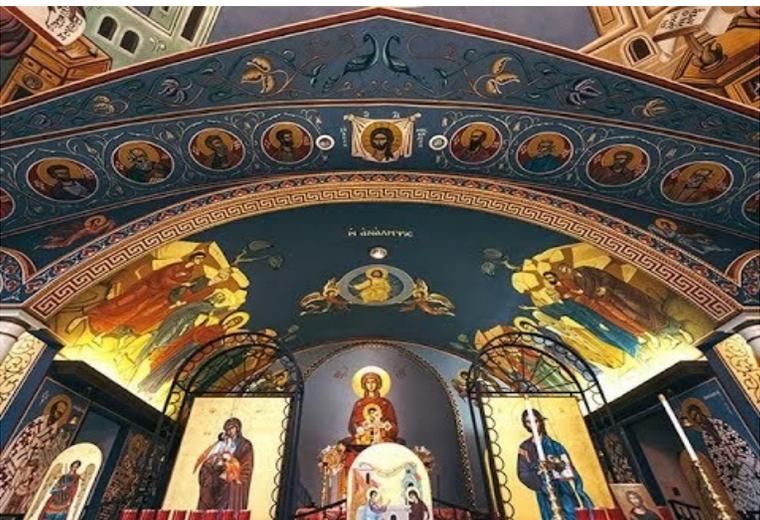


# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin



✝Fr. Christodoulos Margellos  
Proistemenos  
frchristos@gmail.com  
11 N 7th Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
(608)-244-1001  
[www.agocwi.org](http://www.agocwi.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Assumption  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

Tuesday, July 21st  
@ 6:05 PM

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**Mallards  
MADISON**



**Follow us on social media and  
introduce yourself!**

**SCAN HERE**

**INSTAGRAM**



@agoc\_msn

**WELCOME FORM**



Questions? Reach out  
to Fr. Chris or Zach

**Sunday, March 15th, 2026**

**3rd Sunday of Lent - Veneration of the Holy Cross**

**Saint Agapios the Martyr & his Companions**

**Readings**

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

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

**Sunday School / Greek School / Coffee Hour**

**THIS WEEK AT ASSUMPTION**

**Monday, March 16th, 2026**

**6:00 p.m.**

Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 18th, 2026**

**5:30 p.m.**

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Potluck to follow)

**7:00 p.m.**

Choir Practice

**Friday, March 20th, 2026**

**6:00 p.m.**

4th Salutation Service to the Theotokos

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

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR PASCHA:** As we do every year in preparation for Holy Week & Pascha we will be asking all parishioners to come join us on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 11:00 a.m. to help us clean the church and polish our Holy items. Come help us beautify our church.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY FRIDAY MORNING EPITAPHIOS SET UP:** As every year Margo leads a group of dedicated people in setting up the Epitaphios with the beautiful flowers in anticipation of the Lamentation Service.

She is always looking for more people to train and help. It is important that we keep this glorious tradition alive so we can continue to have the tomb of our Lord in Splendor.

If you would like to help, please come on Friday, April 10th at 9:00 a.m. Any help is greatly appreciated.

**GIRLS NEEDED FOR MYRRH-BEARERS:** We are in need of girls to serve as Myrrh-Bearing women on Holy Friday evening and Saturday evening Anastasi Service. If your daughters are interested, please see Fr. Christodoulos or Susu Akkawi. God Bless

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

- \$14.00 each for a 1-pound round bread.

Order by March 22nd

All Easter Breads (Tsourekia) ordered can be picked up from Holy Friday (April 10) through Easter (April 12). 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

Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῶ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρὼν. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός 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, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

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

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἰ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἔλθειν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω 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 ἀμαρτωλῶ, 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 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."

**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 Antidoron 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).

## Resurrection Apolitikion

### Ἦχος βαρύς

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέφξας τῷ Ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Αποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας· ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### Grave Mode

By Thy Cross Thou didst abolish death; to the thief Thou didst open Paradise; Thou didst transform the myrrh bearers lamentation and didst order Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ our Ἰ God, bestowing great mercy upon the world.

### Hymn for the Feast

#### 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 the power of your cross.

### 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 σοῖς 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 ὑπερμάχῳ 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, Ἵνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε..

### Mode plagal of the Fourth

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 Ἐβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν 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' ὁμοίτητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὕρωμεν 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 ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικείται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT:** “If anyone says to you,” writes St. John Chrysostom, “Do you worship the Crucified One?” say with your voice full of joy and your face full of gladness: “I worship Him now and will never stop worshipping Him!” (Homily 54, Gospel of St. Matthew). Joy and gladness in the crucified Christ and in the saving Cross are the main themes of the Third Sunday of Lent, the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. The Festal Commemoration (Synaxarion) expresses the meaning of this feast as follows: On this Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the veneration of the precious and life giving Cross...the Cross is today presented to us for refreshment and support, for remembrance of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for encouragement. We are like those following a long and difficult path, who become tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while, and then rejuvenated, continue on their journey. So also today, during this season of fasting and spiritual labor, the life-giving Cross was set in our midst by the holy Fathers to give us comfort and spiritual strength, to make us ready and eager for the remaining journey. At mid-Lent the Church asks us to look ahead to our goal. It seeks to enliven in us the hope of the glory of the Cross. As we sing the hymn “**We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and glorify Your holy Resurrection,**” we recognize that the Cross and Resurrection of Christ are closely related in Orthodox hymns. It is in the light of the Resurrection that the Cross is not only a symbol of sacrifice and suffering but also a symbol of victory and life. As we behold the Cross of Christ, we celebrate His victory over sin and death.

**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 us.” 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)

**HALF-WAY POINT:** With the celebration of the Third Sunday of Great Lent we have reached the half-way point of our Lenten Spiritual journey. As we continue our journey to Pascha let us keep in mind that food is the easiest avenue and only one avenue to keep during our preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Orthodox Christians we need to walk away and reject the ways of the world during this time, and enter into the Solemn and Holy Realm of our Lord. Reject the impulses of our flesh. Avoid earthly pleasures and desires in order to seek a more noble and spiritual venue of our physical and spiritual self. Avoid idle talk, gossip, and vanity of self. Fight the good fight, reject the temptations of the world, and fully accept Christ and the ways of His Holy Church.

With His mercy and forgiveness; we can realize our true faithfulness in constant prayer, meditation and confession of one’s sins.

**Journey to the Resurrection**  
**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church – Madison, WI**



**Sunday, March 15: Veneration of the Holy Cross 8:30**  
a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy

**Monday, March 16:** 6:00 p.m. Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 18:** 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
(Potluck to follow)

**Friday, March 20:** 6:00 p.m. 4th Salutations to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 22: St. John Climacus 8:30 a.m.**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy

**Monday, March 23:** 6:00 p.m. Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 25: Annunciation of the Theotokos**  
8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy &  
6:00 p.m. Small Compline with the Great Canon

**Friday, March 27:** 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 29: St. Mary of Egypt**  
8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy -

**Spring Taverna Night**  
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church - Madison, WI

Saturday, May 16, 2026  
A Mini Greek Festival Experience

Join us for an afternoon and evening of authentic Greek food, fellowship, and celebration!

Online Pre - Order "Dinner To Go"

Pre - packaged foods available for pickup the morning of May 16.  
Gyro kits, frozen pastitsio, spanakopita & tiropita, and dessert packs available.

Pickups conclude before noon.

Walk - In Taverna Night

Held in the back parking lot with hot, ready - to - eat food and drinks.  
Enjoy gyros, souvlaki dinners, vegetarian options, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks.

Come enjoy Greek hospitality, delicious food, and the joy of spring with us!



# PICNIC in The Park



## FOODS - GAMES - FUN

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE LAST DAY CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY  
SCHOOL AT THE PARK! BRING WITH YOU SOME FOOD AND  
DRINKS AND ANY FIELD GAMES!

SUNDAY  
**17**  
MAY

**MCDANIEL PARK**  
**AT 2 PM - 5 PM**

4806 MCDANIEL LN. MCFARLAND, WI 53558



### Order Form for Greek Easter Breads (Tsourekia)

The price is \$14 for each 1-pound Round Bread

Orders are due by Sunday, March 22, 2026



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

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

Number of Breads Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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 10) through Easter (April 12).

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.



Scan to Pay



## URBAN AIR

Tuesday March 24th  
from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

7309 W Towne Way,  
Madison WI 53719  
Purchase tickets in  
person or online



## CONFESSION SUNDAYS

- Sunday March 8th  
students in grade  
PreK - 3rd grade
  - Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
students in grades  
4th-12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Confession will take  
place after Sunday  
school in the church

# APRIL EVENTS

LENT PERIOD LEADING UP TO PASCHA

**APR LAZARUS RETREAT**  
**04** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**APR NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**5 & 12** PALM SUNDAY & PASCHA

**APR EASTER EGG HUNT**  
**12** AFTER AGAPI SERVICES

**APR ESCAPE ROOM EVENT**  
**25** DETAILS COMING SOON