

ALTAR BOY WORKSHOP SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th: We are hosting a workshop for our current Altar Boy & for anyone wanting to join the ranks. We will be going over proper procedure and order for services and processions. Anyone who would like to join the Altar boys is Welcome but must be at least 8 years old. Come join our blessed tradition of serving God.

HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR EPIPHANY: Fr. Christodoulos will be coordinating coming to homes and businesses for house and business blessings. If you would like to have Father come please call the church office and make an appointment. Appointments will be on a first come first serve basis through the end of January.

GODPARENT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1st: This is a special day to honor and celebrate Godparents. During liturgy there will be a special service for Godparents and godchildren before Communion. Children are encouraged to sit with their Godparents and receive communion with them. After Sunday School and Liturgy are complete Sunday School will be hosting an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast. A free will offering will be collected with all proceeds going to our Sunday School Program.

Our children will make an invitation card for their Godparents inviting them to join us. See the attached a flyer for more information.

SNOW TUBING OUTING: Please join us at Tyrol Basin on Sunday January 25th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per ticket and can be purchased at <https://tyrolbasin.com/tubing/>. We hope you can come out for some parish family fun!

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.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE NEW YEAR: When a new year begins many people take stock of their lives. They are brought face to face with a past that haunts them. Remorseful and guilt-ridden, they look back on a wasted life and say, "If I could only live my life over again." The Gospel lesson today with its message of repentance is designed by the Church to be read close to the beginning of the new year to show us that **God does give us a chance to live life over again.** A new year can mean a new life if we sincerely repent and turn to God. **It means I can begin again.** By changing the direction of my life, I can find peace and harmony with God and self. For if repentance is anything it is a complete reversal of the direction of our life, an about face to God who forgives the past and gives us the power to live a new life as He did Paul and Peter and Zacchaeus and the dying thief and David and so many others.

THOUGHT TO PONDER: A sight of God's glory humbles. The stars vanish when the sun appears.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



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Sunday, January 11th, 2026

Sunday after Epiphany

Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Our Righteous Father Theodosius the Great

Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 13: 7-16

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Sunday School / Vasilopita Luncheon / Blessing of the Waters

THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Fast Day

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Saturday, January 17th, 2026

Saint Anthony the Great

8:30 a.m.

Orthros Followed by Divine Liturgy

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

Memorial:

Adrianna Awes

5 Years

May her Memory be Eternal!

VASILOPITA LUNCHEON TODAY!: Following dismissal from the day's worship services, the Philoptochos invites everyone to attend a luncheon in the Social Hall for our annual Vasilopita cutting. We invite all the families of our Church to join us in the "cutting of the New Year's Vasilopita." Donation is \$15 for adults & \$10 for Children. All proceeds raised this day go to benefit St. Basil's Academy and Children Center.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS: Join us this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. for a Pan-Orthodox blessing of the waters on Lake Monona at Brittingham Beach (701 W Brittingham Pl, Madison). This is a wonderful blessing not only for our communities but for the entire Madison area!

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: Stewardship means that my life is a great ship loaded by God with a rich cargo of many things to be delivered to many people in many places. God is the owner of the ship but He has appointed me to be the captain. I am responsible for delivering the cargo. Woe be to me if instead of delivering the cargo, I hoard it all for myself.

If you haven't pledge for 2026, please take the time and fill out a pledge form and return it to the church office. It is only through your support that our church can have an active ministry. Also, if you haven't completed your payment for 2025, please do so as soon as possible.

CHUCKLE: Adam was walking outside the Garden of Eden with Cane and Abel when the boys were young. Cane and Abel looked into the garden and viewed waterfalls, lovely birds, lush forest and fruit trees bending over because of the large amounts of fruit on them. Then they took a long look at where they lived. It was dry, dusty with weeds and sickly-looking trees. "Daddy, why don't we live in there instead of out here?" they asked innocently. Adam said, "Well sons, Eve and I used to live in there at one time. But your mother ate us out of house and home."

ρεμβολῆς, τὸν ὀνειδισμὸν αὐτοῦ φέροντες. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ὧδε μένουσαν πόλιν, ἀλλὰ τὴν μέλλουσαν ἐπιζητοῦμεν. Δι' αὐτοῦ οὖν ἀναφέρωμεν θυσίαν αἰνέσεως διὰ παντὸς τῷ θεῷ, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, καρπὸν χειλέων ὁμολογούντων τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ. Τῆς δὲ εὐποίας καὶ κοινωνίας μὴ ἐπιλανθάνεσθε· τοιαύταις γὰρ θυσίαις εὐαρεστεῖται ὁ θεός.

The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to The Hebrews

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατέκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλὼν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἠσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλὼν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότεινῳ φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

The Gospel According to Matthew

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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).

WELCOME: We are pleased that you worshipped with us today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in our church hall, following worship. If you are new to the parish, or simply visiting, introduce yourself to our priest or to our greeters, so that they may introduce you to others.

Ἦχος πλ β

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀναστάς 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 Feast

Ἦχος α

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.

First Mode

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord, it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity. For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You, also bore witness to You, calling You “beloved Son,” and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed that what was said is true. In Your epiphany, O Christ God, You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You! .

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

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε· Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον. .

Fourth Mode

You revealed yourself today on earth, O Master, * and Your light was stamped on us, who in the knowledge of the truth, * O Lord, extol Your epiphany. * You came; You revealed yourself, O unapproachable Light.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Ἀδελφοί, μνημονεύετε τῶν ἡγουμένων ὑμῶν, οἵτινες ἐλάβησαν ὑμῖν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ· ὧν ἀναθεωροῦντες τὴν ἔκβασιν τῆς ἀναστροφῆς, μιμεῖσθε τὴν πίστιν. Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτός, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. Διδαχαῖς ποικίλαις καὶ ξέναις μὴ παραφέρεσθε· καλὸν γὰρ χάριτι βεβαιοῦσθαι τὴν καρδίαν, οὐ βρώμασιν, ἐν οἷς οὐκ ὠφελήθησαν οἱ περιπατήσαντες. Ἐχομεν θυσιαστήριον, ἐξ οὗ φαγεῖν οὐκ ἔχουσιν ἐξουσίαν οἱ τῇ σκηνῇ λατρεύοντες. Ὡν γὰρ εἰσφέρεται ζῶων τὸ αἷμα περὶ ἁμαρτίας εἰς τὰ ἅγια διὰ τοῦ ἀρχιερέως, τούτων τὰ σώματα κατακαίεται ἔξω τῆς παρεμβολῆς. Διὸ καὶ Ἰησοῦς, ἵνα ἁγιάσῃ διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος τὸν λαόν, ἔξω τῆς πύλης ἔπαθεν. Τοῖνυν ἐξερχώμεθα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἔξω τῆς πα-

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - “A GREAT LIGHT”:

Hundreds of years before the Savior was born, Isaiah, living in a dark time of tyranny and cruelty, foretold the coming of a great light; “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2.

The “great light” foretold by Isaiah centuries before, was none other than our Lord Jesus. He came as light into a dark world. The Apostle John writes, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (John 1:5). When God created the world, He said, “Let there be light.” The point to observe here is that when God expressed Himself, there was a light. Darkness came because of man’s sin. Yet in the darkness God kept the lamp of His presence and grace burning. The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:1-5).

“I am the light of the world; he who follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12).

Whoever “believes in me” and “follows me” says Jesus, does not “remain in darkness” but already “has the light of life.” What is the light? In Christ we know who God is. This is the light in Christ we know who we are. This is the light. In Christ we know the way of life of which man was created. This is the light. In Christ we have the answer to the riddle of death. This is the light. All this has been revealed to us by Christ who is the Light of the World. God “has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor. 4:6)

SAINT OF THE DAY: Saint Theodosios had Cappadocia as his homeland. He lived during the years of Leo of Thrace, who reigned from 457 to 474. The Saint established in the Holy Land a great communal monastery, wherein he was the shepherd of many monks. While Saint Sabbas was the head of the hermits of Palestine, Saint Theodosios was governor of those living the cenobitic life (Monks living together within a community), for which reason he is called the Cenobiarch. Together with Saint Sabbas, towards whom he cherished a deep brotherly love in Christ, he defended the whole land of Palestine from the heresy of the Monophysites (The belief the Christ was not human but only divine), which was championed by the Emperor Anastasius and might very well have triumphed in the Holy Land without the opposition of these two great monastic fathers and their zealous defense of the Holy Council of Chalcedon. Having lived for 103 years, he reposed in peace.

FROM THE FATHERS: For to despise the present age, not to love transitory things, unreservedly to stretch out the mind in humility to God and our neighbor, to preserve patience against offered insults and, with patience guarded, to repel the pain of malice from the heart, to give one's property to the poor, not to covet that of others, to esteem the friend in God, on God's account to love even those who are hostile, to mourn at the affliction of a neighbor, not to exult in the death of one who is an enemy, this is the new creature whom the Master of the nations seeks with watchful eye amid the other disciples, saying: "If, then, any be in Christ a new creature, the old things are passed away. Behold all things are made new" (2 Cor. 5:17). – *St. Gregory the Great*

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: January's Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participating and you haven't signed in yet please contact Peli Galiti at pegaliti@gmail.com You will get the zoom link in your email. All women from Assumption parish, St. Ignatius Parish and other parishes are welcome.

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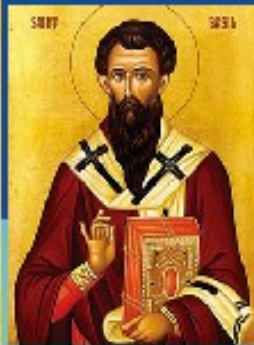
Happy New
Year

Join us for
our annual

Vasilopita Luncheon

and raffle

After liturgy
Sun. Jan. 11, 2026



Adults - \$15
Children - \$10

Net proceeds go to Philoptochos beneficiaries:
St. Basil's Academy, Orthodox Christian
Fellowship, Hellenic College/Holy Cross,
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

Menu: Meatballs & pasta, spanakopita, Greek salad, pita, Vasilopita bread, wine/coffee,
light dessert. Vegetarian option available.

Please RSVP by Jan. 7, 2026 so we can have a headcount.

To RSVP: Email Philomadison@gmail.com with your full name and
number of people attending (indicate children or adult).

Payment will be collected day of luncheon.



Details will be announced later

Sunday February 15th

happy God Parent day

Sunday Feb 1st, 2026

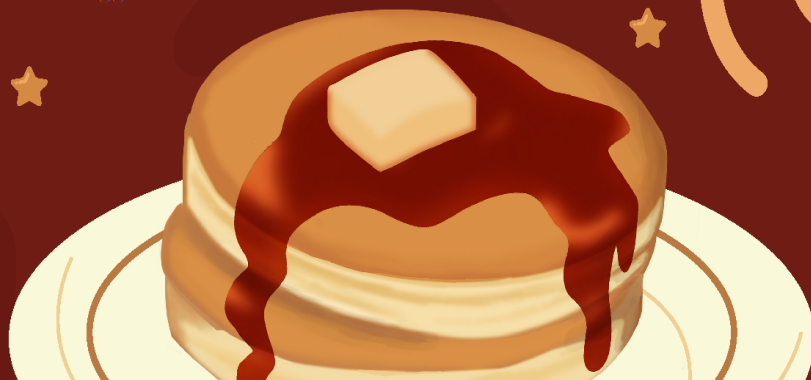
Come join us for pancakes to celebrate God Parent day with your God children!

Sunday school students will sit by their God parent/s during liturgy and take Holy Communion together. Then during coffee hour there will be a breakfast celebration with delicious pancakes!

There will be a basket for free will offering.

Donations will go towards Sunday school.

www.reallygreatchrist.com



BLESSING OF THE WATERS OF LAKE MONONA



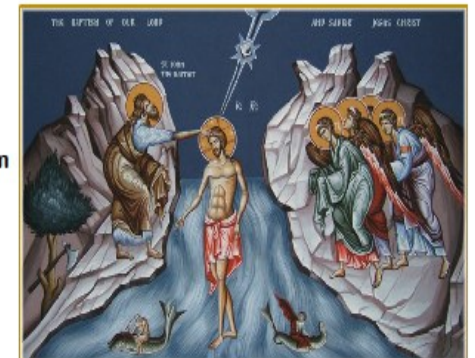
Join the Orthodox Communities of Assumption, Saints Cyril & Methodius & Saint Ignatius in coming together for a Blessing of Lake Monona.

We will be gathering on Sunday, January 11th at Brittingham Beach at 701 W Brittingham Pl in Madison. Service will begin at 1:30 p.m. If the ice thickness is sufficient we will be just off shore on Monona Bay.

This a wonderful blessing not only for our communities but also for the entire Madison Area.

When: Sunday, January 11th, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Brittingham Beach on Lake Monona. 701 W. Brittingham Pl. Madison, WI



ASSUMPTION Snow Tubing

Please join us at Tyrol Basin on
Sunday January 25th from 1-5 pm

To purchase tickets please visit:
<https://tyrolbasin.com/tubing/>
\$30 per ticket

Buy online one week in advance

We hope you can come out for some parish family fun!



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AGES 21 TO 35

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Our next cohort starts **November 2025**



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