledging that their "labors and death" were a worthy sacrifice. It emphasizes that God, who alone knows the heart, recognized their unwavering commitment.

Throughout the Vespers and Matins services, numerous other hymns, known as stichera, expand on these themes. They praise Peter's steadfastness after his repentance and Paul's divine wisdom. They speak of Rome being sanctified by their blood and of their joint prayers strengthening the foundations of the Church. The hymnography masterfully weaves together the narratives of both Apostles, presenting them not as rivals, but as a united force, a double-edged sword of the Spirit that conquered the world for Christ.

Enduring Relevance: A Feast for All Time

The Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is far more than a historical commemoration. It is a living and active celebration within the Orthodox Church, reminding the faithful of the enduring principles upon which their faith is built. It calls believers to a life of repentance and unwavering faith, exemplified by St. Peter, and to a life of zealous and courageous mission, embodied by St. Paul.

In a world often marked by division and discord, the unified witness of these two "Chief Apostles" serves as a powerful reminder of the possibility of reconciliation and the strength that comes from a diversity of gifts united in a common purpose. The feast challenges every Orthodox Christian to examine their own role in building up the Body of Christ, to be both a steadfast "rock" of faith in their own communities and a coura-

geous "apostle" bringing the light of the Gospel to a world in need. Through their intercessions, the faithful pray for the grace to emulate their love for Christ and their unwavering commitment to His Church, ensuring that the foundation they laid will remain strong for all generations to come.

+Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos

Ψυχосάββατο/Saturday of Souls

On Saturday, June 7th, 2023 we will be celebrating the Saturday of Souls service beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Orthros followed by 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.

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ASSUMPTION
SUNDAY SCHOOL
24-25