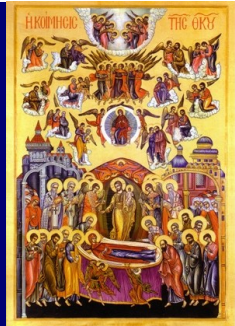


CHURCH STAFF

- 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

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Wonder Worker

FALL 2026

THE HOLY ANGELS:

WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH US?

If I asked most Orthodox Christians whether they believe in angels, I imagine almost everyone would immediately say yes. We see angels throughout our churches. We hear about them constantly in the Divine Liturgy. We celebrate feast days dedicated to them. We pray to our guardian angel. The Archangels Michael and Gabriel are among the most recognizable figures in Orthodox iconography. But if I followed that first question with another one—“Okay, so what exactly do we believe about angels?” We might have a little more difficulty answering.

Our culture certainly has plenty of ideas about angels. We see little chubby babies with wings on greeting cards. Movies and television have given us all kinds of stories about people dying and becoming angels. We hear someone say after a loved one dies, “God needed another angel in heaven.” It sounds comforting, but none of those things really tell us what the Orthodox Church teaches about angels. So, who are the angels? Where do they fit into God's creation? And perhaps most importantly, what do they have to do with our lives as Orthodox Christians? The answer to that last question is: quite a bit more than we probably realize.

First of All, What Is an Angel? The word “angel” comes from the Greek ἄγγελος (angelos), which simply means messenger. In other words, “angel” tells us something about what these spiritual beings do. They are God's messengers and servants. Angels are created beings. They are not little gods, they are not divine, and they are certainly not to be worshipped. There is only one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Everything else that exists, whether visible or invisible, exists because God created it. We actually hear this every Sunday in the Creed: “*I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*” The angels are part of that invisible creation.

Unlike us, angels are spiritual beings and do not have physical bodies by nature. When Scripture describes an angel appearing in a visible form, God is allowing that angel to become perceptible to human beings. This is also why our icons portray angels in ways that communicate spiritual realities—the wings, for example, show us the speed and readiness with which they carry out the will of God. And here is one misconception worth clearing up right away: When we die, we do not become angels. I know that may ruin a few greeting cards, but human beings and angels are different creations. God created us as human beings, body and soul. Our Christian hope is not that someday our souls escape our bodies, sprout wings, and turn into angels. Our hope is the resurrection of the dead. We will remain human beings. Christ Himself rose bodily from the dead, and He promises that we will be raised as well.

Continued on next page

The angels have their vocation, and we have ours. Angels Are Everywhere in Scripture Once we start looking for them, we quickly discover that angels appear throughout the entire story of salvation. After Adam and Eve are expelled from Paradise, the Cherubim guard the way to the Tree of Life. Angels appear to Abraham. Jacob sees angels ascending and descending between heaven and earth. The Prophet Isaiah sees the Seraphim surrounding the throne of God crying: “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts!” The Archangel Gabriel announces the birth of St. John the Baptist to Zacharias. Then Gabriel is sent to Nazareth, where he gives the Theotokos the news that changes human history: “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you.” At Christ's Nativity, angels announce His birth to the shepherds. After Christ is tempted in the wilderness, angels minister to Him. An angel strengthens Him before His Passion. At the empty tomb, angels proclaim the Resurrection. At the Ascension, angels speak to the Apostles. And the Book of Revelation gives us magnificent images of the countless heavenly hosts worshipping before the throne of God. So angels are certainly not a side issue that Christians invented centuries later. They are woven throughout Holy Scripture.

The tradition of the Church speaks about nine ranks, or orders, of angels, generally arranged into three groups. The highest three are the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones. Then come the Dominions, Virtues, and Powers. Finally, we have the Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. We shouldn't imagine this as though heaven has an organizational chart hanging on the wall somewhere. The ranks help us understand that there is order within the angelic creation and that the various heavenly powers serve God in different ways.

The Seraphim are especially associated with burning love for God. Isaiah describes them surrounding God's throne and continually crying: “Holy, Holy, Holy!” Sound familiar? It should. We sing those very words during every Divine Liturgy. The Cherubim are likewise closely associated with the presence and glory of God. In fact, every Sunday we sing: “We who mystically represent the Cherubim...” Think about what we are saying there. During the Divine Liturgy, we are being invited to join the worship of heaven.

Among the Archangels, the two most familiar to us are Michael and Gabriel. The Archangel Michael is portrayed as the great defender and commander of the heavenly hosts. His name means, “*Who is like God*” The Archangel Gabriel, whose name means “*God is my strength*,” is especially known as the messenger who brings the good news of the Incarnation to the Theotokos. We also know the Archangel Raphael, particularly through the Book of Tobit, where he accompanies Tobias and is associated with healing. But Scripture makes something very clear: the angelic hosts are enormous. We know the names of only a few.

Yes, You Have a Guardian Angel. This is probably the part that becomes most personal for us. The Church teaches that we have a guardian angel. And this isn't something we tell children because it makes them feel safe at night. It is part of the prayer and sacramental life of the Church. At Baptism, the priest asks God to assign the newly baptized Christian “an angel of light” who will protect him or her from the assaults of the evil one. Christ Himself speaks about angels who watch over His little ones: “Their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10) So what exactly does our guardian angel do? Our guardian angel protects us according to God's will, prays for us, encourages us toward what is good, and accompanies us in our struggle toward salvation. That doesn't mean that your guardian angel is a celestial bodyguard who guarantees that nothing bad will ever happen to you. We still have free will. Other people have free will. We live in a fallen world. We get sick. Accidents happen. People make terrible decisions. We experience suffering. Having a guardian angel does not mean God has promised us a life without difficulty. Rather, it means that we never make the journey alone. I think that is something we sometimes forget. We speak quite naturally about asking our family and friends to pray for us. Yet God has also given us a spiritual companion who stands before Him and intercedes for us. That is why the Church gives us prayers to our guardian angel and encourages us to develop an awareness of his presence. Maybe we should actually talk to him once in a while!

Are Angels Actually Present in Church? Yes. And this is one of my favorite parts of our Orthodox understanding of worship. Before the Small Entrance, the priest quietly says a prayer that most people in the congregation never hear: “*Master, Lord our God, who has appointed in heaven orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of Your glory, grant that with our entrance there may be an entrance of holy angels, serving with us and glorifying Your goodness.*” Now read that again. We are asking God that the angels enter with us and celebrate the Liturgy with us. That completely changes how we should think about Sunday

morning. Sometimes we can look around the church and judge the Liturgy by how many people showed up. "Church was packed today!" Or unfortunately: "Where is everybody?" From our human perspective, that is understandable. But from the perspective of the Church, there is no such thing as a poorly attended Divine Liturgy. We are constantly surrounded by the heavenly hosts. When the priest says that God is surrounded by "thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels," that isn't poetic filler.

We now come one of the most remarkable moments in the Liturgy. We join their song: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are filled with Your glory." We aren't pretending to be angels. We are worshipping along side with them. For a little while, the distinction between the worship taking place in heaven and the worship taking place at our parish in Madison becomes very thin indeed. Heaven and earth meet at the altar.

But Why Do We Pray to Angels? This is another question we hear fairly often, especially from people coming into Orthodoxy from Protestant backgrounds. The answer becomes much easier once we understand what the word "pray" actually means. To pray can simply mean to ask. We do not worship the Archangel Michael. We do not worship Gabriel. We do not worship our guardian angel. Worship belongs to God alone. When I ask the Archangel Michael to pray for me, I am asking for his intercession. If you come up to me after Liturgy and say, "Father, I've got something going on this week. Please pray for me," I doubt anyone would accuse you of worshipping the priest. You are simply asking another Christian to pray for you.

The Church understands the communion of God's people to extend beyond those we can presently see. Death does not destroy the Body of Christ. And the angels have always belonged to God's heavenly household. So we ask for their intercessions while knowing perfectly well that every grace, every blessing, every healing, and ultimately our salvation itself comes from God.

There is something else about the angels that I think is especially important. Look at what they do whenever they appear in Scripture. They point toward God. Gabriel doesn't make the Annunciation about Gabriel. Michael does not fight for his own glory. The Seraphim surrounding God's throne are not singing about themselves. Instead they cry: "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Everything always points toward God. That may be one of the greatest lessons the angels can teach us because we live in a culture that encourages almost exactly the opposite. We are taught to think, Look at me. Listen to me, Follow me, Notice me, Agree with me, Make me comfortable, Give me what I want, But the angels show us a different path, and that path begins and ends with all Glory belongs to God.

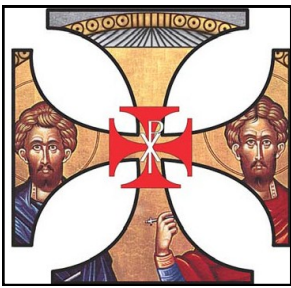
They are powerful beyond anything we can imagine, yet their greatness is revealed precisely through their obedience to God. Maybe that is worth thinking about. Our greatness as Christians will never be found by making ourselves the center of the universe. It is found when Christ becomes the center.

Orthodox Christianity has always understood the universe to be much larger than what we can see with our eyes. There is a spiritual reality surrounding us, There are angels, There are saints, There is spiritual warfare, There is grace, There is prayer and there is most certainly the Kingdom of God.

And sometimes we need to remember that because it is very easy to become overwhelmed by what we see immediately in front of us. Bills, Work, Family problems, Illness, Anxiety, Politics, Arguments and Our endless schedules. The thousand little things that occupy our minds every day can easily convince us that they are the entirety of reality. Instead the next time you come to Divine Liturgy, look around the church. Look at the icons, Look toward the altar, Listen when we sing the Cherubic Hymn, Listen when we sing: "Holy, Holy, Holy..." And remember what the Church is telling us. There is more happening here than our eyes can see. We are standing in the presence of God. The saints are worshipping with us. The angels and archangels are worshipping with us. Your guardian angel has not abandoned you. And when we gather around the Holy Altar, our little parish of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church here in Madison joins a Liturgy infinitely greater than anything taking place within the walls of our church.

The angels have been singing that Liturgy since before we were born. God willing, they will still be singing it long after we have departed this life. And every Sunday, for a little while, we get to join them: "**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are filled with Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**"

+Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos



FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Agapi Forward, Rising and Building for Christ
Maria Katsaros-Molzahn



September, while technically the end of summer, always brings with it a sense of renewal. Along with our numerous church ministries, Philoptochos definitely experiences this excitement at the prospect of renewal. This past summer, Cynthia VanBuskirk and I had the opportunity to attend and represent our community at the bi-annual Philoptochos Convention. The Convention runs parallel to the Clergy Laity Conference attended by Father Christodoulos. A detailed synopsis of the convention can be accessed here: [2026 Convention](#). In summary, Philoptochos focused on the importance of our mission.

In his opening remarks, His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophorous, stated, "Philoptochos is the largest church ministry." That statement struck a deep chord with me. Around the world,

and in our backyard, all people seek belonging and opportunities to build community. Further, many people seek opportunities to use their talents for the betterment of our world. Philoptochos, from its inception, provides a ministry for spreading God's love near and far. Along with supporting our local parish and metropolis, we support our national and international community. However, we do much more, indeed, a significant portion of the money we raise is invested right in our own backyard—we help multiple food banks, homeless shelters, public schools, and individuals in need.

All organizations, regardless of size, face certain limitations. In thinking about our own Philoptochos, I truly believe our biggest challenge is one of capacity. We have wonderful ideas, and truly dedicated individuals. However, if we want to grow our presence, we need people willing to put their words into actions. In short, we need ALL OF US working together to Rise and Build the world we want to see. And, with the numerous Baklava Plus prep days in fall, we all have opportunities to join this wonderful community. Please, mark your calendars and reach out to the chairpeople with your availability. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED and INVITED to join us!

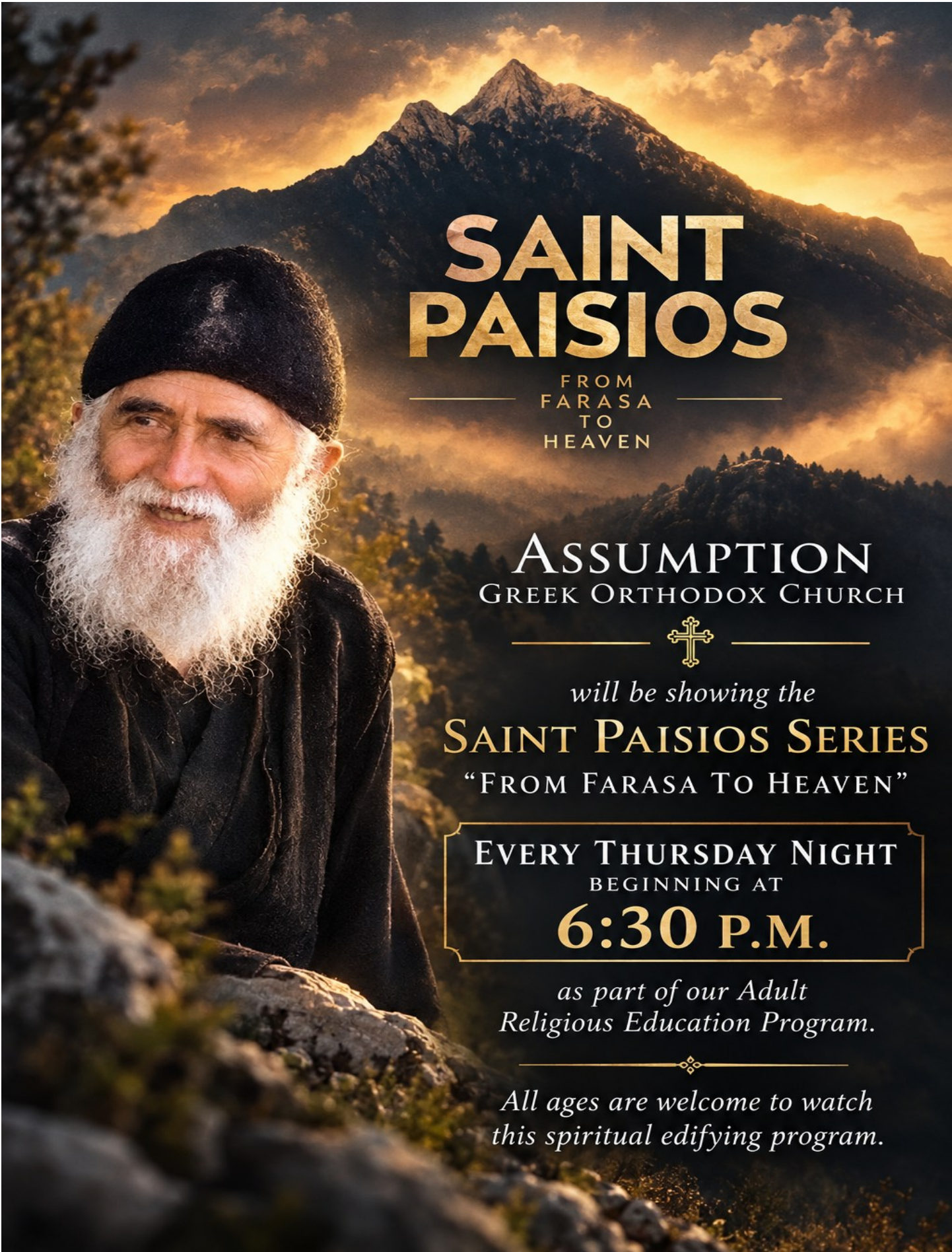
Baklava Plus Fall Work Days:

- Koulourakia Making, Saturday, October 3, starting at 9 am contact Margo at margos1255@gmail.com
- Kourambietes Making, Saturday, October 17, starting at 9 am contact Margo at margos1255@gmail.com
- Keftedes (Greek Meatballs) Prep, Friday, October 9, 3-6 pm contact Korinna at korinna.hansen@wisc.edu
- Keftedes Assembly, Saturday, October 10, starting at 9 am contact Korinna at korinna.hansen@wisc.edu
- Spanakopita (Greek Spinach Pie) Prep: Friday, September 25, and Friday, October 30, time to be announced contact Sue at solofam5@yahoo.com or Lena at lenagiak@gmail.com
- Spanakopita (Greek Spinach Pie) Assembly: Saturday, September 26, and Saturday, October 31, starting at 9 am contact Sue at solofam5@yahoo.com or Lena at lenagiak@gmail.com

- Baklava Prep TBD contact Elene at alakisage@gmail.com
- Baklava Baking: Wednesday, 11/18 starting at 9 am contact Elene at alakisage@gmail.com
- Baklava Packaging: Thursday, 11/19 starting at 9 am contact Elene at alakisage@gmail.com
- Sweet Connections Delivery 11/19 time dependent on driver; contact Maria at maria.heide@wisc.edu
- Packaging and Set-Up: Thursday 11/19 and Friday, 11/20 starting at 9:00 am contact Maria at maria.heide@wisc.edu
- Baklava Plus Pick-up, Saturday, 11/21 starting at 8:00 am contact Maria at maria.heide@wisc.edu
- Baklava Plus Tear Down, Saturday, 11/21 starting at noon contact Maria at maria.heide@wisc.edu

Traditionally, we hold monthly meetings and again, EVERYONE is invited. Alternating between only on ZOOM or a combo ZOOM and Face-to-Face the fall meeting schedule begins on Tuesday, 9/1 at 7:30 pm via ZOOM. The rest of the fall meetings will be on Sunday, 10/4 after church; Tuesday, 11/3 via ZOOM; and Sunday, 12/13 after church. Please join us as Fr. Paul Abernathy pointed out, through our work we are living up to the standard established by St. Basil the Great.





SAINT PAISIOS

FROM
FARASA
TO
HEAVEN

ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



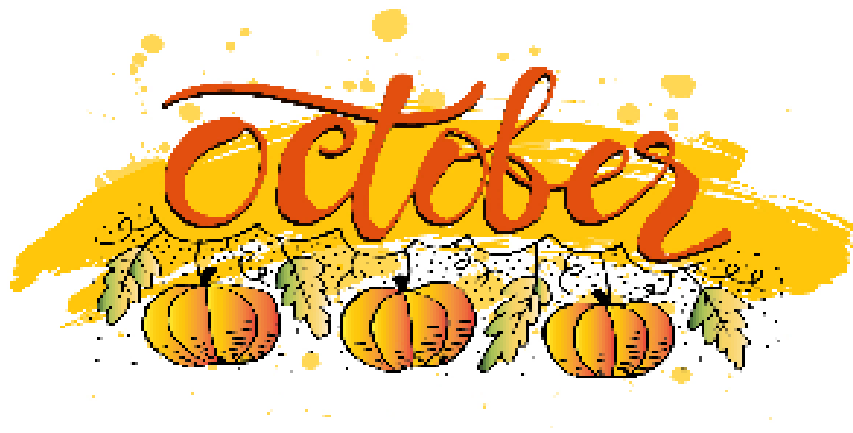
will be showing the
SAINT PAISIOS SERIES
"FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN"

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
BEGINNING AT
6:30 P.M.

*as part of our Adult
Religious Education Program.*

*All ages are welcome to watch
this spiritual edifying program.*

YOUTH CORNER



Happy October Sunday school families!

Fall has arrived with its beautiful changing colors around us. To get into the fall season, please mark your calendars for an exciting family event. On **Sunday October 18th**, after church there will be a family outing to **Enchanted Valley Acres Farm in Cross Plains** from 2-5pm. Please join us for some fun fall activities.

- Admission tickets to enter are \$16, children under 2 years are free.
- The tickets include many fun fall activities such as: a corn maze, giant slides, a giant pumpkin jump pad, wagon rides, obstacle courses, farm animals, and so much more!
- Pumpkins are for purchase and start at \$1.50 each.
- There is also food and sweets to purchase!

You can buy your tickets online to ensure your spot or you can buy the tickets in person. Hope you all can make it for some family fun!

If you have not registered your children for Sunday school, it is not too late please see Father or myself for any questions to register. Sunday school takes place for 30 minutes after Holy Communion. We are also looking for anyone to help teach or sub in classes, if you are interested please let myself or Father know.

A quick reminder - as children are playing and making friendships after Sunday school during coffee hour, please keep an eye on your children when they run and play around the church halls, especially when they play close to the stairwell and entry door ways for their safety and the church's safety.

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi
Director of Sunday school

YOUTH CORNER



Happy November Sunday school families!

As we enter the month of thanksgiving the Sunday school teachers would like to say thank you to our wonderful parents and teachers for all your support. We appreciate all you do to continue teaching your children the word of God. We encourage parents to please continue bringing your children to Sunday school, so they can learn more about the faith, the sacraments of the church, Holy Saints and Feast days, and why we are part of Christ's family.

This month we have lots of fun events happening, please mark your calendars:

1. **Sunday November 8th:** after church, during coffee hour, we will have our church annual chili cook off! Families please bring your favorite chili recipes to share, once we all eat the delicious chili, the parish will vote on their favorite one. The winner will then be awarded with the golden koutala- spatula. There will be a \$5 dollar entrance fee, the money will go towards Sunday school and Greek school.
2. **Friday November 13th:** in the church hall we will have an Artoklasia Family Night starting at 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm. During this event students will learn how to make the sweet bread for the blessing of the 5 loaves that Father will bless on Sunday. There will be pizza, fall desserts, and fun fall games for children and families to play!
3. **Sunday November 29th:** there will be no Sunday school for Thanksgiving break, classes will resume on December 6th. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your family and friends.

Quick notes:

- Please continue to encourage your children to check out books from the Narthex Corner. Students are allowed to check out only 2 books at a time. Please make sure to write the child's name, the name of the book, and the date they check out along with the date when the book is returned.
- Parents please remind your children as they are walking down for communion that they should say their baptismal name to Father before receiving Holy Communion.

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi
Director of Sunday school

2026 Parish outing to the Forward Madison FC



On Saturday, October 17th, we will have a Parish Outing to the Forward Madison FC Soccer Game vs Portland Heart of Pine FC with a 5:00 p.m. Kick-Off.

We have tickets available for the game and they will include entrance. The cost is \$25

To purchase tickets please contact Fr. Christodoulos through email frchristos@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Initially we have 30 tickets.

Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship.



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 75th Anniversary Sponsorship Information

- **Name / Business Name (as you would like it to appear in the commemorative book):**

- **Contact Person:** _____

- **Address:** _____

- **Phone:** _____

- **Email:** _____

75th Anniversary Sponsorship Levels

- **above \$1,000 Sponsor:** _____
- **\$500 to \$1,000 Sponsor:** _____
- **\$250 to \$499 Sponsor:** _____
- **\$150 to \$249 Sponsor:** _____
- **\$50 to \$149 Sponsor:** _____
- **\$25 to \$49 Sponsor:** _____
- **under \$25 Sponsor:** _____

Contribution & Payment

- **Custom Amount:** \$ _____
- **Payment Method:** Checks only please.
- *Make checks payable to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with "75th Anniversary" in the memo line. Mail to:*

*Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 75th Anniversary Event
11 N. 7th Street
Madison WI 53704*

Thank you! Your generous donation is very much appreciated and will be proudly acknowledged during our evening of celebration and fellowship.

ASSUMPTION

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES
2026-2027



SEPT

- Sun Sept 20th – First day of Sunday school

OCT

- Sun Oct 18th – Pumpkin Patch

NOV

- Sun Nov 8th – Chili Cook Off
- Fri Nov 13th – Artoklasia Night
- Sun Nov 29th – No Sunday school

DEC

- Sun Dec 6th – St. Nicholas Day
- Fri Dec 18th – Gingerbread Night
- Sun Dec 20th – Christmas Pageant
- Sun Dec 27th – No Sunday school

JAN

- Sun Jan 10th – Blessing of the Water in Monona
- Sun Jan 24th – Parish Winter Outing

FEB

- Sun Feb 7th – God Parent Day
- Sun Feb 21st – Parish Bowling Night

MAR

- Sat Mar 6th – Youth Outing
- Tue Mar 23rd – Urban Air Outing

APR

- Sun Apr 4th – Confession Sunday
- Sun Apr 18th – Confession Sunday
- Sat Apr 24th – Lazarus Retreat
- Sun Apr 25th – No Sunday school
- TBD – Fanari Lenten Retreat
- TBD – Second Harvest Volunteer

MAY

- Sun May 2nd – No Sunday school
- Sun May 2nd – Pascha Egg Hunt
- Sun May 23rd – Last day of Sunday school
- Sun May 23rd – Family Picnic

JUN

- Sun Jun 6th – Graduation Sunday
- Sat Jun 12th – Mini Golfing Outing



EVENT SCHEDULE

FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER

22

TUESDAY

Board Game Night

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Assumption Church Hall

OCTOBER

11

SUNDAY

Packers vs Bears Watch Party

3:00 PM

Assumption Church Hall

OCTOBER

26

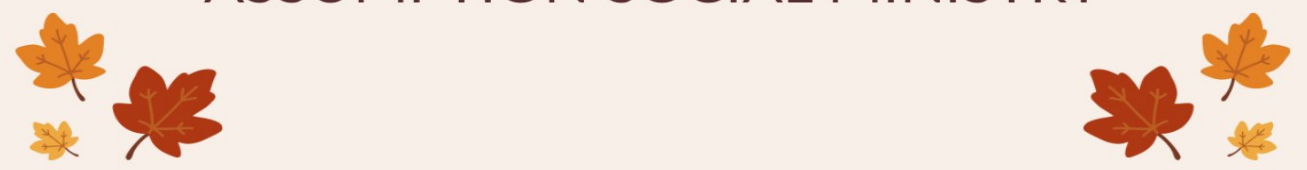
MONDAY

Trivia Night

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Assumption Church Hall

ASSUMPTION SOCIAL MINISTRY



JOIN US FOR THE 6th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, VETERANS RECOGNITION & FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

**On Sunday, November 8th, 2026 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 8th.
2. On the front of your 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, jalapenos, 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!



BYZANTINE CHANTING LESSONS

Learn to read and chant Byzantine music

EVERY MONDAY AT 6:30PM



YOU'RE INVITED

4TH ANNUAL METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO HCHC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your gift empowers students to serve the Church and the world as future clergy and lay leaders



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Mr. Constantine
Zografovoulos**

Executive Director of Z Life
Builder

The Empress Banquets

ADDISON, IL

Thursday, November 5, 2026

6:00 PM COCKTAILS

7:00 PM DINNER

JOIN US AT OUR 4TH ANNUAL
DINNER TO HELP RAISE FUNDS
FOR THE CHICAGO METROPOLIS
STUDENTS ATTENDING HELLENIC
COLLEGE HOLY CROSS SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

TICKETS AND TABLES

\$125 INDIVIDUAL | UP TO \$5,000 SPONSORSHIP
TICKETS PACKAGES

RSVP BY OCTOBR 29, 2026



SCAN QR CODE
OR CALL 312-736-2280



CHICAGO.GOARCH.ORG/HCHC

— ASSUMPTION — VETERAN FELLOWSHIP

ALL VETS AND FAMILIES ✝ ALL ERAS ✝ ALL BRANCHES



This Veteran Fellowship Group is for all vets and military connected, inquirer to illumined.

Getting out can leave most of us feeling like we lost our sense of comradery and group oneness. This group will be designed to help our fellow service members both past and present with that.

Our goal is to rebuild that sense of fellowship through our shared Orthodox faith, prayer, service, and brotherhood. We will support one another through the challenges of military and civilian life, help connect veterans with available resources, and provide a place where veterans and their families can come together with others who understand.

SERVICE ENDS ✝ BROTHERHOOD DOESN'T

*A fellowship for those who served, those still serving,
and the families who stood beside them.*

Come as you are.



**UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
THE HOLY ARCHANGEL
MICHAEL**

Commander of the Bodiless Hosts

The Holy Archangel Michael has long been honored as a defender of the faithful and commander of the heavenly hosts. As the patron of this fellowship, his example reminds us of courage, duty, loyalty, and steadfastness in the service of God.

Holy Archangel Michael, intercede for us.

OUR FELLOWSHIP

To welcome veterans and military families into parish life, strengthen our bonds across generations and branches of service, and encourage one another to live faithfully in Christ.

Possible events will be:

- ✝ 1. Assistance with applications for education benefits, medical benefits, and VA disability compensation, including C&P document prep work.
- ✝ 2. Monthly outings—see the bulletin or email for details.
- ✝ 3. Meals and coffee with each other.
- ✝ 4. Memorial and remembrance events.
- ✝ 5. Veteran and military outreach.
- ✝ 6. Motorcycle rides together.
- ✝ 7. Deep dives into the lives of military and civilian saints.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING?



Veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, and military families are invited. Come to a meeting, introduce yourself, and be part of the fellowship.

Name: _____
Date: _____
Status in the Church: _____
Patron Saint: _____
Phone & Email: _____
Address: _____

GALATIANS 6:2

*“Bear one another’s
burdens, and so fulfill
the law of Christ.”*

— Galatians 6:2 (OSB)

PRAYER TO THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Holy Archangel Michael, commander of the heavenly hosts, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

For God ✝ For Country ✝ For Each Other

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, October 20th & Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCT 4TH: Following Divine Liturgy on October 4th there will be a Special General Assembly downstairs in the Social Hall. We will be discussing and voting on the purchase of the House located at 17 n 7th St. It is important that we are all here so we can have quorum. Only those who are members in Good standing will be permitted to vote.

ASSUMPTION 75TH ANNIVERSARY: Save the date to celebrate 75 wonderful years of Assumption! We will be celebrating on 11-14-2026! It is not too late to become a sponsor of this wonderful event and we welcome business or personal sponsorships. Watch your mailbox for the official invitation. See the attached flyer for more details and contact Margo Schmidt with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: The 2026 Church Membership list is growing. However there are still many of our community, who have not made their financial commitment to the church. Remember church membership begins in January not when we paid last. If everyone would pay their membership on time and on a yearly basis, our parish would not need gimmicks such as raffles, picnics, etc. to raise funds to do God's work and preach His Word in this world. YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR – please pledge and pay your 2026 stewardship today!

ALTAR BOY WORKSHOP SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH: 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.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Once again this year our Church will be electing a new Parish Council for the term of 2027-2028. It's not too early to start thinking about serving on the Parish Council. Four seats will be open for election. If you want to see improvements and changes in our church leadership, you need to get involved. Sitting on the sideline doesn't help our church win. You need to get into the game and work as a team to be victorious. A candidate must be a member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election.

SAINT PAISIOS SERIES WATCH CLASS: Many people within the Orthodox world have fallen in love with the Greek TV Series on the life of Saint Paisios. We have decided for our Adult Religious Education this upcoming year to stream on Thursday evening one episode a week with a small discussion to follow. We will start this following the Parish Feast Day. Watch the bulletin for more details. We will play the episodes downstairs in the Social Hall weekly at 6:00 p.m.

2026 PARISH OUTING TO FORWARD MADISON FC: On Saturday, October 17th, we will have a Parish Outing to the Forward Madison FC Soccer Game vs the Portland Hearts of Pine 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 free scarf. The cost is \$25. 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.

6TH ANNUAL PARISH CHILI COOK OFF: Will be on Sunday, November 8th after church, during coffee hour we will have the church chili cook off! Families can bring their favorite chili recipe to share, families will then vote on their favorite chili. The winner will then be rewarded with the golden koutala! There will be a \$7 dollar entrance fee but Children 5 and under along with Veterans will eat for Free. All Proceeds will go towards Sunday school. If you would like to enter see the attached flier later in the Newsletter for details.

Follow us on social media and introduce yourself!

SCAN HERE

INSTAGRAM



@agoc_msn

WELCOME FORM



Questions? Reach out
to Fr. Chris or Zach

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 1 Episode 6	2 Strict Fast Day	3 Philoptochos Baking Day
4 2nd Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Special General Assembly	5 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant Class	6	7 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	8 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 1 Episode 7	8 Strict Fast Day	10 Philoptochos Baking Day +Sacrament
11 Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School 3:00 p.m. Young Adult Football Watch party Church Hall	12 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant Class	13	14 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	15 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 1 Episode 8	16 Strict Fast Day	17 Philoptochos Baking Day Russian Mission 5:00 p.m. Parish Outing to Forward Madison Soccer Game
18 Saint Luke the Evangelist 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School 2:00-5:00 p.m. Family Fall Outing Enchanted Valley Acres Farm	18 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant class	20 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	21 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	22 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 1 Episode 9	23 Strict Fast Day	24 +Sacrament
25 6th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School	26 Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr 7:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant class 7:00 p.m. Trivia Night	27	28 Strict Fast Day Holy Protection Oxi Day 7:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	29 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 2 Episode 1	30 Strict Fast Day	31 Philoptochos Baking Day Russian Mission

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 5th Sunday of Luke Philoptochos Sunday 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Greek School Fall General Assembly	2	3	4 Strict Fast Day	5 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 2 Episode 1	6 Strict Fast Day	7 Philoptochos Baking Day
8 7th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Greek School Chili Cook Off	9 Saint Nektarios 7:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant Class	10	11 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	12 6:30 p.m. Saint Paisios Series Season 2 Episode 2	13 Strict Fast Day Saint John Chrysostom 7:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m., Youth Night	14 Russian Mission 75th Anniversary Sale
15 Fast Day 8th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Greek School	16 Fast Day Fr. Christodoulos Leaves for Greece and will Return to the office on Decem- ber 10th 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant Class	17 Fast Day Philoptochos Baking Day 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	18 Strict Fast Day Philoptochos Baking Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	19 Fast Day Philoptochos Bake Sale Prep	20 Strict Fast Day Philoptochos Bake Sale Prep	21 Fast Day Philoptochos Baking Sale
22 Fast Day 9th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Greek School	23 Fast Day 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant class	24 Fast Day	25 Strict Fast Day Saint Catherine the Great 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 Strict Fast Day	28 Fast Day Russian Mission
29 Fast Day 13th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy No Sunday School or Greek School	30 Fast Day Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle 6:30 p.m. Byzantine Chant class					