

2025 PARISH OUTING TO FORWARD MADISON FC: On Saturday, October 11th, we will have a Parish Outing to the Forward Madison FC Soccer Game vs the Chattanooga Red Wolves with a 5:00 p.m. Kick-Off.

We have 30 tickets available for the game and they will include entrance to the game and one meal per ticket. The cost is \$20. To purchase tickets please contact Fr. Christodoulos through email frchristos@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Initially we have 30 tickets. Information for buying tickets will be available soon! Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship.

PARKING AND STREET UPDATE: As we stated last week the construction has begun next door. We have rented out all the spots along the fence and those are not available for parking Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will continue through the duration of the construction next door.

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.

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.

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).

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.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✙Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

Proistemenos

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Sunday, September 21st, 2025
Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross
Saint Quadratus the Apostle

Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2: 16-20

Gospel: Mark 2: 34-38; 9: 1

Sunday School/Coffee Hour

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025

Conception of John the Baptist

7:30 a.m.

Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy

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

Memorial

Soudad Hanna 40 days
May her Memory be Eternal!

GREEK SCHOOL BEGINS OCTOBER 5th: Classes will begin Sunday, October 5th and will take place after Sunday's church liturgy from around 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Tuition for this year will be \$450 for those who are NOT parish members. If you have more than one child, we provide a discount of 50% off for any other sibling. Payment can be submitted to Nico or Scott, either in one installment by November 15th, or in two installments of \$225 each, with the second installment due by January 31st.

If you already ARE a parish member, a donation to the Greek school is highly appreciated as we have to cover some expenses for materials and hourly compensation for some of our teachers.

Something NEW this year: **Private lessons** are also offered this year via zoom in case kids need some extra help with their Greek. Rates are \$40.00 per hour. All proceeds from private lessons will be DONATED to our church. If you are interested in some private lessons please contact me via email or call me at (608) 358-2060. Spaces and time may be limited, so please let me know if you are interested in private lessons as soon as possible.

CHANGE IN WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES: As we are having to rearrange our service schedule. To be able to accommodate our chanters schedules. We will be beginning Orthros on services from Monday to Friday at 7:30 a.m. with Liturgy beginning around 8:30 a.m. So please take note of the new times moving forward.

Please join us for these beautiful services.

TODAY'S GOSPEL LESSON: Tells us how to prepare for heaven. Jesus said, **"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."** If we are to save our eternal soul, the secret is to deny oneself, to say no to sin. When asked the secret of her marvelous success with the violin, a young concert artist replied, "Planned neglect. I deliberately neglect other things in order to concentrate on the one task that is all important." What makes a great author? Planned neglect. What makes a great athlete? Planned neglect. What makes a dedicated Christian? Planned neglect of the less important things in life in order to concentrate on the all important call of Jesus: **"Follow me."**

The reading is from Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· ὅστις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω 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· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐκκληλυθῆναι 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."

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.

FROM THE FATHERS: When a man walks in the fear of God he knows no fear, even if he were to be surrounded by wicked men. He has the fear of God within him and wears the invincible armor of faith. This makes him strong and able to take on anything, even things which seem difficult or impossible to most people. Such a man is like a giant surrounded by monkeys, or a roaring lion among dogs and foxes. He goes forward trusting in the Lord and the constancy of his will to strike and paralyze his foes. He wields the blazing club of the Word in wisdom. – *St. Symeon the New Theologian*

Resurrection Dismissal Hymn

Ἦχος πλ β

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπὴντησας 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 Elevation 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, grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith, and protect your people by power of your Cross.

Hymn for the Dormition of the Theotokos

Ἦχος α

Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας. Ἐν τῇ Κοιμῇσει, 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

Οὐψωθεὶς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ ἐκουσίως, τῇ ἐπωνύμῳ σου καινῇ πολιτείᾳ, τοὺς οἰκτιρμούς σου δῶρησαι, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Εὐφρανὸν ἐν τῇ δυνάμει σου, τοὺς πιστοὺς βασιλεῖς ἡμῶν, νίκας χορηγῶν αὐτοῖς, κατὰ τῶν πολεμίων· τὴν συμμαχίαν ἔχοιεν τὴν σὴν, ὅπλον εἰρήνης, ἀήττητον τρόπαιον.

Fourth Mode

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιοῦται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. εἰ δὲ ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; μὴ γένοιτο. εἰ γὰρ ἂν κατέλυσα ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἑμαυτὸν συνίστημι. ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα Θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῇ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?: Is a question many Orthodox faithful do not know how to answer. Some offer ethical responses, others express sentiments of great sincerity and depth, yet a clear concise answer is never given. Oddly enough, neither young nor old think simply quoting the Creed, which we repeat or hear the words “**I believe...**” at each Liturgy. The Nicene Creed is the symbol of Faith for an Orthodox Christian. Yet many cannot tell in plain language what it is they declare to believe! The fact that the “**Good News**”, the Gospel, proclaim by Jesus and His Apostles was primarily that “**The Kingdom of God is at hand**” (Mk 1:15). Man’s whole aim is to prepare for this great event. That God became incarnate to show us how to live in preparation of this day does not seem to occur to very many. That Jesus died for our sins to free us from its bondage so that we could face death and judgement day, is seldom a pertinent part of our faith. Few see in the Resurrection a personal message and implication that Christ’ power over death is a firm promise made to each and everyone of us. Christ must be the cornerstone of our lives, or our faith is vain. We must not fear to say: “**Lord I believe, help my unbelief.**” (Mk 9:24). Our thoughts, our life, must be centered on the Risen Christ. This is our belief. With this faith then we too can cry, “**My Lord and my God.**” (Jn 20:28).

GOD HAS GIVEN US GOOD GIFTS: A little girl went out with her father at night. Lifting her eyes, she was amazed to see how many stars were in the sky. She asked permission from her father if she could count them. Permission was readily given. She counted and counted and counted until she reached 225. Then she turned to her father and said, “Shall I keep on counting?” Her father’s reply: “You will never be able to count them all.”

Our blessings are like the stars in the sky. They are far more numerous than we can count!

Our Church of Assumption is truly blessed. We have a core of faithful who always remember the blessings that they have received from God and in turn share their blessings with their Church. However, not all are so mindful of their blessings and the needs of our parish. Some how they forget their commitment to the Church as they get involved in other activities. Let us remember, everyone who claims that he or she is an Orthodox Christian, must do their fair share, through their time, talent and resources, to help maintain the year round daily ministries of our parish. Only in this way can the church doors remain open to welcome all and proclaim the “Good News” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: BEARING THE CROSS OF CHRIST: We can find peace in the midst of affliction. The stubborn clinging to worldly life and worldly values makes the Cross necessary; the same clinging also tends to make us reject the Cross. So we have to go over the same ground again and again. The Cross frees us from the bondage of selfish love. By the experience of the Cross we emerge from that prison of self and enter into the immense liberty of God. If we must suffer, then let us do it quietly and humbly. Faith is willing to let God act with the most perfect freedom, knowing that we belong to Him and are to be concerned only about being faithful in that which He has given us to do for the moment. Be faithful to the present moment, doing one thing at a time, and you will receive all the grace you need. Surrender consists, not doing great heroic deeds, about which self can brag, but simply in accepting whatever God sends. Full surrender is full peace.

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SAVE THE DATES

ASSUMPTION SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS 25-26

FEBRUARY

- Sun Feb 1st - God Parents Day
- Sun Feb 15th - Family Bowling Night

MARCH

- Sun Mar 1st - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- Fri Mar 13th - Urban Air Outing
- Sun Mar 8th & 22nd - Confession Days
- TBD - Second Harvest Volunteer
- TBD - Lenten Fanari Retreat

APRIL

- Sat Apr 4th - Lazarus Retreat
- Sun Apr 5th - Palm Sunday
- Sun Apr 12th - Pascha & Egg Hunt
- Fri Apr 25th - Escape Room outing

MAY

- Sun May 17th - Last Day of Sunday School & Family Picnic at the Park
- Sun May 31st - Pentecost

JUNE

- Sun Jun 7th - Graduate Sunday
- TBD - Family Mini Golfing

EXTRA NOTE

- TBD - To be determined dates
- There might be date changes for different events depending on the weather

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 6th - Greek Fest
- Sun 14th - First day of Sunday School & Elevation of Cross

OCTOBER

- Sat Oct 11th - Forward Madison Game
- Sun Oct 19th - Pumpkin Patch Outing

NOVEMBER

- Sun Nov 9th - Chili Cook Off
- Fri Nov 14th - Prophora Night
- Sun Nov 30th - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- Sun Dec 7th - St. Nicholas Day
- Fri Dec 19th - Gingerbread Night
- Sun Dec 21st - Christmas Pageant
- Sun Dec 28th - Winter Break

JANUARY

- Sun Jan 4th - Winter Break
- Sun Jan 11th - Blessing of the Lake
- Sun Jan 25th - Winter Youth Outing

JOIN US FOR THE 5th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, VETERANS RECOGNITION & FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

**On Sunday, November 9th, 2025 the Sunday School will host a chili cook-off in
the Social Hall immediately following Divine Liturgy**

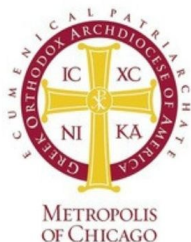
Join us for a Variety of Chili, fixin's, sides, drinks & desserts - and chicken nuggets for
the non-chili eaters! Help us raise money for the Sunday School!

- Interested in putting your chili to the test and winning the coveted Chili Champ
Golden Koutala! See Fr. Christodoulos if you are interested. We can accept up to
10 entries.
- Want to come taste and vote? The cost is \$7.00 for adults and Veterans and kids 3
and under are free.

Rules for Cooks

1. Have a 6-quart Crock pot (minimum) with your chili ready to eat by 11:15 a.m. on
November 10th.
2. On the front of you 5x8 index card, indicate what type you are entering and give it a
heat rating (mild, medium, hot). DO NOT include your name.
3. On the back of the card list the ingredients (measurements not needed)
4. The Sunday School and Greek School will provide fixin's, (cheese, onions, jala-
penos, sour cream, crackers, chips and hot Sauce), and tasting cups, spoons and
bowls.
5. Winner will be determined by popular vote only—no judges—this is just for fun and
fellowship!





August 2025
**MESSAGES from
the METROPOLIS**

www.chicago.goarch.org



SCAN
FOR
MORE
NEWS



SCAN
FOR
MORE
EVENTS

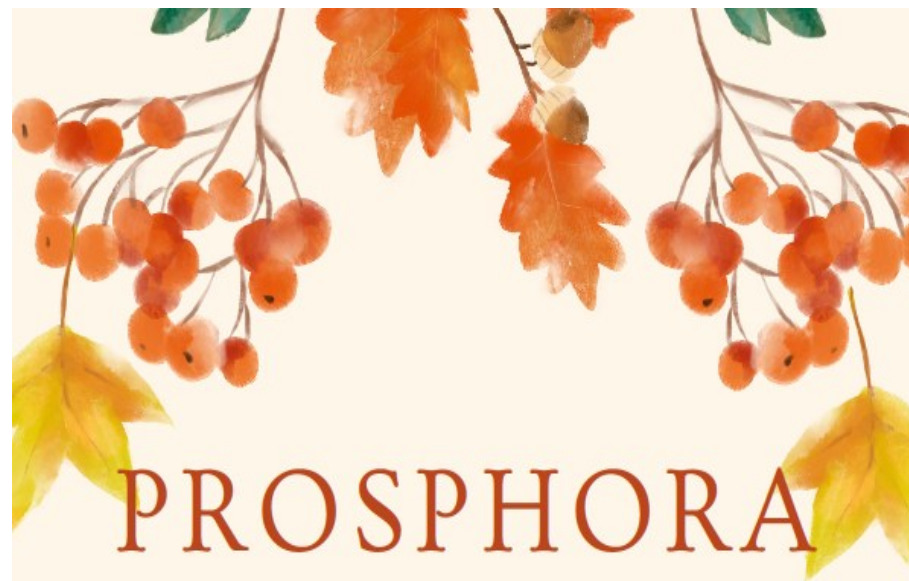
LATEST NEWS

- 8/30 Special prayers for the Victims, Survivors, and Families of the Tragedy in Minneapolis at Divine Liturgy
- 8/28 The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago made the following statement concerning the tragedy in Minneapolis
- 8/22 Young Men Find a Spiritual Home in the Eastern Orthodox Church
- 8/22 Traveling Throughout Our Metropolis and Excited for Our Future
- 8/14 The Healing Work of Nicaea: Christ's Ministry Continued
- 8/12 Metropolis of Chicago Begins Prayerful Discernment with Parishes to Shape the Future of the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center
- 8/8 Metropolitan Nathanael celebrates feast of Holy Transfiguration in Mason City
- 8/6 Bishop to visit Mason City's Greek Orthodox Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/7 Fall of Constantinople Event
- 9/29 Save the Date: Annual Metropolis Cup Golf Outing
- 10/4 Walk the Walk for IOCC

sign up to receive email updates:
www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up



PROSPORA NIGHT

Food / Dessert / Fun games

Friday November 14th 5:30-8:00pm

