

**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. Any one 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.

**THEOPHANY SERVICES SCHEDULE:** In the first week of January we have some of the holiest days of the year in commemoration of our Lord's Baptism. Service Schedule will be as follows.

On Monday, January 5th, 2026 we will have the Royal Hours of Theophany beginning at 7:30 a.m. immediately followed by the Vesperral Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Waters.

On Tuesday, January 6th will begin with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. with Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Waters to follow.

**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.

**BE A GOOD STEWARD:** You get an "A" if you can answer all three questions with a yes:

- 1) Have you fulfilled your 2025 Pledge to the Church?
- 2) Have you submitted your 2026 Pledge to the church office?
- 3) Have you increased your Pledge over last year's?

A thought of Pledging by Father Anthony Coniaris: "When we select gifts for our friends, we pick them carefully. We certainly will not give them the same thing this year as we gave them last year. Shall we give God the same gift year after year? Shall we give Him less? In our Christmas shopping we buy the most expensive gifts for those whom we love the most. The value of our gift expresses the pledges.

**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.

**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).

# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



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**Sunday, January 4th, 2026**

**Sunday before Epiphany**

**Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

**Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles**

**Our Righteous Father Theoctistus, Abbot of Cuomo in Sicily**  
**Readings**

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 4: 5-8

**Gospel:** Mark 1: 1-8

**Coffee Hour**

**THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION**

**Monday, January 5th, 2026**

**Strict Fast Day**

**Eve of Theophany**

**7:30 a.m.**

Royal Hours followed by Vesperal Liturgy with Great Blessing of the Waters

**Tuesday, January 6th, 2026**

**Theophany of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ**  
**8:30 a.m.**

Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of the Waters

**Wednesday, January 7th, 2026**

**Fast Day (Fish allowed)**

**Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist & Forerunner**  
**7:30 a.m.**

Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy

**7:00 p.m.**

Choir Practice

**Saturday, January 10th, 2026**  
**Russian Mission**

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

**STEWARSHIP NOTE:** God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son. But God did not hesitate to offer His own Son in sacrifice at Golgotha for our salvation. It was I who deserved to die for I had sinned. Yet He who was sinless died so that I might be spared. What shall my response be to this infinite love of God? Nothing less than my total obedience to God; nothing less than a total self-emptying or self-spending of myself for Christ who emptied Himself for me. Whatever I have: my life, my work, my possessions I shall use not only for self but for God's glory. This, then, is what stewardship is: my personal response to God's love.

If you haven't done so already, please submit your 2026 Stewardship Pledge to the Church today. Also, if you haven't completed your payment for 2025, please do so by January 15th. Help us erase our deficit by meeting your obligation.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** On Sunday, January 11th, 2026, we will have our annual Vasilopita cutting. We invite all the families of our Church to join us in the "cutting of the New Year's Vasilopita." The cutting of the Vasilopita will take place in the Church. Following dismissal from the day's worship services, the Philoptochos invites everyone to attend a luncheon in the Social Hall. Donation is \$15 for adults & \$10 for Children. All proceeds raised this day go to benefit St. Basil's Academy and Children Center.

**The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μᾶρκον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Ἄρχῃ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, νιοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ως γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ιδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἐμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Τεροσολυμῖται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὸ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἀμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἡν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὁσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυξε λέγοντας ἔρχεται ὁ ισχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὐδὲν εἰμὶ ικανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ιμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὅνται, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

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

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**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.

## Resurrection Dismissal Hymn

### Ὕχος πλ α

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἡδόκησε σαρκὶ ὄντελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῖτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Αναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

### Plagal of the First

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginning less God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

### Hymn for the Fore Feast

### Ὕχος δ

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλών, καὶ εὐτερεπίζου Νεφθαλείμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στῆθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἄδαμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι μὴ κρύπτετε ἔαντούς, ως ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρίν· καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ιδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν. Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσα.

### Fourth Mode

OZabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. \* Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive \* the Master who is coming to be baptized. \* Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. \* No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; \* for having seen you naked He has appeared \* to clothe you in your former vesture. \* The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew \* the entire creation.

### Hymn for the Dormition of the Theotokos

### Ὕχος α

Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας. Ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει, τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπτες Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωήν, Μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, 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

### Ὕχος Δ

Ἐν τοῖς ρείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ιορδάνου, γεγονὼς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ιωάννῃ ἐκβοᾶ· Μὴ δειλιάσῃς βαπτίσα με· σῶσαι γὰρ ἡκώ, Ἄδαμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

### Fourth Mode

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first formed man.

### Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσι, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποίησον εὐάγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἡδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκε. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἥγωντισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοιστής στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ Κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής, οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἡγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

**EPIPHANY OR THEOPHANY:** The meaning of Epiphany is expressed by the word epiphany which itself means in Greek the SHOWING FORTH or MANIFESTATION of God. The word THEOPHANY expresses it even better. It means APPEARANCE of God. Christ's baptism in the Jordan River marks the manifestation of the Triune God to the world. For it was at the baptism of Jesus that God revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity was made manifest; the Father testified from on high to the divine Son ship of Jesus: "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;*" the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son. Thus, God revealed Himself fully on Epiphany as the father Who loves us, the Son Who saves us, the Holy Spirit Who lives us.

Through the blessings of the waters the Church proclaims that the same Jesus Who sanctified the waters in the Jordan River is the One Who sanctifies the fallen world, transforming it into "*the new heaven and the new earth*" where creation will be "*filled with the fullness of God*" (Eph. 3:19). The purpose of the casting out of evil mentioned in the Epiphany prayers is that all may be transformed "*in Christ.*" At Epiphany the new creation is inaugurated.

This holiday is one of the twelve major Feasts of the Orthodox Church and attendance at the services should be a priority for all our faithful. Please check the service schedule and make plans to attend.

**SAINTS OF THE DAY: SYNAxis OF THE SEVENTY APOSTLES:** The synaxis, or the assembly of the seventy, were chosen by Jesus. He sent them two by two where He was about to go, saying that He sent them out as lambs among wolves. He gave them instructions to heal the sick and saying that he who hears you, hears Me. When they returned to Jesus, they reported that even the demons were subject to them; and Jesus said He gave them authority over all the power of the enemy. They were the assistants of the twelve apostles. Barnabas studied under Gamaliel with Paul and brought him to the apostles when all were afraid of him. He was the first to preach in Rome and Milan. Titus heard Jesus speak and joined the followers. He was baptized by Paul and traveled with him. He became bishop of Crete and also buried Paul's beheaded body in Rome. Aristarchos, whom Paul called a fellow laborer, became bishop of Apamea. Sosthenes became bishop of Caesarea. Simeon, the brother of Joseph the Betrothed of the Theotokos, was bishop of Jerusalem. Aristobulos, brother of Barnabas, preached in Britain. These are a few examples of the seventy who are all commemorated today.

**FROM THE FATHERS:** When the blessed Eulogius saw an angel distributing gifts to the monks who toiled at all-night vigils, to one he gave a gold piece with the image of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to another a silver piece with a cross, to another a copper piece, to another a bronze piece, and to another nothing. The others who had remained in the church, left the church empty-handed. It was revealed to him that the ones who had obtained the gifts are those who toil at vigils and are diligent in prayers, supplications, psalms, chants, and readings. Those who received nothing or who left the church empty-handed are those who heedless of their salvation, are enslaved to vain glory and the clamors of life, and stand feebly and lazily at vigils and whisper and jest. – *St. Joseph of Volokalamsk*

**PLEASE** don't leave your weekly bulletin in the pew. Take it home with you and share the message and announcements, written here, with your family and friends. Thank You!



# 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.

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## 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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