

Wonder Worker

SPRING 2026

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Article	1-3
Focus on Philoptochos	4-5
Youth Corner	6-7
Winter Fliers	8-17,
Community News	18
April Calendar	20
May Calendar	21

FROM RESURRECTION TO PENTECOST

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

As we proclaim with joy, “Christ is Risen!”, we are not celebrating a past event. In Orthodoxy, the Resurrection is not simply remembered, it is lived, entered into, and unfolded in the life of the Church from Pascha to Pentecost.

This sacred season, often called the Paschal period, is one of the most spiritually rich times of the year. It is a time when the Church invites us to experience the fullness of Christ’s victory over death and to understand what that victory means for our lives here and now.

The Resurrection: The Center of Our Faith

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is not only another feast among other feasts. It is the “feast of feasts”, It is the very foundation of our faith.

As the Apostle Paul tells us, “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:14). But Christ has been raised. And because He has been raised:

- Death is no longer final
- Sin no longer has ultimate power
- Life has been restored to humanity

In rising from the dead, Christ does not simply return to life as it was before. He transforms human nature itself, opening the way for us to participate in Divine Life.

This is why, throughout the forty days after Pascha, the Church continues to greet one another not with ordinary words, but with the proclamation:

“Christ is Risen!”

“Truly He is Risen!”

It is not a simple greeting, but rather a confession of faith

The Forty Days: A Time of Joy and Illumination

The forty days from Pascha to the Ascension are marked by a unique and radiant joy. During this time:

We do not kneel in prayer, The hymns are filled with triumph. Why? Because the Church is teaching us something profound: The Resurrection changes everything. Yet this joy is not superficial. It is deeply theological.

The Gospel readings during this period guide us step by step guide. The encounter with St. Thomas reminds us that faith moves from doubt to confession: “My Lord and my God!” The healing of the Paralytic reveals Christ as the giver of true healing The story of the Samaritan Woman shows that Christ offers living water to all people. The healing of the Blind Man reveals that Christ gives not only physical sight, but spiritual vision

Continued on next page

Each of these encounters shows us what the Resurrection looks like in real life. restoration, illumination, and transformation.

The Ascension: Christ Enthrones Our Humanity

After forty days, Christ ascends into heaven. At first glance, the Ascension might seem like a departure. But in truth, it is a glorification. Christ does not leave humanity behind. But rather He takes humanity with Him.

In His Ascension, Christ enthrones human nature at the right hand of the Father. This means that our humanity, which was once fallen. Is now lifted up into divine glory. This is a staggering truth.

The same human nature we struggle with, the same humanity marked by weakness and limitation, has now been united with God. The Ascension reminds us that our destiny is not merely to survive this life, but to be transfigured.

Pentecost: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Ten days after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit. If Pascha is victory, and the Ascension is glorification, then Pentecost is fulfillment.

At Pentecost:

- The Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles
- The Church is revealed in its fullness
- The Gospel begins to spread to all nations

The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead now dwells within the Church — and within us. This is essential. The Christian life is not something we accomplish by our own strength. It is life in the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit:

- Guides us into truth
- Strengthens us in struggle
- Transforms us from within

Pentecost shows us that the Resurrection is not something external to us. It becomes internal, lived out in the life of the Church and in each believer.

Living the Paschal Life in Madison

For us here in Madison, Wisconsin, this sacred season is not removed from daily life. It is meant to shape how we live in our homes, workplaces, and community.

The Resurrection calls us to:

- Live with hope, even in difficulty
- Forgive, as we have been forgiven
- Seek Christ in prayer and sacrament
- Bear witness to the joy of the Gospel

In a world often marked by anxiety, division, and uncertainty, the Orthodox Christian is called to be a witness to something different. We are called to a life rooted in the Resurrection. This does not mean life becomes easy. It means life becomes meaningful.

Because we know that:

- Suffering is not the end
- Death is not final
- Christ has already won the victory

From Pascha to Pentecost — and Beyond

The journey from Pascha to Pentecost is not simply a liturgical sequence. It is a spiritual movement:

- From death to life
- From earth to heaven
- From fear to boldness
- From isolation to communion

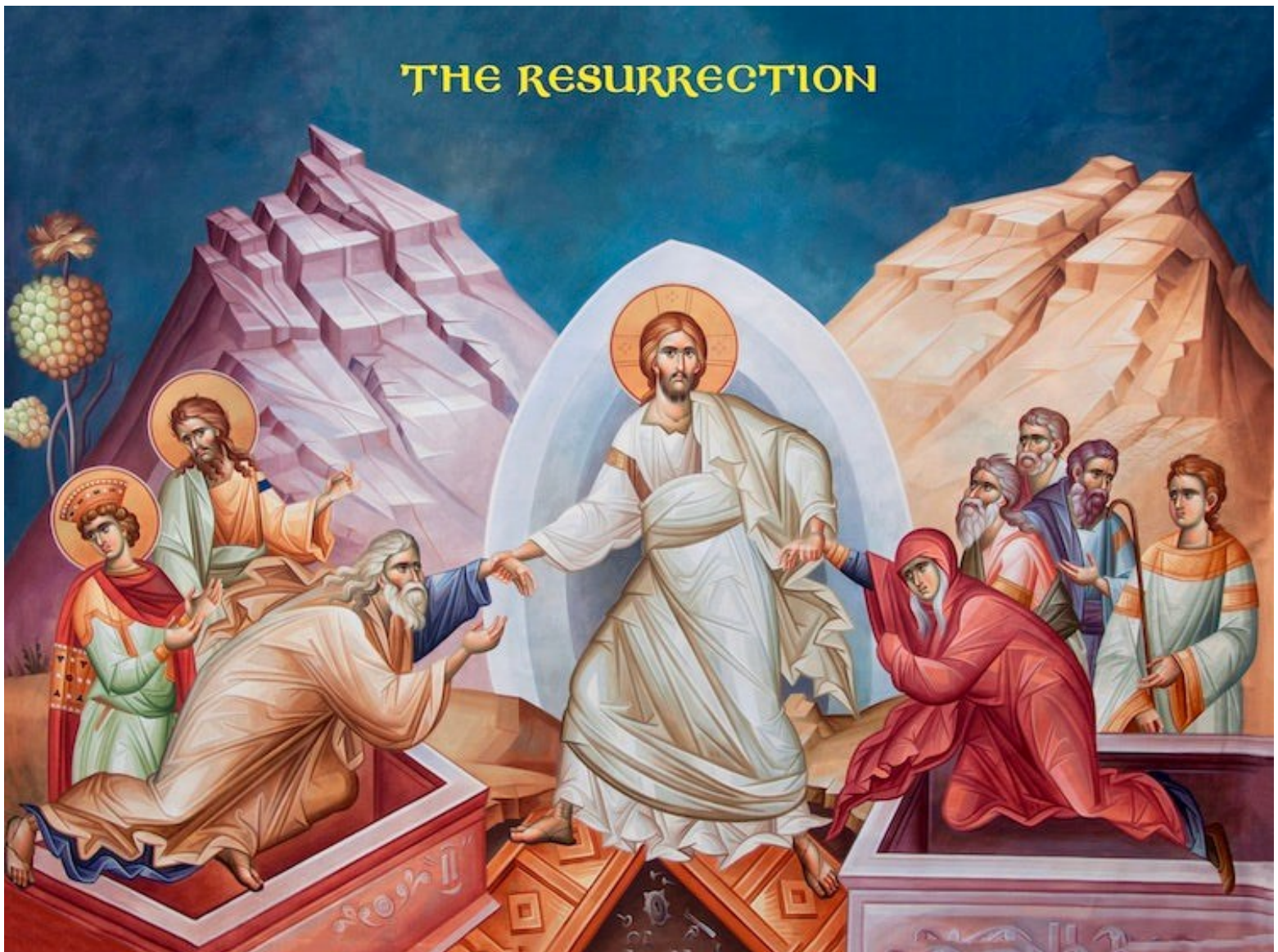
And this journey does not end at Pentecost. It continues in our daily lives. Each time we pray, each time we repent, each time we love, we participate in the life that Christ has given us.

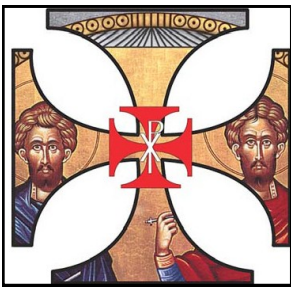
A Final Word

As we move through this holy season, let us not allow it to pass by as something routine. Let us enter into it fully. Let us live as people who truly believe that Christ is risen.

Because if He is risen, then everything has changed. And if everything has changed.. then so must we.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!





FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Agape Forward, Spring, 2026,

As reported in the Orthodox Observer ([Eleni Glykatzi-Ahrweiler, historian who reframed Byzantium as a multiethnic, unitary state, dies at 99 | Orthodox Observer](#)), a prominent scholar of our Byzantine heritage, Eleni Glykatzi-Ahrweiler, passed on Monday, February 16, at the age of 99. As the saying goes, *ας πάροουμε τα χρόνια της*, i.e., may we live as long as she did.

Dr. Glykatzi-Ahrweiler, a historian and academic scholar, argued about the importance of recognizing the central and enduring role of Byzantium. Her insistence on, “unity without purity, continuity without myth—made her both an internationally cited scholar and, in France and Greece, a recognizable public intellectual: sharp, concise, impatient with easy nationalism, and willing to treat history as a tool for understanding contemporary power.”

Reading about her life made me reflect on the wonderful moment in our current liturgical life. As many of you know, Patrick and I are currently traveling. Early on our trip we had the opportunity to attend church at St. Spyridon’s in San Diego. One of the things that popped out to me was how diverse their community was! Similar to ours, along with the traditional Greek Orthodox stewards, there were people from all walks of life and a wonderful representation of families! At its most basic, this is what Dr. Glykatzi-Ahrweiler meant when she spoke about “unity without purity, continuity without myth.” Our past should not act as an exclusionary tale; rather, it should allow us all to embrace our future.

Towards this end, Philoptochos continues to meld together traditions with modern interpretations. This year, we will be celebrating our March 25th, Greek Independence Day, on Sunday, April 5th, Palm Sunday. Working with Father Christodoulos and the Church Board, we realized this date would be best for our community and lenten season. During this luncheon, our Greek School students will present a short program on the importance of Greek Independence both nationally and ecclesiastically. This promises to be a wonderful event for all of us.

Preparing for Pascha includes some tangible activities for all of us such as the egg-dying and church decoration. Please be on the look out for information about these opportunities.

This summer will include multiple days for us to come together and help prepare the delicacies for our annual Greek Fest Plus. Again, as we get closer to the events we will share information with all.

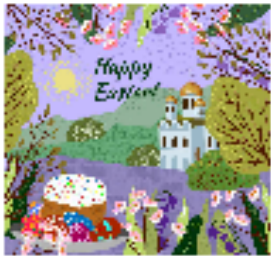
Here are two events for all:

1. Draga Gakovich is in the process of downsizing and is hosting a house-items sale on Saturday, March 7, from 2-5 pm. Her address is: 5110 Buffalo Trail, Madison, WI 53705. Please contact her directly if you want more information: dgakovic@wisc.edu>
2. Our next Philoptochos meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th, after church. Ilektra Kolokouri will run the meeting.

Best,
Maria



YOUTH CORNER



Hope you are all having a great lenten season,
Below are events happening for this month:

On Saturday April 4th, we will have our annual Lazarus Retreat, starting at 11:00am-1:30pm. There will be Liturgy that day, Orthos starting at 8:30 am and Liturgy starting at 9:30am.

After liturgy, in the church hall:

- There will be a potluck, so families please bring with you a lenten dish to share after liturgy.
- There will be fun games and activities that go along with Holy Week.
- Families will help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.
- Any child in grades 4th-12th grade who didn't have the chance to do confession can do it then with Father Christodoulos.

During the time of the retreat the church will have their annual church cleaning. Cleaning the church is a beautiful way to come together as a family to help make our church clean and ready for Pascha!

On Sunday April 5th and Sunday April 12th there will be no Sunday school for Palm Sunday and Easter. Classes will resume on Sunday April 19th.

On Sunday April 12th: (If the weather permits) After Agapi services we will have an Easter Egg Hunt. Parents please bring a bag for your children to collect some yummy treats around the church!

On Saturday April 25th: there will be an outing to an Escape Room for the older Sunday school students in grades 4th-12th more information about the event will come out soon!

From all the teachers, we want to wish you all a strong end to the Lenten period and a blessed Pascha!

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi
Directory of Sunday school



Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

Blessed Pascha everyone, we hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring season of May. There are only three more Sunday school classes until the year finishes up before summer break.

- **Sunday May 3th**
- **Sunday May 10th**
- **Sunday May 17th (last day of Sunday school)**

On Sunday May 17th after church there will be a family outing to the park for a family picnic to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year! Please bring with you a blanket, snacks and food, drinks, and games to enjoy the day together in fellowship. Hope you can make it!

Please join us at: McDaniel Park from 2:00 - 5:00 pm

4806 McDaniel Ln, McFarland, WI 53558

On Sunday June 7th, after liturgy we will have the Sunday school graduation celebration for our 8th graders graduating from Sunday school! We wish you the best of luck as you move on to high school. May the guidance and love of the Theotokos protect you always.

In Christ,

Susu Akkawi

Director of Sunday school

PASCHA DONATIONS 2026

Jonquils or Daffodils for Sunday of the Holy Cross	\$150.00 – Donated
Bay Leaves/Daphne & Palms for Palm Sunday	\$500.00 – Donated
Flowers for the Icon of the Nymphios	\$150.00
Holy Unction (candles, flour, oil)	\$50.00 – Donated
Stephani and Flowers for Stavromenon Holy Thursday	\$200.00
Items for Decorating the Epitaphios	\$100.00 – Donated
Rosewater for Holy Week	\$60.00 – Donated
Candle Cup Holders	\$150.00
Flowers for the Epitaphios	\$1,500.00 – Donated
Priests Resurrection Candle	\$300.00 – Donated
Flowers for the Narthex Resurrection Icon	\$125.00 – Donated
Easter Lilly Plants for Church 5 needed at \$30.00 each	\$30.00 – 2 Donated



**CHURCH CALENDAR /ΩΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ
HOLY WEEK/PASCHA
ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΣΧΑ
2026**

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS/ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ

April 4th, 2026

9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Ἦθος και Θεία Λειτουργία

PALM SUNDAY/ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ

April 5th, 2026

8:30 a.m. Orthros/Ἦθος

9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy/ Θεία Λειτουργία

6:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom/ Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ

April 6th, 2026

6:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom/ Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ

April 7th, 2026

6:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom/Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ

April 8th, 2026

3:00 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction/ Ακολουθία του Αγίου Ευελαίου

6:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday and Anointing with Holy Unction/
Ἦθος της Μεγάλης Πέμπτης

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ

April 9th, 2026

9:00 a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy/ Ἐσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία
6:00 p.m. The Passion of our Lord and the Reading of the 12 Gospels/
Ακολουθία των Φρικτών Παθών του Κυρίου

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ

April 10th, 2026

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours/ Ακολουθία τις Μεγάλης Ὁρας

2:30 p.m. Apokathelosis/ Αποκαθίλωσις του Κυρίου

6:00 p.m. Lamentations Service/ Ακολουθία Τά Ἐγκώμια

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY/ΜΕΤΑΛΛΟ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ

April 11th, 2026

9:00 a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy/ Ἐσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία
11:00 p.m. Holy Resurrection Canon/
Τά Προκαταρκτικά Μεσονυκτικού της Αναστάσεως

Followed by Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy/
Ἦθος της Αναστάσεως και Θεία Λειτουργία

HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA/ ΑΙΩΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ

April 12th, 2026

10:30 a.m. Agape Vespers/ Μέγας Ἐσπερινός της Αγίας
Followed by Kids Easter Egg Hunt

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA/SUNDAY OF THOMAS

April 19th, 2026

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.
Ἦθος και Θεία Λειτουργία



APRIL EVENTS

LENT PERIOD LEADING UP TO PASCHA

APR LAZARUS RETREAT

04 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

APR NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**5 & PALM SUNDAY & PASCHA
12**

APR EASTER EGG HUNT

12 AFTER AGAPI SERVICES

APR ESCAPE ROOM EVENT

25 DETAILS COMING SOON



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

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

SCAN HERE

INSTAGRAM



@agoc_msn

WELCOME FORM



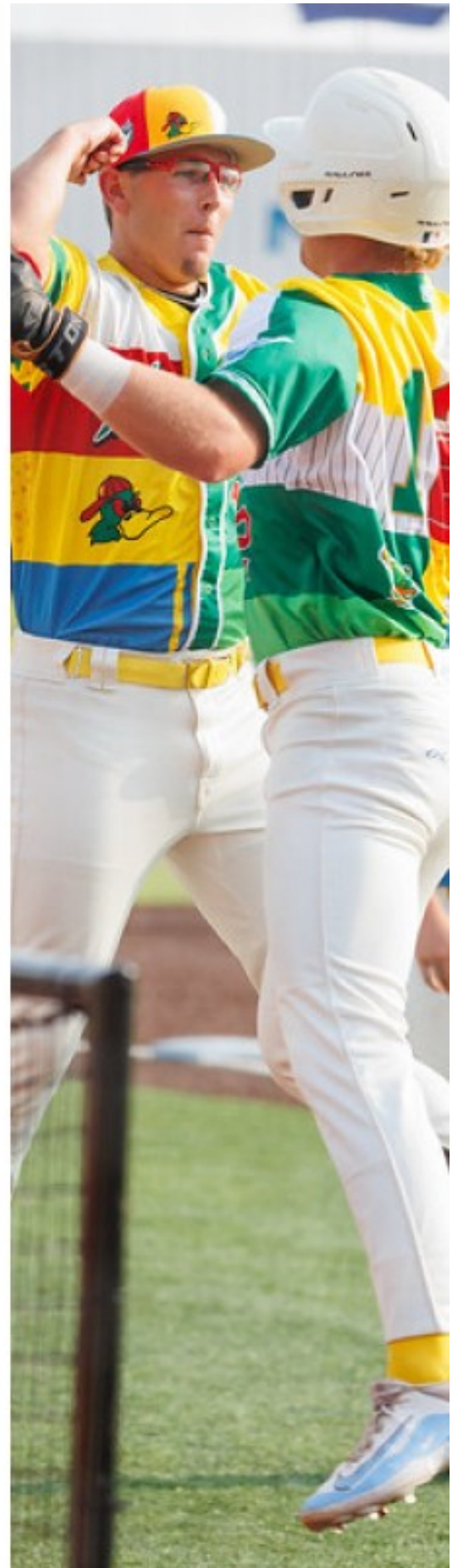
**Questions? Reach out
to Fr. Chris or Zach**

SAVE THE DATE

**Assumption
Greek Orthodox
Church**

**Tuesday, July 21st
@ 6:05 PM**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW





Save the date!

Saturday May 16, 2026

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church is having a mini-Greek Fest!

This event will be similar to our regular fall Greek Fest, only with a much more limited menu. In addition, we are introducing an online pre-order “dinner to go” model that is similar to the Philoptochos annual fall Baklava+ sale.

Q: Why are we doing this?

A: Our church relies on the proceeds of Greek Fest to fill budget gaps annually. If we have a rainout on Greek Fest weekend in September, this could have a great impact on our church’s budget. Having an alternate event will help spread the risk. Also, the Greek Fest committee has discussed the implementation of some type of pre-order system to enhance our food sales. We wish to try this system with a small menu, outside of our regular Greek Fest.

Q: Will everything be pre-order?

A: No. There will be two components of the event: 1) online preorders packed to go and 2) walk-in orders for eating on church grounds (“Mini-Greek Fest”).

Q: How will the pre-orders work?

A: Customers will go to our website philomadison.org, select their pre-packaged food items and pay in advance. The food will be prepared and packaged for them to take home. Baking/reheating instructions will be included. Those orders will be scheduled for pickup the morning of May 16. None of the pre-ordered food will be served hot. Preorders will be picked up downstairs in the church kitchen hall. There will be no other activities for customers happening in the church hall; we will be telling customers to pick up their online orders by noon so we can focus on the “Taverna Night” that starts outside in the afternoon.

Q: What is the Taverna Night?

A: This is a mini-Greek Fest which will be held on the afternoon/early evening of May 16th in the back parking lot of the church. The church building will not be open during the afternoon unless there is inclement weather.

Q: What kind of food will be served?

A: The focus will be on gyros as they are consistently a high seller at Greek Fest. Since this is our first year doing the pre-order, we are limiting the TO-GO items to gyros 4-pack kits, frozen pastitsio, frozen spanakopita & tiropita triangles, and limited dessert packs. For the WALK-IN (“Taverna Night”) orders, we will sell individual gyros, souvlaki dinners, vegetarian plate, pre-boxed desserts.

The walk-in food will be hot and ready-to-eat. We will also serve beer/wine/soft drinks like our regular Greek Fest.

Q: Will there be a bake sale down in the basement?

A: No.

Q: Will the parking lots be set up like our September Greek Fest?

A: All of the food and beverages for the walk-in orders (fest) will be in the back parking lot. The front lot will be reserved for handicapped parking only. No food tents will be in the front lot.

Q: Where will the TO-GO order customers pick up their food?

A: They will be directed to the basement to pick up their orders.

Q: How will this be marketed?

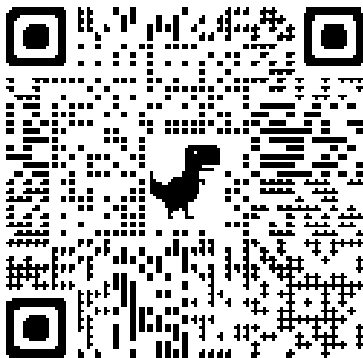
A: We will market to our parish, to our Greek Fest/Baklava+ email list, and through social media.

Q: How can I help?

A: We need volunteers to help with food prep in advance: Thursday & Friday May 14 & 15.

[This LINK will direct you to the volunteer page](#) where you can select shifts.

You can also scan this QR code with your phone to go to the volunteer page.



If you have any questions, please contact Telly or Beth Fatsis at bfatsis1215@gmail.com or (608) 512-5724 Telly or (608) 345-5070 Beth.

Holy Week Meditation and Study Guide

Fr. Andrew J. Demotses

The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

Palm Sunday Evening

Matthew 21:18-43.

This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. The gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus into convicting Himself as a religious heretic. Through parables, Jesus tells us of His coming betrayal, trial, conviction and execution by crucifixion. The hymns of this service commemorate two things: the first, the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the second, the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives, in which we also have failed to bear spiritual fruit.

Holy Monday Evening

Matthew 22:15-46; 23:1-39.

This evening's theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgement seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus, with the forceful resistance which Christ mounts against their evil. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

Holy Tuesday Evening

John 12:17-50.

The need for true repentance is the concern of Tuesday evening's service. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified for us in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift for forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is the hymn written in honor of this woman by St. Kassiani. The Gospel meditation foretells of the coming suffering of Christ and recalls His inner struggles and agony.

Holy Wednesday Afternoon and Evening

Epistle readings: James 5:10-16, Romans 15:1-7, I Corinthians 12:27-31-13:1-8, II Corinthians 1:8-11, Galatians 5:22-6:2, I Thessalonians 5:14-23. Gospel readings: Luke 10:25-37, Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 10:1 & 10:5-8, Matthew 8:14-23, Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 15:21-28, and Matthew 9:9-13.

The primary theme of Holy Wednesday is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through the life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, the faithful are anointed and thus, healed both physically

and spiritually. They are also reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

Holy Thursday Morning

Matthew 26:2-20, John 13:3-17, Matthew 26:21-39, Luke 22:43-45, and Matthew 26:40-27:2.

On Holy Thursday morning, we ascend Mt. Zion with Christ and the Twelve, and enter into the upper room. Once there, we witness the awesome moment when, at the Last Supper, Christ abolishes the ritual practice of the Old Covenant and establishes the ritual of the New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The faithful receive Holy Communion at that Holiest of Liturgies.

Holy Thursday Evening

In this service, we commemorate the undeserved suffering of Jesus Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity. This evening's service also includes the procession representing Christ carrying His own cross along the Via Dolorosa, and ends when we see before us the King of Glory crucified. The Gospels are as follows:

1. John 13:31-18:1
2. John 18:1-29
3. Matthew 26:57-75
4. John 18:28-19:16
5. Matthew 27:3-32
6. Mark 15:16-32
7. Matthew 27:33-54
8. 23:32-49
9. John 19:25-37
10. Mark 15:43-47
11. John 19:38-42

Matthew 27:62-66

Holy Friday Afternoon

I Corinthians 1:18-2:2, Matthew 27:1-38, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 27:39-54, John 19:31-37, and Matthew 27:55-61.

In this service, we are once again reverent witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. What is remembered in a special way through liturgical commemoration and procession, is the faithfulness and love of Joseph of Arimathea who tenderly removed Christ's body from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen, and carried it to his own unused tomb

for burial.

Holy Friday Evening

- Ezekiel 37:1-14, I Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14, Matthew 27:62-66. On Good Friday evening, the theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

Holy Saturday Morning

Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-20.

On Holy Saturday morning we celebrate the theme of faithfulness receiving its reward. The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love--to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded--they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals by the priest.

Holy Saturday Evening and Easter Sunday Morning

Mark 16:1-8.

The lamentations of the previous night are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over the Enemy of our salvation. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

Easter Sunday Morning

John 20:19-25.

Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed in this morning's theme. The Gospel is read in several languages to illustrate the universality of the Good News of the Resurrection and its proclamation to the very ends of the earth. Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy--these are the gifts which we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake.

GLORY BE TO HIM FOR ALL THINGS, AND MAY YOUR EASTER BE BLESSED



April 22—Renewal Tuesday: The Commemoration of Saints Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, and the Other Newly-revealed Martyrs of Lesbos Orthros begins at 9:00 a.m.

On the island of Mytilene (Lesbos in ancient times), near the village of Therme, the villagers had a custom of ascending a certain hill on this day to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the ruins of a small chapel, although no

one knew whence the tradition sprang. In the year 1959, certain villagers began seeing persons who spoke to them, first in dreams, then awake, both by day and by night. Through these wondrous appearances, which were given to many people independently, the holy Martyrs Raphael, Archimandrite of the ancient monastery, and Nicholas, his deacon, together with other Saints who had been martyred on the island, told the villagers the whole account of their martyrdom, which had taken place at the hands of the Moslem Turks ten years after the fall of Constantinople, in 1463. The twelve-year-old Irene had been tortured, then burned alive in a large earthenware jar in the presence of her parents. On Tuesday of Renewal Week, Saint Raphael had been tied to a tree and his head sawn off through his jaws; Saint Nicholas had died at the sight of this. Although the feast is celebrated today because it is the day of their martyrdom, through the appearances of the Saints as living persons five hundred years after their martyrdom, it is also a singular testimony to the Resurrection of Christ.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

On Lesbos, ye strove in contest for the sake of Christ God; ye also have hallowed her with the discovery of your relics, O blessed ones. O God-bearer Raphael, with thee, we all honour Nicholas the deacon and Irene the chaste virgin, as our divine protectors, who now intercede with the Lord.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Ye shone on the world like stars first as ascetics, then as athletes slain for Christ, and were translated to the heights through the great torments that ye endured; and them that praise you, ye keep and protect, O Saints.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, April 21st & Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. 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.

STEWARDSHIP 2026 APPEAL: At our Stewardship meeting, we have discussed the changes at Assumption. The church is in constant transition, and our aim is to anticipate the time, talent, and treasure needs of our community. We need to combine the Strengths of our heritage, our Orthodox Tradition, and our faith in God to encourage what we do now & toward the future. The Church needs the involvement of you and me, & with the Help of God, to shape our programs to meet the needs of our community & to reach out to others, outside of our community. Please volunteer this year your time and talents, for the good of the church. Nearly every committee has need of the talents and time of leaders & contributors.

ALTAR BOY WORKSHOP SUNDAY, May 3rd: 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.

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

Margo 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 (April 10th) and Saturday evening Anastasi Service (April 11th) . If your daughters are interested, please see Fr. Christodoulos or Susu Akkawi. God Bless

GOSPEL READERS FOR AGAPE VESPERS: During the service of Agape Vespers it is traditional to have the Gospel read in the different languages that make up our community. If you are able to read the Gospel in another language and would like to read during Agape Vespers please let Fr. Christodoulou know!

EASTER EGG HUNT: Following Agape Vespers on Sunday we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for all of the children.

IT'S TAVERNA NIGHT: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church is having a mini-Greek fest this spring.

This new event, called "It's Taverna Night" will be similar to our regular fall Greek Fest, only with a much more limited menu. In addition, we are introducing an online pre-order "dinner to go" model that is similar to the Philoptochos annual fall Baklava+ sale.

- Date: Saturday May 16, 2026
- The online go-order pickups will be 8am-noon.
- Mini-fest is 11am – 7pm

The flyer included here has all the FAQs about this event so please take a few minutes to read it. We are reaching out to ask for your assistance in VOLUNTEERING for a shift or two. We will need help with prep & set-up on Thursday and Friday May 14-15, but especially on Saturday May 16th.

Please follow this [LINK TO THE VOLUNTEER FORM](#) to see the available shifts.

The website and online store is live now, see philomadison.org. Please take a look and share with your friends!

Thank you for your support, Greek Fest Committee

The Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

Sunday before Pascha

“Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!”

+ Christ is blessing with His right hand.

+ In His left hand is a scroll, symbolizing that He fulfills the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah Who has come to redeem us from our sins and break the power of death.

+ Just as the bridegroom comes for the wedding not with authority and power, so Christ comes to man, with humility and Great Love.

+ Holy Tradition says that children climbed trees to cut down palm branches.

+ They greet Him, waving the palm branches as a gesture of love.

+ St. Cyril of Alexandria points out that children sang “hosanna” while their fathers shouted “let Him be crucified.” Children threw their garments down for Christ to pass, while their fathers divided Christ’s garments.

+ St. Paul calls us to be childlike, with pure hearts, rejecting evil thoughts.



+ The Jews greet Him crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!”

+ The word “Hosanna” means “Save, I pray” or “Save now.”

+ Chief priests and scribes were especially angry at hearing this praise.

+ Christ is seated upon a donkey’s colt as He enters Jerusalem: a fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9).

+ This lowly form of transportation is chosen by Christ with humility. Christ is meek and lowly in heart, as He calls us to be.

+ The colt was considered unclean according to the Law.

+ It symbolizes the inclusion of all peoples of all nations in the New Covenant to come through the death and Resurrection of Christ (Isaiah 6, 2-10-11).



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	2 Strict Fast Day	3 Strict Fast Day	4 Saturday of Lazarus (Fast Day Wine & Oil Permitted) 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy Lenten Youth Retreat Church Cleaning
5 Palm Sunday (Fast Day Fish Permitted) 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Creek School 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	6 Holy & Great Monday Strict Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	7 Holy & Great Tuesday Strict Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	8 Holy & Great Wednesday Strict Fast Day 3:00 p.m. Holy Unction 6:00 p.m. Matins for Holy Thursday	9 Holy & Great Thursday Strict Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Vespers/ Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. 12 Gospels Passion Service	10 Holy & Great Friday Strict Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours 2:30 p.m. Apokatheisoi Unvail- ing Vespers 6:00 p.m. Lamentation Service	11 Holy & Great Saturday Strict Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Vespers/ Divine Liturgy Proti Anastasi +Sacraments 11:00 p.m. Pascha Vigil
12 Holy Pascha Midnight Resurrection followed by Orthros & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Agape Vespers followed by Kids Easter Egg Hunt	13	14	15 Fast Free Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	16	17 Fast Free Day Life Giving Font 8:00 a.m. Orthros Followed by Divine Liturgy at Saint Isakovos Retreat Center	18 Russian Mission Ethiopian Mission
19 Sunday of Thomas 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy No Sunday School	20	21 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	22 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	23 Great Martyr George 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	24 Strict Fast Day	25 Russian Mission
26 Sunday of the Myrrh bearing Women 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Creek School	27	28	28 Strict Fast Day	29	30	

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Holy Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy					1 Strict Fast Day	2
3 Sunday of the Paralytic 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School	4	5	6 Mid-Pentecost Fast Day (Fish Permitted) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	7	8 Strict Fast Day	9 Russian Mission
Fr. Christodoulos at Metropolis Clergy Retreat						
10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Greek School	11	12	13 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	14	15 Strict Fast Day	16
17 Sunday of the Blind Man 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Last Day of Sunday School & Greek School	18	19 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	20 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	21 Ascension of our Lord Saints Constantine & Helen Equal to the Apostles 7:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	22 Strict Fast Day	23 Russian Mission +Sacrament
24 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy +Sacrament	25	26	27 Strict Fast Day	28	29 Strict Fast Day	30 +Sacrament
Fr. Christodoulos at Leadership Accelerator Cohort						